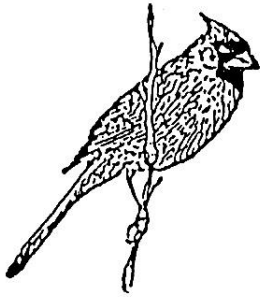


BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SINCE 1981.
ORNITHOLOGICAL/AUDUBON SECTION OF THE PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE SINCE 1930.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1992

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

During this political season, the issue of taking responsibility is often discussed. Looking back 20 years, the keystone Endangered Species Act was a major effort to appraise the effects of man's activities on the natural world and take responsibility for these effects. While discussing individual species, the essential focus is on the health of the whole ecosystem for all species, including us. An example of the value of this approach was the case of falling numbers of eagles and peregrines. The problem was related to the persistent insecticide DDT which was restricted before the damage affected other species and now bald eagles and peregrines are making a comeback.

The Act is now up for reauthorization and there is growing opposition from people whose activities affecting endangered species may be restricted. Their argument is that these species have little value compared to the impact on human activities. They miss the point of the "unknown side effects" of the massive changes our collective activities are causing, and the necessity of taking responsibility for these actions.

Maury Brucker, President

"WE NEED YOUR INPUT":

Would you favor holding our membership meetings at Forest Park Nature Center? Would you favor meeting on a different night of the month?

Our October membership meeting was held at Forest Park Nature Center due to some scheduling conflicts at Lake-

view Museum. We were greatly surprised to see the larger than usual number of people attend the meeting. Since then, many of us have thought that Forest Park Nature Center's natural setting and atmosphere would be a more appropriate location for our membership meetings. Too, it would enable us to become acquainted and involved with some of FPNC's programs in working more directly with the public. Also, many of us have conflicts of interest scheduled for Wednesday evenings, and there has been interest shown in moving our meetings to another day of the week.

At our November meeting, we will discuss the above suggested changes, and if agreed upon, will vote upon them at our December meeting.
Remember: WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOUR INTERESTS! If you cannot attend the next two membership meetings, please contact an officer or board member and let them know your thoughts on the two proposals discussed above.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING--GIFT IDEAS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY: Help support Forest Park Nature Center by shopping at the Trailhead Gift Shop. Available are many books on science and nature, American Indian Lore, ecology and conservation, and first nature and science books for children which offer exciting learning opportunities. Calendars for 1993 are also in stock, and a portion of the proceeds from the sale of many of these goes directly to environmental organizations. Many styles of bird feeders, bird seed, and bird bath heaters are also available.

NOTES FROM STATE AND NATIONAL:

1. NAT'L. AUDUBON'S NEW CAMPAIGN WILL FOCUS ON REVIVING THE EVERGLADES:

Without water, the lifeblood of the Everglades, the great "river of grass" and its diverse plants and wildlife cannot survive. Yet the complex ecosystem is being squeezed dry by a system of dikes and canals and poisoned by agricultural runoff. The result is a host of environmental problems, including a 90 percent decrease in wading bird populations, loss of at least 20,000 acres of sawgrass prairie (prime wildlife habitat), and more than 1.3 million acres in the past 100 years to agricultural and urban development. Hurricane Andrew added to the problems by damaging vegetation and some wildlife populations.

This major campaign is to push for laws and funding to carry out projects to improve the Glades' water flow and rescue its dwindling wildlife. Activists can help by telling their representative and senators that the Everglades is important on a national and international scale and that they should move to protect it.

2. "RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAWS" make it possible for ordinary citizens to find out about the chemicals and procedures used by industries in their communities.

The Progress Report: Community Right to Know highlights how diverse groups, including citizens, labor, the press, legislators, emergency planners, industry, and regulators--are affected by right-to-know laws, and can be helpful to groups organizing around environmental concerns. For a copy, send \$6 to Working Group on Community Right to Know, U.S. PIRG Education Fund, 215 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, DC, 20003.

