

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it has finally arrived - the first journal for your new statewide birding organization! I'm sure you will be as pleased as I am with this our inaugural issue of *Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds*.

It's not by chance that such quality can appear overnight in your mailbox. *Meadowlark* is the result of countless meetings, proposals, letters, phone calls, disagreements, direction changes, weekend hours, surveys, and large doses of aspirin.

All the while, we were also working on organizing the Illinois Ornithological Society, writing bylaws, appointing officers and establishing goals. Our aims are well-defined and I'd like to share them with you:

- * to promote the scientific, educational, and recreational aspects of ornithology in Illinois;
- * to publish a journal of Illinois bird life;
- * to keep a permanent historical record of Illinois bird life;
- * to promote the preservation of bird habitat and endangered bird species in Illinois;
- * to maintain an up-to-date state checklist of Illinois birds according to standards of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee.

We will also conduct field trips, hold an annual meeting and schedule ornithological activities pursuant to the society's goals. Further refinement of the society's aims will always be made according to the IOS membership wishes.

Let me know your thoughts on this issue. The journal staff and IOS board members have traveled a long road thus far and I'm sure wouldn't turn down a nice word or two.

I'll pass along your comments to the appropriate parties involved. Until next time, enjoy.

Eric Walters