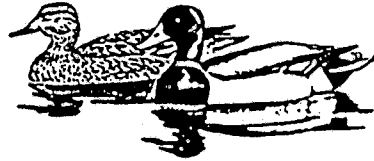
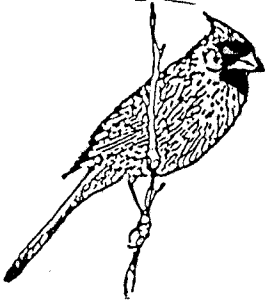


BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SINCE 1981

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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1994

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Mari Tattersall

Door prizes - refreshments before each meeting - \$10 gift certificate drawing - briefer business meeting - audience participation - interesting programs for all to enjoy . . . These are some of the new ideas your officers and board members have planned for our membership meetings starting up in September. Come early to pick up your door prize tickets and visit with your fellow members!

Attached is a copy of our new brochure. Please pass it on to someone who shares our interest in birds and conservation. I hope you had a great birding summer and that you will share your experiences with us at our September meeting. See you there!

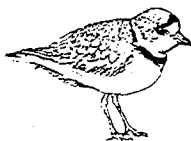
WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER:

Warblers! We have several field trips during this time, all of which would be good opportunities to see warblers. Bring your field guides, because they are mostly "hiding" in their fall plumage! (Some may be immature, and a few may still be in spring plumage.) Peterson's Field Guide to Eastern Birds has several pages devoted to "Confusing Fall Warblers"! In the fall, warblers show up more sporadically and over a longer period of time than in the spring. They are often seen in family groups looking for insects, and unlike their spring habit of hiding in the very tops of trees, they may be found anywhere.

Brenda has had a good start on warblers in Roanoke Park! On 8/22, she saw Tennessee, Cape May, Redstart, Black & White, and Black-Throated Green. She also saw all of those on 8/29, plus Magnolia, Wilson's, Bay-Breasted, Canada, Ovenbird, and Blackpoll, besides other migrants - Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, Least Flycatcher - and a Northern Oriole singing!

RECENT SIGHTINGS:

- + **Common Gallinule (3 pairs)** - 6/12 by Bert & Greet Princen south of Havana & 7/26 (2 adults) & 7/30 (4 adults & several chicks) by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith at Sand Lake.
- + **Purple Martin (feeding young)** - 7/9 by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith at Spring Lake.
- + **Black Tern (lots!)** - 7/10 by Bert & Greet Princen south of Havana (7) & 8/13 flying over river in downtown Peoria (100+).
- + **Western Sandpiper** - 7/17 by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith at Worley Lake.
- + **Long-Billed Dowitcher** - 7/17 by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith at Worley Lake.
- + **Little Blue Heron (immature)** - 7/17 at Worley Lake & 7/30 at Sand Lake by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith & 7/24 by Bert & Greet Princen at Mendenhall.
- + **Osprey** - 7/24 by Bert & Greet Princen & 8/21 by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith at Banner Marsh.
- + **Short-Billed Dowitcher** - 7/24 by Bert & Greet Princen at Duck Island.
- + **Cattle Egret (around 100)** - 7/26 by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith at Sand Lake.
- + **Ruddy Duck (2)** - 7/26 & 7/30 by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith at Sand Lake.
- + **Yellow-Headed Blackbird** - 7/26 by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith at Sand Lake.
- + **Wood Thrush (singing)** - 7/30 by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith at Anderson Lake.
- + **Acadian Flycatcher** - 8/6 by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Les Bodell/Jana Smith at Jubilee Park.
- + **Evening Grosbeak** - 8/26 by Brenda Onken at her feeder.
- + **Cooper's Hawk** - 8/31 by Maury Brucker on the north side of Peoria north of Route 6.



AUDUBON CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sep. 9 (Fri.): Bird Hike* - 6:00 PM (to approx. 7:00 PM) at **Forest Park Nature Center** before the membership meeting. Short hike with some hills.

Sep. 9 (Fri.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at **Forest Park Nature Center**. Program: Our own **Les Bodell** has stories and slides about his "**Alaskan Adventures**". He'll probably convince us to join him next time! Also, we're having door prizes, refreshments, and a gift certificate drawing.

