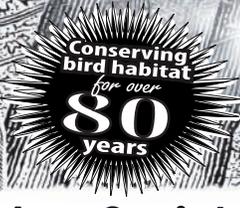


# Bird's-eye View



## SUMMER 2013

Mark your calendars!  
BIRDING FIELD TRIP  
SAT. AUG. 17, 2013

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

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

Contact the Peoria Audubon Society at [audubon@peoriaaudubon.org](mailto:audubon@peoriaaudubon.org)

Peoria Audubon meets at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, at the Forest Park Nature Center (FPNC). It's a relaxed, friendly evening with an interesting presentation followed by refreshments. Free and open to the public.

These are just a few of the upcoming events listed at [www.peoriaaudubon.org/calendar](http://www.peoriaaudubon.org/calendar)

### Sat. July 27, 2013, 9 AM - 12 PM Jubilee Prairie Tour

Doug Franks of the Jubilee Prairie Dawgs volunteer group will host a tour of two prairies in the far north of Jubilee State Park. As you walk through the prairie, the Prairie Dawgs will introduce the flowering plants, Peoria Audubon will interpret the birds and entomologist Frank Hitchell will interpret the butterflies and other insects. Dress for tall grass. Insect repellent provided. Children will also enjoy. Meet at the Peoria Astronomical Society observatory on Brimfield-Jubilee Road, 2.5 miles west of Princeville-Jubilee Road. Look for signs. Light refreshments provided at 9 AM

For more information, contact Doug Franks 309-868-9180 or email [franks.doug@gmail.com](mailto:franks.doug@gmail.com)

### Sat. Aug. 17, 2013, 7 AM - 4 PM Birding the Illinois River Field Trip

Catch the peak of shorebird migration with this field trip led by Maury Brucker, of Peoria Audubon Society, and Mike Miller, of the Peoria Park District. Destination includes Emiquon, Lake Chautauqua, Rice lake, Banner Marsh and other great birding spots along the Illinois River south of Peoria.

Trip includes transportation in a Park District, 15-passenger van and a catered lunch. Pre-registration required. Register early as this trip fills up fast. Best for 12 and up. Forest Park Nature Center and/or Peoria Audubon Members receive a \$5 discount form the \$35 fee.

Trip will leave Peoria at 7:00 AM from Forest Park Nature Center. We will return

FPNC = Forest Park Nature Center, 5809 N. Forest Park Drive, Peoria Heights

This Newsletter and an Archive of past newsletters are available on the website: [www.peoriaaudubon.org](http://www.peoriaaudubon.org)

### Sat. Aug. 24, 2013, 9 AM - Noon Peoria Hummingbird Festival

Vernon Kleen from Springfield (one of the two licensed hummingbird banders in Illinois) will demonstrate hummingbird banding and discuss the fascinating world of hummingbirds. You will have a chance to feel the heartbeat of a hummingbird and "adopt" one of these beautiful flyers with a donation to the Peoria Audubon or Peoria Park District. This free event is a



come-as-you-please activity. Jointly sponsored by Forest Park Nature Center and Peoria Audubon. Fee: FREE, donations greatly appreciated

### Wed. Sept. 11, 2013 7PM Birding in South Texas Monthly Membership Meeting at FPNC

Pete and James Fenner birded in south Texas this past March and will present photos and commentary about the fabulous birding there. They will discuss the birds, the area's hotspots, and their experiences while there. Both added several dozen birds to their life lists. They will show some of James' original photography, including an incredibly camouflaged Pauraque.

### September 20-22, 2013 Illinois Audubon 2013 Annual Meeting & Fall Gathering

Lincoln Land Community College Trutter Center, Springfield, Illinois  
Block of room reserved at Baymont Inn & Suites, 5871 S 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Phone 217-529-6655 Mention Illinois Audubon when making your reservation.

### Wed. Oct. 9, 2013 7PM Monthly Membership Meeting at FPNC

Program to be announced.

### Wed. Nov. 14, 2012, 7 PM Monthly Membership Meeting at FPNC

Joe Hand, volunteer eagle handler from the Wildlife Prairie State Park will be on hand to talk about handling and the rehabilitation of eagles. Learn everything you wanted to know about taking care of our national symbol.

## A Note from our President Sanctuary Initiative

by Mike Miller

Over a decade ago, Peoria Audubon embarked on a process to establish a local birding sanctuary. We developed preserve criteria, and established a sanctuary fund with The Community Foundation of Central Illinois to receive donations. We are finally in a position to be moving forward and bringing this long-term dream to reality!

