

# BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



## PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SINCE 1981

ORNITHOLOGICAL - AUDUBON CHAPTER  
OF THE PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE SINCE 1930

MAY - JUNE 1993

### ENDANGERED SPECIES SEARCH:

This summer, as estimated 25 people have volunteered their time to assist the Illinois Dept. of Conservation in looking for endangered species in an eight-county area around us (Fulton, Knox, Marshall, Mason, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford). Volunteers will be trying to provide the "what?, where? and when?" breeding information needed for our state's Natural Heritage Div. scientific data banks.

At an April workshop, Randy Nyboer, an Illinois D.O.C. Natural Heritage Div. biologist, explained the project effort and provided information on life histories, preferred habitat and search techniques to be used to compile data. Bert Princen presented the Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas Project's data sheet with breeding criteria codes to be used by those looking for endangered bird species.

Individuals were asked to work on one of the eleven groupings listed below which were comprised from 30 different Illinois State endangered species to be studied this summer:

1. Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron.
2. Osprey, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon.
3. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk.
4. Amer. Bittern, Least Bittern, Black Rail.
5. Common Moorhen, Pied-billed Grebe, Least Tern, Black Tern, Yellow-headed Blackbird.
6. Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier.
7. Veery, Brown Creeper.
8. Bewick's Wren, Loggerhead Shrike.
9. Upland Sandpiper, Henslow's Sparrow.
10. Indiana Bat.
11. River Otter, Bobcat.

Mike Miller of Forest Park Nature Center has agreed to take calls from people who have breeding information on any of the above endangered species (686-3360) and pass your information on to the individual(s) assigned to that species. Keep your eyes/ears open for the above listed species this summer.

### 1993 SPRING BIRD COUNT/BIRD-A-THON:

See special article on Page 3, to join in this year's "Big Birding Event".

### SCIENCE TREASURE HUNT--CELEBRATING NAT'L SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY WEEK APRIL 25 THRU MAY 1: Participation Deadline: May 21st

The Peoria Area Art's & Science Council, Lakeview Museum, Peoria Park District, Peoria Academy of Sciences, Peoria Journal Star, Heartland Free-Net, Wheels of Time Museum, Peoria Public Library, WTVP-Channel 47 are all sponsors for this year's "Science Treasure Hunt". This annual event is a combination family adventure and scavenger hunt focusing on Peoria area science and technology facilities and resources. Each family should visit at least five of the participating sites and answer their questions; discover 10 of the science facts; and locate five of the scavenger hunt items. For information and forms, call Peoria Area Arts & Science Council at 686-7034 or Lakeview Museum at 686-7000. Join in this fun-filled learning experience for the young to the old.

### REPORT BALD EAGLE SIGHTINGS TO DOC:

It is Bald Eagle nesting time in Illinois. Early indications are that several new nests have been established and the state will improve on the 11 nests it had last year. Most of the migratory eagles have left for the north so citizens who see eagles remaining in the area should contact the Dept. of Conservation at (217) 785-8774.



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**THE NAT'L AUDUBON SOCIETY TRAVEL ETHIC:**

As you prepare for your summer vacation, whether in the United States or to a foreign country, please follow the guidelines listed below:

- a. Wildlife and their habitats must not be disturbed.
- b. Waste disposal must have neither environmental nor aesthetic impacts.
- c. The experience a tourist gains in traveling should enrich his or her appreciation of nature, conservation, and the environment.
- d. As tourists, we should support/strengthen conservation efforts which enhance the natural integrity of places visited.
- e. Traffic in products that threaten wildlife and plant populations must not occur.
- f. The sensibilities of other cultures must be respected.

**TIPS FOR SUMMER FEEDING:**

Fewer birds will visit, so you won't need as many feeders. Take excess ones down so unused seed won't go to waste.

Buy seed in smaller quantities so it doesn't get moldy while in storage. Don't feed baked goods (spoil easy) or moldy bread.

Mulch under feeders with bark chips to keep them looking neat and to prevent spilled seeds from sprouting.

Hang a hummingbird feeder. Clean every 2-3 days in warm sudsy water and dry thoroughly before refilling.

Offer oranges, apples or bananas cut in half and put on tree branches.

Provide nesting materials. Be sure string or yarn is no longer than 4 inches (birds could become ensnared and starve to death). Strips of Kleenex and chicken feathers also will be appreciated.

Provide a birdbath and nesting boxes.

Then sit back and enjoy our feathered friends.

**DO IT NATURALLY, NOT CHEMICALLY:**

Mow your lawn high, which will result in deeper, more drought-tolerant roots, moister soil, and greater resistance to insects and diseases...it also shades out weeds.

