

Bird's-eye View



Conserving
bird habitat
for over
80
years

Summer
2016

Save The Date
Saturday August 20
Birding The Illinois River

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

These are some of the upcoming events listed at

www.peoriaaudubon.org/calendar

Please join us for our monthly meetings at Forest Park Nature Center.
Between the months of September and May, we meet the second
Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

**Saturday, August 13, 9:00 AM-Noon- Peoria Hummingbird Festival,
Sommer Park**

Vernon Kleen, one of only a few licensed hummingbird banders in the U.S., will be on hand to demonstrate hummingbird banding and discuss the fascinating world of hummingbirds. You will have the opportunity to feel a hummingbird's heartbeat and to "adopt" and release a hummingbird. This free family friendly event is come as you please, with banding starting at 9:00 AM.

**Saturday, August 20, 7:00 AM-5:00 PM- Field Trip-Birding Tour of the
Illinois River**

Sign up early to visit shorebird migration hot spots. The \$35 fee includes transportation, lunch and snacks. Advanced registration is required. This trip may fill up, so register soon. Call or visit Forest Park Nature Center at 309-360-3360 to register.

**Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 PM- Membership Meeting- Tom
Lerczak: Spring Creek Preserve**

Tom Lerczak of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, will be with us to speak about the Spring Creek Preserve- a relatively new park and birding hot spot in East Peoria.

**Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 PM- Membership Meeting- Katie
Kauzlarich: Pheasants Forever**

Katie Kauzlarich of Pheasants Forever, an organization dedicated to wildlife habitat conservation, will be on hand to talk about pheasants and the role that Pheasants Forever provides for the conservation of their habitat.

Notes from our President

Dennis Endicott

It is hard to imagine that in the middle of summer, birds are already beginning to start migrating south for the winter. Just like kids getting ready to start school in fall, while out birding with friends a few days ago (middle of July), we noticed that Tree Swallows were already starting to gather in large flocks for their migration south. Fall migration starts earlier than most people realize. As a group, shorebirds are among the first to start their trek heading south.

August is generally the peak time for shorebirds heading south, and Peoria Audubon has once again teamed up with the Peoria Park District to provide a great opportunity, a guided tour, to see some shorebirds and waterfowl in our area. On Saturday, August , we will be visiting birding hotspots along the Illinois River south of Peoria. These back-water lakes are local jewels that are renowned for both scenic quality and bird diversity. For convenience, transportation will be provided in large Peoria Park District vans. Snacks and lunch will be provided along the way.

Not only will we be looking for shorebirds, but other waterfowl as well. For a preview of the potential diversity of bird species that you may see, eBird.org is now being maintained with updated checklists for several of the hotspot locations that people have submitted for each of the hotspot areas.

For your convenience, the Peoria Audubon website www.peoriaaudubon.org now has direct

Continued Inside

Notes from the President continued

Links to local eBird birding hotspots. After going to peoriaaudubon.org, click the button for Local Birding. We will be visiting many of the listed hotspots that are south of Peoria. Note that each local hotspot now contains a direct link to eBird. Clicking this link will provide a specialized Google map to the location and an eBird link for more details on the recent species that have been seen at the location.

Since eBird is continuously updated, you now have direct, latest information, sometimes with individual comments and pictures, on birds that have been seen and documented at each location.

The guided tour on Saturday, August 20 may fill up fast. Early registration is advised.

Pre-registration through the Peoria Park District is required. Call 309-686-3360 to register at Forest Park Nature Center. This trip is best for adults and children ages 12 and up. Forest Park Nature Center and/or Peoria Audubon members receive a \$5 discount from the \$35 fee Trip will leave Peoria at 7:00 AM from Forest Park Nature Center. We will return by 5:00 PM. Good binoculars will be provided if needed.



