

Bird's-Eye View

November
December
1998



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

Critical Bird Habitat

The Conclusion

by Maury Brucker

We have examined the vital role of selected bird habitats in our local area for different species and our opportunities to enjoy them. What we do as individuals in making backyards and other property more useful to birds can help particularly in the rush of migration when any small stopping place is used. We can see and enjoy the results in the variety of birds resting and feeding in even tiny refuges.

However, we also can see changes in critical bird habitats of wetlands, prairie remnants and the forested bluffs in our area. These are being increasingly altered mainly by economic activities. Only organized efforts which are focused on the most important habitats can make a perceptible difference. Many National Audubon sanctuaries, while not in our area, have arisen from such a focused effort. We must support other public and private agencies which manage land well by taking into account habitat for birds. Examples are the Peoria Park District, the DNR conservation areas and state parks and Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge. However, we must also be aware of groups using bird images in advertising their fundraising efforts while investing very little in critical bird habitat on the ground. From a policy perspective, the DNR Natural Heritage program of identifying "important bird areas" is a fine example of helping coordinate efforts of various groups concerned with bird habitat.

Peoria Audubon has for many years been making contributions to other agencies investing directly in bird habitat and education in lieu of direct investment itself. I believe we must now also be prepared to focus on preserving selected critical bird habitat in our area as increasing change in land use diminishes the amount of local habitat for birds.

Species Spotlight... Terns

by Brenda Onken

Fall migration is in full swing and I enjoy seeing the different species of birds. I've had good luck seeing several warblers, most of them, in my yard. Fall migration also gives me the opportunity to see Terns. They are graceful flyers and sometimes "hang out" with the gulls. Most terns are whitish, and have full or partial black caps on their heads. They dive while on the wing to catch their food, which consists of small fish, large insects, and other water life.

On Dr. Princen's field trip in August, we were able to see several Caspian Terns. These terns are fairly large and have a redish-orange bill. Whether flying or sitting on a sandbar with the gulls, the Caspian Tern can easily be identified. Terns also have deeply notched or forked tails. Other terns I have seen are the Common Tern and Forster's Tern. Smaller than the Caspian, these two terns look similar, but the Common Tern has darker wing tips. Again, they are both wonderful fliers and fun to watch.

Our Annual Bird Seed Sale is just around the corner, and winter will be here before you know it. Order lots of our good quality seed and feed the birds! Peoria Audubon appreciates your support... Thank you.

Annual Bird Seed Sale

Pick-up Date: Saturday, November 7

Pick-up Location: Farmers Market @ Metro Centre

This is our annual fund-raiser 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.

Upcoming Meetings...

Wednesday, Nov 11, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center – program to be announced

Wednesday, Dec 9, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center – Members Night... Bring slides, videos or other info about your birding adventures.

Wednesday, Jan 13, 6:30 PM, Forest Park Nature Center – Members Potluck, bring a dish to share and table service.

Upcoming Outings...

Sat, Oct 17; 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, Oct 31; Fieldtrip to the Greater Chicago Water Reclamation District near Canton.

Bert Princen will be the trip leader. Meet either at intersection of Rt 116 and 78 in downtown Farmington at 8:00 am or at GCWRD Headquarters on Cuba Blacktop at 8:30 am. Please RSVP to Bert Princen at (309)691-0519

Upcoming Counts...

Chillicothe Count, Sat, Dec 19

Tracy Fox, (309)579-3264

Chautauqua Count, Sat, Dec 26

Dr. Richard Bjorklund, (309)968-6502

Peoria Count, Sat, Jan 2

Dr. Bert Princen, (309)691-0519

1999 Election...

The Nominations Committee submits the following list of proposed Officers and Board Members for your consideration. Greet Princen was out of town and unavailable to accept the nomination as we went to print. Membership will vote at the December 9 meeting.

Officers

Rick Fox – President

Mike Miller – Vice President

Greg Brown – Secretary

Greet Princen (tentative) – Treasurer

Tracy Fox – Conservation

Board

Gary Garman 99/00

Emiko Yang 99/00

Luann Elwood 99/00

Peoria Audubon Society
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Peoria IL 61614



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Peoria Audubon Board

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Board

Gary Garman 97/98

Helen Gasdorf 97/98

Luann Elwood 97/98

Jane Grzanich 98/99

Maury Brucker 98/99

Brenda Onken 98/99