

MEADOWLARK

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President's Message

This issue of *Meadowlark* includes the Fourth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, formed in 1985. When the Illinois Ornithological Society was incorporated in 1991, the bylaws were written to include IORC as an official but independent committee of the Society.

IORC's duties include evaluating evidence of rare or unusual birds found in Illinois; determining if the evidence is sufficient to accept the record; maintaining a permanent record of all such reports; and publishing a report based on its decisions. The committee also maintains the official Illinois State Checklist of Birds.

The Committee's Secretary, David B. Johnson, leads six members: Steve Bailey, H. David Bohlen, Robert Chapel, Paul Clyne, Myrna Deaton, and Vernon Kleen, plus three alternates, Richard Biss, Joe Milosevich, and Eric Walters. These individuals are not only hard working but also active birders and members of the Society.

Because of the inability to retrieve past records until recently, the report in this issue is longer than what you'll see in the future. The information spans several years. Most of this backlog has been addressed and the Committee will produce shorter annual reports.

The Committee has prepared a new official State Checklist and is designing an updated Field Checklist Card. The Society hopes to publish these within a year.

Having observed the Committee in action for the past few years, I can vouch for their dedication and hard work. Their deliberation is a thankless task that is important not only to state birders and ornithology students, but also to the professional ornithological community nationwide.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee members for their hard work. Take time to review this report and to thank the Committee members yourself.

Good Birding *Bob Montgomery*

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On Our Cover:

Drawing of Purple Sandpiper by David Athans.

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