Plant native species best adapted to the soil and climate of your area. Choose those most resistant to local diseases and insects.

Interplanting--growing two or more species next to each other--can help deter pests. For example, planting onions beside carrots will discourage carrot-fly.

Pull undesirable weeds by hand to avoid use of toxic herbicides.

In general, DIVERSITY is the key to a healthy, pest-free yard. A variety of annual and perennial grasses and plants will not only look nice but also attract a wide range of critters, including helpful insect predators.

**WHAT COLORS TO WEAR WHEN BIRDING:**

1. Lucy Fendler of Hollister, CA, who has been photographing birds for several years now, says she has found that bright yellow allows her to get close to five different species of herons, various warblers, ducks, shorebirds, gulls, terns, even hawks and a golden eagle. She also has noticed that turquoise or royal blue scares them away from great distances; red, pink, white, and dark purple usually make them very concerned; and waterfowl are especially suspicious of earth tone colors. Birds also had different reactions when she was with her husband and they wore different colors (she has since gotten him his own yellow shirt).....Amer. Birding Assoc. WINGING IT/Sept. 1992.

2. Baylor Univ. professor Kevin Gutzwiller wears a blaze orange vest on point counts in central Texas (so he is not accidentally shot by quail hunters). He has noticed a few species were repelled by the bright color, mainly the Tufted Titmouse and the American Goldfinch, and to a lesser extent the Carolina Chickadee. Though this study was not designed to explain why the birds avoided orange, the "species-confidence hypothesis" predicts that birds will prefer colors characteristic of their own species and avoid atypical colors. Those birds with red or orange conspicuous in their plumage were apparently unaffected by the vest. Gutzwiller recommends that researchers do pilot studies to test how color affects particular species before conducting counts. If bright colors must be worn for safety, the counts can be adjusted accordingly.... LIVING BIRD, winter 1993.

Trumpeter



**TRUMPETER SWAN SIGHTINGS---**In a follow-up to Mar/Apr's "Recent Sightings" column on the Trumpeter Swans at Spring Lake, Vernon Kleen (Ill. DOC Avian Ecologist) writes to us that Su Lauzon, Exec. Dir. of the Ill. Endangered Species Board, is attempting to keep track of the Trumpeters as they occur in Illinois. Vernon informs us that the two swans seen at Spring Lake near Manito, IL on 2-28-93 by Louise Endres and Marj Tattersall and others during that period have been identified to be from the release effort of the Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Species. Their coded neck collars had the numbers 62KU and 88KU. Color slides of the swans have been sent to Vernon to pass on to Sue for her records.



**CONSERVATION NOTE: REALITY CHECK FOR  
ANCIENT FORESTS** (from Peter A. A. Berle,  
President of National Audubon Society)...

Expert testimony at the April 2nd Ancient Forest Summit conference called by President Clinton to discuss the future of Pacific Northwest ancient forests conclusively demonstrates that the timber industry's vociferous arguments to continue logging not only defy environmental concern, they defy economic and social realities

Only 10% of the Pacific Northwest's ancient forests remain, and all of it is on public lands. Testimony at the conference made it clear that preservation of the remaining ancient forest ecosystem is an economic as well as an environmental necessity. Representatives of Northwest commercial and sport-fishing groups--which employ more workers than the timber industry--testified that 60,000 jobs related to salmon fishing are in jeopardy if logging of the ancient forests continues unabated. The logging erodes hillsides, causing siltation of salmon streams. Thus the issue is not jobs versus owls, so much as jobs versus jobs.

The timber industry complains about shortages of wood supplies. However, a year's supply of federal timber is currently under contract--and they still continue to export one-quarter of their own logs to Japan. The industry complains about rising lumber prices; yet, timber prices are as low today as they were in the 1970's.

The timber industry has suffered, but not for the reasons it states. The majority of the losses have been due to automation of timber mills and of raw log exports which are not milled here, but sent directly to Japan and other Pacific Rim countries. Between 1979 and 1988, 195 mills closed, and over 25,000 jobs were lost, mostly due to these causes.

As a result of the conference, it is clear that our national campaign to save the ancient forests has now reached a critical point. The President charged his Cabinet to come up with a plan in sixty days. Your effort now to maintain the momentum of the conference is critical. Demand the permanent protection of ancient forests. You can do it by phone: (202) 456-6224, or letter: White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20500.

**FUTURE OF SPRINGDALE CEMETERY SITE**

**BRIGHTENS:** In early April, Springdale Cemetery changed ownership for the third time since the Nature Conservancy Stewardship program started working there. The new owner, Mr. Larry Leach, is very interested in restoring the cemetery to its former glory and then maintaining that condition. Mike Reuter and Rod Skewes of N.C. met with Larry to discuss the importance of the site and to establish common objectives. The meeting was very positive, and their first tasks will be to update the management plan and post signs indicating the significance of the area. We commend the Nature Conservancy on this effort..... May 1993, OAK FRIENDS.

