

BIRDS-EYE VIEWS



PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SINCE 1981.

ORNITHOLOGICAL/AUDUBON SECTION OF THE PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE SINCE 1930.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1991

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

A major activity we are planning for the coming Audubon year is a workshop for Breeding Bird Atlas volunteers in March. We want to recognize their generous amount of time and expense donated during the last 5 years. The workshop will cover the findings to date and aid in pointing out potential sites and tips on finding some of the more secretive and rare species during the final summer. This inventory of local birds is already spotlighting the remaining high quality habitat in local counties and will help focus our conservation efforts in the future.

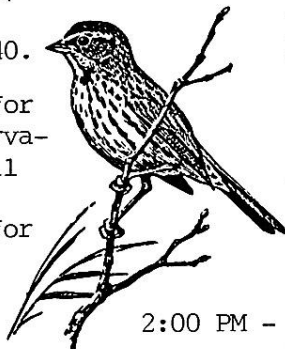
Maury Brucker

CONSERVATION NOTABLES:

The 1990 Farm Bill significantly and affirmatively affects the "Wetlands" conservation program. It expands the CRP program to include lands other than cultivated acres, prohibits wetland draining and provides for fines for doing such, and provides farmers assistance in reducing water pollution and retiring of wetlands.

The Dept. of the Interior has a Wetlands Action Plan for the USFWS to assist in preserving and reestablishing wetlands. Copies are available from: Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Room 130, ARLSQ, Washington, DC 20240.

New wetlands poster is available free for a donation to the Non-game Wildlife Conservation Fund. Or, send a \$3 donation for mail delivery of one from the Div. of Natural Heritage. The posters will be available for \$1 at Bald Eagle Days and at the Illinois State Fair.



Maps of Illinois' high-quality streams are currently being prepared by the Non-game Wildlife Conservation Fund.

John Richard
Conservation Chairman

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS WORKSHOP:

On March 16, the Peoria Audubon Society will offer a workshop at Wildlife Prairie Park in order to bring all participants up to date on our current findings, and concentrate on obtaining records for those species which have been hard to locate in previous years. Past-year participants will be given free lunch tickets as a "thank-you" for all their help. There will be a few lunch tickets (\$8-10 est) available to others interested in joining us for the final year of this project.

8:30 AM - Registration and coffee.

9:00 AM - Report of present sightings, areas to be concentrated on this summer, and the arranging of blockbuster count days.

12:00PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Panel discussion with Vernon Kleen (Breeding Bird Atlas Project Coordinator and Illinois' avian ecologist), Mike Baum (Knox County Compiler and long-time birder), Joe Milosevich (Will County-Joliet Compiler and avid birder), Bert Princen (Peoria Area Counties Compiler and one of "our" best), and Maury Brucker (Peoria Audubon Society's new energetic President).

2:00 PM - Bert Princen will close the workshop with a wrap-up of the day's information and plans for our final summer.

Info: Bert (691-0519); Maury (493-5181)

While we are discussing the Breeding Bird Atlas, please remember that OWLS are already courting and nesting. This is our last spring for observing them and obtaining data for the atlas. Anyone knowing of owls in our vicinity should call Bert Princen (691-0519) or Maury Brucker (493-5181). Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Peoria Audubon Society has written a letter to express our thanks to the Peoria Park District for purchasing the Boy Scout's "Camp Wokanda". For several years, the Boy Scouts will be allowed exclusive use of the area, with the hope that in five years the camp will be made available to the public. NOTE: It is not open to the public yet, and will not be until some transition time elapses; but look forward to enjoying it a few years down the road from now. Camp Wokanda adds 273 wooded acres above the bluff in park lands and will add to the protection of the natural communities along the bluff.

The Peoria Academy of Science has announced that a \$750.00 scholarship is available to a student in the physical sciences attending a local college or junior-college. Anyone interested should contact Ernest Landen, Scholarship Chairman, for details (674-5772).



National Audubon's "Audubon Adventures" program for teachers of grades four through six will be offered soon for the 1991-92 school year. In the hopes of obtaining more teacher/class participants, the PAS Board approved the following policy:

For the 1991-92 school year, those teachers currently in the program requiring financial support will receive it, but for the 1992-93 school year they must obtain funding from another source (school, private donor, class money making project, etc.).

