



ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Publisher

Illinois Ornithological Society

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President's Message

A great year for IOS

Summer is over, the fall warbler migration is in full swing, and for your Board it is time to plan for 2007 – our Annual Meeting, field trips, publications, a budget and development activities. It is also time to recognize the contributions of our leadership team over the last year.

Our Chief Editor, Sheryl DeVore has continued to turn out one memorable *Meadowlark* after another for nearly 15 years. She is assisted by graphic designer Kathy Ade and some wonderful Associate Editors including Steve Bailey and Paul Clyne as well as Jeff Walk, who recently joined the staff and Travis Mahan, who is now serving as Photo Editor. Sheryl has assistance from many more people than that, too numerous to mention here – photographers, writers, cover artists – we thank you all.

Pete Olson and Geoff Williamson with backup from Denis Bohm have turned out consistently interesting and informative *Wings Over The Prairie* newsletters with profiles on birders and book reviews, among other items. Pete has turned over his editorial role to Marj Lundy, our new board member. Geoff will continue to work with her helping with the layout.

Dan Williams and Geoff Williamson have continued to serve well in their roles as Membership Chair and Membership Secretary. Alex Meloy, our Treasurer, has brought a new level of professionalism to our financial and budgetary matters.

Our Field Trip Chair, Peter Weber continued our field trip focus on special birds this year. Steve Bailey has run the Smith's Longspur trip for at least 15 years and usually produces a trip list of more than 100 species, which he did again this year. The Carlyle Lake Pelagic led by Keith McMullen and Dan Kassebaum continues to be a sell-out every year, with the leaders renting boats to get folks closer to views of, for example, a beautiful, adult Sabine's Gull, seen on this year's trip.

The fifth-annual Gull Frolic led by Denis Bohm, with help from his wife, Roberta, in February drew more than 150 birders from Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. If you haven't tasted the Bohms' world-famous gull stew, you're missing out! They make a mean chili, too.

Shorebird Extravaganza

Also, after an unsuccessful lack-of-habitat-induced cancellation last year, our first annual Shorebird Extravaganza Weekend at the end of August centered near Lake Chautauqua drew more than 40 participants from four states. Bob Montgomery organized the event, a combination of instructional programs presented by Geoff Williamson and field trips led by Steve Bailey and Travis Mahan. This trip, despite intermittent rain, produced more than 130 species of birds, including 21 species of shorebirds. We hope to make the Shorebird Extravaganza an annual event.