



Illinois Ornithological Society

Publisher

Illinois Ornithological Society

Eric Walters, President

Sheryl De Vore, Chief Editor

Robert Montgomery, Vice-President

Michael Hogg, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Renee Baade

Richard Blewett

Alan Branhagen

Judy K. De Neal

Philip Haebler

Michael Hogg

David B. Johnson

Jean Lesniak

Robert Montgomery

Eric Walters

Recording Secretary

Philip Haebler

Associate Editors

David B. Johnson

Peter Lowther

Christine Williamson

Art Editor

Denis Kania

Staff Photographers

Joe B. Milosevich, Dennis Oehmke

Staff Illustrators

David Athans, Karen Becker

Brian K. Willis

Pre-Press Production

Kathy Ade

Printing, Reprox

4667 McRee

St. Louis, Missouri 63110

Membership Secretary

Joan Palinscar

Editorial Advisory Board

Laurence C. Binford, Ph.D.

Dale Birkenholz, H. David Bohlen

Kenneth J. Brock, Victoria J. Byre

Robert T. Chapel, Mary Hennan

Scott Hickman, Ph.D.

L. Barrie Hunt, Vernon M. Kleen

Scott K. Robinson, Ph.D.,

W. Douglas Robinson, Robert Szafoni

David Willard, Ph.D.

Letter from the editor

In winter, bird-feeding becomes a favorite past-time of birders who want to enjoy some avian action from the comfort of their warm homes. It seems fitting in this season of good will and winter bird-feeding to mention some of our supporters who operate bird-feeding supply stores. These people provide us with the information we need to choose the right foods for birds. They stock the suet, sunflower hearts, bath heaters, and other items we need to make our backyards mini-nature preserves. They offer workshops and free bird walks to help beginners enjoy avian pursuits - and that in turn, gets more people hooked on birds and on conservation.

Many local bird feeding stores have supported IOS over the years, not just by selling *Meadowlark*, right next to glossy, national birding magazines and giving us the profits, but also by making extra donations to IOS and getting involved with the magazine and the organization. Special thanks go to Dean Bolton and Helen Taylor, owners of Wild Birds Unlimited in Highland Park, long-time contributors who have given IOS discounts on purchased items. Dean also wrote an article for *Meadowlark*. Phil Haebler, owner of the Upstart Crow in Evanston, is an IOS Board Member and our recording secretary. He also makes extra contributions and donations. Bob Sadek of Wild Bird Feeding store in Libertyville, has made donations to a local newspaper sponsoring a contest on environment issues, and offers wonderful support for IOS, its members, and those involved with the magazine. These are just some of the bird-feeding and supply stores who have contributed to IOS; I apologize for not having the space to mention them all.

Feed the birds this winter, and support your local bird-feeding stores, especially the folks who contribute to IOS and in turn, contribute to the scientific and recreational pursuit of birding and conservation in Illinois.

A special note of gratitude: After five years at the helm, Eric Walters is stepping down from the presidency. We owe a debt of thanks to the man whose vision helped bring IOS to where it is today. Luckily for us, Eric promises to remain involved with IOS, contributing to *Meadowlark* and working on other projects. Please let Eric know how much you appreciate his leadership and volunteer spirit these past five years.

Sheryl De Vore