Each new teacher will automatically be funded for the first two years of their participation, with their obtaining funding from another source for year number three on. (If financial backing is found from another source, it will free one of our supports for another teacher.)

Costs are \$30 per class of 32 students (if more students are in the class, as additional \$30 will be charged).

For information: Maury Brucker (493-5181).

NATURE CONSERVANCY ACTIVITIES:

Feb. 2 - Burn Workshop, 1 PM, at Southside Bank's Northpoint facility in Peoria. An introduction to performing controlled burns. Free. Registration information: Gary Burton 309/925-5118.

Feb. 9 - Natural Areas Workshop, 1-4PM at Southside Bank's Northpoint facility in Peoria. Targeted are more than a dozen natural areas in Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford and nearby counties, including oak woodlands owned by the Peoria Park District. Registration is \$2 (includes refreshments). Information: Gary Burton 309/925-5118.

Feb. 16 - Workday for Robinson Park, at Forest Park Nature Center, 12 noon. Bring a lunch and hear a presentation by naturalist Dale Goodner on a new trail planned for Robinson prairie hill areas. Steward Suzie Barber will then lead a walk along those areas. For information: Suzie 309/676-5206.

Nature Conservancy is in need of a bird monitoring program coordinator to establish guidelines and arrange activities. Peoria Audubon is interested in working with them, and if you would like to participate, call Maury Brucker 493-5181.

At our December "Members Night" membership meeting, Peoria Audubon Society honored one of its most dedicated and long-time members, Bert Princen. He helped to set up the territory for the Peoria Christmas Bird Count back in 1963, headed up the Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey in 1965, and became Director of the Peoria Academy of Science in 1966. In 1970 he twice represented the Academy and our Ornithological Section on the popular local radio show TOPIC. In 1977 as President of our section for the first time he helped host the Annual Mtg. of the Ill. Audubon Society held at new Lakeview Museum. In the 1980's he was very instrumental along with our other members in proposing and voting on our becoming an official chapter of National Audubon, our new name becoming the "Peoria Audubon Society". He again was our president from 1986 thru 1988. Bert retired last year as Director of the U. S. Dept. of Agricultural Research Lab in Peoria, and as a gesture of appreciation for his many years of service, Peoria Audubon presented him with a Blue Jay statue/music box. We hope he will continue to share his undying devotion to birding with us for many years to come.

An anonymous member of Peoria Audubon Society has contributed five wood-duck/screech-owl boxes for use in the Farmdale/Fondulac Recreational Areas which are currently maintained by the Corps of Engineers. We send our thanks for this generous gift.

Shown below is National Audubon's new name logo. It's simple yet sweeping effect is representative of the down-to-earth causes and diligent undertakings that will be needed in the years to come.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

The "Third Annual Berrien County Birdathon" (bordered on the south by Indiana and on the west by Lake Michigan) will be held on Saturday, May 18, 1991. This fun event is organized by Wild Birds Unlimited and Love Creek Nature Center. All participants receive a Berrien Co. birding information packet, event T-shirt, and a dinner at the end of the day. The "finish line" activities include the days reports, a birding equipment auction and provide for a chance to swap lies and birding stories. If anyone is interested in getting a team together, call Marj Tattersall at 309/692-2247. With Peoria Audubon Society's vast experience, there's no reason why we shouldn't be able to give them a run for their feathers.

Don't forget--tax time is approaching soon. For a good issue to donate money to, check off line "11a" and make a contribution to the Illinois non-game wildlife fund.



Vickie Byre, known as "The Bird Lady of Chicago" to Illinois Audubon members, recently presented a program to them on the status of the Peregrine Falcon. She is very interested in hearing of sightings in Illinois. People can leave messages on the peregrine hotline: 312/477-4295 (HAWK).