Last year, Ducks Unlimited approached Peoria Audubon in partnership with the long-term protection of a property near Chillicothe along the Illinois River. The property, known as Chillicothe Bottoms, is a 232 acre emergent wetland, buttonbush swamp, and floodplain forest. Ducks Unlimited was interested in purchasing the site, but was looking for a long term partner to ensure its future protection and stewardship. Our sanctuary committee and board met with Eric Schenck from Ducks Unlimited and started a project of monitoring and documenting birds species on the site. This helped us determine whether the site met our preserve criteria. Given the amount of shorebird and waterfowl activity we saw during migration, it's safe to say that Chillicothe Bottoms is a real gem!

As part of the long term partnership, Peoria Audubon and Ducks Unlimited are developing a letter of intent and memorandum on understanding as to how we will work together in the long term protection and stewardship of the site. Paramount to the long term care of the site is the growth of our sanctuary endowment fund. We are committed to make sure that all funds raised to date and into the future stay with the Peoria Audubon Sanctuary initiative. As we move forward as a partner with Ducks Unlimited on Chillicothe Bottoms, we will also be developing a management schedule that defines our role and responsibilities. It's safe to say that we have a great partner in DU and the future of Chillicothe Bottoms and it's myriad of birds looks very bright!

Continued on page 2

Sanctuary Initiative

We couldn't do this without an active membership and sanctuary committee. There is a lot of work to do on this project ranging from fund-raising, to on-site stewardship. If you want to become involved, come to one of our Sanctuary Committee meetings. Contact me at [wokandabirder@comcast.net](mailto:wokandabirder@comcast.net) or 309-681-2858 to find out when our next sanctuary committee meeting will meet.

Also, there will be several opportunities to become involved in fund-raising efforts in the near future. Our recent Celebrity Birdathon with Brian "Fox" Ellis helped our sanctuary endowment grow. Thanks go to all of the donors and everyone that made this possible. In the near future we will be reviving our Sanctuary Fund-raising Auction. These were always great fun and will be returning to our early spring calendar of events. To keep up to date make sure to visit our sanctuary page on our website:

<http://www.peoriaaudubon.org/sanctuary.htm>

It's gratifying to see that what we started over a decade ago is finally becoming a reality. I'm sure the birds will agree!

## 2013 Audubon Adventures "SHARING OUR WORLD WITH BIRDS"

by Deb Roe

Peoria Audubon is excited that 19 classrooms from 6 areas schools have agreed to participate in the award winning Audubon Adventures program. Audubon Adventures is a classroom kit that can be used across the curriculum and offers correlations to the Common Core Standards and National Science Education Standard PLUS student assessment material. The kits help bring the natural world into the classroom and connects kids to the environment. Carol Borders, our education chair, does a great job of getting classrooms signed up for the program.

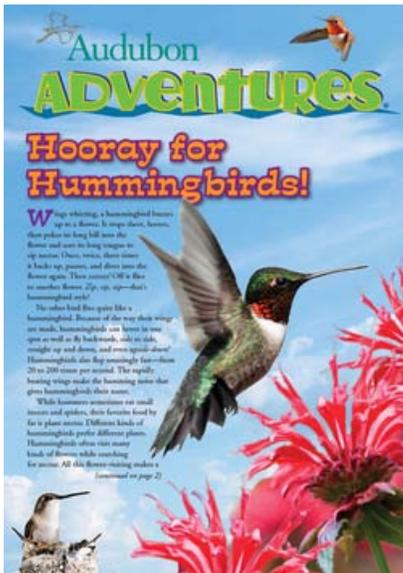
This year participating schools include:

Dee Mack Primary  
Charter Oak Primary  
Pleasant Valley

Christ Lutheran  
Holy Family  
Havana

The cost for each classroom kit is approximately \$50. Peoria Audubon pays this fee to encourage environmental education. We are soliciting classroom sponsors. We would like to solicit more classrooms but funding is limited. The more sponsors that we have, the more classrooms that will get the beautiful engaging educational materials. Please consider a sponsorship.

Peoria Audubon is a 501c3 organization your donation may be tax deductible.



### 2013 Audubon Adventures Classroom Sponsor

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Send \$50 to Peoria Audubon Society,  
677 E. High Pt. Terrace, Peoria, IL 61614



photo by: D. Endicott

## Spring Creek Preserve

### Field Trip Re-Cap

by Pete Fenner

On the morning of May 18, seven Peoria Audubon members and friends gathered for a hike in Spring Creek Preserve in East Peoria. Spring Creek is not a very well-known preserve, especially considering that it is owned by the Fond du Lac Park District. However, it rose to the forefront of a conservation conversation recently as members of the Eastern Bypass (aka Ring Road) Community Advisory Group (aka CAG) debated several corridors. Two of those corridors would have entered the immediate vicinity of the preserve, or possibly could have gone right through it.

