

## Letter from the Editor

As I write this, my dear friend Michael Hogg is leaving as president – after serving six years, the maximum number of consecutive years allowed, according to IOS by-laws.

Michael and I have been with this organization since it was just an idea—we have worked together for more than 17 years, he, serving as treasurer, board member, and president, and I, trying to get the Meadowlark out four times a year.

It hasn't been easy. He and I can attest to that. Some folks were impatient, others demanding, others accusatory. At times, I was impatient, too, wanting to get things done more quickly than what was happening.

Over the years, I've learned patience is a virtue, true friendship is a blessing, and an organization like IOS is worth every minute spent on keeping it alive..

Here's what we have accomplished in 17 years – completed and mailed nearly 68 different issues of Meadowlark and Wings Over The Prairie, created a Web site, improved the Web site, helped organize and took ownership of the Gull Frolic, hosted 16 annual or spring weekend meetings, hosted shorebird spectacles that truly were spectacular, fine-tuned our field trips to offer something new and different from other field trips offered by the many fine local birding clubs, given thousands of dollars to researchers working on projects to help avian species thrive in Illinois (last year, with help from individuals and the DuPage Birding Club, we gave FIVE \$500 scholarships.) And now we are looking toward the future with more ideas, that will take, time, patience, and yes, perhaps even a little misunderstandings until everything gets smoothed over.

I've also learned how much work goes on behind the scenes – mailing, licking envelopes, sorting envelopes with zip codes (a tortuous job), proofing ads, creating ads, getting the annual meeting lined up (all those calls to get a good price, get raffle prizes lined up.)

Here's my message to you all – if you are an active member of IOS, thank you so very much: Please continue your support. If you have lots of ideas (or complaints), but have never greeted folks at the Gull Frolic, placed a stamp on an envelope, written a short story for Meadowlark, called for quotes on a project, we've got a brand new president, Jenny Vogt, eager for your help. Through IOS and other birding clubs, Jenny has become a good friend and has shown me what a hard-working, intelligent, creative woman she is. We are lucky to have Michael, Jenny, and so many others willing to roll up their sleeves for the good of IOS. Won't you join us?

See you in the field.

*Sheryl DeVore*

# MEADOWLARK

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Volume 17, Number 3 - 2008

ISSN 1065-2043

Visit Our Website at: <http://www.illinoisbirds.org>

## Articles

- Carlyle Lake Gulls: a season of rarities with notes on how and when to locate them** 82  
— Dan Kassebaum
- A potential first North American record of 'Kamchatka' Mew Gull away from Pacific Ocean** 86  
— Bill Rudden
- Three rare sea ducks in central Illinois** 89  
— Matthew Winks
- Ruddy Turnstone: first Illinois CBC record** 91  
— Carolyn Marsh

## Departments

- The 2007/2008 Illinois Christmas Bird Count** 92  
— Paul Sweet
- Field Notes: The 2007/2008 winter season** 103  
— Kelly J. McKay

## About Our Cover:

Eric Wright, a budding young artist, created the drawing of the Slaty-backed Gull for our cover.

A freshman at Waterloo High School, Eric graduated from Immaculate Conception School in Columbia, Illinois, and was a student of Dan Kassebaum, who wrote the article about gulls at Carlyle Lake in this issue.

Copyright©2009 by the Illinois Ornithological Society. No part of this journal may be reproduced without the written permission of IOS and the chief editor, except brief passages of a paragraph or less in which attribution is made to the journal and author.