RECENT SIGHTINGS:

- Nov. 1 - Still 6 Pied-Billed Grebes at Mendenhall.
- Nov. 4 - 6 Great Blue Herons and 12 Great Egrets at Mendenhall, but by Nov. 6th there were only 5 GBH's and 5 GE's.
- Nov. 6 - Linda Nicot saw her first albino Song Sparrow in a drainage ditch in Tazewell County.
- Nov. 16 - 2 Yellow-Rumped Warblers seen in Peoria County by Eleanor Voeste & Party.
- Nov. 18 - 13 Common Loons seen on Ill. R. from Hugh Cooper Park; later on Nov. 25 only 5 were seen.
- Nov. 25 - several Pied-Billed Grebes at Spring Lake; several Bald Eagles including 2 immatures were seen at Chautauqua Lake boat ramp.
- Dec. 7 - 4 Hooded Mergansers reported at flooded Mendenhall Park; many Common Mergansers were seen at Powerton.
- The Dept. of Cons. must not have released a lot of Bob-Whites this fall, as few coveys have been seen in the area.
- The Red Crossbills were back earlier than usual at Sand Ridge S.P. per L. Augustine.
- Pine Siskins are visiting feeders for short times, but then moving on--not staying.
- Jan: sightings of Glaucous, Iceland, and Thayer's Gulls have been seen by the bridge from Peoria's downtown post office.
- A Great Black Backed Gull was seen at the Detweiller Marina and also from the dike behind the railroad.
- Jan. 20 - Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs have been seen on Route 78 on patchy roadsides.
- Jan. 26 - Pine Siskins finally arrived at Virginia Humphrey's feeder.
- Many Bald Eagles have been seen at Powerton; and there are a lot of Rough-Legged Hawks and Harriers in the area.

Don't forget to help us cut down on the use of styrofoam cups at our membership meetings by bringing a glass or cup of your own from home. Better yet, bring a second for someone else to use.

The next BIRDS-EYE VIEWS contribution deadline is February 10th. Send items of interest to Marjorie Tattersall, Editor, 915 W. St. Mary's Ct., Peoria, IL 61614. (309/692-2247)

THIS LETTER IS PRINTED
ON RECYCLED PAPER



Forest Park Nature Center will have its "Early Worm Bird Walks" on Sundays at 6 AM from April 14 through May 12. Meet at FPNC--free to the public and for all ages.

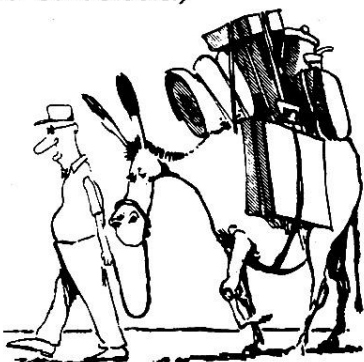
Forest Park is also offering (through the Park District) classes on building houses for wrens, bluebirds, and bats. Call the Center for more information: 686-2260.

NOTES FROM NATIONAL:

10 Steps to a Cleaner Planet

For just a dollar, you can own the National Audubon Society's brand new poster — **Audubon's Top Ten Tips for Saving the Planet**. Informative and entertaining, this poster features drawings by *Audubon Activist* cartoonist Chip Bok, as well as straightforward how-tos on recycling, waste reduction, and more. Audubon's Top Ten Tips is a handy and easy-to-look-at reminder that you can make a difference for a better environment. It is perfect for hanging at home or in your office.

To order, just send \$1 (no cash, please) to Top Ten Tips, Information Services, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. (Discounts available for bulk orders.)



IMPROVE YOUR TRAVEL HABITS

The Audubon View

Audubon *Perspectives: Fight for Survival*, the companion book to the Audubon Television Specials, is now available in bookstores nationwide. Written by noted wildlife expert and former *Audubon* magazine editor Roger DiSilvestro, *Audubon Perspectives* looks in depth at the issues and controversies surrounding the subjects of the Audubon specials—including Audubon's High-Priority Campaigns: ancient forests, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Platte River, and wetlands. *Audubon Perspectives* is lavishly illustrated and incisively written; using words and pictures, it will inspire and inform you and tell you how to get involved.

HOPE FOR THE TROPICS

Hope for the Tropics, Audubon's next Television Special, focuses on the rain forests of Costa Rica. Hosted by actress Lauren Bacall, the program examines possible forestry alternatives to help save Central America's prized tropics. Meet seven people from around the world who are making a difference in Costa Rica's conservation policy, including: Field biologists taking inventory of species found in Braulio Carrillo National Park; an American forestry expert discussing alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture; a wood-products manufacturer working to protect rain forests; and a German zoologist heading an iguana reintroduction project with a hidden bonus.

Hope for the Tropics will air on TBS SuperStation on Sunday, February 24, at 10:00 p.m. (EST); February 25, TBA; March 2 at 9:05 a.m.(EST); and March 3, TBA.

