BIRD'S-EYE VIEW







PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SINCE 1981. ORNITHOLOGICAL / AUDUBON SECTION OF THE PEORIA. ACADEMY OF SCIENCE SINCE 1950.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1993

NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 1992:

Congratulations to our new leaders. Please give them your support and input for our activities.

Officers:

President......(Volunteer Requested) Past President...Maury Brucker Vice President...Linda Nicot Secretary......Paul Pierson Treasurer......Greet Princen Conservation....Les Bodell

Board--93/94:

Board--93:

Greg Brown Carol Parker

Dean Johnston Brenda Onken Kathy Warner

Jana Smith

"EAGLE DAY IN PEORIA--JANUARY 23RD"

Come and learn about bald eagles in our area at Forest Park Nature Center. Peoria Audubon members and FPNC naturalists will display with video, literature, and two presentations at 10AM and 2PM, to inform you of the Bald Eagle status over the last 20-30 years. People will be located nearby along the Illinois River where you can go and view them through telescopes and binochulars right here in our Peoria area. Gather the family and friends for an interesting and fun event.

MID-WINTER BALD EAGLE COUNT:

This year, the count will be held on Saturday, January 30th. There will be four teams as usual: two teams on the east side and two teams on the west side of the Illinois River. One team on each side of the river will count between Henry and Peoria and the other team on each side will count from Peoria to Havana. Last year we totaled 149 Bald Eagles: 99 adults, 48 immatures, and 2 unidentified. Bundle up and join us. Sign up sheets will be at the Jan. 13th meeting and at Forest Park Nature Center on Jan. 23rd during "Eagle Day in Peoria" events from 9AM to 5 PM. Information: Marj Tattersall, 692-2247.

SEMINAR TO FOCUS ON ENDANGERED SPECIES IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS' BACKYARD:

See the brochure mailed to you in the Jan/Feb/Mar issue of the Peoria Academy of Science newsletter. Lectures and workshops are open to the public. Information: Dean Johnston, Forest Park Nature Center, 686-3360, 9AM-5PM.

- Feb. 3 "State of the (Ill.) State for Endangered Species", Forest Park Nature Center, 7:30PM.
- Feb.10 "Endangered Species...Listing to Recovery", Lakeview Museum. 7:3ØPM.
- Mar. 3 "Illinois Bats: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know", Forest Park Nature Center, 7:30PM.
- Mar.10 "Endangered Species...The Scientific Basis", Lakeview Museum, 7:3ØPM.
- Apr. 3 "Workshop...The Search for Endangered Mammals and Birds". Forest Park Nature Center, 10AM-3PM, registration required. (*)
- May.15 Workshop..."The Search for Endangered Plants", Forest Park Nature Center, 1ØAM-4PM, registration required. (*)
- (*) Graduate credit available.

PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY'S LOGO:

Peoria Audubon wishes to thank Carol Reid for donating her artistic talent in polishing up our logo. David Williams' entry won our logo contest several years ago, but we never had a source to make us a quality copy. Also, since then the Peoria skyline has changed. We now have a clean-cut logo to use on our newsletter. and for possible use in the future for club patches, hats, pins, etc. Again, Carol, thanks for your generosity and we wish you well in the new year. (See it at the bottom of P. 4.)

AUDIBON COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS REPORT:

- 1. Welcomed Quad-City Audubon representatives for first time.Cranes, captive-reared by
- 2. Ever have a good idea or project for Peorla Audubon, but didn't know who to tell or how do it? Want to give just a few hours a month, but no more, to really accomplish something for the environment in our community or world wide? Want to bird new areas and meet new birders? Most conservation groups benefit when their members/volunteers become more involved in chapter activities in an organized, focused way. There is an Ill. Audubon Chapter Effectiveness Retreat to be held this March 13/14 for future active participants and leaders in Illinois chapters. It will be held at the Stronghold center north of Oregon, IL, along the Rock River, and will begin mid-morning Saturday and end at noon on Sunday. Field trip and entertainment arn included. Info: Bert Princen, 691-Ø519.
- 3. Though the <u>Waste Disposal Bill</u>'s veto in the House was overruled, it was defeated in the Senate partly by the phone calls and letters from Audubon Armchair Activists. "Thanks" to those who voiced their opinions against this weak/destructive bill.
- 4. Governor Edgar has appointed a board to set up regulations for Illinois land and water usage, public and privately owned. Representatives from conservation, agriculture, and the Natural History Survey will be participating.
- 5. The Environmental Review Process is very weak at present and thus is being reviewed by the Ill. Dept. of Transportation and the Dept. of Conservation. It is hoped that an improved process will enable the two groups to work together in protecting good habitat from being bulldozed when new roads are built in the future.
- 6. Please support a bill by Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass.) that would broaden protection of species and habitats, set deadlines for species recovery plans, and double funding to implement the Endangered Species Act. However, Billy Tauzin (D-La.) and Jack Fields (R-Tex.) introduced E.S.A. "reforms" that would actually slow down the listing and recovery processes for endangered species. Tauzin and Fields both serve on Studd's committee which misleading and the public should be educated on their deceptive legislation
- 7. The Illinois Natural History Survey has published a new book on "Wetland Wonders" by Jeffords Hodgins and Steve Havera. Information will be available in the near future an how to obtain it.

