

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



October
Bird Seed Sale Issue
2003

Mark your Calendars
for **November 1:**
Bird Seed Pick-up Day

The Newsletter of The Peoria Audubon Society. . . Chapter of National Audubon since 1981
www.peoriaaudubon.org Chapter of The Peoria Academy of Science since 1930

Audubon Calendar...

There is something for anyone interested in Illinois wildlife and the environment at our monthly membership meetings. You do not need to be a member to attend, all programs are free, and there are usually refreshments following the presentation. So bring a friend and join us for these unique, informative programs!"

Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 pm

@Forest Park Nature Center

"Bird Migration and Other Movements in the Midwest" with Ron Larkin of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Center for Wildlife Ecology.

Our notions of how birds move across the landscape are being challenged by technology. For the first time, we can visualize bird movements across the Midwest and get a new perspective on bird conservation. Dr. Larkin will show bird movements as seen on radar and via radio tracking, including habitats for migrating birds, birds crossing the Great Lakes, and waterfowl flights. We'll also be discussing the bird seed sale fundraiser and taking orders.

Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 pm

@Forest Park Nature Center

"West Nile Virus in Illinois" with Richard Lampman of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Medical Entomology Program. What is happening with West Nile? Join us for presentation on the mechanics of West Nile

Virus and how it effects humans and other animals such as birds here in Illinois.

Wednesday, December 10, 7:00 pm

@Forest Park Nature Center

"Environmental Corridor Inventory" with Hala Ahmed of Tri-County Regional Planning & the **"Holiday Slide Show & Tell"** by Audubon Members.

Wednesday, January 14, 7:00 pm

@Forest Park Nature Center

New Years Potluck

Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 pm

@Forest Park Nature Center

"Raptors (Birds of Prey) of Illinois" with Thomas Dunstan of Western Illinois University.

Saturday, October 25 - Field Trip to the Metropolitan Sanitary District area in Canton, Illinois. Meet in downtown Farmington at 8:00 am or at the MSD headquarters at 8:30 am. Contact Bert Princen at (309)691-0519 to RSVP.

Don't miss these fall programs at Forest Park Nature Center:

Saturday-10/18 3:30 pm Grownups and Kids in the Woods Bring your child or grandchild to each of these classes. For children ages 6-10 accompanied by an adult. Free.

Sunday 10/19 1:30pm Fall Color Walk

Wednesday-10/29 5:30 pm Fall Walking Meditation Stella O'Hanlon will demonstrate a simple meditation approach. Please call to register.

Sunday-11/2 1:30 pm A Bird Feeder Primer Information you need to make your yard appealing to many different bird species, including types of feeders, feeder placement, seeds and suet mixes, and general bird lore. Adults. Free.

11/28-12/24 During regular nature center hours Nature Art Show & Sale Local artists will be displaying and selling their nature art work at the Nature Center this holiday season.

Mark your calendars

for the **Christmas Bird Count**. The dates: Saturday, December 20, Peoria Circle; December 27, Chautauqua Circle; January 3, Chillicothe Circle.

Conservation Notes...

Make Your Opinion Count on ...

Chautauqua's Conservation Plan

On September 23-25, the Illinois River National Wildlife Refuge (Chautauqua, Meredosia, and Emiquon) held open houses in Meredosia, Lewistown, and Henry to unveil its draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). The CCP does a great job acknowledging the importance of protecting habitat for the whole range of birds that use the refuge—from Bald Eagles and shorebirds to songbirds and herons. It outlines plans for expanding the refuge's involvement in local environmental education via interpretive displays, teacher workshops, and a visitor contact station. Other notable items are plans for an auto-tour route along the lower Lake Chautauqua dikes, new parking and pulloffs in the Emiquon portion of the refuge, opening additional areas to hunting and bank fishing, and constructing a boat ramp at Goofy Ridge to accommodate access to upper Lake Chautauqua and the Illinois River.

The CCP concludes by presenting three clear alternatives: (1) maintain the status quo, (2) acquire land, restore habitat, and enhance recreational opportunities within the refuge boundaries, and (3) acquire land, restore habitat, and enhance recreational opportunities in a focus area which includes the refuge and partners in the Meredosia, Lower Sangamon River, Emiquon, Chautauqua, and Hennepin-Lacon areas. Work in the focus areas would protect an additional 380 acres of grassland, 200 acres of savanna, 1300 acres of forest, and 4000 acres of wetland outside the formal refuge boundaries. Refuge management strongly advocates pursuit of alternative three, recognizing that the refuge's mission cannot be carried out in a vacuum, but requires the active partnership of landowners, nonprofit conservation groups, and local communities.

