

# MEADOWLARK

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## President's Message

It's great to see we have formed a strong base of over 700 members and have produced four volumes of the *Meadowlark* while staying within our budget. Beyond this are many new ideas waiting their turn, such as book publishing, workshops, and an expanded annual meeting among others. To see these ideas become reality requires a stronger financial base. Some ways we can do this include increasing membership and creating a birdathon fundraiser. In a birdathon, a team of birders tries to record as many species in one day as possible, raising funds based on how many species seen. For example, if the team sees 100 species, and donors have pledged \$1 per species, that would mean \$100 raised. If you are interested in these ideas or have other funding suggestions, let me know.

*Eric Walters*

peenting? They were. Eric heard a Whip-poor-will. A Common Snipe winnowed. Dave called in a Virginia Rail with his sound blaster and the last bird of the night, an Eastern Screech-Owl gave its tremolo as the wind speed began to increase even more.

19 species of shorebirds! 158 species total! 159 if you count the Monk Parakeet we found earlier in Zion! And, what's even more important is we raised \$400 for the Illinois Audubon Society to use in purchasing critical habitat for birds. It was truly a team effort - and I credit a lot of it to my birding companions, Dave, Renee, and Eric, three of the best birders I know. So thanks IOS REDS, for the memories. And all you Illinois birders out there - BEAT THIS - 158 BIRDS IN ONE COUNTY IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS!

I'd gloat, but that wouldn't be polite.

*Sheryl DeVore*

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**About Our Cover:** *Meadowlark* art editor Denis Kania drew the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Kania has exhibited his drawings at the Midwest Birding Symposium and One Touch of Nature in Chicago and has done commissioned work for The Nature Conservancy and other organizations. You can reach him at (708) 961-5364.

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