# 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, 1994



This May we have several very good activities for our members to participate in: May 10th--Annular Eclipse Bird Count, May 14th--International Migratory Bird Day, May 15th--Bird-a-Thon, and also on that day a Backyard Habitat Fair. We have learned over time that in order to enjoy our hobby of birdwatching, we need birds--birds need habitat--habitat needs man to preserve it. This is the message from International Migratory Bird Day. I hope you have an opportunity to participate and thus learn more about our environment and the birds we live with.

Also included in this newsletter is a survey for your ideas and suggestions on how Peoria Audubon can better serve you. Please take the time to complete and return the survey by May 15th. Your input will be of great benefit to your officers and board members in offering you the type of programs which interest you the most.

Mari Tattersall

#### ANNULAR ECLIPSE BIRD COUNT:

On May 10th, our area will be experiencing an 88% eclipse from 10:20 am to 1:20 pm. Our membership has been asked to observe birds that day to see if we notice any changes in their behavior during that time. If you wish to participate, please write down your name, address, phone number, date/time observed, weather conditions that day, and habitat you are observing. List all species seen and heard, note their regular behavior and any changes resulting from the eclipse. Don't worry about formality. A hand-written list of observations will be fine. REMEMBER...DO NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN. You can still burn your retina, even though the the daylight will be dimmer. Please send your results as soon as possible to Louise Endres at 2915 N. Avalon Pl., Peoria, IL 61604. Info: 682-8500.

#### **MIGRATORY INTERNATIONAL BIRD DAY:**

You recently received a brochure on Wildlife Prairie Park's seminar supporting Int'l. Migratory Bird Day. IMBD is sponsored by the Nat'l. Fish and Wildlife Fnd. and Phillips Petroleum in cooperation with Partners in Flight. Partners' objective is to seek an increasing awareness of the plight of Neotropical migratory birds and inspire people to get involved in migratory conservation projects. For \$20 you can attend 7 lectures of your choice by renowned individuals with experience in ornithology, birdwatching and habitat preservation. Lunch is included. Hope you can join us. Call in your reservation right away as this newsletter is being mailed near the deadline date of May 5th. Info: 676-0998.

#### **BIRD-A-THON:**

Along with your Int'l. Migratory Bird Day pamphlet, you received a bird-a-thon pledge sheet. We have decided to change this event from coinciding with our Spring Bird Count to becoming a part of the new annual In'tl. Migratory Bird Day celebration. The idea is to pledge a certain amount for each species seen by the team of your choice to raise money for conservation. Four teams will compete to find as many species between dawn and 4pm on Sunday, May 15th. The four teams participating will be: Forest Park Nature Center, Nature Consrvancy, Peoria Audubon Society, and Wildlife Prairie Park. Teams will meet at WPP at 5pm on May 15th to turn in their results and declare the winning team. Each group will donate 25% of their money earned to Partners in Flight and use 75% for their local conservations efforts. Please be generous in supporting this worthwhile event.

SEE IMPORTANT CONSERVATION ARTICLE, P. 2.

#### **BACKYARD HABITAT FAIR:**

Also on Sunday, May 15th, Peoria Audubon will be participating in Nature Conservancy's Backyard Habitat Fair being held at Robinson Park. (Take Rte. 88 north out of Peoria and turn east onto Mossville Road...follow the signs for parking.) There will be demonstrations and displays on natural landscaping, tips on composting, tree care and natural lawn care. An ecological burn unit will be toured, products will be available from the Traveling Trailhead Nature Store (from Forest Park Nature Center), and we will have an informational booth for the public. Information: Susie Barber: 676-6856.

#### **CONSERVATION...Les Bodell:**

As you probably know from recent newsletters and National Audubon publications, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is up for re-authorization, and bills pertaining to this have been introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Two bills that have been introduced, H.B.2043 and S.921, would be a great step forward in protecting endangered and threatened species and their habitat. While H.B.2043 has many good provisions, two I consider especially important are 1) providing monetary incentives and technical assistance to private landowners to implement recovery actions for listed species and conservation measure for candidate species, and 2) allowing citizens to file suit to protect listed species in emergencies without the 60-day waiting period. S.921 is nearly the same as H.B. 2043 and is co-sponsored by Senator Paul Simon.