Time to Stop the Trade in Wild-Caught Birds for Pets

Do you know that there are more than 40 million caged birds in the United States? Most of these birds--parakeets, canaries, zebra finches, and cockatiels--are bred in captivity. But eight million birds, including most parrot species, were trapped in the wild as adults or nestlings.

The United States is the largest market for imported birds. At least half a million birds are imported each year, and thousands die before they ever reach stores. On average, a bird has no better than a 50-50 chance of surviving capture, transport, and sale.

As a result of the dramatic threat posed to many bird species by the pet trade, Audubon staff are involved in a joint effort with the pet industry, bird breeders, zoos, and animal-welfare and conservation groups to solve this urgent problem. The joint effort is known as the Cooperative Working Group on Bird Trade.

The group is lobbying for national legislation to ban the trade in wild-caught birds for pets and is seeking its introduction in Congress some time in the spring of 1991. You can help make a difference by buying only captive-bred birds for pets and encouraging retailers not to sell birds caught in the wild.

This spring Audubon will be launching its own International Wildlife Trade Program. A key component of the program will be an activist kit for chapters and individuals to help educate the public, campaign for bills, and monitor the enforcement of wildlife trade laws. General information on wildlife trade will also be provided for concerned citizens.

If your chapter is interested in becoming involved with wildlife trade issues, please contact Dorene Bolze, Director of the International Wildlife Trade Program, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022; (212) 546-9297.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS FOR 1990

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D = Documented on Count Day

CP = Seen during Count Period

CPD = Seen during Count Period and Documented

S = Anomaly: Stocked at Sand Ridge St. For.

Count Day Sightings:	Peoria 12-15-90	Chaut. 12-22-90	Chilli. 12-29-90		Peoria 12-15-90	Chaut. 12-22-90	Chilli. 12-29-90
Great Blue Heron	2	13	17	Horned Lark	6	153	79
Mute Swan	2	-	-	Blue Jay	54	117	177
Snow Goose (combined)	2	25	-	American Crow	245	441	213
white phase	-	(18)	-	Black-Capped Chickadee	257	122	407
blue phase	(2)	(17)	-	Tufted Titmouse	117	35	135
Canada Goose	770	6031	251	Red-Breasted Nuthatch	1	1	1
Wood Duck	-	9	-	White-Breasted Nuthatch	78	33	130
Green-Winged Teal	1	101	-	Brown Creeper	16	12	8
American Black Duck	82	52	144	Carolina Wren	7	5	4
Mallard	2318	2602	5444	Winter Wren	1	-	-
Northern Pintail	1	-	3	Golden-Crowned Kinglet	8	24	-
Northern Shoveler	8	-	1	Eastern Bluebird	-	38	13
Gadwall	48	49	13	Hermit Thrush	-	2	-
American Wigeon	1	5	-	American Robin	30	37	15
Canvasback	-	2	-	Northern Mockingbird	2	1	3
Ring-Necked Duck	5	18	-	Brown Thrasher	-	-	1
Greater Scaup	-	CPD-5	-	Cedar Waxwing	13	70	302
Lesser Scaup	11	19	-	European Starling	4070	707	1828
Oldsquaw	-	CP-1	-	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	2	-
Common Goldeneye	43	268	247	Northern Cardinal	238	158	284
Bufflehead	3	2	-	American Tree Sparrow	126	434	163
Hooded Merganser	1	75	-	Field Sparrow	-	13	-
Common Merganser	2	708	1	Fox Sparrow	2	1	-
Red-Breasted Merganser	1	2	-	Song Sparrow	51	18	57
Ruddy Duck	-	5	-	Swamp Sparrow	1	2	1
Bald Eagle	5	32	29	White-Throated Sparrow	1	9	5
adult	(4)	(25)	(19)	White-Crowned Sparrow	1	-	-
immature	(1)	(6)	(10)	Dark-Eyed Junco	516	701	604
?	-	(1)	-	Lapland Longspur	-	11	-
Northern Harrier	-	10	2	Snow Bunting	-	-	20
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	5	1	Red-Winged Blackbird	1705	6	55
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	1	Rusty Blackbird	250	-	9
Red-Tailed Hawk	43	46	49	Common Grackle	150	1	-
Rough-Legged Hawk	3	11	9	Brown-headed Cowbird	80	11	6
American Kestrel	41	8	24	Purple Finch	10	38	13
Ring-Necked Pheasant	-	S-44	3	House Finch	42	2	1
Wild Turkey	-	-	5	Red Crossbill	-	22	-
Northern Bobwhite	27	38	33	Pine Siskin	-	-	2
American Coot	-	5	-	American Goldfinch	204	547	341
Killdeer	-	-	5	House Sparrow	1852	722	2322
Common Snipe	-	2	8	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	-	64	-
Bonaparte's Gull	4	27	-				
Ring-Billed Gull	631	604	566	Double-Crested Cormorant	-	D-1	DCP-1
Herring Gull	211	29	820	" " "		DCP-2	
Thayer's Gull	-	-	CP-1	Amer. Black-Mallard Hybrid	D-1	-	-
Rock Dove	962	8	144	Cinnamon Teal	D-1	-	-
Mourning Dove	128	62	170	White-Winged Scoter	D-1	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	2	3	Swainson's Hawk	D-1	-	-
Great Horned Owl	-	1	2	Iceland Gull	-	-	DCP-1
Barred Owl	-	1	1				
Long-Earred Owl	-	-	1				
Belted Kingfisher	5	3	11				
Red-Headed Woodpecker	7	6	22				
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	33	30	75				
Downy Woodpecker	80	61	105				
Hairy Woodpecker	16	7	7				
Northern Flicker	16	29	41				
Pileated Woodpecker	-	5	-				