Sep. 10 (Sat.): Canoe Trip on the **Fox River** near **Ottawa**. Call **Jana Smith*** for more information and RSVP.

Sep. 17 (Sat.): Bird Hike* - 8:00 AM (to approx. 9:30 AM) at **Jubilee Park** before **Harvest Fest**. Fairly easy hike.

Sep. 17/18 (Sat./Sun.): Jubilee Harvest Fest - 10:00 AM (to approx. 5:00 PM) both days at **Jubilee Park**. Call **Brenda Onken** at 923-7676 for more information.

Sep. 25 (Sun.): Bird Hike* - 1:00 PM (to approx. 5:00 PM) at **Farmdale Park** in **Sunnyland**. Strenuous hike with deep (possibly) creek crossings and lots of hills.

Oct. 2 (Sun.): Autumn in the Oak Woods - 12:00 PM (to 5:00 PM) at **Camp Wokanda** near **Mossville**. **Brenda Onken** will be at our booth handing out our newsletter and new brochure. Call her at 923-7676 for more information.

Oct. 9 (Sun.): All-Day Bird Hike* - 7:30 AM (to approx. 5:30 PM) on the **Rock Island Trail**. We plan to hike the whole 26 miles! Meet at parking lot in **Alta**. We'll stop along the way for lunch and eat supper at the end of the line in **Toulon**.

Oct. 12 (Wed.): Board Meeting - 7:00 PM at **Lakeview Museum** in **Room A/B**. All members are welcome!

Oct. 14 (Fri.): Bird Hike* - 6:00 PM (to approx. 7:00 PM) at **Forest Park Nature Center** before the membership meeting. Short hike with some hills.

Oct. 14 (Fri.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at **Forest Park Nature Center**. Program: **Rev. Rich Wenneborg**, minister of **Chatham Christian Church**, will be talking about his hobby, **falconry**. More door prizes, etc.! Also, elections are just around the corner, so the **Nominating Committee** will present the slate of officers.

Oct. 15 (Sat.): Wiener Roast - 4:00 PM (to approx. 8:00 PM) at **McNaughton Park** in **Pekin**. Play "**Frisbee Golf**", roast hot dogs and marshmallows over a fire, watch the stars (bring your telescope, birding scope, or even binoculars), and (maybe) hear some owls! Call **Jana Smith*** to sign up for stuff to bring and RSVP.

Oct. 22 (Sat.): Southern River Route Field Trip - meet at 7:30 AM (to approx. 5:00 PM) at **Powerton Lake Fish & Wildlife Area** parking lot. Mostly driving - **Spring Lake**, **Sand Ridge Forest**, **Lake Chautauqua**, **Rice Lake**, **Banner Marsh**. Pack a lunch for a full day of birding, or just go for part of the day. Call **Marj Tattersall** at 692-2247 for more information and RSVP.

Oct. 29 (Sat.): MSD Field Trip - meet at 8:30 AM (to approx. 2:00 PM) at **Metropolitan Sanitary District, Canton** or 8:00 AM in **Farmington** at **Jct. Rte. 116 & 78**. Bring a sack lunch. Call **Bert Princen** at 691-0519 for more information and RSVP.

Nov. 9 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at **Lakeview Museum**. Program: to be announced in next newsletter.

Dec. 14 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at **Lakeview Museum**. Program: to be announced in next newsletter.

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. Call **Jana Smith** at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work) for more information and RSVP.



FIELD TRIP REPORTS - Jana Smith

Our Summer Get-Together at McNaughton Park on July 8 was a lot of fun! The group identified 32 species of birds (including a Black-Crowned Night Heron flying over at dusk) and observed bats, fish, frogs, and tiny clams and snails (collected by Brenda's kids). After grabbing some food at McDonald's in North Pekin, we headed back to the park to enjoy a picnic on a blanket near one of the small ponds. We stayed until well after dark, and Les showed us some interesting stars.

On the July 23 Northwood Park field trip, 27 species of birds were counted. Since no one new showed up, the regulars continued the hike at Farmdale Park. We checked the Cooper's Hawk nest and are sad to report that the hawk has apparently given up and left. We saw no sign of her or of any young or eggs. Dan Holm and I have that area for Spring Count, so we'll check for a new nest next year.