**SPRING BIRD COUNT and BIRD-A-THON:** MAY 8th: Volunteers are needed to help work the six counties we cover each year. Please call the compiler for the county you wish to work in. Drivers, recorders and extra eyes are always appreciated. Experience is not necessary, and it is a great way to meet new people and learn how and where to watch birds.

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

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



If you can not volunteer your time but wish to help, please consider sponsoring a person, team, or county by pledging 5¢, 10¢ or 25¢ per species seen, or a general donation. The money we earn each year is divided between support of our Great Lakes Regional Office and local conservation and environmental issues and projects. Please use the form below and send in your pledge to Mrs. Marjorie Tattersall, Peoria Audubon Society Newsletter Editor, 915 W. St. Mary's Ct., Peoria, IL 61614. For more information, call Marj at 692-2247.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_ per species seen  
by: \_\_\_\_\_  
or seen in the county of: \_\_\_\_\_.

I wish to pledge a total sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

For those of you who pledge per species, Marj Tattersall will contact you by May 15th by phone as to the number of species seen by the person, team, or in the county you sponsored.



**RECENT SIGHTINGS:**

- 3-20 Chautauqua Field Trip: Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3 Wild Turkey (Sand Ridge S.P.) White-throated Sparrows, E. Meadowlarks, and Purple Finch.
- 3-27 Canton M.S.D. Field Trip: Common Loon (spring plumage) at Rice Lake, 1 Tundra Swan and 4 Mute Swans at Spring Lake, all three Mergansers, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagles (6A, 6I), No. Harrier, Pileated Woodpecker at Duck Island Sand & Gravel Pit, Tree Swallows, E. Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chipping/Amer. Tree/Song/ White-throated Sparrows, Pine Siskin. On the way back, Jana Smith, Louise Endres and Marj Tattersall stopped at Copperas Creek and came upon an American Woodcock doing his courtship call/flight.
- 4-18 (Johnson Sauk Trail F.T.) Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Turkey Vulture, both Kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Catbird, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, and Cedar Waxwings.
- 4-24 McNaughton Park F.T.: (not available).
- 4-25 Forest Park Nature Center: Barred Owl, No. Parula, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Summer Tanager, Brown Creeper, Grey-cheeked and Swainson's Thrush, Carolina Wren.
- 5-2 (2) Philadelphia Vireos, Spotted Sandpiper, Gr. Crested Flycatcher, E. Kingbird House Wren, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher all out near Hopedale Mackinaw River. Forest Park Nature Center: Warblers: Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Black & White, and Redstart, Carolina Wren, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Swainson's and Wood Thrushes.

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

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:** (Please be sure to call field trip leaders so they know to wait for you in case your are late, or if you need to confirm date, time, directions, etc.)

May 8 - Spring Bird Count (see P. 3)

9 & 16 - Early Worm Bird Walks at Forest Park Nature Center, 6:00 AM. Free for all ages.

15-16 - Illinois Audubon Annual Meeting at Wildlife Prairie Park: Peoria Audubon has offered to lead field trips to local sights on Saturday from 8-11 AM and on Sunday from 8AM-12 Noon. Some of the area choices will be Jubilee St. Park, Banner Marsh & Rice Lake, and Forest Park Nature Center. All trips start at W.P.P.

22 - Robinson Park Birding Breakfast... Join Marj Tattersall and Susie Barber of the Nature Conservancy for a bird walk followed by breakfast at the Mossville Rd. picnic shelter. Meet there (2nd Park parking lot on left from Rte. 88) at 7:30 AM. Call Susie to sign up for breakfast at 676-6856.

23 - Early Worm Bird Walk at Forest Park Nature Center, 6:00 AM. Free for all ages.

June - (No monthly meeting until Sept. 8th)

13 - Robinson Park Sunday Afternoon Bird Walk--meet at picnic shelter on Mossville Road at 4:00 PM. Call Marj Tattersall 692-2247.

July 11 - Robinson Park Sunday Afternoon Bird Walk--meet at picnic shelter on Mossville Road at 4:00 PM. Call Marj Tattersall 692-2247.

**OFFICERS...** President.... (Volunteer requested)  
Acting/Past President. Maury Brucker  
Vice President. Linda Nicot  
Secretary..... Paul Pierson  
Treasurer..... Greet Princen  
Conservation... Les Bodell

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

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**INFORMATION:** Greet Princen (309) 691-0519  
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