



Illinois Ornithological Society

Publisher

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President's Message

Along with birders from all around Illinois, I enjoyed a whole range of interesting and enlightening activities at IOS's annual meeting at Pere Marquette State Park this past May. The great set of field trips included sightings of Anhinga, Black-necked Stilt, and Painted Bunting. A presentation by the World Bird Sanctuary thrilled us with live hawks and owls swooping low over our heads. Programs on documenting rare birds, birding in Ecuador, and Dr. Steve Havera's talk on the Illinois River system taught me a few things I hadn't known before. And the opportunities to socialize with friends both old and new, highlighted by the annual banquet, were a joy.

All of this happened because of the efforts of those who organized and implemented all the activities. Joe Suchecki, who worked hard as the Annual Meeting Committee chair to deliver a great meeting, and Keith McMullen, who put together the suite of field trips, deserve a lot of praise for a job well-done. Without Joe, Keith, and all the others who helped with the field trips, the silent auction, the raffle and everything else, there would be no annual meeting. And what a shame that would be.

Behind everything that IOS does, there are people making it all happen. We in IOS are blessed with a group of committed individuals who work on a range of activities that include not only the annual meeting, but also a year-round schedule of field trips, our publications, and the organizational work that keeps our society running.

I hope you will consider joining in and lending a hand. We can use help on a number of committees, including membership, finance, field trips, education, publications and, yes, the annual meeting committee. I am especially keen to have diverse representation on all these committees.

IOS needs involvement from people who come from all around Illinois. IOS needs to benefit from the full spectrum of perspectives, interests, talents, and ideas that exist within our membership. And with active participation by a group of individuals who broadly represent our membership, the benefits back to the membership will be broadly felt.

Please consider getting involved. You know you have something to offer, and I promise you'll find it rewarding to help. Give me a call at 773-935-8439, or send me e-mail at: williamson@iit.edu.

— Geoff Williamson

Visit our website at: <http://www.chias.org/ios>