



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Newsletter of The Peoria Audubon Society

Chapter of National Audubon since 1981

Chapter of The Peoria Academy of Science since 1930

Affiliate of Illinois Audubon



PEORIAAUDUBON.ORG

CONTACT US : PEORIAAUDUBON@GMAIL.COM

Peoria Audubon Society formed in 1930 to promote appreciation and conservation for birds within the Peoria region. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting birds through education, advocacy, and sanctuary initiatives. We strive to be inclusive, welcoming, and judgment-free to all.

Become a Member!

Any amount donated provides you with a membership. This can be either paid in cash or through [PayPal](#). Peoria Audubon is incorporated in the State of Illinois with 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, making all charitable contributions tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

- 2-3. Upcoming Events and Native Plant Spotlight
- 4-5. Rare Birds Spotted Recently by Pete Fenner
- 6. Hotspot Highlight and Board Members
- 7. Contacts for Elected Officials/Legislators



AMERICAN COOT
PHOTO BY: EMMA DEBRUYN

FALL BACK INTO BIRDING

Weather is cooling down and the bird's are prepping to make their journey back through the Peoria area. This is one of my favorite times of year to go birding and explore everything that the heat kept hidden away from me. Some of my spark birds, such as the Blue-winged Teal, are making their way through and stopping along various spots along the river. Mendenhall is a well loved birding hotspot to set a scope out and attempt to count the vast duck species that like to gather in the far back waters. Birding from home also improves around fall.

The goldfinches have been happily eating away at the sunflower, coneflower, and blazing star seeds throughout my yard and I can often hear their chirps every time I step out the door. The crisp morning air reminds me to be mindful and find appreciation within the many little lives that go on around me. I look forward to hosting more casual bird outings over the next few months and meeting some new and old faces out on the trails. Happy Birding!

-Vic Harting

Monthly Meetings Free and Open to Public

Peoria Audubon Society Monthly Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday September-May held at Forest Park Nature Center and streamed via Zoom



PLEASE JOIN US

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Casual Bird Outings!

Dates and locations to be determined

Come join us in some casual birding. This is an opportunity to meet new people and enjoy some birds! Inclusive to all and welcome to all skill levels!

Monthly bird outings will be scheduled throughout the season depending on weather. Check our social media or website for updates on scheduled dates and locations!

* Monthly Meeting

October 14, 2026 7:00 PM

Forest Park Nature Center & streamed on Zoom

Join Given Harper to learn about the Grand Prairie Bird Alliance (GPBA) Purple Martin Initiative, in which martin nest boxes and gourds have been placed at locations in Bloomington/Normal and McLean County, IL. The Purple Martin is the largest swallow species in North America, and the declining eastern population is almost entirely dependent on human-provided nest boxes. Given Harper, a GPBA board member and a retired avian ecologist, will discuss this exciting project.

* Migratory Bird Hike

November 7th, 2026 9:00-10:30AM

Forest Park Nature Center



Everyone is welcome to attend Migratory Bird Hikes, from nature lovers, to photographers. Meet at the Forest Park Nature Center building with a quick introduction. Bring your binoculars, water, hiking clothes etc. In addition, binoculars will be available for loan. Most hikes are low-impact. Please pre-register for this program either online [park district website](https://www.parkdistrict.org) or call Forest Park at [309-686-3360](tel:309-686-3360).

Peoria Park District Forest Park Nature Center BioBlitz Success



Saturday August 29th 2026

Forest Park Nature Center BioBlitz brought together nearly 40 incredible volunteers throughout 12 hours in order to help document species found throughout the park. They documented an amazing 566 species across 9 taxonomic groups! Thank you to any and all who showed up!



[Click here to read more](#)

FOLLOW US ON [FACEBOOK](#)



SUBSCRIBE ON [YouTube](#)



[@PEORIAAUDUBONSOCIETY](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Monthly Meeting

November 11, 2026 7:00 PM

Forest Park Nature Center & streamed on Zoom

Illinois Wings: Hidden Dynamics of Insects and Birds -by Mark DuBois

Unlock the secret lives in our Illinois landscape as Mark DuBois (Director of Peoria Academy of Science and Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society) presents a captivating talk about discovering the intricate, often invisible connections ranging from predatory flights to essential pollination, which sustain our local ecosystems.

