

Bird's-eye View



Conserving
bird habitat
for over
80
years

Fall
2017

HENNEPIN-HOPPER FIELD TRIP
SUNDAY OCTOBER 22

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.

Sunday, October 22, 1:00 PM-5:00 PM- Field Trip: Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin-Hopper Lakes

Maury Brucker (309-696-5490) will lead a birding trip to 3000 acre Dixon Waterfowl Refuge, north of Peoria along the Illinois River. We will meet at Forest Park Nature Center at 1:00 PM and carpool to the refuge for an afternoon of birding.

Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 PM- Membership Meeting- Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

Annette Prince of Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, an all volunteer conservation project dedicated to the protection of migratory birds through rescue, advocacy and outreach, will be with us to show how we can protect and rescue migrating birds.

Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 PM- Membership Meeting- TBA

Annual Peoria Area Christmas Bird Counts

Peoria- Saturday, December 16. Contact Mike Miller (309) 681-2825
Chautauqua-Saturday, December 23. Contact Sig Bjorklund (309) 968-6502
Chillicothe- Saturday, December 30. Contact Tracy Fox (309) 369-2017
Call contacts to volunteer. All skill levels are invited!

Wednesday, January 10, 6:30 PM- Membership Meeting – Annual Potluck Dinner and Slide and Media Show

Bring table service, a dish to share and your photo or video files to share with the group. We will present the results of the Christmas Bird Counts. As always, everyone is welcome!

Check the Peoria Audubon Society Facebook “Events” page for more field trip and birding walk opportunities around the Peoria Area.

A Note From Our President

Audubon’s Birds and Climate Change Report

The recent hurricanes that originated in the Gulf and Caribbean caused, and are still causing, an immense amount of human tragedy – both in human terms as well as economic; both immediately and what may extend for months and even years. Our hearts go out to those who were impacted. With most publicity focused on the human tragedy – as it should be – the hurricanes causes’ one to wonder about the effect of climate change on birds.

According to NASA, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) scientific data show 2016 as the warmest year on record for global average surface temperatures – the third record year in a row. And, 16 of the 17 warmest years on record occurred since 2001.

With climate change models pointing toward increased warming, the National Audubon Society, working with scientists at the USFWS (Fish & Wildlife Service) recently published [The Climate Report](#). This report – all published online at climate.audubon.org is free to all who wish to look – is composed of numerous individual reports and articles along with the output of species specific climate forecast maps. (A 35-page summary and full 258-page pdf can also be downloaded.)

The forecast models were developed by Audubon scientists who used, “hundreds of thousands of citizen-science observations and sophisticated climate models to predict how birds in the US and Canada will react to climate change.”

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One of the goals that produced this “*A Field Guide to a Warmer Future*” was to define the climate conditions that birds need to survive, then maps where those conditions will be found in the future as Earth’s climate responds to increased greenhouse gases. On a personal basis, I found the report very humbling to look at a few of the maps showing how a species will need to adapt to survive.

At a high level, here are a few of the primary findings:

- Of the 588 North American bird species Audubon studied, more than half are likely to be in trouble.
- Audubon models indicate that 314 species will lose more than 50 percent of their current climatic range by 2080.
- Of the 314 species at risk, 126 of them are classified as climate endangered. The other 188 species are classified as climate threatened and are expected to lose more than 50 percent of their current range by 2080 if global warming continues at its current pace
- With the changing ranges, bigger isn’t always better. While, “while climate is critically important to the survival of a species, it’s far from the only important factor.... The birds still need everything else that creates the appropriate habitat, including the right food sources, proper trees for nesting, and safety from predators.”

The *Tree Swallow* is one example of a species being forced into an expanded range by climate change that is not good. Although widespread in North America, according to the models, climate change will likely cause their range to expand considerably. “... Suitable climate for the species during the summer breeding season is shifting further north, where trees are scarce or nonexistent.”

“No matter what the climate, there can’t be Tree Swallows if there’s nothing to nest in,” said David Winkler, professor of ornithology at Cornell University. Although a warmer climate could allow trees to grow further north, but since forests migrate very slowly it’s unlikely they would make it there in time.

On the climate.audubon.org website, an interactive map that covers Alaska, Canada, and the lower 48 states is provided. Clicking Illinois, for example, shows a list of 50 species and the model’s projection of percent summer range lost and winter range lost going from 2000 to 2080. Clicking the hypertext for each individual species shows the impact on a North American map where you can zoom in and pause at each step (say the difference between 2000 and 2020 on what has already occurred) to show the impact on both summer and winter ranges.

Want to get involved? National Audubon is sponsoring a community science project called “[Climate Watch.](http://ClimateWatch.org)” The next survey to provide data will take place January 15 – February 15, 2018, (with a follow up period from May 15 – June 15, 2018) and is opened to individuals and organized groups with an interest in birds. Sign up at Audubon.org/climatewatch

Climate Watch documents birds’ responses to climate change by having volunteers in the field look for birds where Audubon’s climate models project they should be in the 2020s. Location specific eBird checklists – emphasizing specific target species - each taken with a specific monitoring protocol, will need to be submitted during each period. Here’s your chance to help out with a citizen science project to document the effect of climate change.