3. A federal program to address the severe water quality problems of the Great Lakes is in jeopardy. The EPA's Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative would require all eight states bordering the lakes to develop water quality standards protecting the health of people and wildlife and require industries on the lakes to develop waste treatment and pollution prevention plans. But it would not end all discharges into the lakes, nor deal with indirect source of pollution such as runoff from farms and cities and

atmospheric deposition. Currently, cities and industries are allowed to dump harmful chemicals directly in the Great Lakes, and the eating of contaminated fish has caused reproductive problems in humans and wildlife.

The agency is more than one year late in meeting a congressionally mandated deadline to publish the plan in the "Federal Register". EPA Administrator William Reilly is being pressured by industrial and municipal polluters to indefinitely delay or weaken the initiative. The EPA has agreed, however, to take public comment on formulating the plan. Write to Dale Bryson, Director, Water Division, EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, and ask him to insure that the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative addresses all aspects of pollution in the lakes. Also, send a letter to Admin. William Reilly (Environmental Protection Agency, 401 Mary St., S.W., A-100, Washington, D.C. 20760), urging him to publish the draft initiative in the "Federal Register".

NOTES FROM AUDUBON COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS:

Bird-a-thon money raised from 1992's Spring Bird Count was 1.3 million from 169 participating chapters.

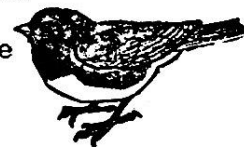
The Lake Calumet proposed airport site is a dead issue for now, but expect a resurgence of interest in the new year.

Bills to support:

Senate S2895--Ancient Forests
House HR4045--Endangered Species
House HR4255--Wetlands

Bills to oppose:

Senate 1862--wildlife
refuges



LOCAL ITEMS OF INTEREST:

1. Nov. 21st---Discover Singing Woods! Exploration fun hike, with steward Bill Allen, 9 AM. (Info: 685-3188).

2. Nov. 24/29th---The Peoria Area Arts and Science Council will present again this year a "Heart of Illinois Holiday Tree Festival", co-sponsored with Counseling and Family Service. Bring the family and enjoy dozens of clever and beautiful evergreens, live entertainment, and a gift shop. The youngsters can even make a video with Santa. Holiday Inn City Centre (formerly the Continental Regency). Call 686-7034 or 685-5287 for details.

3. Nov. 27/28th---Post Thanksgiving Work-It-Off Days at Robinson Park. Meet at 9 AM at Forest Park Nature Center. Join Nature Conservancy's Steward, Suzie Barber for a healthy brushcutting workout and trim those tummies just in time for the Christmas holidays. (Info: 676-6856)

4. Dec. 2nd---Final "Peoria Wilds" lecture, featuring four leaders of this project: Dale Goodner, Chief Naturalist for the Peoria Park District; Michael Rueter, field representative for The Nature Conservancy's central Illinois office; Chris Ryan, Volunteer Restoration and Management Coordinator; and Mary Kay Soleki, Preservation Specialist for the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission---they will introduce and discuss "Peoria Wilds".

5. ACTION ALERT: Governor Edgar vetoes HB 3605--the worst environmental bill to pass the legislature this year. Unfortunately, the House and Senate can override the veto if we don't stop them! This bill, heavily backed by bankers and developers, would make it easier for them to transfer property that may be contaminated without clean-up expense and liability. Then the cost of cleaning up any contamination that may be found would fall on the backs of the taxpayers, not the polluters. Bankers and developers will be using their ample resources to lobby for an override. Keep in mind, however, that HB 3605 sailed through both houses in the spring with little opposition, so we need to work hard to sustain the Governor's veto! Write or call your state senator and representative, and ask them to support the Governor's veto of HB 3605.



6. Endangered Nesting Bald Eagles Are Making A Slow Steady Comeback in Illinois: Brent Manning, Director of Illinois Dept. Conservation, announced "since 1980, we've discovered new eagle nests in Illinois every year, with 17 nests located this spring". The number of young successfully leaving the nests has gone from two in 1987 to 16 in 1992. Through management, monitoring and cooperation, a nest spotted by a fisherman was protected from disturbance and one eaglet was successfully raised. Known locations of eagle nests are

scattered the length of the state in 15 counties. They occur primarily on or near the Mississippi River as well as on the Illinois, Ohio and Wabash rivers and at some lakes.

