

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

MARCH/APRIL 1994

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Marj Tattersall

Courtship behavior is being seen now in many species. Male Golden-eye are tossing water droplets over their heads, Cardinals are singing from the tops of trees, House Sparrows are flying ballets with hopeful mates, and the first of the male Red-Winged Blackbirds have arrived. Take the time to notice each species and how they court their mates. Some actions are very noticeable and others quite subtle, but all are endearing to watch.

With the onset of nicer weather, come and join us on our field trips to see nature awaken for a new breeding season. Take the time to commune with nature, if only for just a few minutes on your own....you will be richly rewarded.

WHAT CAN PEORIA AUDUBON DO FOR YOU?

Soon, you will be receiving a survey requesting your input on Peoria Audubon's activities and services. Please take the time to complete the form with your ideas and suggestions for enriching your membership in our chapter and our participation within the community. Thank you....Survey Committee (Louise Endres, Chairperson; Jana Smith; Marj Tattersall)

WHY BIRDING?

What do you enjoy about birding? Why do you do it? If you can answer these questions in a short paragraph, please do so and send it to me for the newsletter. Perhaps this will help us get to know one another better....Jana Smith, Newsletter Editor (address: 104 S. Main St., N. Pekin, IL 61554; fax: 672-6079 - be sure to include my name).

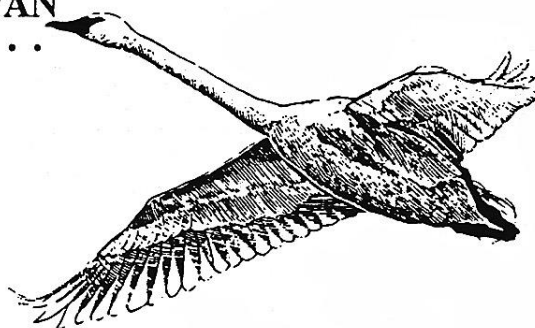
RECENT SITINGS:

- + **White Pelican** - 1/2 by Virginia Humphreys at Lacon & several other times that month by others.
- + **Great Blue Herons (5)** - 1/29 on Bald Eagle Count at Henry.
- + **Mute Swans (2)** - 1/29 on Bald Eagle Count at Henry & 2/16 by Louise Endres at Rice Lake.
- + **Trumpeter Swans (4)** - 1/21 & 2/17 by Virginia Humphreys & 2/16 by Louise Endres - at Lake Chautauqua.
- + **Merlin** - 2/20 by Virginia Humphreys & Linda Nicot near CAT building off Route 24.
- + **Common Snipe (1)** - 2/4 by Virginia Humphreys along Route 29 near Woodford County Conservation Area.
- + **Northern Shrike** - 2/7 by John Ruggles at his house in Bartonville.
- + **Rufous-Sided Towhee (male)** - 2/21 by Bill Beeson at his house.
- + **Common Redpolls (11)** - 1/14 thru 2/8 by Bert & Greet Princen at their house.
- + **Hoary Redpolls (2)** - 1/14 thru 2/8 by Bert & Greet Princen at their house.

THE TRUMPETER SWAN IS A RARE SPECIES . . .

TRUMPETER SWAN TUNDRA (Whistling) SWAN

Both species similar (Trumpeter larger)
All white plumage
Long neck
Length: 4.5 - 5.5 ft., 4 - 4.5 ft.
Weight: 20 - 30 lbs., 13 - 20 lbs.
Wingspan: 7 - 8 ft., 6 - 7 ft.
Protected Species
Swans in their first year of life
are grey and their bills may be pinkish



MID-WINTER BALD EAGLE COUNT REPORT:

This winter many eagles came early and in large numbers to our area. Our 1994 record count totaled 268 eagles (133 adults, 66 immatures, and 69 unidentified). A big thanks to all who participated, especially those who got up extra early to count eagles leaving their roosting areas. Though numbers here were higher than in the past (1990-88, 1991-94, 1992-149, 1993-141), we must remember that their return from near extinction has been steady but in no way justifies having them removed from their endangered species status.