The Spring Creek Preserve extends from Spring Creek Road to Grosenbach Road in northwestern Tazewell County. It is mostly forested river bluff habitat with mature trees and streams, but there are also a couple of open meadows. Although Route 116 is relatively close by, it is very quiet and peaceful. Access is currently limited, and there are no signs directing the public. We were guided that day by Dr. Bob Bartelt, a retired entomologist who lives adjacent to the property. Bob was a strong advocate and advisor to me during the CAG corridor debates, which was helpful because very few other people, myself included, had first hand knowledge about the preserve during those discussions.

We hiked approximately three miles over three hours, and saw several bird species, including Red-Headed Woodpecker, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Acadian Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush and Field Sparrow. We found a few species by sound only, such as Ovenbird and Tennessee Warbler, but were unable to see them. Maury Brucker and Bob pointed out several unusual tree and plant species, such as Leatherleaf, which are very rare for this area. It was clear to all participants that this was a unique and special place.

More people should know about and be familiar with this preserve. The future of Spring Creek is uncertain; the park district has discussed options for increasing access, but funding and political will are always in question. Perhaps the best news is that the CAG has eliminated all the ring road corridors from further consideration which pass close to Spring Creek Preserve. This is a good thing. If you are able to go there for a visit, you will know why.



Audubon Birders

## BIRD-A-THON

## GREAT SUCCESS!

by Maury Brucker

With Brian Fox Ellis's help as the celebrity birder and our member's and others pledges, we raised \$2,000 for the Sanctuary fund. Our anonymous donor doubled this to \$4,000 and several donations may also qualify for Cat. matching.

On the May 22nd Birdathon day, Brian identified 66 birds by himself. Brian worked hard for these birds by starting at 6:00 am at Jubilee State Park for migrating forest birds. With Mike Baum and Maury Brucker as coaches, we then checked the flooded field south of Chillicothe where we found few shorebirds but got soaked in a rain shower. After a reinvigorating breakfast at 10:30 at the Track Inn, the weather cleared and we traveled to Steve Zwicker's private wetland in NW Marshall County where we found and Brian identified a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. We stopped at the Whitefield Pheasant habitat area for Dickcissels and a Phoebe. We found several new birds at Oak Bluff Savanna Nature Preserve, but could not find a Goldfinch which have been around all spring at the feeders. We then went on to Chillicothe Bottoms where we saw Cuckoos and other new birds for the count such as Prothonotary Warblers. We finished at 4:00 pm in Peoria at Brian's office. Beside raising funds, it was a very enjoyable day in the field.



**Celebrity Birder:**  
**Brian Fox Ellis**

Thanks to everyone who made pledges. Thanks to our celebrity birder and the entire team.

### FALL SHOREBIRD MIGRATION FIELD TRIP SAT. AUGUST 17, 2013, 7 AM - 4 PM

Catch the peak of shorebird migration with this field trip led by Maury Brucker, of Peoria Audubon Society, and Mike Miller, of the Peoria Park District. Destination includes Emiquon, Lake Chautauqua, Rice lake, Banner Marsh and other great birding spots along the Illinois River south of Peoria.

Experienced birders provide scopes and help the amateurs learn how to identify the birds. Species observed during last years trip include: Solitary Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Ruddy Ducks, Caspian Terns and many more.

Trip includes transportation in a Park District, 15-passenger van and a catered lunch. Pre-registration required. Register early as this trip fills up fast. Best for 12 and up. Forest Park Nature Center and/or Peoria Audubon Members receive a \$5 discount form the \$35 fee.

Trip will leave Peoria at 7:00 AM from Forest Park Nature Center. We will return by 4:00 PM.



viewing from shelter at Emiquon during last years Shorebird Migration Field Trip..

## Hummingbird Festival

Sat., Aug. 24, 2013, 9:00 PM - Noon  
Forest Park Nature Center

Get close-up and personal with these tiny amazing creatures, as Vernon Kleen, Master Permit Bander captures and bands hummingbirds during the festival.

Attendees at Hummingbird Festivals "adopt" hummingbirds by making a donation. Donors will receive an attractive, signed certificate, and will be notified if their bird is ever recaptured.



photo by: D. Endicott

After banding, the "adopter" releases the hummingbird. In the above photo, the banded ruby-throated hummingbird, which was in a state of torpor (a hibernation-like state of inactivity) while being banded, was placed in the adopter's hand. Then, a simple tap from underneath launched the hummingbird to the air to fly away. The hummingbird paused for a very brief fraction of a second, as if to get its bearings, then flew away.

## Anatomy of the Spring Bird Count

by Mike Miller

Each May, birders across the state of Illinois hit the field in search of birds with tally sheets in one hand and binoculars in the other. Members from Peoria Audubon assist with counts in several counties, including Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Fulton and Mason Counties.

