

MEADOWLARK

A Journal of Illinois Birds

Volume 8, Number 1 - 1999

ISSN 1065-2043

President's Message

It's difficult to think nesting season when "we northern folks" are still waiting for the migrants that we saw in southern Illinois during our annual meeting to make their way north. By all accounts the meeting, held the last weekend in April, was a great success; more than 200 Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) and IOS members attended. The weather was great and the field trips were superb. We enjoyed many migratory birds and wild flowers as well as excellent presentations. A successful meeting does not happen all by itself and requires lots of hard work by a group of people and those individuals need to be recognized. Organizing this joint meeting was Joe Suchecki for IOS and Marilyn Campbell of IAS. Marilyn and her office staff did a super job of handling registration, and Keith McMullen and his committee did an equally superb job organizing the field trips. The facilities at the Rend Lake Resort were great and the staff and caterers were most helpful.

Many others contributed to the success of the meeting that need to be recognized. Thanks to all of you who helped. A complete report on the meeting may be found in the newsletter.

If you haven't visited one of our fine state park lodges and resorts, you should plan to do so soon. Also mark your calendars for our Year 2000 Annual Meeting the third week in May at Illinois Beach State Park, where we northerners are planning to show the southerners a great time and some specialty birds of our own. In the meantime, don't forget to bird during breeding season. You'll find as many surprises during June, July and August, as you do during migration periods; it just requires more effort.

Until next time — good birding.

Bob Montgomery

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About Our Cover:

Purple Gallinule illustration by David J. Athans. See Frank Bennett's Mermet Lake nesting story on page 11.