Man is still their number one enemy. We must educate the public on preserving habitat for Bald Eagles as well as for all other endangered species, strongly support our government in law enforcement, and encourage our judicial system to uphold the laws of our country through legal convictions, heavy fines, and jail sentences. Unless this is done, the future looks bleak for all threatened species as well as for man who controls their destiny.

THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE MAY BE BACK AND VULTURES MAY SOON BE STORKS:

In the Feb-Mar 1994 issue of "National Wildlife", there is an article on how species are identified and sorted into families. About 30 years ago, the Baltimore Oriole was found to hybridize or cross-breed with the Bullock's Oriole, producing fertile young, which is considered a sign that the two birds were in fact members of the same species. Thus in 1973 the American Ornithologists' Union officially lumped the two birds into a single species, the Northern Oriole. This year, thanks to new data, the union's nomenclature committee is likely to revive the species. Today's scientists have also weighed new anatomical and biochemical evidence to put the vultures with the storks. Three recognized varieties of the Solitary Vireo may be separated into three distinct species in the future.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD BY PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE:

Each spring, our parent organization, the Peoria Academy of Science, offers a scholarship to a local college science major. This year's award will be for \$800, and the application deadline date is March 14. Call Marj Tattersall at 692-2247 (evenings) for more information.

LAKEVIEW MUSEUM:

May 1 (Sun.): **Bus trip** to the Art Institute of Chicago and the W. Graham Arader III Gallery to view the beautiful work of John James Audubon. Reservations deadline is May 1. Call 686-7000 for more information.

April 16 - June 5: **Exhibit** - "Decoys and Folk Art of Charlie and Edna Perdew". The Perdews created lovely decoys and bird calls from their home in Henry in the early to mid-1900's.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT FOREST PARK NATURE CENTER:

Stop in to see the new accessible restrooms, Nature Store expansion, and new bird viewing room. For class or event information, call 686-3360.

March 2 (Wed.): **Illinois Ecologist Lecture** - "Illinois Birds of Prey" by Dr. Given Harper from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. \$1 donation.

March 24 (Thu.): **Flicker Box Workshop** from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Registration fee.

March 26 (Sat.): **Blue Bird Day Workshop** at W. H. Sommer Park. Registration fee.

April/May Sundays: **Early Work Bird Walks** - 6:00 AM. Call for dates.



Eastern Bluebird

A P R I L

Once more in misted April
The world is growing green.
Along the winding river
The plummy willows lean.

The golden-wings and blue birds
Call to their heavenly choirs.
The pines are blued and drifted
With smoke of brushwood fires.

---Bliss Carman.

AUDUBON CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 3 (Thu.): Board Meeting - 7:00 PM at Maloof Realty. Call Marj Tattersall at 692-2247 for more information.

March 9 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum. Program: **Ruth Bellowe** will talk about the Nature Conservancy's new projects for 1994, including river wetlands and the Mackinaw site.

March 12 (Sat.): Bird Hikes* (2) - 8:00 AM (to approx. 10:00 AM) at **Northwood Park** in Morton (fairly level terrain). 10:30 PM (to approx. 12:30 PM) at **Meadow Valley Park** in Washington (steeper terrain). Bring a lunch to eat in the picnic area after the second hike, if you want. Call Jana Smith at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work) for more information and RSVP.

March 26 (Sat.): Field Trip - 8:30 AM at **MSD (Metropolitan Sanitary District)** near Canton (mostly birding from cars - little to no hiking). Meet at 8:30 AM at MSD or at 8:00 AM at Jct. 116 & 78 in Farmington. Bring a lunch. Call Bert Princen at 691-9148 for more information and to RSVP.

April 8 (Fri.): Membership Meeting (note day/location change) - 7:00 PM at **Forest Park Nature Center**. Program: **Mark Wilkinson** from the **Peoria Camera Shop** will exhibit new equipment and discuss "Binoculars, Scopes and Nature Photography". Bring your equipment to show others what is being used by our members today. This will be a good opportunity for those considering their first pair of binoculars and others thinking of upgrading from their present equipment.

