



ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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President's Message

Dear Members:

In my last message I recognized the wonderful team who make IOS the highly regarded birding association that has so enriched the Illinois birding experience for all these years. IOS has sustained an enviable track record for over 15 years.

IOS was organized to fill the demand for a high-quality journal to record Illinois' birdlife. This issue of the *Meadowlark* has the report of 2005's CBCs just in time for you to check what was seen last year before some of the 2006 counts begin. The next issue will have the 2006 SBCs just in time for the May 2007 spring counts. The count reports, the seasonal Field Notes and the articles on the Illinois birding scene are what we all look forward to in each issue of the *Meadowlark*.

The *Meadowlark*, *Wings Over The Prairie* and the local bird clubs' monthly newsletters no longer serve as the primary source of birding information for many of us. IBET serves that function with its same day immediacy that no paper publication can match. What I find encouraging is the way in which the bird chat rooms like IBET encourage questions and debate about our birds, their identification, habits and occurrence in a forum in which we can all follow along and increase our own knowledge. I also find it gratifying that more and more IBET posters are citing the *Meadowlark* to inform the debate.

The *Meadowlark* also publishes the IORC Reports, the deliberations of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. This committee of expert, knowledgeable birders has what in many ways is a thankless task. Their job is to evaluate the documentation of rare bird sightings in Illinois and decide whether there is sufficient evidence to accept the sighting. I say that their task is thankless as for all the happy birders whose sightings are accepted, there are the sightings that are not accepted. These rejections have been known to generate some unhappiness.

Be that as it may be, IORC performs a valuable service in maintaining the official Illinois list. I for one look forward to their annual reports of rare and new to Illinois birds, and applaud their work in providing a credible record of the occurrence of species in Illinois. What would the serious lister do without IORC as the arbiter of rare bird sightings in Illinois?

Our thanks to the dedicated members of IORC: currently Doug Stotz, Dave Johnson, Bob Hughes, Dan Kassebaum, Keith McMullen, Paul Sweet and Mike Ward.

Good birding.

Michael Hogg,
President

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