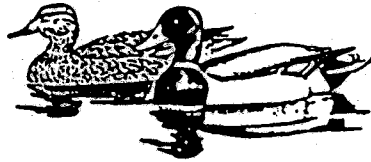
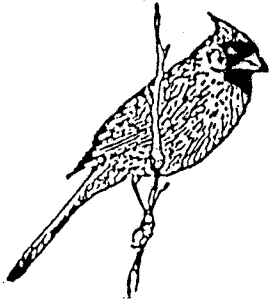


# BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



## PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SINCE 1981

ORNITHOLOGICAL - AUDUBON CHAPTER  
OF THE PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE SINCE 1930

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JULY/AUGUST 1994

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### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Marj Tattersall

Though temperatures cooled last week, this week we should be experiencing hot 90° days. Be sure to provide water for the birds to drink and bathe in. Change your hummingbird feeder solution every 2 days, and wash out the feeder thoroughly each time. If you put out suet, be sure to hang it in the shade and change it when it starts to smell and become rancid. We certainly don't want to cause any illness to the birds that bring joy to our daily lives. Take care of yourselves, too. Let us know of any interesting bird sightings and breeding activities. Happy summer birding!

### RECENT SIGHTINGS:

- + **Blackpoll Warbler** - 5/13 by various members at Forest Park before membership meeting.
- + **Bay-Breasted Warbler** - 5/14 by Jana Smith and others at Wildlife Prairie Park after bird seminar.
- + **American Redstart** - 5/14 by Jana Smith and others at Wildlife Prairie Park after bird seminar.
- + **Scarlet Tanager** - 5/15 by Dan Holm/Marj Tattersall/Jana Smith in Jubilee Park on Bird-A-Thon.
- + **Black-Throated Green Warbler** - 5/15 by Dan Holm/Marj Tattersall/Jana Smith in Jubilee Park on Bird-A-Thon.
- + **Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher** - 5/15 by Dan Holm/Marj Tattersall/Jana Smith in Jubilee Park on Bird-A-Thon.
- + **Gray-Cheeked Thrush** - 5/15 by Dan Holm/Marj Tattersall/Jana Smith in Jubilee Park on Bird-A-Thon.
- + **Common Nighthawk** (around 50, circling and drifting high above) - 5/19 by Jana Smith near Illinois River in North Pekin.
- + **Northern Parula Warbler** - 5/21 by Dan Holm/Greg Brown/Jana Smith on bird hike at Jubilee Park.
- + **Hooded Warbler** - 5/21 by Dan Holm/Greg Brown/Jana Smith on bird hike at Jubilee Park.
- + **Green Heron** - 5/28 by Brenda Onken/Les Bodell/Jana Smith near Rock Island Trail.
- + **Cerulean Warbler** - 5/29 by Brenda Onken/Jana Smith/Dan Holm at McNaughton Park.
- + **Willow Flycatcher** - 5/29 by Brenda Onken/Jana Smith/Dan Holm at McNaughton Park.
- + **Indigo Bunting** - 5/30 by Lu Ann Elwood at the old Fernwood Riding Stable on Creek Road.
- + **White-Eyed Vireo** - 6/4 by Brenda Onken/Jana Smith/Dan Holm at Jubilee Park.
- + **Prothonotary Warbler** - 6/6 by Dr. Richard Bjorklund/Dan Holm/Jana Smith near Worley Lake.
- + **Black-Necked Stilts (2)** - 6/18 by Marj Tattersall/Louise Endres on Route 97 near Havana.
- + **Cattle Egret** (breeding plumage) - 6/18 by Marj Tattersall/Louise Endres on Route 97 near Havana.
- + **Common Gallinule** - 6/18 by Marj Tattersall/Louise Endres and 6/19 by Bert/Greet Princen on Route 97 near Havana.
- + **Lark Sparrow** - 6/25 by Jana Smith in McNaughton Park.

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN JULY/AUGUST:

Shorebirds, starting the middle of July - try our field trip to the Peoria Sanitary District on Saturday, August 13!

### INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY REPORT:

On Saturday, May 14, birders and conservationists from Central Illinois attended the International Migratory Bird Day Seminar held at Wildlife Prairie Park. Topics covered were: Illinois endangered species, habitat loss, habitat preservation, species identification, and Illinois area studies on required breeding habitat. The day was very informative, and we thank Linda Prescott at Wildlife Prairie Park for coming up with the idea and organizing the seminar. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD-A-THON:

Sunshine greeted the three teams participating in our first International Migratory Bird-A-Thon held on Saturday, May 15. Through your support, Peoria Audubon, Nature Conservancy, and Wildlife Prairie Park raised \$977.52 for conservation projects. Each group is donating 25% (a total of \$244.38) to Partners in Flight to support their continued efforts in migratory bird conservation efforts. We plan on making this an annual event and will encourage other conservation groups to join us. Thanks to all who participated, especially to all the generous supporters for their pledges.