April 9 (Sat.): Field Trip - 7:30 AM (to approx. 6:00 PM) - meet at Powerton Fish & Wildlife parking lot. Trip will include Spring Lake, Sand Ridge Forest, Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery, **Lake Chautauqua**, and Banner Marsh (mostly birding from cars - little or no hiking). Bring a lunch. Call Marj Tattersall at 692-2247 for more information and RSVP.

April 24 (Sun.): Field Trip - 8:00 AM at **Johnson Sauk Trail State Park** near Kewanee (mostly birding from cars and possibly some moderate hiking). Meet at 8:00 AM at first parking lot in the park, or meet at 7:00 AM at the front parking lot at Landmark. Trails will probably be muddy. Call Louise Endres at 682-8500 for more information and RSVP.

April 30 (Sat.): Bird Hike* - 8:00 AM (to approx. 12:00 PM) at **Farmdale Park** in Sunnyland. Some trails are quite steep, and we will probably be crossing Farmdale Creek, which is wide and often deep. Call Jana Smith at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work) for more information and RSVP.

May 7 (Sat.): Spring Bird Count. Call Louise Endres at 682-8500 for more information.

May 13 (Fri.): Membership Meeting (note day/location change) - 7:00 PM at **Forest Park Nature Center**. Program: **spring bird count results**.

May 14 (Sat.): Bird Hikes* (2) - 8:00 AM (to approx. 9:30 AM) and 10:00 AM (to approx. 12:30 PM) **both at McNaughton Park** in Pekin. Come to either one or both hikes. The first one will be easier - not many steep hills and no creek crossings. The second one will be more difficult - steep trails and several creek crossings. Call Jana Smith at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work) for more information and RSVP.

May 21 (Sat.): Bird Hike* - 8:00 AM (to approx. 11:00 AM) at **Jubilee College State Park**. Call Jana Smith at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work) for more information and RSVP.

Dec. 17 (Sat.): Chillicothe Christmas Bird Count. Call Dick Collins at 246-8677 for more information.

Dec. 23 (Fri.): Chautauqua Christmas Bird Count. Call Dr. Bjorklund at 968-6502 for more information.

Dec. 31 (Sat.): Peoria Christmas Bird Count. Call Louise Endres at 682-8500 for more information.

*** BIRD HIKES:** Trails will probably be muddy, so be sure to wear grubby clothes and shoes.



CONSERVATION - Les Bodell

As Conservation Chairperson for 1994, I thought it would be a good idea to solicit ideas from the members on conservation issues. While there are many national issues to be concerned about, including endangered species and wetlands, many local issues also deserve our consideration. I would like to form a very informal committee to discuss conservation issues over coffee. Anyone interested in joining this group may call me at 745-5479 or contact me at one of our monthly meetings.

TREE CUTTING ON NORTHMOOR ANGERS SOME:

From 02/09/94 Article in Peoria Journal Star: The Donovan Golf Course, along Sheridan, Northmoor and Knoxville roads, has for many years been edged with a natural "fencerow" strip of shrubs and trees. The Peoria Park District has deemed this a row of weed trees and has started clear cutting this wind break, noise buffer, and natural habitat for wildlife. Many of the species being cut provide food and cover for birds. Both golfers and environmentalists are upset. Please call or write the Park District to stop their plans to clear cut this natural habitat and charge taxpayers to re-landscape this area.

THE TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR ACTION ON THE JOLIET ARSENAL:

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire an unprecedented 26,000-acre open space in Illinois to be left free of development and dedicated to wildlife, natural areas, environmental education, and compatible outdoor recreation. Gov. Edgar mentioned the importance of protecting the arsenal for conservation and recreational purposes in his recent State-of-the-State address, and he wrote to President Clinton endorsing ownership of the arsenal be transferred from the Department of Defense to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Please call or write your Congressman in support of this very important conservation issue.

"Bird's-Eye View" is published bimonthly by the Peoria Audubon Society. The next due date for articles will be April 15th. Mail or fax items of interest to Jana Smith, 104 S. Main St., N. Pekin, IL 61554; Fax "Attn: Jana Smith" at 672-6079.

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