

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SINCE 1981.

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

MAY - JUNE 1992

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Spring time is here! Many kinds of birds are coming back from the south while the winter ones are heading north. Take some more time this year to enjoy the migration spectacle.

Two other optimistic signs which I mentioned at the last membership meeting are the following: on summarizing an unprecedented 100,000 responses to changing the wetland definition manual, the E. P. A. found that 59% of the comments from the public favors maintaining or increasing wetland protection. A second similar note resulted from a national poll by the Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy found that 66% of voters in every region supports the Endangered Species Act. Let's take time to enjoy our Illinois Heritage.

Maury Brucker, President



study by the Nat'l. Academy of Sciences. 2) Strengthen the existing Clean Water Act wetlands protection by increasing the number of activities regulated under Section 404, including draining, flooding and excavating which are not currently regulated. 3) Create a special "fast track" mechanism with the Corps permit program to specifically expedite "minor" permit review for individuals and small business. 4) Clarify current exemptions for artificially created wetlands and areas that are frequently cropped. 5) Require greater EPA oversight and monitoring of the general permit program, which currently allows many damaging activities to proceed without scrutiny. For more information, contact Clark Williams, Audubon's wetlands lobbyist, (202) 547-9009.

WRITE LETTERS PLEASE!!! Urge support of HR 4255, and express opposition to the Hayes and Breaux bills.

John Richard, Conservation Chair

CONSERVATION COMMENTS:

HR 4255 "The Wetlands Reform Act of 1992" introduced on February 19th by Rep. Don Edwards (D-Ca) would provide the best wetlands protection our country has ever had. It is endorsed by Nat'l. Audubon Society, the Nat'l. Wildlife Fed., the Environ. Defense Fund, and the Natural Resources Defense Council among others. The Edwards bill enhances the scope and effectiveness of the Section 404 wetlands protection program, while addressing the concerns about delays and uncertainties raised by agribusiness, developers, and energy lobbyists.

HR 425 would: 1) Delay the implementation of the Administration's politically motivated "delineation manual", which would remove a minimum or 50% of the nation's wetlands from federal protection, pending completion of a

WATCH THE BIRDIE!:

TBS: The next World of Audubon presents "The Environmental Tourist". The world's most precious wild lands are threatened by the very tourists who cherish them. What can be done to reverse the effects of this ironic invasion? Join host Sam Waterston for a look at worldwide efforts to preserve the true character of wilderness. Premieres Sunday, May 17, 10:00 PM E.S.T.

Ch.47: "Lou Gold--Lessons of the Ancient Forests", presents the highlights of this pioneer's ideas on the movement to save the nation's ancient forests.

Sunday's at 7:00 PM..."Nature".

Thursday's at 8:00 PM..."Illinois Adventure"
(repeated Sunday's at 4:00 PM).

MID-WINTER BALD EAGLE COUNT REPORT:

Terrence N. Ingram, Compiler for the MWBEC thanks everyone for the excellent coverage of most areas this year. There was a great deal of eagle movement in the Northern sections due to the mild winter which caused an early migration. One wave was already north near Lock & Dam #2-6, and the second wave was concentrated in Northern Illinois near the Savanna Army Depot. Most eagles had already left the St. Louis and Pike Co. area of Illinois. Total numbers were down, but some areas were not covered at the last minute. The total number of birds remains close to 1400, but the percentage of immatures went up from 22% last year to 30% this year. There was a large number of unidentified aged birds which may account for part of this difference last year.

All eagles counted by Peoria Audubon were counted (none were rated as duplicate counts). Our count of 149 is the highest we have ever had.

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|--------------------|------------------|
| Wisconsin River: | 8 |
| Illinois River: | 176 |
| Mississippi River: | 973 |
| | 1,157 for 1992 |
| | (1,409 for 1991) |



LOCAL ITEMS OF INTEREST:

1. SIERRA CLUB will be holding a garage sale on Saturday, May 16th. Donations of items for sale are welcome. Call Shirley O'Connell 676-5479 for information. Stop to buy and find a "treasure" to support this local group.
2. On June 27th, "POLO IN PEORIA 1992" will take place at Weaver's Farm, Route 150 and Koerner Road. This is a fund-raising event for the Peoria Area Arts and Sciences Council, of which we are a member through the Peoria Academy of Science. Booths of artwork, demonstrations and PAASC member groups informational tables---15 restaurant vender carts will offer a variety of food---beer and wine will be available---and Hardee's aerial team's "smoking biplane" will entertain all. The men's game is at 11 AM; the women's game is at 1 PM; and the Peoria Polo Club will take on the St. Louis Polo Club at 3 PM. Proceeds will be used to match Illinois Arts Council funds for grants supporting art and science programming in the Council's five-county area.



