

# MEADOWLARK

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## President's Message

After five years, I'm writing my final president's message. It's time to hand the reins over to another who will continue the progress of the Illinois Ornithological Society. I've had a mountaintop view of the birth, rise, and growth of the IOS and one thing I can say, it's been exhilarating! I've enjoyed investing my time into this organization and the people representing it. I feel my time spent has been rewarded in full - just with the satisfaction of seeing the quality of our journal as well as our continuing growth in membership. I expect great things will continue into the future.

I'll still be actively involved in IOS, desiring greatly to realize a goal we had early on to publish books such as an Illinois Birding Hotspots guide as well as update Steve Mlodinow's, "Chicago Area Birds."

But for IOS as a whole, it's time for fresh energy, vision, and leadership. With the capable leaders currently representing IOS, it's easy to have confidence in their ability to take the next beneficial step forward. The future looks bright indeed for the IOS!

So, until we next meet in the field, good birding to you!

*Eric Walters*

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### **About Our Cover:**

The Townsend's Solitaire was recorded on the 1995/1996 Christmas Bird Count and wintered near Waukegan, Illinois. See pages 93 and 108 for details. Drawing by Denis Kania. (708) 388-0285.