Specifics of the alternatives are detailed in a 250-page document. A copy is available at the Nature Center (along with the comment form). You can also view the CCP online at midwest.fws.gov/planning/llrivtop.htm and send comments via email. Your input will help shape the final CCP and the ultimate direction of the Illinois River National Wildlife Refuge. Everyone has a stake in the refuge's success.

Make sure to turn in your comments by October 20.

The Corps of Engineers Navigation Study

The Corps of Engineers is back with the results of yet another study of barge navigation on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. This latest study focuses on creating a plan that is "both economically viable and environmentally sustainable." Navigation alternatives examined in the plan include numerous lock expansions, additional moorings, the use of switchboats, scheduling of commercial traffic, and congestion fees. Ecosystem restoration alternatives include protection of existing habitats and diversity and a variety of restoration options. A public meeting is scheduled to review the study alternatives and gather public comments:

Wednesday, October 22

Holiday Inn 4400 N. Brandywine Drive in Peoria

3:00-5:00 Open House with Corps personnel and partner organizations

6:30-7:15 Presentation by Corps regional project manager Denny Lundberg

7:15-8:00 Questions & Answers

8:00-8:30 Completion of written comments

8:30 Public statements

You can be assured the barge industry will be well-represented. Conservation advocates need to show up in numbers and make their priorities heard. For details on the complete study findings, the meeting agenda, and comment forms, visit the Rock Island District web page at www.mvr.usace.army.mil.

Funding for the Grand Kankakee Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

Grand Kankakee Marsh is a proposed 30,000 acre refuge on the Illinois-Indiana border along the Kankakee River. The refuge will restore a tiny remnant of the 500,000 acre marsh which disappeared in the early 1900s when the Kankakee River was ditched. Part of the refuge will include a 7,000 acre prairie and savanna parcel in Iroquois County, Illinois. It is hoped that this parcel will attract many of the same birds already visiting the restored Kankakee Sands property managed by the Nature Conservancy in Indiana—Henslow's Sparrows, Short-Eared Owls, Upland Sandpipers, Baird's Sandpipers, and Wilson's Phalaropes.

The Friends of the Kankakee is calling on all Audubon members to make it happen. Dial the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and leave a message asking U.S. Representative Tim Johnson to ensure that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's \$1 million funding request remains in the Department of the Interior's 2004 budget. This project will create badly needed habitat for a group of species under pressure as well as another great birding area within driving distance of Central Illinois.

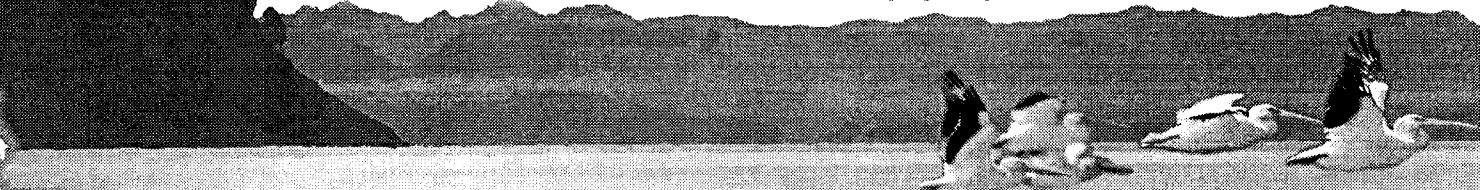
It's Official

By John Mullen

Fall officially began on the September 23rd equinox. This is when the sun crossed the equator and day and night were everywhere of equal length. The markings of the arrival of fall came to me on Thursday, September 25.

When I awoke on this particular Thursday I did my customary salute to the morning by going out the front door of my home and facing east and south to rejoice in the rising sun. On this morning though there was a familiar yet different feeling as I stood there. While I wondered about it, a migrating group of over thirty robins foraged on the lawn and in the shrubs, busily feeding before another day of southern flight. Along with the robins were three brown thrashers, which seemed a bit odd.

After breakfast I drove to work via the river road, responding to some urge to be near the river. The reason for that urge showed itself as I headed north on Route 29 from War Memorial Drive. At the first view spot of the river there they were: white pelicans by the thousands. Some flying, most rafted up along the eastern shore, hundreds scattered here and there across this moseying body of water.



Shortly after stopping and admiring this miraculous site, I arrived at Forest Park Nature Center. Not long after going inside, a voice rang out, "Hawks are circling over the nature center!" Myself and the rest of the staff ran outside to partake in this most unusual and incredible phenomenon. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of broad-winged hawks, having roosted in the forest of the Illinois River Bluffs north of the nature center were riding the thermals in great concentric arcs, rising ever higher until they became mere specks to the unaided eye, at which point they would all jettison their dizzying circles and head south without hardly a flap between them.