Join us to deepen your understanding of avian and insect behavior and expand how you see the natural world. A world hiding in plain sight.

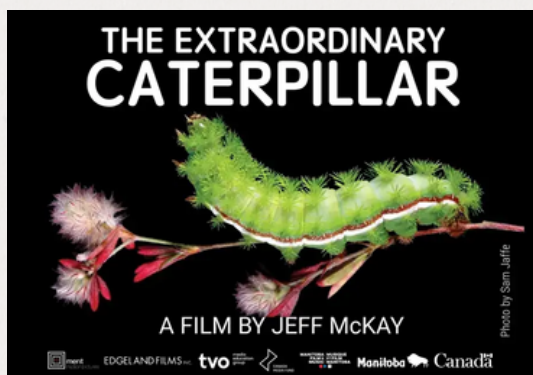
* Monthly Meeting

December 9, 2026 7:00 PM

Forest Park Nature Center

Live Screening of "The Extraordinary Caterpillar"

From suburbia to exurban meadows, abandoned lots to city parks, The Extraordinary Caterpillar shows that exploring our environment begins not in distant wilderness, but right outside our doors!



Want to see more events? Looking for volunteers to help lead field trips, education, and volunteer opportunities.

Reach out to peoriaaudubon@gmail.com

Native Plant Spotlight

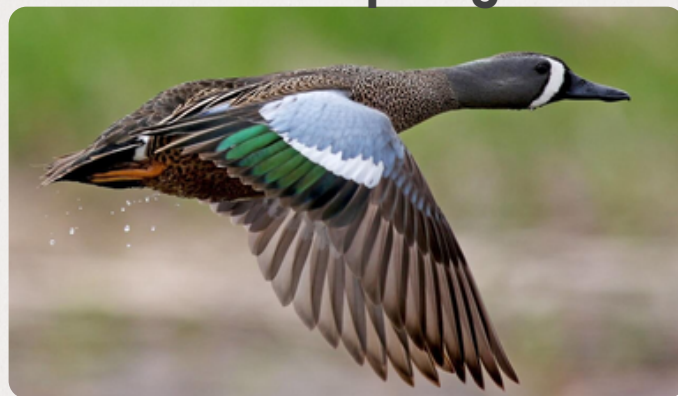


Little Bluestem

Andropogon(schizachyrium) scoparium

Little Bluestem is an incredible grassy edition to your garden space reaching between 2-4 feet in height and blooming July-October. This grass provides a beautiful blue/purple pop of color to your garden as well as providing shelter and food for various bird, insect, and mammal species. Leaving this grass through winter also provides some structural dimension to your garden space.

Fall Bird Spotlight



Blue-winged Teal

Spatula discors

These incredibly beautiful dabbling ducks inhabit shallow ponds and wetlands across much of North America. Males are most noticeable by their bluish, gray head with a streak of white in front of their eyes. In flight you can admire their stunning blue shoulder patches and green secondary feathers. Often found in small groups, this duck is one of the first migrant duck species we can find.

FOLLOW US ON [FACEBOOK](#)



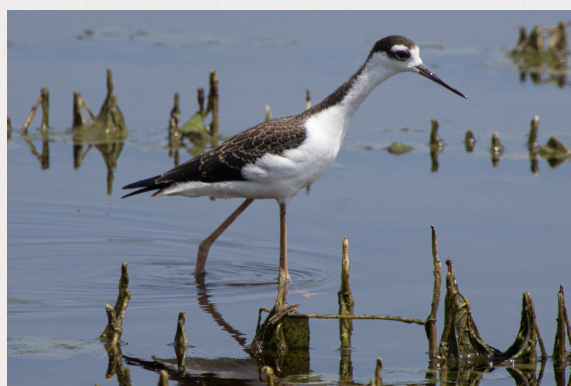
SUBSCRIBE ON [YouTube](#)



[@PEORIAAUDUBONSOCIETY](#)

RARE BIRDS SPOTTED RECENTLY BY PETE FENNER

My prediction in the last newsletter that a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher would show up in our area did not come to pass! This species did show however, in Monroe County south of St Louis. This is a bird that could show up again in our area in the summer months, so keep an eye out for it. It is a spectacular bird, with a long, forked tail so it would be hard to miss.