Unfortunately, there are also several bills introduced to weaken the ESA. The most damaging of these are H.B.1490 and S.1521. These bills have so many restrictive provisions they would make ESA useless and powerless.

We need only look at the on-going recovery of the Bald Eagle to realize the importance of ESA. In 1974 in the lower 48 states, there were only 791 nesting pairs, but by 1992, the number was over 3000. One thing we can do to ensure that this level of protection is maintained or improved is to urge our representatives to support H.B.2043 and vote against H.B.1490, and likewise urge our senators to support S.921 and vote against S.1521. Currently, H.B.2043 has six co-sponsors from Illinois:

Evans, Gutierre, Lipinski, Porter, Reynolds, and Yates, but we need more. Please write your representative and ask him/her to become a co-sponsor. In the Senate, Sen. Simon has already co-sponsored S.921, so a letter to Sen. Mosely-Braun urging her to co-sponsor is needed.

These letters to our representatives and senators should be addressed to:

The Honorable (name) -OR- The Honorable (name)
United States Senate House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (last name): Dear Mr./Madam(last name):

#### **PROJECT TANAGER:**

The staff of Illinois River Refuges is participating in a program designed to test whether forest fragmentation reduces the nesting success of tanager species. Volunteers are needed to assist with censusing the Cameron-Billsbach Unit, located along the Illinois R. north of Lacon, IL. If interested, contact Russell Engelke at (309) 535-2290.

# **KIRTLAND'S WARBLER TOURS OFFERED:**

Nesting areas for the Kirtland's Warbler will be closed and posted against public entry during the 1994 nesting season. Warbler watchers may see the endangered bird only by participating in guided tours offered by the U.S. Forest Svc. Dist. Ranger Office in Mio, MI from May 14th thru July 3rd, Wednesdays thru Fridays. Information: (517) 337-6650.

#### A BIRD BY ANY OTHER NAME:

The thirty-ninth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union checklist of No. American birds contains several name changes of interest to birders. The Green-backed Heron is now once again called simply the Green Heron, and the Black-shouldered Kite becomes the White-tailed Kite. The Lesser Golden-Plover has been split into two species: the Pacific Golden-Plover and the American Golden-Plover. From the Rosy Finch, birders gain three new species: the Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, the Black Rosy-Finch, and the Brown-capped Rosy-Finch. Four species added due to their confirmed appearance on the continent are: Yellow-legged Gull, White-chinned Petrel, Himalayan Snowcock, and the European Turtle-Dove.

# **MEMBERS' CORNER: "WHY BIRDING?"**

(by Bob Brown and his daughter Jennifer)
We like birds, and we like to build things, so we make birdhouses. Construction of birdhouses can be an excellent hobby. It is inexpensive because the best birdhouse material (scrap crate wood) is available for free; it takes only whatever time is available; it is a lot of fun because each birdhouse is a unique structure depending on the wood we happen to choose; but mostly it is rewarding to provide a home for the fascinating little beings that fly all the way from the tropics to raise their

families. And there is something thrilling felt each time a

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

nest box produces a successful brood.

Bert Princen recently reached 2,107 on his life list, including 45 new species in Japan and the Phillipines. What an accomplishment!

# **RECENT SIGHTINGS & FIELD TRIP REPORTS:**

- 2-21..E. Bluebird at Meadow Valley Park--J. Smith.
- 3-12...Northwood Park Field Trip/27 species: White-throated Sparrow. Meadow Vally Park F.T./27 species. (total species for the day= 28)
- 3-31.. Wild Turkey at neighbor's feeder.. Les Bodell.
- 3-25..Barred Owl by I.C.C.--Les/Mary Bodell.
- 3-27. Wild Turkey No. of Chillicothe--Dick Shephard.
- 3-27..MSD F.T./65+ species: Mute Swans, 14 species of ducks, Hooded/Common Mergansers, 10+ Snipe, Barred Owl, Pileated Wdpkr., Tree Swallows, Vesper-, Savannah-, Swamp-, and White-Crowned-Sparrows, E. & W. Meadowlarks, and Eurasian Tree Sparrows.
- 4-1..Farmdale Park: Turkey Vulture, E. Phoebe, House Wren, Golden-Cr. Kinglet, Fox Sparrow--J. Smith.
- 4-5. Pine Siskin at Les Bodell's feeder.
- 4-5..Lake Springfield: Bonaparte's Gull--L. Endres
- 4-5.. Near Havana: Common Snipe and Lesser Yellowlegs-L. Endres.
- 4-8..Rock Island Trail near Alta: Brown Creeper, E. Phoebe, Brown Thrasher..M. Tattersall
- 4-9...Chautauqua F.T. (ended up only going to Spring Lake)/52 species: Red-Br. Nuthatch, Dicksissel, No. Waterthrush, Brown Thrasher, many ducks.