RECYCLING UPDATE":

Want to know what to do with extra usable housewares, personal care items, furniture, non-war toys, infant products and clothing, pots and pans, etc.? Get on the mailing list for Peoria County's "Recycling Pages" published four times a year. It is <u>FREE</u> to Peoria County residents. Write or call: Peoria County Solid Waste Mgmt. Plan, Peoria Co. Courthouse, Room 301, 324 Main St., Peoria, IL 61602; 672-6915.

Forest Park Nature Center's "Trailhead Gift Shop" will soon be offering "Worms Eat Our Garbage" by M. Appelhof, M. Fenton, and B. Harris. This book is for all ages. Whether you live in an apartment, townhouse, or even a house, you too, can reduce curbside waste while getting something back for your efforts... excellen soil-enriching compost for your house plants, flowers or shrubs. Simply throw in your kitchen scraps and let the worms do the degrading work, and with no foul odors. Price will be \$12-15. FPNC: 686-3360.







"SUPER HEROES: A HIGH TECH ADVENTURE" will be a new exhibit at Lakeview Museum from Feb. 2 through May 2, 1992. It consists of 35 "hands-on" discovery stations in seven theme areas, including units exploring fiber optics, image intensification, gas chromatography, sonar, and ultra sound. Keep it in mind for great entertainment for all ages to combat "cabin fever" when it strikes this winter.

RETIRED ENGINEERS/ELECTRICIANS/AND PEOPLE
WHO CAN SPEAK FOREIGN LANGUANGES...needed
by Lakeview Museum to act as handymen to help
keep all the exhibits operating for their new
"Super Heroes: A High Tech Adventure" exhibit.
Info: Mary Beth Buck, 686-7000, extension 20.

PEORIA WILDS:

Help is needed to brushcut and clear prairie areas at Singing Woods on January 23rd. (You can bird at the same time!) Meet at 9AM at Forest Park Nature Center.



WHOOPING CRANE AND CONDOR UPDATE:

Federal scientists are planning to release a dozen Whooping Cranes, captive-reared by other Whoopers, at the Three Lakes Wildlife Mgmt. area in central Florida. These will be followed by releasing 20 birds each year for a decade. The Idaho Sandhill Crane-reared Whooper flock did not succeed when those birds failed to form pair bonds and reporduce (thought to be caused by being raised by foster Sandhill Cranes). The Texas Whooper flock is now at about 140 birds. A third flock at a yet undetermined U.S. location is also being planned.

Biologists are currently studying a juvenile crane appearing to be the offspring of a male Whooper and a female Sandhill rearedin the wild of Wyoming. The male Whooper is thought to be from the Grays Lake Idaho project which was foste reared by Sandhill Cranes. If confirmed, the occurance will be the first known instance of two species reproducting in the wild.

On October 8th, one of the two <u>California</u> <u>Condors</u> released into the wild last January in Los Padres Nat'l. Forest died from kidney failure after apparently drinking from a pool of antifreeze left in a parking lot outside the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. Many wild and household pets die each year from tasting the sweet flavor of ethylene glycol, a toxic ingredient in antifreeze. This unfortunate accident was not to have held up the release of six additional condors on December 1, 1992.

...Birders World, Feb. '93

MAKING WAY FOR THE BETTER BANANA:

The banana...perfect fruit for the 90's. It's cheap, convenient, low-cal, always available, and it comes with a tamperproof container that is also biodegradable. Unfortunately, this fruit's greater demand is causing rich rainforests to be cut for additional banana plantation growth. Also, banana growers use huge quantities of chemicals to control pests. (Recently, a lawsuit brought on by almost a thousand Costa Rican workers against Shell Oil, Dow Chemical, and Dole subsidiary Standard Fruit, claiming that a pesticide applied during the 70's left them sterile, was settled out of court with each worker receiving about \$7,000).

Today, consevationists in Central America increasingly call for better banana growing practices. The three U.S.-based companies that control the industry--Chequita, Del Monte, and Dole--don't want their images tarnished.

They are now supporting the "Smart Banana" seal of approval project, and a seal will be placed on each banana bunch from a plantation which complies with the standards recently set by environmentalists, scientists, and government representatives. Watch for your "Smart Bananas" at your grocery stores.

WTVP-CHANNEL 47 NATURE AND TRAVEL SPECIALS:

"Nature", Sundays, 7PM.

"Travels", Mondays, 7PM.

Jan.31-Mar.7, Sundays, 5PM: "Gardens of the World with Audrey Hepburn".

Feb. 8, 8PM, "Rachel Carson's SILENT SPRING". Feb.10, 7PM, "Scientific American Frontiers". Feb.17, 7PM, "Keepers of the Wild".

Feb.24, 7PM, "Navy Dolphins: Weapons of War".

