

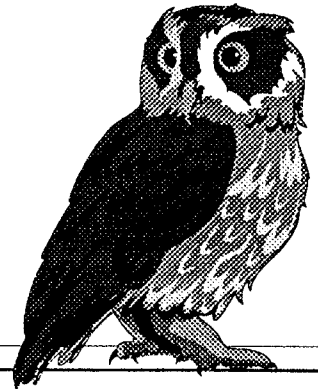
Bird's-Eye View

November/December 1996

The Newsletter of The Peoria Audubon Society...

A Chapter of National Audubon since 1981

Ornithological-Audubon Chapter of The Peoria Academy of Science since 1930



Habitat Corner...

by Maury Brucker

Over the last year I have focused on finding bird habitat and understanding its function. We have stressed that diversity in bird populations are dependent upon diversity of habitat. In winter, another important function that quality habitat provides is cover. We have several species of hawks and owls that come only in the winter to prey upon other animals. These predators are healthy for the system as long as there is enough cover to protect most of the prey. Snow Buntings, longspurs, and winter finches also come in winter to subsist on seeds.

Bird habitat has been greatly altered by the activities of man. If we wish to enjoy a wide variety of birds in Central Illinois, we need to protect and maintain a variety of habitats. Most of the prairies and grasslands have been converted to croplands and pastures and some prairie birds have not been able to adapt. Many wetlands and wet prairies have been drained and over half of the Illinois Endangered bird species are wetland residents. We need to protect some productive habitat of each type to maintain the diversity of birds that we can now see. Both public and private lands must be managed with bird habitat in mind. Your continued support to Audubon and other organizations working toward this end is greatly appreciated.

Species Spotlight... Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

by Brenda Onken

Fall migration is definitely upon us. The Robins and Grackles that we had gotten used to seeing finding food for their young in our back yards are on the move. The young have joined the adults and off they will go to warmer places. One particular species of woodpecker, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, winters here in the central Illinois and the southern United States. Their nesting territory is to the north extending up into Canada.

This interesting bird is not as inclined to visit bird feeders as are our Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers. As the name implies, the Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker likes sap. This bird drills holes, usually in horizontal lines around the tree trunk, penetrating the bark into the sap wood. He will come back often to the tree and lap up the exuding sap. I have a pine tree in my back yard and it is a favorite of the sapsuckers. My daughter climbed the tree and counted over 200 holes and there were even more further up the tree. These birds will also eat insects and fruit.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is black and white with a distinctive white wing patch. The crown and throat of the male is red. The female also has a red crown, but the throat patch is white. As their name implies, the breast has a very light yellow wash. The call is a nasal mew or squeal.

When I do my Christmas Bird Count in December, I look in my favorite spots to find the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. He is usually in the same area year after year. They like deciduous woods. So if you see a tree with a line of holes in the bark, make sure to visit it often. Your path and the sapsucker's are bound to cross. Until next issue, enjoy the fall colors.

Christmas Bird Count Dates...

Chillicothe Count; Saturday, December 21

call Dick Collins (309)246-8776 for participation info

Chautauqua Count; Saturday, December 28

Call Richard Bjorklund (309)968-6502 for participation info.

Peoria Count; Saturday, January 4

Call Bert Princen (309)691-0519 for participation info.

Don't forget Christmas Bird Counts! We need all the able and willing bodies we can get. You can do one, two, or all. Please come and join us!

Conservation Report...

by Les Bodell

During September, as Conservation Chair, I attended a public meeting in Elmwood, Illinois in regards to a proposed hog confinement facility. There was a good turnout and strong opinions were expressed. Two of the main concerns were; drinking water contamination and odor. After another careful evaluation, Murphy Family Farms deemed the site unusable because the reclaimed strip-mine land was unsuitable for a retention pond.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Tri-County Riverfront Forum for inviting me on their annual trip upon The Spirit of Peoria. A number of speakers were on board to tell us what their respective companies or agencies were doing on behalf of the community and the riverfront. Thanks again to Don Meinen and others.

Also in September, I had the privilege of visiting the farm of Michael Platt, Executive Director of The Heartland Water Resources Council. Mr Platt showed us his erosion control projects on the farm and we all felt that he was doing a good job and others should follow his example.

Welcome, New Members

by Bert Princen, Membership Chair

If you joined the National Audubon Society or subscribe to *Audubon Magazine*, you automatically became a member of the Peoria Audubon Society and the Peoria Academy of Science without additional costs. This means that you will receive yearly 6 *Bird's-Eye View* newsletters and 4 Academy Calendars of Events. It also means that we would like to see you participate in our local events, such as monthly meetings and field trips. It gives you an opportunity to learn more about the environment in general and birds in particular, and to meet and make friends with lots of other nature enthusiasts. So don't be a stranger. We love to see new faces and make your acquaintance.

Annual Bird Seed Sale

Saturday, November 9 Pick-up Date

Pick-up Location: Farmers Market @ Metro Centre

This is our annual fundraiser for Peoria Audubon. Order Forms Are included in this issue of the *Bird's-EyeView* newsletter. All seed will be provided by Kelly Seed and Hardware. Please fill out the order form and mail it as soon as possible.

