

# MEADOWLARK

*A Journal of Illinois Birds*

Volume 6, Number 1 - 1997

## Special Fifth Anniversary Issue

ISSN 1065-2043

### Vice President's Message

This year, and this issue of the *Meadowlark* are celebrations of five years of growth and achievements! We have maintained a remarkable growth rate and publish one of the finest state birding journals. Our membership has grown every year reflecting your interests as well as the vision, drive, dedication, and just plain determination.

The founder and driving force behind IOS was Eric Walters. With the help of the Board of Directors, he has made a vision come true. For personal reasons, Eric has resigned as President but will continue to serve as a Board member. Thank you Eric and Board members!

IOS, however, would be nothing without you, its members. Your support and patience in helping see us through the first five years have been wonderful.

The real backbone of the organization and what holds our Society together is our publications - *Meadowlark* and the newsletter *Wings over the Prairie*. The success of these publications is due to many authors, artists, and photographers who shared with us their creative juices and talents by submitting their works for publications. A fine editorial board reviews the materials submitted for accuracy and relevance, and advises our very talented Editor-in-Chief Sheryl De Vore. It may not be widely known, but Sheryl is a professional journalist, award-winning environmental writer, and author in her own right. We are extremely fortunate to have her overseeing our publications! Assisting Sheryl with layout and graphic design is Kathy Ade. These two professionals produce our extremely attractive publication - thank you both! We are very lucky to have so many very talented, dedicated members who give of themselves so freely to see that we have one of the finest state publications in the nation - in my biased opinion.

There are many others who have assisted in our growth. Neither time nor space permits mentioning them by name, but they know who they are, and to them I say thank you.

Your Board of Directors has begun reviewing our programs to develop a detailed plan for the next five to ten years. Because we are an organization of volunteers we need your time and talents in working with us to keep IOS growing. We need you to step forward to help your Society.

*Bob Montgomery*

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### About Our Cover:

Cover Drawing of King Rail by Denis Kania, art editor. For an article on King Rail nesting in southern Illinois, see page 11.

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