

Birds-eye View



Conserving bird habitat for over **75** years

Winter 2008

Mark your calendars!
Friday-Monday Feb. 15-18
The Great Backyard Bird Count!

Newsletter of **The Peoria Audubon Society** . . . Chapter of National Audubon since 1981
Chapter of The Peoria Academy of Science since 1930

www.peoriaaudubon.org

Contact the Peoria Audubon Society at audubon@peoriaaudubon.org

Audubon Calendar...

These are just a few of the upcoming events listed at www.peoriaaudubon.org/calendar

Peoria Audubon meets at 7:00 on the second Wednesday of every month, September through May. It's a relaxed, friendly evening with an interesting presentation, followed by refreshments. Free and open to the public.

February 13, 7:00 PM@ FPNC Birding in Ecuador

A narrated video presentation
Escape winter as Dr. Princen shares with us highlights of his recent tropical birding trip. We'll experience the sights and sounds of Ecuador - home to over 1600 bird species! We'll see rainforest habitat and then travel up the Andes - to altitudes of 14,000 feet. We'll enjoy video of over 40 hummingbird species! For this event, Bert edited about 8 hours of video down to about 45 minutes of highlights.



March 12, 7:00 PM@ FPNC

Nesting Habitat of Grassland Birds
James Herkart of The Nature Conservancy
James will focus on how habitat fragmentation has caused midwestern grassland bird declines.

April 9, 7:00 PM@ FPNC

Hummingbirds! with Vern Kleen
Vern will share his experiences as a registered hummingbird bander, and will discuss the status of Illinois' hummingbirds.



Field Trips & Events!

Saturday, Jan. 26 Peoria Area Eagle Count

Peoria Audubon takes a census of the eagles between Henry and Havana along both sides of the Illinois River. Contact Bert Princen at 309-691-0519 to sign up.

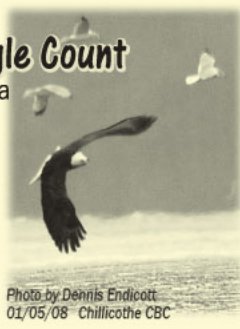


Photo by Dennis Endicott 01/05/08 Chillicothe CBC

Sunday, January 27, 3:15 - 6 PM Winter Raptors at Banner Marsh

Pete has invited all members and their friends to carpool to Banner Marsh. If the Short-eared Owls show up, we'll stand in their midst as they swoop about at sunset, 'barking' as they hunt. We might also see eagles and harriers. Meet at the **Bartonville McDonalds** (5600 S Washington at I-474) at 3:15 pm to carpool to Banner Marsh. We should be back to Bartonville around 6:00 pm. Expect riverfront wind chills and dress accordingly (and a thermos of hot beverage might be nice). Questions: e-mail president@peoriaaudubon.org

Saturday, March 8, 7-3, meet @ FPNC Birding Tour of the Illinois River

This 2nd Annual trip will take in some of the most renowned bird migration hotspots along the Illinois River. We will travel in a Park District van south along the river, stopping at **Spring Lake** and **Chautauqua**,

enjoy a catered lunch overlooking the **Dickson Mounds** complex, then proceed to one of the largest wetland restoration projects in the world, the Nature Conservancy's **Emiquon Preserve**. Then on to **Rice Lake** and **Banner Marsh**. Trip leaders: Maury Brucker and John Mullen. **Preregistration a must.** Call 686-3360 for more info and registration. Ages 14 & up. \$30 fee (lunch & transportation)

Don't miss the waterfowl on their northern migration

Bert's annual spring bird-watching field trip to the wetlands near Canton is **April 5**. Call Bert at 691-0519 for details.



A Note from our President



Greetings fellow birders! We are in the season of cold temperatures and you might think birding is not so "hot" this time of year. But our recent Christmas Bird Counts in Illinois often tally over 70 different species. Gulls, ducks, geese and other water birds can be seen as long as there is open water.

Bald Eagles visit our area in much greater numbers in December, January and February. Look for them in trees along the river, standing on river ice, or soaring nearby. If you can see the white head and tail (which means the individual is an adult) then you are getting a remarkable view!

Certain songbirds and finches are more numerous in our area in winter. Dark-eyed Juncos are plentiful, and I've already seen Snow Buntings and a Northern Shrike this winter. Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs can often be seen feeding along rural roads, especially on snowy days. The two crossbills, red- and white-winged, have been seen in central Illinois this winter. If you see any crossbills, please post your sighting on **Central Illinois Birding Forum** www.groups.google.com/group/CILB

So, grab your binoculars, bundle up, and enjoy the benefits of winter birding!
Pete

Log onto www.peoriaaudubon.org/calendar for details on all of these events!

February 15-18: 11th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

During "Presidents' Day" weekend, anyone can count birds from wherever they are and enter their tallies online at www.birdcount.org These reports create an exciting real-time picture of where the birds are across the continent and contribute valuable information for science and conservation.



Because of the informal nature of this count, it's a **great opportunity for kids** to experience a bird count. Please help to **get the word out** by copying the enclosed poster and putting it up in your school, library, business, etc. Full-color posters can be downloaded from www.birdcount.org

