



## ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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### President's Message

#### Dear Members:

I'm watching a pair of American Robins in my side yard working constantly to feed their newly hatched brood, thinking: "That is their full time job." No time to mutter about wanting to do something else. They are busy. They know what to do and they do it. Their purpose is pure. They have a family to feed and protect and that is what they do. Period. No discussion. No complaining about having to take out the fecal sacs. No saying; "Let's just order in bugs for dinner tonight."

Is a bird ever unemployed? They seem to have something to do all day. At the very least they are watching out for prey or maybe keeping an eye out for a good sack of tent caterpillars. While we are driving to the grocery store or the daycare, they are searching for a good swarm of gnats or are stashing the kid in a tree and saying, "Keep quiet and out of trouble and I'll bring you something nice and juicy when I come back."

Think about purpose. A bird's purpose is so essentially simple. Simple joys are always out there and IOSers belong to a group of people who are aware of one of the pure, simple things life offers us: Watching birds. We can look out the window, walk down the street, or ride a bike and find the most amazing birding encounter at the most surprising time. That bird just enriched your life just by being a bird! He's never going to be unemployed.

A bird's existence though, seems to depend on man's action or inaction. IOS provides several means to help birds in the state of Illinois. This year, in fact, IOS has administered funding for nine grants supporting birds or bird-related projects in Illinois. With your annual membership renewal, please consider donating to IOS at a higher level. These include Contributing: \$50-\$99; Supporting: \$100-\$499; Sponsor: \$500-\$1,999, and Patron: \$2,000+. Since we are a volunteer organization, your donation goes directly to the bottom line to support IOS's mission of science, education, and birding.

In each issue of *Meadowlark* we have published a list of members who have contributed at a higher level. To keep the published list of generous members accurate, we will now publish it annually. I want to thank all the patrons, sponsors, supporters, and contributors who so kindly contribute more to IOS.

Best regards and good birding,

*Jenny Vogt,*  
President