There were a couple sightings of Ruff, a European shorebird in our area this summer. Kevin Richmond saw an adult male at Spring Lake and Isoo O'Brien found one at Chautauqua. Shorebird habitat in our area has been in shorter supply this summer due to the significant rains and flooding we have had in our area recently. One bright spot has been Spring Lake, which is being drained for some road and structural repairs.

Spring Lake has been hosting other interesting bird species. Notably, Black-necked Stilts (pictured above) and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks (pictured below) have been regular there. Both are unusual in our area, and both have nested here because young chicks have been seen with their parents. It is also interesting that the adult Black-bellied Whistling Duck has a pink bill, but the young have blue bills!



RARE BIRDS SPOTTED RECENTLY BY PETE FENNER --CONTINUED

Also, Rick and Tracy Fox hosted a Rufous (or Allen's) Hummingbird at their feeder recently. It is nearly impossible to tell these species apart, without close examination of the tail feathers. Rick has since completed documentation and added photos and has submitted it for review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee for a final determination.

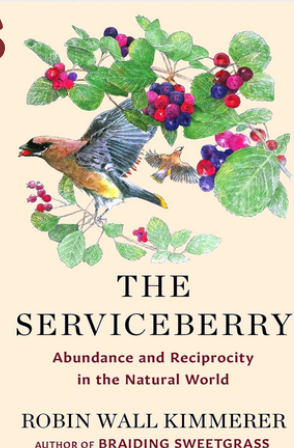
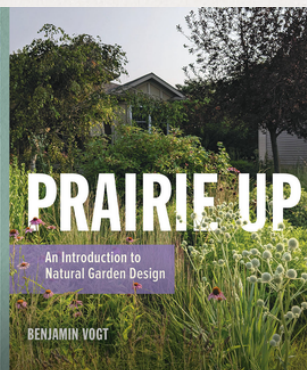
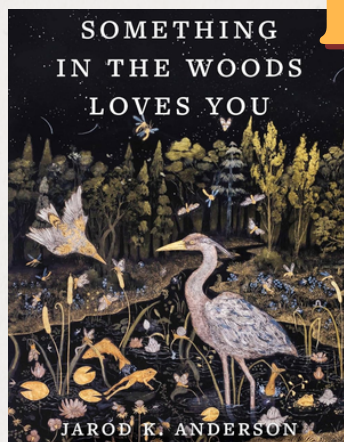


PHOTO BY: RICK FOX

WHAT RARITY COULD BE NEXT?

Well in October and November it will be time for waterfowl migration (and duck hunting)! I will not predict a specific species, but I expect it will be a waterbird of some sort. Maybe this gives me a better chance to be correct with my prediction? Keep reading communication from Peoria Audubon to find out!

Fall Book Recommendations



FOLLOW US ON [FACEBOOK](#) 

SUBSCRIBE ON [YouTube](#) 

[@PEORIAAUDUBONSOCIETY](#) 

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Dennis Endicott

Treasurer: Pete Fenner

Conservation Chair: Mike Miller

Patrick Menke

Logan Stanley

Vic Harting

Emma DeBruyn

Jane Easterly

Lee Maki

Steve Zehner

Birch Davis



ANY MEMBER IS WELCOME TO CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES TO THIS NEWSLETTER. HAVE YOU SEEN ANY UNUSUAL BIRDS AT YOUR HOME OR IN THE FIELD? HAVE YOU BEEN TO ANY MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, OR CAMPS THAT YOU'D LIKE TO TELL US ABOUT? WRITE IT UP OR EMAIL THE EDITOR: VICTORIA ROSE HARTING@GMAIL.COM

HOTSPOT HIGHLIGHT:

Detweiller Riverside Park



Tucked alongside the Illinois River, Detweiller Riverside Park spreads across 124 acres of tranquil landscape that was once a golf course. Today, it's been thoughtfully returned to its natural state, offering a peaceful 1.5-mile loop trail that winds through diverse terrain – from neatly mowed sections to areas of tall swaying grass and rocky riverbanks. What's nice about this park is its flat layout, making it accessible whether you're bringing along grandparents or little ones. Parking lots, benches, and a viewing platform are also present.

**OPEN ALL SEASONS
5AM-11PM**



SAVE BIRDS NOW. DRINK BIRD FRIENDLY.



