
BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY SINCE 1981
A SECTION OF THE PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE SINCE 1931

December 1993

Christmas Bird Counts: The Peoria Audubon Society will continue to pay the \$5 fees for all participants in the upcoming Bird Counts. We need your help, even if you only want to watch bird feeders at home. At no cost to you, give a free Xmas gift to nature. Give the respective leaders a call to indicate your willingness to participate. Dates and locations are as follows:

Saturday, December 18 for the Peoria Count (Louise Endres, leader; 682-8500);

Thursday, December 23 for the Lake Chautauqua Count (Dick Bjorklund, leader; 968-6502);

Sunday, January 2 for the Chillicothe Count (Dick Collins, leader; 246-8677).

Slate of Officers Nominated: The presented slate of officers for 1994 is as follows:

President:	Linda Nicot
Vice Pres.:	Marj Tattersall
Secretary:	Greg Brown
Treasurer:	Greet Princen
Conservation:	Les Bodell
Directors:	Brenda Onken (2 yrs)
	Gerry Pini (2 yrs)
	John Ruggles (2 yrs)
	Carol Parker (1 yr)

Jana Smith and Dean Johnson have 1 year remaining of their terms as Directors. The election will take place during the December meeting.

Monthly Meetings: Don't forget the upcoming dates:

December 8, Members Night; bring your slides, movies, stories, etc. and brag a little about this past year's sightings and activities; also, election of officers; 7:00 pm, Lakeview.

January 12, Potluck Supper and Discussion of Xmas Bird Count Results, 6:30 pm, Lakeview.

Watch the Birdie on Channel 47: Do not forget to tune in on:

Sunday, December 5, 7 pm: Great African Moments (cheetas, giraffes, chimps, flamingos).

Tuesday, December 7, 7 pm: Great Moments from Nova (20th anniversary salute, Bill Cosby narration).

Christmas Gift Ideas: If you are stumped as to what to give, please consider the following suggestions:

1. Gift membership to the National Audubon Society to your favorite nature lover. Including the wonderful magazine, a first-time membership costs only \$20. Call Marj Tattersall for more information, 692-2247.
2. An old pair of binoculars, a spotting scope that you are not using, a slide projector that is gathering dust in the basement, old bird guides in the attic, all of these are needed to provide assistance to Latin American researchers, conservationists and educators. These materials are used to identify and protect habitats crucial to resident and migrant birds and to educate the public about conservation issues. For information, write or call: The Birder's Exchange, MBO, 81 Point Road, Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345. Tel: (508)-224-6521.

Virginia Humphries Honored: Last month, Virginia Humphries received the Conservation Award from the Illinois DAR for her many years of initiative and participation in bird and habitat conservation. Congratulations, Virginia, and we wish you many more years of active enjoyment of nature.

Recent Special Sightings:

Oct. 13, Swainson's Hawk, V. Humphries.

Oct. 16, 2 Tundra Swans, Peregrine Falcon (juv.), Chautauqua and Spring Lake field trip participants.

Oct. 20, Golden Eagle, R. Collins, near home.

Oct. 24, White-winged Crossbills, L. Endres/M. Tattersall, Springdale Cemetery.

Oct. 26, 35 Pine Siskins, C. Parker's home.

Oct. 30, 7 Evening Grosbeaks, R. Collins' home.

Oct. 30, 2 Ospreys, Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Golden Plover, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, Water Pipit, Palm Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Isabel Red-winged Blackbird, MSD and Duck Island field trip participants.

Nov. 7, Isabel Red-headed Woodpecker, Princen's home.

Nov. 21, 3 Red-necked Grebes, Princen's, Spring Lake.

Nov. 21, American Redstart, V. Humphries/E. Tjaden, Banner near Luthy's Duck Club.

Nov. 16, 3 Cattle Egrets, E. Tjaden/G. Beetschen, Negro Lake. ■ Notice late dates for warblers and egrets this year. ■

From the Conservation Chair: During the month of November, I attended two meetings on behalf of Peoria Audubon. The first was a presentation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding a 44-million-dollar 6-year study on the navigation needs for the upper Mississippi and Illinois waterways. What it boils down to is that they would like to replace the existing 600-foot locks with 1200-foot locks as they have done at Lock and Dam 26 near Alton, Illinois. Also, I attended a meeting of the Illinois Conservation Congress at Princeton on November 16. This meeting covered the accomplishments of the 1993 Congress and those issues that need still to be acted on. A proposed set of bylaws to cover the Illinois Conservation Congress in future years was presented and discussed. Applications for membership based on these bylaws were passed out and are due back on or before January 3, 1994. If you have any questions regarding these meetings, give me a call.

Les Bodell, 745-5479
Conservation Chair

Feeding the Birds: Most of us feed the birds in our yards, which is a good practice if done properly. Once you start in the fall, don't quit in the middle of winter because you are out of seed or you go to Florida for several weeks. Once the birds are used to your daily handout, it is not easy for them to find another food source when you quit on them. Stop feeding seed and suet around May 1. Many birds start feeding their babies seed and fat long before the young ones' enzyme systems are developed sufficiently to digest those products. Babies of various bird species have been found dead in their nests with their guts full of birdseed that they could not digest. Babies need protein more than fat and carbohydrates because they need to grow rapidly so that they can fly out and get away from that predator-prone home as soon as possible. Restrict your summer feeding to hummingbirds, orioles and the likes by providing sugar water (without red dyes, please) and fruit (orange, melon or any sweet tropical fruit). A water bath (even in the winter) is also appreciated by our feathered friends.

Peoria Audubon Society
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Happy Holidays



The Best of Birding in 1994