The Illinois Spring Count was initiated by Vernon Kleen of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in 1975. It usually occurs on the Saturday that falls between May 4 and 10. This year, the count was extended to include the Sunday of the weekend in an effort to get some birders involved in counties that were unable to recruit enough volunteers. We did this in our area for Fulton County this year so we could recruit birders from Mason and Peoria. It turned out to be a great weekend for birding!

All of the data is forwarded to Tara Beveroth at the Illinois Natural History Survey where the count data is double checked and compiled as part the Illinois Spring Count Database. The database is accessible and viewable at: <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/databases/sbc/about.html>. Here you can access the database and see results from 30+ years of data. This year, I was the compiler for Peoria County. We had 4 teams covering the county and saw 128 species of birds.

If you are interested in participating in a bird count, there are many opportunities to get involved. Besides the Illinois Spring Count, Peoria Audubon also has teams involved in the Christmas Bird Count and Midwinter Bald Eagle Count. To find out more about our counts, and to become involved, visit

<http://www.peoriaaudubon.org/bcs.htm> or contact me at [wokandabirder@gmail.com](mailto:wokandabirder@gmail.com) or 309-681-2858.



PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE  
677 E. HIGH PT. TERRACE  
PEORIA IL 61614

# Inside: Sponsor an Audubon Adventure

When does your annual membership expire?  
Check the date on your mailing label

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## Peoria Audubon Board

audubon@peoriaaudubon.org

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Maury Brucker - Vice President/Program Chair

Greet Princen - Treasurer

Dennis Endicott - Secretary/ Web Master

Mike Ingram - Conservation Chair

Joe Van Wassenhove - Membership Chair / Board Member

Carol Borders - Education Chair

Pete Fenner - Board Member

Deb Roe - Board Member / Newsletter Editor

Jim Miller - Board Member

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Susie Grana Ingram - Board Member



## Conservation

### CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGN - BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Leading scientists around the world agree that man-made greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels are causing global warming. Effects are already being seen worldwide. Long-term consequences are devastating, and solutions are harder to attain each day we fail to act.

But if each of us takes action -- in our homes, in our communities, and in our nation -- there is still time to reduce global warming pollution and help safeguard our environment for birds, wildlife, and our children. All of us use fossil fuels every day -- for heating and cooling our homes, driving our cars, generating the electricity to power our lights and appliances, and more. In the process we produce the greenhouse gases that are primarily responsible for global warming. Fortunately, each of us also has the power to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels. Here are some of the most important ways we can all make a difference:

**NEW DRIVE WAYS:** Consider driving less by taking public transportation, walking, bicycling, or carpooling. Drive a more energy-efficient vehicle. When you drive, follow the speed limit and drive at a consistent speed. Take your car in for regular tune-ups and keep your tires properly inflated. Take off any rooftop carriers when not in use.

**LIGHT SWITCHES:** Try switching from conventional incandescent bulbs to energy-efficient compact fluorescent. Or better yet, try to maximize your use of natural sunlight for daytime lighting needs.

**TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE:** Take every step possible to reduce excessive use of home heating and cooling. Try turning up the thermostat in the summer and turning it down a few degrees in the winter. If you have an automated thermostat, program it to adjust temperatures at nighttime. Try installing better insulation throughout the house. Seal up windows, close vents, and clean filters. If you really want to save energy, try to avoid using air conditioning on all but the very hottest days. You'd be amazed at how effective ceiling fans alone can be in making you feel cooler.

**COLD FACTS:** New refrigerators use about 50% less energy than those made just 10-15 years ago. That's a big deal, considering that refrigerators account for between 10 and 15% of total home energy consumption. The next time you buy a new refrigerator or any major or even minor appliance look for the Energy Star label to be sure you're getting a high efficiency model. In the meantime, keep your refrigerator's thermostat set to the recommended temperature and clean the condenser coil regularly.

**WATER DROPS:** You can reduce your energy consumption a lot by using less hot water. Run your dishwasher only when full, and wash clothes in cold or warm water, never hot. They'll get just as clean! When it's time to replace your washing machine, choose a new high-efficiency front-loader. You'll see great savings on water, electricity, and detergent, and you'll discover you can more safely wash delicate items, too.

#### BE AN ACTIVE CITIZEN

While each individual's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important, we won't curb global warming without major changes in the kinds of energy we use and an economic system that depends on a high rate of wasteful consumption. These changes will come about only if enough of us become more politically active. You can do a lot to support the work of local, state, and national governments to curb global warming. Stay informed, write letters to your leaders, and support those candidates who promise to take the aggressive and farsighted actions necessary to curb climate change. Learn how you can get involved. More information about Audubon's Climate Change Campaign is found here: <http://policy.audubon.org/climate-change-campaign>