Later that morning, doing a school tour with some very energetic second graders, I noticed something missing from the prairie areas of Forest Park. The day before, hundreds of monarchs had been flitting about these areas busily feeding on the late season goldenrods and asters. On this Thursday, there was not a sign of them anywhere. They had left that very morning, as though there was a great communication across the land, and the robins, the pelicans, the hawks, and now, the monarchs had all been in on it. It's as though there's a flow that we humans are not in touch with. It's as though there's a vibration, an energy, a sixth sense that reaches well back through hundreds of generations of robins, pelicans, and monarchs. It's time to go.

The days...they shorten. It's time. Fall has arrived.

Illinois Audubon Tips for a Healthy Feeding Station

With a little effort, you can make sure your feeding station is safe and sanitary. Please and share this information with your friends and neighbors who feed birds!

- Try to eliminate access to your feeders and yard by cats. This can sometimes be a difficult issue, especially if you have neighbors who let cats roam, but outdoor cats are a major predator of birds visiting feeders.
- Leave brush piles to serve as cover for small birds, especially if your yard is visited by Sharp-Shinned or Cooper's Hawks.
- Clean all hulls off platform feeders and seed trays daily.
- Give your seed feeders (especially tube feeders) a good shake before you refill them to dislodge any compacted seed.
- Dump out any wet clumps of old seed.

- Don't allow large amounts of seed to become wet on platform feeders. When it is rainy, feed only from covered feeders, or put only a very small amount of seed out on platform feeders.
- Disinfect feeders by scrubbing with a weak bleach solution (1/4 cup bleach in 2 gallons of warm water) at least once a month—more often in summer or during rainy periods. Rinse feeders thoroughly and allow them to dry before refilling.
- Move your feeding station when the ground beneath is covered with seed hulls and droppings, or at least rake up the hulls regularly to allow the grass to recover.
- Store your seed in a clean, dry, air-tight container. A metal or plastic garbage can works well.

- Though birds may not be totally dependent on your feeders, if you are going away in mid-winter, arrange to have an oversized feeder or ask a willing neighbor to fill your feeders.
 - If you find a sick or dead bird at your feeders, dispose of it at once and then halt feeding for a few days. Clean all feeders and the ground below them.
 - For a complete list of tips, visit www.illinoisaudubon.org/backyard.html
- Remember, the birds are depending on us to provide healthy feeding areas. Outbreaks of avian diseases have occurred in the Midwest, as well as other parts of the country. Help protect our song birds by maintaining a healthy birdfeeding environment. The birds will thank you !!!*

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Fill your feeders with premium seed at unbeatable prices! If your family, friends, or co-workers feed birds, make a copy of this form and share it with them. Or email them a pdf version of the order form. The sale is not limited to members. It's one of Peoria Audubon's main fundraisers, and helps support our programs, bird counts, and educational materials for local schools. For a pdf version, email audubon@peoriaaudubon.org

Support your local environmental organizations by ordering quality bird seed for the year.

Annual Bird Seed Sale

Friends of the Rock Island Trail & Peoria Audubon Society

All seed is from Kelly Seed Company, who provide the seed to us at a reduced price. The birds will love you.

Please note: Seed will be sold by pre-order only.
For more information, call 691-0519:

Important Dates:

Order Deadline: October 30

Pick Up Day: Saturday, November 1, 9:00 - 12:00 noon

Pick-Up Location: Kelly's Seed and Hardware Parking Lot
Washington Street and Hamilton Blvd. In Peoria

Personal Reminder: I ordered and will pick up on November 1:

_____ bags of _____ bags of _____ 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	\$7.50	_____	\$_____
	50 lbs	\$12.00	_____	\$_____
Sunflower (striped)	25 lbs	\$8.00	_____	\$_____
	50 lbs	\$14.00	_____	\$_____
Sunflower Hearts	10 lbs	\$7.00	_____	\$_____
	50 lbs	\$27.00	_____	\$_____
Safflower hearts	10 lbs	\$6.00	_____	\$_____
	50 lbs	\$24.00	_____	\$_____
Thistle (Niger) Seed	10 lbs	\$8.00	_____	\$_____
	50 lbs	\$35.00	_____	\$_____
Premium Mix	25 lbs	\$6.50	_____	\$_____
	50 lbs	\$11.00	_____	\$_____
White Millet	10 lbs	\$3.50	_____	\$_____
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$4.25	_____	\$_____
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 _____



*Peoria Audubon Society
677 E High Point Terrace
Peoria, IL 61614*

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