

*Prior to the 20th century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas 'Side Hunt': They would choose sides and go afield with their guns — whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered quarry won. Conservation was in its early stages around the turn of the 20th century, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations.*

*Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then-budding Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition — a 'Christmas Bird Census' — that would count birds in the holidays rather than hunt them.*

*So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to his inspiration and the enthusiasm of twenty-seven dedicated birders, twenty-five Christmas Bird Counts were held that day.*



# Christmas Bird Count

Birds are counted within three existing 15-mile-diameter CBC circles.

**Dates & contacts for each area count:**

**Peoria - Dec 16**

Bert Princen (691-0519)

**Chautauqua - Dec 23**

Dick Bjorklund (968-6502)

**Chillicothe - Dec 30**

Tracy Fox (579-3264)



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## Upcoming 2007 events:

**January 10 @ 6:30pm, Forest Park Nature Center**

**Peoria Audubon's Annual Potluck & slide/digital-photo/video show**

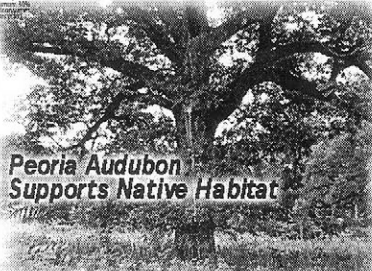
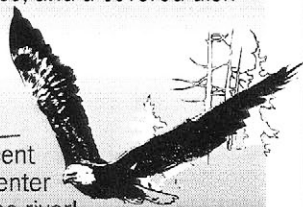
Bring your CD of jpg's, videos or slide carousel, table service, and a covered dish to share. **Christmas Bird Count** results will be presented.

Please note the earlier time.

**January 13, 10 am,**

**Forest Park Nature Center Bald Eagle Day**

We dedicate this day to the appreciation of these magnificent birds of prey as Peoria Audubon and Forest Park Nature Center offer a presentation and tours to view Bald Eagles along the river!



**Peoria Audubon  
Supports Native Habitat**

Springdale Savanna's Lightning-Struck White Oak

**Springdale Cemetery Savanna** is a native remnant of the tallgrass oak savanna that once covered Illinois River bluffs prior to European settlement – and the only such remnant located within the city of Peoria. Recently the Peoria Audubon Board was informed that Springdale Cemetery Management Authority had considered converting the savanna to burial plots.

The Peoria Audubon Board has gone on record to the Cemetery Authority asking that the savanna be maintained in its natural state rather than converting it to burial plots. Log onto our Web site for details.

[www.peoriaaudubon.org](http://www.peoriaaudubon.org)