Recent Sightings...

note due to space constraints in this issue, not all of the sightings were able to be published

Dr Richard and Sigurd Bjorklund scouted around Chautauqua NWR, and Sanganois Conservation Area on September 18. They noted fantastic sightings of birds staging migration. Among the most notable were hundreds of Killdeer, Great Blue Heron and swallows, Thousands of Green-winged Teal and even 5 White Pelicans.

Brenda Onken took a trip to Evergreen Lake near Bloomington on September 28. She saw an Osprey, Magnolia Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler and American Redstart among others.

The Princen's went down to Havana and returned on the other side of the Illinois River. They Saw 2 Osprey near Pekin Energy, 1 Adult Bald Eagle and a couple of Willets (with some other, more common shore birds) at Lake Chautauqua, Several Caspian Terns on Duck Island, a single Cattle Egret at Banner Marsh and one immature Black-crowned Night-Heron at Mendenhall Lakes.

Virginia Humphreys reported seeing a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Carolina Wren at Crumley Farm on October 3. She has also had a Brown Thrasher visiting her yard for 3 days in a row.

On October 2nd, White-throated Sparrows and Fox Sparrows were seen at Forest Park Nature Center.

The *Bird's-Eye View* is published bimonthly by Peoria Audubon. Layout and Editing by Mike Miller
Deadline for submissions to next issue:
December 15

Send submissions to:

Birds-Eye View c/o Mike Miller
Forest Park Nature Center
5809 Forest Park Drive
Peoria IL 61614

email xxfpnc@heartland.bradley.edu
FAX (309) 686-8820

ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE

FRIENDS OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL
and
PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Support your local environmental organizations by ordering your bird seed now. All seed is from Kelly Seed Company, who provides the seed at a reduced price. Order plenty. The birds will love you.

Please, note: Seed will be sold by pre-order only. For information, call 691-9148.

IMPORTANT DATES: Order Deadline: November 5, 1996

Pick Up Day: Saturday, November 9, 9:00-12:00 noon

PICK-UP LOCATION: Metro Centre Farmers' Market near
University Street and Glen Avenue in Peoria

PERSONAL REMINDER: I ordered and will pick up on November 9:

___ bags of _____ ___ bags of _____
___ bags of _____ ___ bags of _____

----- cut here ----- mail bottom with check ----- save top -----

ORDER FORM

TYPE OF SEED	SIZE	PRICE	NO. of BAGS	TOTAL
Sunflower (oil)	25 lbs	\$ 8.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 13.00	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower (striped)	25 lbs	\$ 8.50	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 15.00	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower Hearts	10 lbs	\$ 8.00	_____	\$ _____
Safflower	10 lbs	\$ 7.00	_____	\$ _____
Thistle (Niger) Seed	5 lbs	\$ 5.75	_____	\$ _____
	10 lbs	\$ 10.00	_____	\$ _____
Premium Mix	25 lbs	\$ 6.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 11.00	_____	\$ _____
White Millet	10 lbs	\$ 2.75	_____	\$ _____
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 4.50	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE				\$ _____

Mail order and check for amount due to Peoria Audubon Society, 677 E. High Point Terrace, Peoria, IL 61614.

An additional \$3 may be charged if order is not picked up on scheduled date.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Upcoming Meetings...

An important meeting note...

Concerning the location of meetings... Due to unforeseen changes in rental policy at Lakeview Museum, all membership meetings will be held at Forest Park Nature Center (unless otherwise notified). Meetings will still be held on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month. The Audubon Board regrets that they were unable to discuss these changes with members, but the timing of events required a speedy decision.

Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 PM @ Forest Park Nature Center...Membership Meeting

Program: Bill Rutherford, Administrative Vice President and Treasurer of Forest Park Foundation and Attorney-at-Law will present a special program entitled "Fifty years of Conservation Education. Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford are founders of Wildlife Prairie Park.

Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 PM @ Forest Park Nature Center... Membership Meeting

Program: Member's Night! Bring your own slides, movies, photographs and interesting bird stories to share.

Note time change for potluck

Wednesday, January 8, 6:30 PM @ Forest Park Nature Center... Annual Potluck

Bring your table setting and a dish to share. We will also discuss Christmas Bird Count Results.

Field Trips...

Saturday, October 19...

Waterfowl and other migrants...

Meet at 7:30 AM at Powerton Lake Fish and Wildlife Area parking lot. We will be stopping at Spring Lake, Chautauqua NWR, Banner Marsh and Rice Lake. Please bring a lunch. Call Brenda Onken at (309)923-7676 for more information and RSVP.

Saturday, November 2...

Waterfowl, Raptors and others...

We will go to the Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago near Canton, Ill. Meet at 8:00 AM in Farmington at the intersection of Rt 116 and Rt 78, or at 8:30 AM at the Sanitary District Headquarters. Bring a lunch. Call Bert Princen at (309)691-0519 for more information and RSVP.

Other Events...

Peoria Audubon Board Meeting

Monday, October 14 @7:00 PM

Location: Forest Park Nature Center

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

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Information

Greet Princen....(309)691-0519