

# Bird's-Eye View September/October 1997



## 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

## Conservation Report...

by Les Bodell

We did our annual stream monitoring at Crow Creek for the third year, and this time we did it on our own (I guess we are now officially Citizen Scientists). The EcoWatch team is changing this year and we will miss Andy, Michelle and Bette. We wish them good luck in future endeavors.

Recently, I attended a public hearing by the Corps of Engineers on the Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program. Unfortunately there were only about 26 people in attendance (including reporters). It would seem we are not overly concerned about the greatest waterway system in our country which includes the Illinois River.

Next on the list of things to worry about is an article in the August August 11 issue of *Time Magazine*, page 65, titled "The Fish Crisis." Sometime in the near future this crisis will have to be dealt with and hopefully you can advise your congressman on the proper course of action. As a bird lover, you might not be overly concerned, but on an Alaska trip I was invited aboard a salmon boat to observe the catch. Not only was the catch a good one, but it also included a number of Horned Puffins. Some of these nets on big trawlers can extend for over 100 miles.



## Special Sightings During August...

All sightings were made by the Princens, V. Humphries and others at Chautauqua unless otherwise noted...

Bald Eagle (Adult)  
White Pelican (Flock)  
Little Blue Heron (6 at Banner Marsh)  
Black-crowned Night Heron (Mendenhall)  
Avocet  
Black-bellied Plover  
Semipalmated Plover  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Semipalmated Sandpiper  
Western Sandpiper  
White-rumped Sandpiper  
Baird's Sandpiper  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Long-billed Dowitcher  
Black Tern  
Chuck-will's-widdow (on June 28 at Sand Ridge State Forest, together with Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will)  
Cliff Swallow (Many at Banner Marsh grain elevator)  
Wood Thrush (July 27 in Princen's Yard)

The Princen's Saw 84 Species on August 9!!

## Species Spotlight...

### Sparrows in the Carwash

by Brenda Onken

This time I would like to share a few stories about People and Birds. A sort of "Close encounter of the feathered kind."

Sparrows in the Carwash? Yes! My daughter and I were at a restaurant. Next door was a carwash where sparrows were flying in and out, cooling off in the spray of water. These birds were taking advantage of one of our conveniences.

Housefinches in my fern! I received a phone call, "There is a bird nesting in my fern which is in a hanging basket on the porch, could you come and tell me what type of bird it is?" I said that I would. I knew that it just had to be a Housefinch. They have a reputation for nesting in hanging plants and decorative wreaths. I took a look and indeed there was a female Housefinch sitting on a little nest. The woman didn't object (too much) about the bird, but she was concerned about the fern. The outcome: she continued to water the fern around the edges and the Housefinch raised her family.

Barn Swallows at my condo! My friend lives in a condominium. On her porch light there is a Barn Swallow nest. Why of all places would the swallow build there? I told her that perhaps before the condo was built, there was a nice red barn. She said "O.K." and proceeded to give me updates about cute little faces peeking over the edge of the nest at her.

There are so many interesting stories about birds and people. I was at the Woodland Expo in Henry, Illinois and heard many of them. A farmer was thrilled to share his tool shed with a Carolina Wren Family. Another farmer was working and found a hummingbird lying on the ground, next to his corn crib. He said that "he held it to warm it up and in a few minutes, off it flew."

People do get a lot of pleasure out of watching birds at their feeders and birdbaths. By providing birdhouses, and sharing our toolsheds, porches and hanging plants, we give them shelter. What would life be like without our little feathered friends delighting our eyes and ears?

## Annual Bird Seed Sale

Saturday, November 8, Pick-up Date

Pick-up Location: Farmers Market @ Metro Centre

This is our annual fundraiser for Peoria Audubon. Order Forms will be mailed to all members with the next Bird's-Eye-View newsletter. You will be receiving this in Mid October. All seed will be provided by Kelly Seed and Hardware, and we know that is the best around. So plan to buy your seed from Peoria Audubon at no extra cost.

## Field Trips...

**Sat, Oct 18; 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. Bring your lunch. Call Brenda Onken at 923-7676 for more info.

**Sat, Nov 1; Fieldtrip to the Greater Chicago Water Reclamation District near Canton.** Bert Princen will be the trip leader. Call (309)691-9148 for times and information.

## Events and Meetings...

**Wed, Sept 10; Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM** at Forest Park Nature Center. Program presented by Tom Lertzak of The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. "Ecological Restoration - Lessons from Mason County"

**Wed, Oct 8; Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM** at Forest Park Nature Center. Maury Brucker will give a slide presentation on his recent trip to Alaska entitled "Birding in Alaska."

**Wed, Oct 22; Board Meeting, 7:00 PM** at Forest Park Nature Center.

**Sat, Nov 8; Birdseed Sale Pickup at Farmers Market in Metro Center**

**Wed, Nov 12; Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM** at Forest Park Nature Center. Program will be announced.

## A Note from the President...

### Brenda Onken

I hope that everybody had an enjoyable summer. We begin our monthly membership meetings on Wednesday, September 10. We hope to see you there. Also Fall Migration is just around the corner. It's time to get out and see some fall migrants



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**Deadline for submissions to next issue: October 1.**

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