



Illinois Ornithological Society

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President's Message

Another spring migration is winding down as has my term as your President. At our recent annual meeting at Illinois Beach State Park (May 19-21) the Board elected Geoff Williamson as President. I congratulate and thank Geoff for agreeing to accept this challenge. I urge each of you to support Geoff and the Board as you did me. Details of the meeting may be found in our "Wings-Over-The-Prairie," newsletter. It was a pleasure serving the Society as President. I have not left the Board and will continue serving through my term. I want to thank all of you and the Board for all the trust and support you have given me during my tenure. Special thanks go to Denis Bohm, Recording Secretary and our Editor-in-Chief, Sheryl DeVore for all their support, prodding, and seeing that things got done in a timely manner.

You have heard me speak about CARA before and I don't want to let this last opportunity slip by without giving you an update. Many of you already know this important funding bill was passed out of the House by 3:1 margin. The bill now awaits Senate action in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Until this bill, S. 2123, reaches the Senate floor and is approved, our fight is not over. We still need you to write letters, call, send Faxes and Emails to our two Senators urging their support for S. 2123.

This millennium issue has some interesting articles on Illinois bird populations during the past 100 years. Perhaps if we had the knowledge base and conservation ethic, habitat protection measures, management programs and funding that we have today — we might have less endangered, extirpated and extent birds, such as the Carolina Parakeet. We might be seeing live ones and photographs rather than drawings as on our cover. Conservation, education, and management programs require money and that is one of the reasons passage of CARA is so critical. When passed it will fund habitat protection, management programs, help expand our knowledge base through research and perhaps more importantly expand our conservation education efforts. Without a knowledgeable, caring public, the best conservation and management programs will not be effective and we might have more, not less declining bird populations. It is up to us, fellow birders, working together to get CARA through the Senate. Time is short and we have important work to get done. Protect our birds and birding habitat. Contact our Senators and get CARA passed!

Thanks again for all your support and good birding

Bob Montgomery

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