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Feb. 2 - Sat. - Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey.
Marj Tattersall, Compiler (692-2247).

13 - Wed. - Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM,
Lakeview Museum. Note room change
to Auditorium. Program: Bert
Princen to present a show on his
trip to Malaysia.

Mar. 13 - Wed. - Board Meeting 6:30 PM.
Membership Mtg. at 7:30 PM, Lakeview
Museum. Note room change to Auditorium.
Program: A representative
from the Heartland Water Resources
Council will present a slide show
with general discussion on "The
Challenge--Saving the Illinois River
and Peoria Lake".

16 - Sat. - Breeding Bird Atlas Survey
Workshop. See article on Page 1 of
this newsletter for information.
Call for reservations: Bert Princen
(691-0519).

23 - Sat. - Field Trip to Metropolitan
Sanitary District near Canton.
Bring a lunch and meet at 8:00 AM
in downtown Farmington parking lot
(Rte. 116 & 78), or at 8:30 AM at
MSD headquarters. Call trip-leader
Bert Princen if you plan to attend
(691-0519).

Apr. 10 - Wed. - Membership Meeting at 7:30 PM,
Lakeview Museum, Room A/B (back to
our regular meeting room). Program:
Ms. Ella Maxwell of D. A. Hoerr & Sons
nursery will present a program on what
to plant in your yards to attract birds.

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21 - Sat. - Field Trip to Johnson Sauk Trail
State Park near Kewanee. Bring lunch
and meet at Landmark's first parking lot
at 7AM, or at the Park at 8AM in the
first parking lot on the left. Call
trip-leader Louise Endres if you plan
to attend (682-8500).

May 4 - Sat. - SPRING BIRD COUNT and BIRDATHON.
The following six counties will be done:
Fulton, Mason, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell
and Woodford. County compilers will be
announced later. Please keep this date
open on your calendar--we will need a
lot of volunteers to cover all six
counties on the same day.



8 - Wed. - Board Meeting at 6:30 PM.
Membership Mtg. at 7:30 PM at Lakeview
Museum, Room A/B. Program: Spring
Bird Count and Birdathon Reports; and
Breeding Bird Atlas plans for summer.

Officers: President, Maury Brucker
Vice Pres., Brenda Onken
Secretary, Greg Brown
Treasurer, Greet Princen
Conservation, John Richard

Board Members: Cindy Holloway (1)
Dick Baird (1) Melissa Pierson (1)
Bill Beeson (2) Paul Pierson (2)
Lu Ann Elwood (2) Marj Tattersall (Past Pres.)

Chairmanships: Field Trips & Surveys - open
Hospitality - open
Membership - Louise Endres
Newsletter - Marj Tattersall

Information: Greet Princen (309/691-0519)
Maury Brucker (309/493-5181)

PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
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PEORIA, IL 61614

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