

Letter from the Editor

Another fine president

Once again, I am privileged to extend words of praise to our departing president as well as our new one. Since IOS was founded in 1992, four terrific presidents have guided this Society through difficult times and exciting times, each one of them making us stronger and more secure.

What touches me the most, however, is that each of these presidents has remained to continue to make important contributions to the organization. To this day, Eric Walters, our first president, continues to write insightful articles and take important photographs that grace the pages of this journal. Our second president, Bob Montgomery, continues to guide us through conservation issues and inspiring annual meetings.

Our most recent president, Geoff Williamson, has helped bring our Web site up to date, and now is taking on, with help from a new board member the role of producing our newsletter. Geoff will also be serving as membership secretary as well.

Our new president, just sworn in at our last board meeting, is Michael Hogg, who has served as IOS's treasurer since the group's founding. Michael is already moving ahead on old and new projects, and I'm thrilled to be working with my longtime partner in helping this Society carry out its mission.

These four presidents have supported IOS and its publications in so many ways, and continue to work behind-the-scenes to make this organization one that has become an importance presence in the Illinois birding community.

Do you know how you can extend your thanks to these four fine gentlemen? Contact them and ask them how you can help IOS. Just a short conversation with them, and you'll understand why they have all inspired me throughout my tenure as editor.

Sheryl DeVore

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About Our Cover:

Eric Secker drew the cover of a Hermit Warbler in a pine forest and found the first state record of this species. See his article beginning on page 85. Eric is a recent contributor to *Meadowlark* as an artist and an author. He has also been doing Website and graphic design work for organizations including the DuPage Birding Club and the Bird Conservation Network. An active Illinois birder, Eric has worked as a research assistant studying cowbird parasitism at the Morton Arboretum.

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