



Illinois Ornithological Society

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Letter from the editor

Time to celebrate!

Congratulate yourselves. Because of you, the members of the Illinois Ornithological Society, we are celebrating our fifth anniversary! Five years of *Meadowlark* and more to come!

I can't name everyone who has been instrumental in getting us this far, but I'll try to thank some of the key players and hope you will do the same when you see them. These are hard-working volunteers who help bring *Meadowlark* to you four times a year.

David Johnson and Al Stokie compile Christmas Bird Count reports. David is also the recording secretary of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee and has been an associate editor for *Meadowlark* since the first published issue.

Joe Milosevich and Dennis Oehmke send high-quality photos for every issue without fail. What a pleasure to find their work in my mailbox every few months!

Christine Williamson, Judy DeNeal, Peter Lowther, and William Moskoff have written marvelous, well-researched articles as associate editors. Denis Kania has guided our artists: Brian Willis, Karen Becker, Walter Marcisz, and Leslie DeCoursey. Their pen-and-ink covers and inside drawings are admired by so many of our members. Sue Friscia has penned some insightful Feeder Station columns. Bob Chapel, Myrna Deaton, Vernon Kleen, and Eric Walters compile the Field Notes. No one can fathom how much work they put into this massive undertaking.

The IOS Board has faithfully and generously supported *Meadowlark* through all its growing pains.

The late Richard Anderson, and now, Peter Petersen, have compiled the Spring Bird Counts, another huge project.

Laurie Binford has set the standards that have helped *Meadowlark* improve. He and the rest of our editorial advisory board read manuscripts and offer suggestions on how to maintain those standards.

It would take many more pages to name everyone who has contributed to *Meadowlark*. Writers, photographers, designers, reviewers, advertisers, supporters. Thank you all. Forgive me for not mentioning all of your names.

Now, we want to welcome more people into our fold. That's why we present a lead article in this anniversary issue on some of the birding groups in Illinois. Each group has its different and highly worthy goals. We offer them our support and encouragement.

IOS continues to pursue its own goal to be a scientific data base for researchers as well as a way to reach out to all birders and enhance their enjoyment and understanding of the avian world. Many of those who responded to the *Meadowlark* Survey said they want this, first and foremost, to be a journal about Illinois birds - and that they really enjoy the bird finding guides.

In this issue, we present some of the favorite birding spots of some of our members. We encourage you to send your own bird finding guides. A few pages on a favorite little-known spot would be a welcome addition to a future issue of *Meadowlark*. Help us celebrate by sharing your knowledge of birding in Illinois. And please stay with us for at least another five years.

Sheryl De Vore