- 4-17...Johnson Sauk Trail St. Park F.T./59 species:
  Blue/Green-winged Teal, N. Shovelers,
  Sharp-shinned/Cooper's/Broad-winged Hawks,
  Gr/Lesser Yellowlegs, Tree/Barn Swallows,
  Eastern/Western Meadowlarks, 12+ Hermit Thrush,
  Yellow-rumped/Pine/Black & White Warblers,
  Rufous-sided Towhee, Swamp Sparrow.
- 4-22..near Jana Smith's house in N. Pekin: Barn Swallows and Chimney Swifts.
- 4-23...Jubilee College St. Park: N. Harrier, Red-headed Wdpkr., Rough-winged Swallows, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher--D.Holmes, J.Smith, Les Bodell.
- 4-24..Farmdale Park: Purple Martins, Warbling Vireo, Palm Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak--J. Smith.

4-24. Wild Turkey 7 mi. W. of Henry--M. Brucker.





### **NUISANCE WILDLIFE PROBLEMS:**

During May and June, these problems peak in metropolitan areas. Call Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Division of Wildlife Resources, (217) 782-6384, for suggestions on preventing wildlife conflicts.

#### **RECYCLING:**

If you are no longer using your videos--recycle them. Two companies are now taking used videotapes and either reusing or recycling them. If usable, the tapes are given to non-profit agencies. If not, all salvageable components are removed and the remaining plastic is ground up and recycled. Send your unwanted tapes to:

EcoMedia - OR - Carpel Video 8012 Remmet Ave. 429 E. Patrick St. Canoga Park, CA 91304 Frederick, MD 21701

(800) 359-4601

(800)238-4300



#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

(Note: Please RSVP to field trip leaders so that you can be notified in case of a cancellation).

- 5-10.. Annular Eclipse Bird Count. (See P. 1)
- 5-13..Bird Hike\* before membership meeting at Forest Park Nature Center, 5:30 pm. RSVP Jana Smith HM: 382-3889, WK: 672-6937.
- 5-13...Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Forest Park Nature Center. Program: Spring Bird Count Reports and video on "Hawks".
- 5-14.. The Bird Hike to McNaughten Park has been changed. to June 4th.
- 5-14. International Migratory Bird Day. (See page 1.)
- 5-15..Bird-a-thon. (See page 1.)
- 5-15.. Early Worm Bird Walk, Forest Park N.C., 6am.
- 5-15. Backyard Habitat Fair. (See page 2.)
- 5-21..Bird Hike\* to Jubilee College State Park, 8am to 11am approximate. Some hills and flat terrain; no creek crossings. RSVP Jana Smith for meeting place: Hm: 382-3889, Wk: 672-6937.
- 5-22.. Early Worm Bird Walk, Forest Park N. C., 6 am.
- 5-28..Birding Breakfast\* at Robinson Park with Nature Conservancy folk. 7:30 am hike followed by free breakfast at 9:30 am approximate. Meet at picnic shelter on Mossville Road (small drive after 2nd parking lot from Rte. 88.) RSVP Marj Tattersall, 692-2247.
- 6-2..Illinois Ecological Lecture, Forest Park N.C., 7:30pm, "Illinois Oak Woodlands Then andNow" by Bill McClain of Ill. Dept. of Conservation, Natural Heritage Division. \$1 suggested donation..