We'd like to show you a way to put some of your tax return into someone else's nest egg,



IT'S TAX TIME AGAIN:

Do consider donating a portion of your Illinois income tax refund to the Non-Game Wildlife Conservation Fund...on <u>Line 15a</u> on your 1040 tax form. If you prefer, a donation may be made directly to: Dept. of Conservation, Non-Game Wildlife Conservaion Fund, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701.

Last years' money will be used to:

- Help create 500 acres of wetlands.
- 2. Update changes in past 12 years of the "Illinois Natural Areas Inventory".
- 3. Conductan investigation of present and future development of habitat for the endangered Swainson's Warbler.
- 4. Document the location and numbers of several bird, plant, insect, amphibian and fish species in Mason, Tazewell, Cass, Morgan, Scott and Menard Counties.
- 5. Support aerial surveys of endangered Herons, Sandhill Cranes and Bald Eagles.
- Prepare a "Landowners Guide to Forest, Grassland and Wetland Habitat Management for Non-game Birds".
- Conduct an 18-month survey of mammals and birds inhabiting Singing Woods Ecological Reserve in Peoria County.
- 8. Finance a project seeking to determine how wetland naturally revegetate after disturbance......plus much more.

RECENT SIGHTINGS:

NOVEMBER:

Sharp-shinned Hawk taking bath in bird bath at Princen's, Peoria.

Carolina Wren on deck at Voeste's, Bartonville.
Gray Partridge in prairie at Brucker's near
Wyoming, IL.

Loons at Powerton, V. Humphrey.

11-10 Young Cooper's Hawk at Forest Park **
Nature Center.

11-11 Havana round trip: Im. Golden Eagle, 7
Bald Eagles, Creeper, Red-Br. Nuthatch and
Screech Owl (Sand Ridge St.For.); Wood and
Hermit Thrush, Ruby-Cr.Kinglets, and a
Fox Sparrow (Spring Lake); and Bufflehead
and Hooded Mergansers (Duck Island Cilco
Power Plant), L. Endres.

Where are the Goldeneye yet this fall? 11-28 Two Bald Eagles and 6 Hooded Mergansers North of Lacon, Barthel's.

DECEMBER:

12-1 Chautauqua: 1 loon, 15 Bald Eagles.
12-5 Brown Creeper at Barthel's, Peoria.
See next newsletter for the Chillicothe, Chautauqua, and Peoria Christmas Counts.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW is published bi-monthly by the Peoria Audubon Society, 112 W. Lake Ave., Peoria, IL 61614. Next information deadline is February 15, 1993. Send articles to Marj Tattersall, Editor, 915 W. St. Mary's Ct., Peoria, IL 61614. (309) 692-2247.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

JANUARY: (Late January thru early February, geese begin their spring migration from southern Illinois wintering grounds.)

3 - Membership Meeting: ANNUAL POTLUCK, Earlier time: 6:30 PM, Lakeview Museum, Room A/B. Program: Reports of Christmas Bird Counts. Please bring a covered dish to share, and your own tableware and plate.

16-17 - Bald Eagle Appreciation Days, Keokuk, IA, across from Warsaw, IL, on the Missis-sippi River. Details: Keokuk Area Convention & Tourism Bureau, 319-524-5055/5599.

23 - Bald Eagle Day in Peoria, Forest Park Nature Center, 9AM - 5PM, with special presentations at 1ØAM and 2PM by F.P.N.C. naturalist, and members of the Peoria Audubon Society. (See P. 1 article.)

30 - Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count. (See P. 1 article.)

30-31 - <u>Bald Eagle Appreciation Days: Quad Cities</u> (Rock Island, Moline, and Davenport).

FEBRUARY: (In mid-February, wood ducks begin arriving in Illinois; later in the month woodcock and mourning dove spring migrations are under way).

13 - "State of (III) State of Endangerd
Species" seminar lecture, Forest Park
Nature Center, 7:30PM.

1Ø - Membership Meeting...Attend "Endangered Species...Listing to Recovery" seminar, Lakevie Museum, 7:30PM.

MARCH: (In mid-March, wild Turkey courtship and breeding begins, rooster Pheasants establish territory, and male Ruffed Grouse begin drumming to attract females. Quail coveys begin to breakup the end of March through April.

3 - "Illinois Bats: Everything You Ever Wanted To Know", seminar lecture, Forest Park Nature Center, 7:30PM.

10 - Membership Meeting...Attend "Endangered Species...The Scientific Basis", Lakeview Museum Auditorium, 7:30PM.

OFFICERS...President...Volunteer requested
Past President.Maury Brucker
Vice President.Linda Nicot

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Conservation...Les Bodell

BOARD.....Greg Brown (93/94)
Dean Johnston (93)
Brenda Onken (93)
Carol Parker (93/94)
Jana Smith (93/94)
Kathy Warner (93)

CHAIRS....Audubon Adventures
Field Trips

Hospitality
Membership, Lo

Membership, Louise Endres Newsletter, Marj Tattersall

<u>INFORMATION</u>: Greet Princen (309) 691-0519 Maury Brucker (309) 493-5181 PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE 1125 W. Lake Avenue Peoria, IL 61614

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