FOLLOW US ON [FACEBOOK](#) 

SUBSCRIBE ON  [YouTube](#)

 [@PEORIAAUDUBONSOCIETY](#)

ADDRESSES / EMAILS OF YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND LEGISLATORS

FEDERAL

U.S. Capitol Switchboard:
(202) 224-3121

Senator Richard Durbin

230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3892,
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 309-786-5173

Senator Tammy Duckworth

230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3900,
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312-886-3506

16th District Rep Darin LaHood

100 NE Monroe Street Room 100,
Peoria, IL 61602
Phone: (309) 671-7027
Fax: (309) 671-7309

17th District Rep Eric Sorenson

Peoria District Office, Conductor's
Quarters Building, 403-1/2 NE
Jefferson Avenue, Peoria, IL 61603
Phone: (309) 621-7070,
(779) 513-4960

STATE

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker

207 State House, Springfield, IL
62706 Phone: 217-782-6830
or 217-782-6831

State House Switchboard:
(217) 782-2000

For State Senators and
Representatives, to determine who
exactly in Illinois government
represents you, the Illinois State
Board of Elections District Locator
website can help. The boundaries
are difficult to describe, so click [here](#)
to check.

STATE

David Koehler (D)

State Senate District 46 Office, 1203 East
Kingman Ave., Peoria Heights, IL 61616
Phone: (309) 677-0120
(Represents parts of: Peoria, Tazewell,
Woodford).

Jehan Gordon-Booth (D)

State Representative District 92 300 E. War
Memorial Drive, Suite 303, Peoria, IL 61614
Email: info@repgordonbooth.com
(represents parts of: Peoria Co)

Chris Balkema (R)

State Senate District 53, Office: 125 W. Front
St., El Paso, IL 61738
Phone: (815) 844-9179
(represents parts of: Woodford, Peoria,
Marshall, Tazewell, Knox, Stark, Livingston,
all of Putnam).

Dennis Tipsword (R)

State Representative District 105 Metamora
Office, 101 E. Partridge Street, Metamora, IL
61548
Phone: 309.370.6235
(represents parts of: Woodford, Marshall,
Tazewell, Livingston, all of Putnam)

Neil Anderson (R)

State Senate District 47 District Office 103 N
College Ave. #201 Aledo, IL 61231
Phone: (309) 230-7584
Email: senatorneilanderson@gmail.com
(represents parts of: Fulton, Knox, Tazewell,
Stark, Peoria, Mason)

Sally J. Turner (R)

State Senate District 44. District Office: 120
S. McLean St Suite E, Lincoln, IL 62656
Phone: (217) 651-8291
(represents SW parts of Tazewell Co)

STATE

William E. Hauter (R)

State Representative District 87 District
Office: 133 S. Main St. Ste. A, Morton, IL
61550
Phone: (309) 819-8701
Email: hauter@ilhousegop.org
(represents parts of: Tazewell Co)

Travis Weaver (R)

State Representative District 93 Pekin
Office: 337 Court Street, Pekin, IL 61554
Phone: 309-204-6514
(represents parts of: Knox, Stark,
Peoria, Fulton, Tazewell)

Michael W. Halpin (D)

State Senate District 36 Galesburg
Office: 117 E. Main St. Suite 103,
Galesburg, IL 61401
Phone: (309) 297-4483
(represents parts of: Knox Co)

Dan Swanson (R)

State Representative District 71 District
Office: 275 N. Division St. PO Box 173
Woodhull, IL 61490
Phone: 309-334-7474
Email: swanson@ilhousegop.org
(represents parts of: Knox Co)

Ryan Spain (R)

State Representative District 73, Peoria
Office Address: 5407 N. University St.,
Arbor Hall, Suite B, Peoria, IL 61614
Phone: 309-690-7373
Email: repyanspain@gmail.com
(represents parts of: Woodford, Peoria,
Marshall, Stark, Bureau)

Li Arellano, Jr. (R)

State Senate District 37 Office: 5415
North University St. Suite 105, Peoria, IL
61614
Phone: (779) 251-5003
(represents parts of: Woodford, Peoria,
Marshall, Stark, Bureau)

"We're just mistreating Mother Nature—that's like being ugly to your mama."

-Dolly Parton