Song Sparrow photo by wordpress.com

eBird

eBird Milestone

Pete Fenner

On June 17, eBird crossed a big milestone: a third of a billion bird sightings—contributed by more than 300,000 eBirders across every country in the world. Record number 333,333,333 was added by an Illinois birder - Mike Madsen: an everyday sighting of a Song Sparrow in DuPage County. This milestone is much more than a number: it is a real testament to what is possible when we work together as a global birding community. The birds that you see and report make a genuine difference in our shared global understanding of bird populations and abundance. Thank you to you eBirders who entered 11.8 million bird sightings in May 2016, more than in the first five years of eBird's existence! If you haven't yet entered records in eBird, here's how you can join the fun!

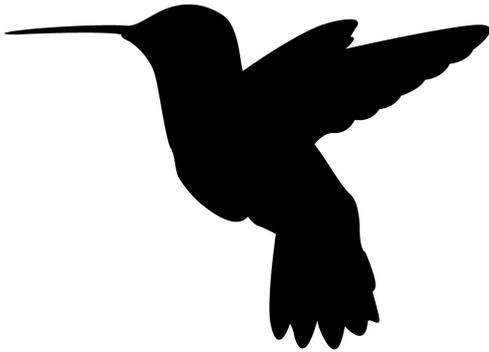
<http://help.ebird.org/customer/portal/articles/1972661>

Peoria Hummingbird Festival

Saturday, August 13 • 9 am-1 pm (Vern Kleen banding from 9 am-12 pm)

Due to the popularity of this event at Forest Park Nature Center, the 2016 festival will be at Sommer Park to accommodate more spectators. Vern Kleen will again be banding birds. Since 1960, he has banded over 100,000 birds.

For a small donation to the Illinois Audubon land acquisition fund, participants can “adopt” a hummingbird. After capture, the birds are measured, banded, and then released by the adoptee. The purpose of banding is to help determine the birds’ longevity, migration patterns, and develop a picture of the overall health of a population. If a banded hummingbird is caught again, the “adoptive parents” will receive a letter showing when and where their hummingbird was caught. Information about hummingbirds, plant species and habitat will be available, as well as children’s activities (face painting, coloring worksheets and photo cutout stands). This event is sponsored by the Illinois Audubon Society, Peoria Audubon Society and Peoria Park District. Information about hummingbirds can be found at peoriaparks.org/sommer-park.



Tawny Oaks Field Station

Tawny Oaks Field Station at Singing Woods Nature Preserve is the newest environmental facility of the Peoria Park District. It is located at 715 W. Singing Woods Road, Edelstein, next to the 700 acre Singing Woods, an Illinois Nature Preserve.

The property contains a prairie restoration, ½ mile of handicap accessible trail, a picnic area, and a visitor center with restrooms. Two woodland loop trails are completed, with plans in place for a larger trail network in Singing Woods. The trailheads begin at the picnic shelter. There is an additional trail around the prairie area.

The visitor center is open 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, Wednesday through Saturday. Hiking trails are open from dawn to dusk daily.

Planned birding opportunities include Warbler Walks on Saturday, September 10, 17, and 24, from 9-11 AM. Hawk Watch will occur on Saturday, October 1, 8, and 15, from 1-3 PM. Check the Tawny Oaks Field Station page on Facebook for further details and other upcoming events.

Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly, photo by Mike Ingram





Peoria Audubon Society
PO Box 3535
Peoria, IL 61612

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NUMBER 875
PEORIA IL

Peoria Audubon Board

Dennis Endicott, President
Carol Beatty, Vice President
Mike Miller, Treasurer
Regan Slonecker, Secretary
Susie Ingram, Membership
Pete Fenner, Conservation Chair
Carol Borders, Education Chair
Susy Turner, Newsletter Editor
Deb Roe, Board Member
Maury Brucker, Board Member
Melissa Sauder, Board Member
Meghan Bohn, Board Member



Summer Tanager at the new Tawny Oaks Field Station at Singing Woods Nature Preserve. This is a new Peoria Park District facility backing up to the 700 acre Singing Woods Nature Preserve. *Photo by Mike Ingram*



Like the Peoria Audubon Society page on Facebook!