Brenda Onken, Dan Holm, and I had a great (for birds, anyway) unofficial hike on July 30. We met at Powerton at 8:00 AM and went to Sand Lake near Havana and Anderson Lake across the river. We identified 75 species of birds, including 8 species of shorebirds! (I did, however, have an encounter with Rice Cut Grass while wearing shorts - I wouldn't recommend it.)

On another unofficial hike, we walked in 8" deep mud and through 6' tall bulrushes! That was at Big Lake on July 16. That is certainly the exception to the rule and not something we would do on an official hike (unless all parties involved had a hankering for it).

The August 13 field trip to the Peoria Sanitary District ponds was very fruitful! 53 species were seen, including: Lesser Golden Plover, Black-Bellied Plover, Stilt Sandpiper, Short-Billed Dowitcher, Ruddy Turnstone, Caspian Tern, Black Tern, Cliff Swallow, Bank Swallow. Those who went on to Duck Island also saw a Forster's Tern and a Willet!

On August 27 at Matthiesson Park, we saw Tennessee Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Purple Martin, Turkey Vulture, Vesper Sparrow, and Osprey. We found some relief from the hot, humid weather in the canyons.



Brown Thrasher

BIRD "SPOTLIGHT": BROWN THRASHER - LuAnn Elwood/Jana Smith

As a child, the Brown Thrasher was one of the first birds I learned to recognize. They can be distinguished from similar brown birds, such as thrushes, by their long tails, curved bills, and strange yellow eyes.

At the May 14 Migratory Bird Day Conference, I found Kenneth Schmidt's findings about the reproduction ecology of the American Robin and Wood Thrush interesting. It is sad that predation and parasitism are causing the population decline of forest songbirds. I found hope for the Brown Thrasher, however, as I read Illinois Birds: Mimidae put out by the Natural History Survey in 1970. The report noted that though this bird suffered from predation by snakes and fox squirrels, cowbird parasitism did not seem to be a problem. When a cowbird egg is placed in a thrasher's nest, the fight is on - thrashers seem to recognize cowbird eggs and discard either the eggs or the unwanted fledglings. The longest cowbird fledglings lasted in any of the nests studied was six days.

In working with Project Feeder Watch, I learned of a woman who offered nutmeats at her feeder, which attracted adult thrashers with their young. The Natural History Survey showed that the Brown Thrasher nested in gooseberry and bittersweet bushes, which I added to my backyard habitat some time ago (no thrasher nests yet!).

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

The schedule in effect through May 1995 for membership meetings is: Sep., Oct., Apr., & May on the 2nd Fri. of each month at Forest Park Nature Center; and Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., & Mar. on the 2nd Wed. of each month at Lakeview Museum. They will all start at 7:00 PM.

Two upcoming programs on PBS's NOVA science series that you may want to catch: "The Great Wildlife Heist" (Oct. 11) explores the illegal trade in rare and endangered birds; and "Haunted Cry of a Long Gone Bird" (Oct. 25) retraces the migration route of the Great Auk and explores the current status of the Northeast's seabirds. Check local listings for exact times.

During the past year, the Illinois Chapter of the Nature Conservancy has been supporting the work of a counterpart organization in Mexico, Pro Natura Peninsula De Yucatan, as part of their international program. An exploratory trip to Mexico is planned for the week of April 23, 1995. Volunteers are needed to help identify important staging areas in Yucatan for spring migrants. The estimated cost of the trip will be about \$1500 or less. For more information, contact Marj Tattersall at 692-2247.

CONSERVATION - Les Bodell

Pending Legislation

The Safe Drinking Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act are all stalled in Congress, whose attention has turned to the crime bill and the health care plan. Currently, there are two bills pending that involve wetlands: the Mineta bill (HR 3948), which has many serious weaknesses, and the Shuster-Hayes bill (no number as yet), which would weaken what protection wetlands already have. National Audubon opposes both these bills and urges us to write our representatives asking for stronger wetlands protection in the Clean Water Act. Address your letter to: The Honorable (your U.S. Representative), U.S. House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

"Mobilizing for Action", an organizing conference for individuals committed to the Endangered Species Act, will be held Sat., Sep. 24 (8:30 AM - 5:30 PM) at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. If you're interested, contact me for more information.