No state funds are available for science; all grant money must be raised locally. Stop by and visit Audubon's display with the Peoria Academy of Science. Tickets can be purchased at the gate: Box Seats are \$5 (chair provided), and General Admission are \$3 (bring a chair or blanket to sit on). See you there!

3. The NATURE CONSERVANCY will be holding a "Project Fair" on Saturday, May 30th at 10 AM at the Robinson Park picnic shelter on Mossville Road. A Nature Center Naturalist will speak on oak woodland management, and there will be a doorprize and fun for the whole family. Bring a sack lunch (lemonade and iced tea will be provided).
10-10:30 Sign in.
10:30 Site tour.
12:30 Lunch at picnic shelter.
Free to the public. Information: Call Susie Barber at 676-5206.

Also, if you're interested in helping out on NC's work days at the stewardship sites, Susie will be glad to give you dates and details.

4. FOREST PARK NATURE CENTER is having "Early Worm Bird Walks" every Sunday thru May 10th, at 6:00 AM, free for all ages.

They also have a great new supply of hummingbird and oriole feeders available in their book/gift store.
5. Congratulations are extended to Troy Tyler, a Biology/Chemistry student at Eureka College, who is this year's winner of the Peoria Academy of Science's Memorial Scholarship. The award was presented a PASci's spring banquet held on April 10th. Dr. May Berenbaum from the U. of Illinois was the guest speaker and presented a very entertaining and educational program on "Insects: Aliens from Planet Earth".
6. The Ill. Dept. of Conservation is establishing a 100-acre, year-round fish and wildlife refuge at Sangchris Lake State Park, near Springfield, IL. Encompassing two bays at the northwest edge of the lake, the refuge will be off limits to hunters, anglers and boaters to provide a permanent undisturbed area. Restricted signs are being posted. Wildlife observers will be able to get within 75 feet of the refuge to view herons, egrets, Canada geese, wood ducks and other waterfowl.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

This spring I am entering a world which was around me but in which I did not know of.

In the past, I never could figure out why Common Goldeneyes were sometimes called the "whistlers", and I never could get excited of hearing owl calls...because I could never hear them. Now I know. This past January I found out that hearing aids would be able to improve my hearing substantially. The rewards have been beyond my dreams and have sometimes left me in awe, especially when I now hear the "whistlers" and calls of owls in the woods. I am ever so thankful, and yet it got me to thinking--what about those less fortunate than me. How can the deaf, blind and immobile enjoy the same excitement that most of us do when watching and learning more about our feathered friends?

Today, there are many excellent bird song tapes and identification books. With some patience on our side, the blind could be taught how to identify birds by "listening", the deaf can learn how to identify by "sight", and the immobile can be driven around by others...many good habitat areas can be seen and studied from a vehicle.

Give this some thought, and next when you have time on your hands, offer to work with someone who would treasure reaching out to the natural world around them.

Marj Tattersall

RECYCLING NOTE...from Mary Lou Carlson, Peoria County Extension Service:

Used small button-type (hearing-aid) or flash-light batteries can be taken to the Central Illinois Hearing Aid Center, Inc., 1331 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria, IL. PH: 686-8907.

Any used small batteries (including alkaline) can be turned in for recycling at the Belltone Hearing Aid Center, 2617 N. Knoxville, Peoria, IL. PH: 685-0877.

WARNING---Sears accepts batteries but they are landfilled. Be sure to inquire what will be done with them before you turn them in.



JOIN THE TEAM!

SPRING BIRD COUNT 1992: Volunteers are needed to help cover our six-county area. Experience is not required, only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn and enjoy more of the world around us. Call one of the following leaders in the county you would like to work in:

Fulton--Virginia Humphreys..682-0418
Mason--Dick Bjorklund..968-6502
Peoria--Eleanore Voeste..697-0353

Stark--Maury Brucker..493-5181
Tazewell--Louise Endres..682-8500
Woodford--John Todt..694-3948

BIRD-A-THON 1992: Please make a pledge to donate a certain \$ amount per species seen on our Spring Bird Count. You can sponsor a county, a team, or a participant you know, or you can even make a general donation. (Hint: many teams had totals near 100 last year.) Funds raised will be divided between local conservation efforts and our Great Lakes Regional Office for their conservation and educational programs.