## AUDUBON CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

July 8 (Fri.): Summer Get-Together - 6:00 PM (to approx. 8:30 PM) at **McNaughton Park** in Pekin. Meet at teepee picnic area at the end of the park road. (Park is off Route 98 on the same road as Delshire Riding Stables.) We'll do some birding and then meet at McDonald's for Dutch Treat supper and to compare summer sightings. Call Jana Smith at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work) for directions and RSVP.

July 23 (Sat.): Bird Hike\* - 9:00 AM (to approx. 10:30 AM) at **Northwood Park** in Morton. Easy hike on nearly flat ground; no creek crossings; we won't be doing non-stop walking - we'll spend some time in the picnic area. **FREE LEMONADE!!!** Call Jana Smith at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work) for more information and RSVP.

Aug. 13 (Sat.): Field Trip - 7:30 AM (to approx. 12:00 PM) at **Peoria Sanitary District**. Meet at gate. Easy walking. Make sure Greg knows you're coming or be very prompt, because gates will be locked behind us when we go in. Call Greg Brown at 686-3754 for more information and RSVP.

Aug. 27 (Sat.): Bird Hike\* - all day at **Matthiesson State Park** near Starved Rock and LaSalle. Meet at Hardee's on Main Street (Route 116) in downtown East Peoria at 6:30 AM for breakfast (or just show up at 7:00 AM, which is when we'll be leaving). Approximate 2-hour drive. Fairly strenuous hiking. Bring a lunch in a cooler to eat in the park. **FREE LEMONADE!!!** We will eat at an inexpensive restaurant nearby for supper, and then head back. Call Jana Smith at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work) for more information and RSVP.

Aug. 4 (Thu.): Program Committee Meeting - 7:00 PM at Maloof Realty. Call Marj Tattersall at 692-2247 (home) or 578-6945 (work) for more information.

Aug. 12 (Fri.): Summer Get-Together - 6:00 PM (to approx. 8:30 PM) at **Northwood Park** in Morton. Meet at main parking lot/picnic area at the end of the park road. (Park is off Main Street north of Morton.) Bring your supper in a cooler. We'll do some birding and then eat in the picnic area and compare summer sightings. Call Jana Smith at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work) for directions and RSVP.

Aug. 18 (Thu.): Board Meeting - 7:00 PM at Maloof Realty. **ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.** Any members who would like to participate on a committee or become more involved are especially encouraged to attend a board meeting. Call Marj Tattersall at 692-2247 (home) or 578-6945 (work) for more information.

Sep. 9 (Fri.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at **Forest Park Nature Center**. Program: to be announced in next newsletter.

September ??: Birding Canoe Trip on the **Fox River** near Ottawa. No details yet - still in the planning stages. If you're interested and would like some input, especially regarding what day we go, call Jana Smith at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work).

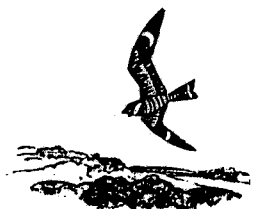
October ??: All-Day Bird Hike\* on the **Rock Island Trail**. We plan to hike the whole 26 miles! It will probably take at least 9-10 hours. More details in the next newsletter. If you're interested and would like some input, especially regarding what day we go, call Jana Smith at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work).

Dec. 17 (Sat.): Chillicothe Christmas Bird Count. Call Dick Collins at 246-8677 for more information.

Dec. 23 (Fri.): Chautauqua Christmas Bird Count. Call Dr. Bjorklund at 968-6502 for more information.

Dec. 31 (Sat.): Peoria Christmas Bird Count. Call Louise Endres at 682-8500 for more information.

\* **BIRD HIKES:** Trails will probably be muddy, so be sure to wear grubby clothes and shoes. May be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions (namely, rain), so be sure to RSVP.



## FIELD TRIP REPORTS - Jana Smith

As the Fearless\* Leader of Official and Un-Official Bird Hikes, I would like to extend to you a formal, engraved invitation to accompany my Estimable Companions and me on one of our Highly Adventurous Treks. Unfortunately, I can't afford several hundred formal, engraved invitations, so this will have to do: PLEASE COME!

So far, the same few people have shown up for these hikes - Les and Mary Bodell, Brenda Onken, and Dan Holm. (Greg Brown also came on one hike.) Not that I'm complaining! This is a great group of people, and we have so much fun! But we'd like you to join us so you can share in the fun and birding.

Some highlights of our most recent official hikes include: a Ruby-Throated Hummingbird that alternately fed on columbine blossoms 5 feet away and rested on a nearby branch over Kickapoo Creek in Jubilee Park (May 21 - the sun lit up his ruby throat like a tiny light that we could see without our binoculars! - 46 species); an Eastern Wood-Pewee building a nest and one Turkey Vulture repeatedly diving at another right above our heads in McNaughton Park (June 4 - 37 species); at least two male Hooded Warblers singing and chasing each other quite near us along the trail in Jubilee Park (June 4 - 36 species - we continued our McNaughton Park hike here); and a Ring-Necked Pheasant calling and a family (dad, mom, and junior) of Orchard Orioles along the Rock Island Trail (June 26 - 36 species - we did get rained on part of the time, but it was fun anyway!).