The annual bird seed sale fundraiser has been cancelled for 2017. Peoria Audubon would like to bring back the seed sale for 2018. If you would like to volunteer to head up the seed sale next year, please contact Dennis Endicott at d.endicott@peoriaaudubon.org.



2017 is coming to a close and Peoria Audubon Society is seeking new board members. If you are interested, please email Dennis Endicott at d.endicott@peoriaaudubon.org or talk to any of the current board members listed on the address section of this newsletter.

Summary of August 19, 2017 Field Trip

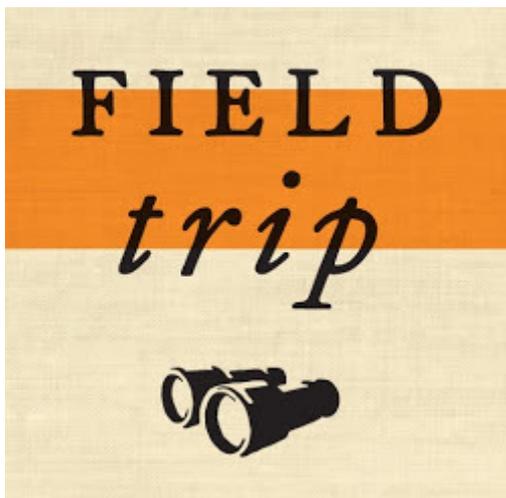
Pete Fenner

Approximately 25 birding enthusiasts met at Forest Park Nature Center for our annual Birding the Illinois River August field trip. We were treated to good views of a number of swallows and Purple Martins at Spring Lake, and we also watched Caspian Terns plunge dive for food. Then, we saw Blue Grosbeak and heard Bell's Vireo at nearby Spring Lake Bottoms.

At the Chautauqua cross-dike, we saw a number of shorebirds including Hudsonian Godwit! And, we had more views of terns including Black Tern. As we left and made our way to Havana, we located a pair of Peregrine Falcons, and got good scope views of them.

After a great lunch at Grandpa's in Havana, we went to Emiquon, where we had another Blue Grosbeak, Sedge Wrens calling, and scope views of Osprey.

We stopped at Mendenhall Park on the way home, where we saw a cooperative juvenile Little Blue Heron. We returned at exactly 5 pm, as scheduled! Please consider joining the next field trip. Several attendees documented sightings on eBird, and here is the aggregated list of sightings and species from the day.



Species Name	19-Aug		
Canada Goose	12	Mourning Dove	4
Mute Swan	45	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2
Wood Duck	19	Chimney Swift	1
Blue-winged Teal	2	Belted Kingfisher	4
Northern Shoveler	1	Red-headed Woodpecker	4
Mallard	8	Downy Woodpecker	1
Northern Bobwhite	1	Northern Flicker	1
Double-crested Cormorant	153	Peregrine Falcon	2
American White Pelican	350	Eastern Wood-Pewee	4
Great Blue Heron	19	Great Crested Flycatcher	1
Great Egret	18	Eastern Kingbird	2
Little Blue Heron	1	Bell's Vireo	3
Green Heron	1	Warbling Vireo	2
Turkey Vulture	26	Blue Jay	2
Osprey	1	Purple Martin	45
Bald Eagle	2	Tree Swallow	28
Black-necked Stilt	3	Bank Swallow	1
Semipalmated Plover	1	Barn Swallow	1
Killdeer	53	Cliff Swallow	1
Hudsonian Godwit	1	Black-capped Chickadee	2
Stilt Sandpiper	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Least Sandpiper	5	Sedge Wren	5
Pectoral Sandpiper	14	Carolina Wren	2
Semipalmated Sandpiper	3	Gray Catbird	4
Spotted Sandpiper	3	European Starling	10
Solitary Sandpiper	1	Cedar Waxwing	1
Greater Yellowlegs	4	Song Sparrow	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	7	Northern Cardinal	1
Ring-billed Gull	282	Blue Grosbeak	2
Herring Gull	1	Indigo Bunting	2
Caspian Tern	8	Dickcissel	1
Black Tern	12	Red-winged Blackbird	2
		American Goldfinch	5

UNEXPECTED BIRDS AT OUR BRIMFIELD PRESERVE

When Peoria Audubon took on a strip of prairie Nature Preserve, we expected prairie plants and butterflies but not many birds, maybe some Song Sparrows, Dickcissels and Red-winged Blackbirds. However, while helping with a prescribed burn last year, we were surprised to see several flocks of 30-50 American Golden-plovers coming into some wet areas in the corn stalks in an adjacent field. The area near Brimfield is open, flat agricultural fields with little bird habitat.

This was the second bird surprise because on a previous burn about four years ago, we heard the distinctive calls of Sandhill Cranes and then saw a flock of 33 birds flying low toward our strip of prairie only to turn away when they saw people working in the preserve. So, it appears our prairie preserve has rare birds too.

Maury Brucker



Peoria Audubon Society
PO Box 3535
Peoria, IL 61612

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Audubon Adventures is a classroom program that engages students in grades 3 through 6 in nature study and environmental stewardship. Peoria Audubon Society currently supports Audubon Adventures in 10 area classrooms. Cost per classroom is about \$50. If you would like to help support this program, secure donations can be made at peoriaaudubon.org or through the mail at PO Box 3535, Peoria, Illinois 61612.



Like the Peoria Audubon Society page on Facebook!