Complete the form below and indicate the amount per species you wish to pledge for the county, team or participant, or a general donation. Then call in your pledge to: Marj Tattersall, Newsletter Editor--Peoria Audubon Society, 915 W. St. Mary's Ct., Peoria, IL 61614, (309) 692-2247. Within five days after May 9th, Marj will contact you to give you the count figures for the county/team/person you sponsored. You may then mail your check (made out to the Peoria Audubon Society; no cash, please) to her at the address given above. Donations are tax-deductible. We thank you for your generous participation.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PARTICIPANT, TEAM, OR COUNTY SPONSORED: _____

AMOUNT PLEDGED PER SPECIES: \$ _____
NUMBER OF SPECIES COUNTED MAY 9TH: _____ TOTAL PLEDGE: \$ _____

-----OR-----

ENCLOSED IS MY GENERAL BIRD-A-THON DONATION OF.....\$ _____

RECENT SIGHTINGS:

- APRIL: Early--Piping Plover at Duck Island
 17--Osprey at Powerton.
 20--House Wren and Indigo Bunting at Marj Tattersall's.
 26--Johnson Sauk Trail St. Park Field Trip:
 1 Wild Turkey, Spotted Sandpiper, Great Crested Flycatcher, Purple Martins, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-winged W., Yellow-throated W., Pine W., Yellow-rumped W., Louisiana Waterthrush, and Chipping, Field, Fox, Song, Swamp and White-throated Sparrows: 66 species seen.
 29--20 Willets, 65 Pectoral Sandpipers, 7 Solitary Sandpipers and a Snowy Egret were seen by Louise Augustine at Mendenhall Boat Ramp area.
 30--3 Solitary Sandpipers, 10 Pectoral Sandpipers, and 2 Semi-palmated Plovers seen at car dump near Bartonville by Virginia Humphreys and Marie Welty. They also saw many Palm W., 1 Solitary Vireo, 1 Rufus-sided Towhee, 1 Northern Oriole, and a Dicksissel at the north end of Spring Lake and the surrounding countryside.
 30--3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a Rufus-sided Towhee, Brown Thrasher, and a Whip-poor-will at Bert & Greet Princen's.



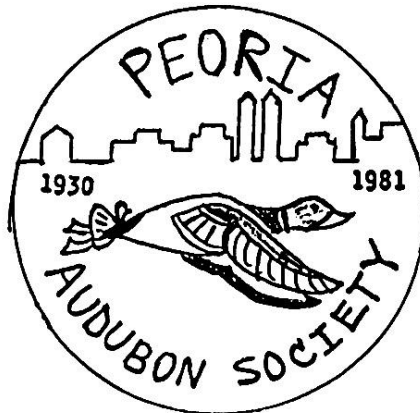
"Bird's Eye View" is published bi-monthly by the Peoria Audubon Society. The next article deadline will be June 10th. Send or call all items of interest to Marjorie Tattersall, Editor, Peoria Audubon Society, 915 W. St. Mary's Ct., Peoria, IL 61614. (309) 692-2247.

PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
 PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
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 Hospitality - open
 Membership - Louise Endres
 Newsletter - Marj Tattersall

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

May...mid-month nest incubation for pheasants peaks, wild turkey chicks begin hatching, and toward the end of the month pheasant chicks are hatching.

9--SPRING BIRD COUNT: (See article on P.3).

13--MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum, Rm. A/B. Program--Part A: Spring Bird Count Reports. Part B: Heartland Water Resources future plans.

JUNE...mid-month quail hens begin laying eggs, and at the end of the month Canada Geese are flightless because of the molting of wing feathers.

6--FIELD TRIP TO SINGING WOODS: Meet at 8 AM at the Mossville Grade School on Old Galena Road. Those interested in helping Peoria Audubon do a bird survey this summer for the Peoria Park District and the Nature Conservancy, should call Bert Princen at 691-0519. This will be an introduction to the area so that people will be able to do surveys when their schedule permits. Bert will inform us of the type of information they are seeking. If you plan to stay, bring a lunch. Wear protective clothing as we will be hiking thru native habitat.

Other Field Trips...we hope to have some more lined up to be announced at our May 13th membership meeting.

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