Forest Legacy - A New Way to Protect Forests

The Forest Legacy protects private ownership and public interests in threatened forests through a program set up in the 1990 Farm Bill. It allows the U.S. Forest Service to purchase permanent conservation easements from willing landowners at fair market value. Specific terms of the easement may vary according to the wishes of the landowner and the particular area to be protected. The easement purchase would remain in effect even though ownership of the property might change.

The land eligible for this program in the Peoria area consists of the forests along the bluffs on both sides of the Illinois River from Cedar Hills Drive to Marshall County. For more information, please call me at 745-5479. If you think the Forest Legacy program sounds like a great way to protect both public and private interests in forested lands, we urge you to write a letter of support to: Stewart Pequinot, State Forester, Illinois Department of Conservation, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701.

"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 672-8079.

PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
1125 West Lake Avenue
Peoria, IL 61614



* NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION *
* U. S. POSTAGE PAID *
* PERMIT NUMBER 875 *
* PEORIA, ILLINOIS *

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Membership.....Louise Endres
Newsletter.....Jana Smith
Public Relations...Carol Parker
- Information
Greet Princen.....(309) 691-0519
Marj Tattersall.....(309) 692-2247

SERVICES

Membership meeting each month September through May.

Topical/educational programs.

Newsletter six times a year.

Year-round field trips.

Spring Bird Count each May.

Three Christmas Bird Counts in December.

Breeding Bird Surveys.

Conservation and environmental issues.

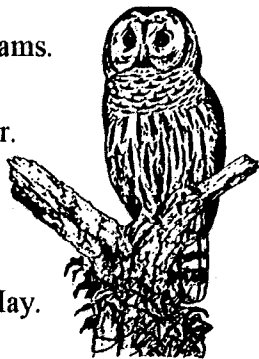
Bird identification and habitat information.

Annual May Bird-a-thon in connection with International Migratory Bird Day.

Bird Seed Sale.

Fellowship with local conservation and environmental groups.

AUDUBON magazine and benefits of membership in National Audubon Society.



PURPOSE

Our mission is to promote birding through education, nature appreciation, habitat preservation and fellowship.

HISTORY

The Peoria Academy of Science evolved from a meeting of eleven science teachers in 1930. The next year the organization created eight sections, each emphasizing a different scientific discipline. The ornithological section started the Peoria Audubon Society. The Academy members ratified a constitution in 1932. Today, the Academy continues to meet monthly. Each spring a banquet is held and a scholarship award is presented to an outstanding student pursuing a scientific career.

In 1981, the Peoria Audubon Society elected to become an active chapter in the National Audubon Society.

MEMBERSHIP

A subscription to AUDUBON magazine includes membership in National Audubon Society, and the Peoria Audubon Society within the Peoria Academy of Science.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION

Enjoy full National Audubon Society benefits-----AUDUBON magazine and local chapter membership-----at a special introductory rate of \$20.

Local Chapter:

Peoria Audubon Society---"G66"
Peoria Academy of Science
1125 W. Lake Avenue
Peoria, IL 61614
(309) 686-7000



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

_____ Payment enclosed (Please make check payable to National Audubon Society.)
_____ Please bill me.

(Allow 4-6 weeks for first issue of AUDUBON.)

Mail to:

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Ctr.
P.O.Box 51000
Boulder, CO 80321-1000

What bird was that?

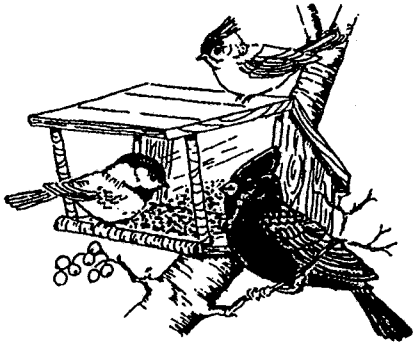
What do I feed the birds?...and when?

Where can I see Bald Eagles, hawks and other large birds?

Which birds migrate?...where do they go?

How can I meet fellow birdwatchers?

Where are the best places to bird in the Peoria area?



If you would like to know the answers to any or all of these questions, maybe a membership in the Peoria Audubon Society is in your future!

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Peoria Academy of Science
1125 West Lake Avenue
Peoria, IL 61614



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1930 - Ornithological Section of the Peoria Academy of Science formed the Peoria Audubon Society.

1981 - Peoria Audubon Society became an official Chapter of National Audubon Society.