Our unofficial hikes have been interesting, too. On May 28 on the Rock Island Trail, we saw a 4-foot long snake and encouraged it to get off the trail before it became a snake pancake, only to later witness a Red-Tailed Hawk fly out of a ditch near there carrying a familiar-looking snake in its talons!

We have an easy trip coming up on July 23, in case you're not feeling very confident about some of the more strenuous hikes. We're also planning a trip to a more distant location for August, a canoe trip for September, and an all-day hike for October. Check the calendar of events, and please call me, write me, or talk to me at one of our meetings if you have any questions, comments, or field trip ideas. (My address and phone number are plastered all over the newsletter.) I hope to hear from you!

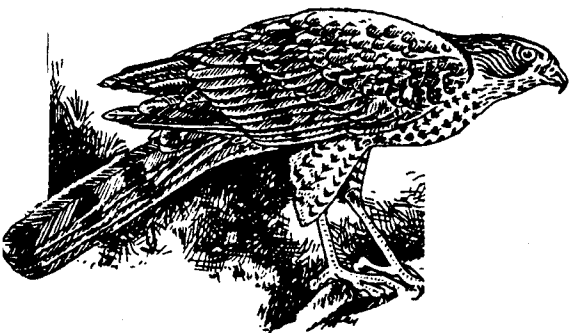
\* (except for spiders)

## BIRD "SPOTLIGHT": COOPER'S HAWK - Brenda Onken/Jana Smith

During the spring bird count on Saturday, May 7, Dan Holm, Jana Smith, and Steve Gniadek (Jana's uncle) observed a hawk flying off its nest in Farmdale Park. Steve is a wildlife biologist in Glacier National Park in Montana and was visiting family in the area. He had a better view of the bird, and after observing the nest more closely, confirmed that it was a Cooper's Hawk. Dan and Jana observed the bird flying off the nest again on June 6. While hiking in the park on June 25, Dan, Jana, Brenda Onken, and Les Bodell quietly investigated the nest area but did not spot the hawk. However, since it seems to be quite spooky, and we saw some fairly fresh whitewash under the nest, it is possible that the bird was still occupying the nest and flew away before we approached close enough to see it. Dan also discovered an eggshell that had been predated under the nest tree. We'll try to gather more information about this great find and report to you in the next newsletter.

The Cooper's Hawk is listed as an endangered species in Illinois. It has a long tail and short, rounded wings. Its flight consists of several quick beats and a glide. This hawk is found primarily in woodlands and hedgerows. Nests are usually 20-60 feet high in upright crotches of deciduous trees and may be renovated crows nests or built from scratch. ("Our" nest is about 30 feet high in a Black Cherry tree.) The Cooper's Hawk feeds mostly on small birds, mammals, and reptiles.

We're happy to welcome this bird to the Central Illinois nesting population!



COOPER'S HAWK is not only an EN-DANGERED SPECIES in Illinois, but also secretive and shy. It is very similar to the sharp-shinned hawk but slightly larger with a *rounded* tail. It

feeds upon small mammals and birds.

Look for:

- dark head
- rusty, finely barred breast
- white throat
- well *rounded* and barred tail
- length: 14-21"
- wingspan: 27-36"



**ECLIPSE BIRD STUDY REPORT - Louise Endres**

On Tuesday, May 10, members were asked to note bird behavior during the 10:20 am to 1:20 pm annular eclipse. Some individual observations were: singing and movement slowed down and in some cases ceased altogether; Robins and Grackles continued foraging while other species settled down and became quiet; and birds in one yard perched on the telephone wires and remained silent during the peak of the eclipse. Several observers wondered whether it was the dim light or the cooler temperatures that caused the birds to change their behavior. Thanks to all who sent in their comments!

**CONSERVATION - Les Bodell**

**Wetlands Action Alert!** Immediate phone calls or letters are needed to Senators Paul Simon and Carol Moseley-Braun, who are crucial to protecting wetlands provisions of the Senate Clean Water Bill S2093 (formerly S1114). Support amendments that strengthen wetlands protection, eliminate mitigation banking, and close wetlands loopholes. Reject amendments ranking wetlands, and especially reject "takings" amendments. Support full funding for the State Revolving Fund as outlined in the committee bill. The phone number is (202) 224-3121.

**Hats Off!** Hats off to the Friends of the Rock Island Trail and to Howard Adams. Using an approved design by Howard and money raised by the Friends, construction has been started on a shelter at the picnic and camping area on the Rock Island Trail between Alta and Dunlap. This will be an asset to birders, bikers, and hikers.



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"Bird's Eye View" is published bi-monthly by the Peoria Audubon Society. The next article due date will be October 10. Call or send items of interest to Jana Smith, Newsletter Editor, Peoria Audubon Society, 104 S. Main St., N. Pekin, IL 61554. (H) 382-3889 or (W) 672-6937 or work fax 672-6079.

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PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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