7. We can be very proud that two of our members have been appointed to the Illinois Conservation Congress to be held February 5-7, 1993. Bert Princen and Maury Brucker have been participating in the Region 1 caucus of 24 counties (the NW 1/4 of Illinois). Bert has been appointed to the Funding Committee, and Maury to the Stewardship Task Force Comm. We'll keep you up to date.

8. BIRD SEED SALE PROFIT: \$369.95. A big "THANKS" goes out to our many supporters for bringing us our biggest profit ever.

9. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: At our October 29th Board meeting, it was decided that our chapter will pay 100% of all participants count fees. This would eliminate the hassle of collecting partial fees from all participants by our three count leaders. (This fee money goes toward the costs of compiling and printing the nationwide CBC's.)

Help is needed for our three Christmas counts. Everyone is welcome to participate. Experience is not necessary. Beginners will be put with skilled birders to help out as drivers, listers, and additional spotters. This is a great opportunity for new bird-watchers to learn more about birds and in which habitats to find them. People may participate in as many counts as they wish. Please contact the following leaders for the count(s) you are interested in:

Dec. 19---Chillicothe: Dick Collins
(309) 246-8677

Dec. 26---Chautauqua: Dick Bjorklund
(309) 968-6502

Jan. 2---Peoria: Louise Endres
(309) 682-8500

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10. At our October 29th board meeting, a donation of \$200.00 was approved to the "Partners in Flight" program launched by the Nat'l. Fish & Wildlife Foundation. Their goal is to reverse declines in neotropical migrant birds through habitat protection, training, and public education in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean Basin. The program to train managers of protected areas is taught in Spanish, and is an intensive three-month program. NF & W Foundation will match all donations to send a biologist to study this program; cost per trainee is \$3,000.00. All donating chapters will be informed on the program's studies.

RECENT SIGHTINGS:

10-11...Robinson Park (Mossville Rd.): pair of Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, and Dark-Eyed Juncos.

10-17...Chautauqua Field Trip: Snow Geese, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Am. Black Duck, Mallard, No. Pintail, Blue-Winged Teal, No. Shoveler, Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle (1-Im.) 20 Red-tailed Hawks, Greater Yellowlegs, Tree/Bank/Barn Swallow, Ruby & Golden Crowned Kinglets, E. Bluebirds, and Chipping/Field/Song/Swamp/White-throated Sparrows.

10-24...Chautauqua area: Bald Eagle (Ad), Cooper's Hawk, No. Harrier, Lesser Yellowlegs, Common Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Brown Creeper, and Tennessee Warbler.

10-31...MSD Field Trip: Tundra Swan, Mute Swan, all previously mentioned ducks plus Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead, except Common Golden-eye and the Mergansers--where are you guys?, 15 No. Harriers, 54 Red-Tailed Hawks (singles or pairs, no kettles), 9 Amer. Kestrels, Greater Yellowlegs, E. Phoebe, 24 (est) Water Pipits, Savannah/Song/White-throat Sparrow, E. Meadowlark, and Rusty Blackbirds.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

November:

8 - Sat.---Nature Conservancy bird walk to Robinson Park, 10AM, shelter on Mossville Road.

11 - Wed.---Membership Meeting, 7 PM, Forest Park Nature Center. Program: "Identifying Sparrows" by Bert Princen. (Board Meeting 6:30 PM).

December:

9 - Wed.---Membership Meeting, 7 PM, Lakeview Museum, Room A/B. Election of Officers for 1993. Program: "Members' Night"--bring your favorite pictures, slides, videos, books, artwork, etc. to share with fellow members.

19 - Sat.---Chillicothe Christmas Bird Count

26 - Sat.---Chautauqua Christmas Bird Count

January:

2 - Sat.---Peoria Christmas Bird Count

The Board Members and Officers for 1992 wish to extend to you and your families a happy, healthy and good birdwatching holiday season!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Merry Christmas!

Happy Hanukkah!

Happy New Year!

PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
1125 W. Lake Avenue
Peoria, IL 61614

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