- 6-4..Bird Hikes\* at McNaughten Park, 8am (easier with low hills and no creek crossings), 10am (steep trails and several creek crossings). RSVP Jana Smith, Hm: 382-3889, Wk: 672-6937.
- 6-10...June Summer Get-Together, 6pm, meet at parking lot behind Luthy Botanical Gardens on Prospect Rd. We'll do some birding and then meet at Hardee's for Dutch Treat supper and to compare summer sightings --RSVP Mari Tattersall, Hm: 692-2247.
- 6-26.. Field Trip to Rock Island Trail, 9am 12noon approx. Meet at parking lot in Alta. Info: Les Bodell 745-5479. RSVP Jana Smith, Hm: 382-3889, Wk: 672-6937.
- 7-8. July Summer Get-Together, 6pm. Place to be announced in next newsletter. Info: Marj Tattersall 692-2274.
- 8-12.. August Summer Get-Together, 6pm. Place to be announced in next newsletter. Info: Marj Tattersall 692-2247.
- 9-9...Membership Meeting at Forest Park N. C., 7pm. Program: to be announced.
- (\* Bird Hikes will be strenuous and on muddy terrain.

  Wear grubby clothes and old shoes. May be cancelled if rains. Be sure to RSVP trip leader.)

"Bird's-Eye-View" is published bimonthly by the Peoria Audubon Society. The next due date for articles will be June 10th. Mail or fax items of interest to Jana Smith, 104 S. Main St., N. Pekin, IL 61554; Fax "Attn: Jana Smith" at 672-6079.

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

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# PEORIA AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Member:

	Phone (	
serve you. Your information wactivities, meeting programs, fie	rou asking for your input and ideas on how Peoria Audubon can better rill be very beneficial to your officers and board members in planning eld trips, and public education events, etc. All data will be confidential and on Society. Please take a few minutes to complete and return this survey. eciated.	
> Why did you join AudulDonationActive birdwLike the magLearn about Other:	Want to:Meet other birders vatcherImpress friends/customers gazineKnow where to bird in Peoria area birdsKeep current on conservation issues	
Learn about Activities for	ould be the main focus of Peoria Audubon? (Check 2) birdsConservation issuesPublic Education r membersHave fun.	
> What areas would you lField TripsPublic EduceBird CountsMeeting RefOther:	Membership Activities Public Relations Freshments Mailings	
	eet on:2nd Wednesday - OR2nd Friday of each month? ou to attend meeting: Day of week; Week of month	
What other meeting loc	Where would you like meetings held:Lakeview Museum - ORForest Park Nature Cntr.  What other meeting location would you recommend?  Do you need transportation to membership meetings?	
Full day trip Saturday trip	Sunday trips	

>		What locations would you like to have field trips to? (Check any of interest)				
	The second secon	an hours driveWithin a day (to/from)				
		See members' yards/types of feeders/birds they attract				
	Out of town, overnight or weekend	trips				
	New Suggested areas:					
	What articles in the newsletter do you like best?	(Check any of interest)				
		Local/national conservation issues				
	Calendar of events	Activities of interest from other local groups				
	Note from the president	Bird information/education articles				
	Bird count reports.	Where are the cartoons?				
	Other:					
	What articles would you like added?					
	What articles would you like added?	Omith alasiaal advantion parties				
	Members' experiences	Ornithological education section.				
	Other:	<u> </u>				
>	Do you read Peoria Audubon's newsletter, the "Bird's-Eye View"? Yes No					
	Do you wish to continue receiving the Bird's-Ey	ve View"? Yes No				
	If you replied "NO", please tell us why:					
	I don't have the interest	I don't have the time				
	Other:	The state of the s				
		1				
>	As a member of National Audubon/Peoria Audubon Society, you are automatically a paid					
	member of the Peoria Academy of Scien	The second contract of				
	Do you wish to continue receiving the Academy newsletter?YesNo					
	If you replied "NO", please tell us why.					
	I don't have the interest	I don't have the time				
	Other:	I don't have the time				
	Other.					
>	Would you be willing to have your name/addres	Would you be willing to have your name/address/phone number published in a Peoria Audubon				
	Society directory: Yes No					
>	General Comments:					
DI E	EACE COMBIETE AND DETUDNIDY MAY 15	1004				
LLC	EASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY MAY 15,	<u>1777.</u>				
	MAIL OR FAX TO: Jana Smith. 104 S. Main.	MAIL OR FAX TO: Jana Smith, 104 S. Main, North Pekin, IL 61554				
	Fax No: 672-6079					
	Info: Jana Smith, Newsletter Editor: Hm: 382-					
	Info: Marj Tattersall, President: Hm: 692-2247	//Wk: 578-6945				

Thank you for your input. We are here to serve you through your interets in National Audubon.