

# MEADOWLARK

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## President's Message

This season of the year is considered by many the duller time of the year. I argue that it is not. The breeding season is quite interesting and from a birding perspective the most important. Without successful breeding, populations will decline and the most exciting times (i.e., migration) will not be as enjoyable. If you do not bird during this period, consider starting this year. See how many birds you can find breeding in your neighborhood. Attempt to determine their breeding status by observing their behavior.

Summer is also a good time to introduce a new person to birding. The adult birds are still in full bright plumage and easily observed. Take a friend or youngster birding. Your introduction just might hook someone into a life long hobby.

You may even want to bring them to our Annual Meeting at Starved Rock State Park (June 19 - 21). This park has unique habitats which, in turn, attract uncommon breeding birds. We will be exploring these habitats on our field trips. You can gain new skills and make new or renew old friendships.

New birders are welcome.

Another way to ensure we have ample birds to observe year-round is to join the Teaming With Wildlife Team. You can help by promoting the passage of this important funding initiative, which will focus on preventive management that could keep species from becoming eligible for the endangered species list.

If you want to know more about any of this, please let me or one of our officers know. We're here to help and inform. Good Birding

*Bob Montgomery*

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## About Our Cover:

Henslow's Sparrow drawing by Denis Kania. At least 28 territorial male Henslow's Sparrows were detected in Johnson County, Illinois, during the 1997 breeding season. See seasonal highlights for more information.

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