

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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1994

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Jana Smith (sort of)

As you may have heard, Marj Tattersall and her husband were in a car accident. Marj was not injured, but her husband was injured badly, and she resigned as President to have time to help him recover. He is at home now and doing well.

As Vice President, I guess I have to take over as President until the end of the year. Please be patient with me, because I'm also Newsletter Editor and Field Trips Chairman, and I don't really have time for any one of those jobs, let alone all four! If you know of something that isn't getting done and should be, please volunteer to help!

Thanks, Marj, for doing a great job as President! We wish you and Art well.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN NOV./DEC. - Maury Brucker

Bald Eagles have started arriving in the Illinois River valley for the winter from their breeding grounds in Canada. Large numbers of ducks and geese will be moving through this flyway in these months. With no-till corn fields, I now see more flocks moving in late afternoon from the river to feed in corn stalk fields. The various species of American sparrows are the rear guard of the fall passerine migration. But then toward the middle of December, birds from Canada which winter here will arrive. Juncos come early, and the winter finches arrive soon thereafter.

RECENT SIGHTINGS:

- + **Blue (Snow) Goose** - 9/4 by Bert & Greet Princen on trip from Peoria to Havana (both sides of river).
- + **Cooper's Hawk (2)** - 9/4 - same as above.
- + **Osprey (2)** - 9/4 - same as above.
- + **Cattle Egret** - 9/4 - same as above.
- + **Black-Crowned Night Heron** - 9/4 - same as above.
- + **Common Gallinule (9)** - 9/4 - same as above.
- + **Dunlin** - 9/4 - same as above.
- + **Pileated Woodpecker** - 9/4 - same as above
- + **Northern Mockingbird** - 9/4 - same as above
- + **Orange-Crowned Warbler** - 9/4 - same as above
- + **Pine Warbler** - 9/4 - same as above
- + **Ovenbird (5)** - 9/4 - same as above
- + **Glossy Ibis (2)** - 9/24 by Louise Endres at Sand Lake near Havana.
- + **Ruby-Crowned Kinglet** - 9/29 by Les & Mary Bodell at their house in Washington.
- + **Golden-Crowned Kinglet** - 9/29 - same as above.
- + **Gray Catbird** - 9/29 - same as above.
- + **White-Throated Sparrow** - 9/29 - same as above, and 10/9 by Virginia Humphreys at the Crumley Farm off Autumn in the Oak Woods at Camp Wokanda.
- + **Yellow-Rumped Warbler** - 10/2 by Brenda Onken at
- + **Dark-Eyed Junco** - 10/5 by Virginia Humphreys/Louise Augustine at Izaack Walton near Metamora.
- + **Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker** - 10/5 - same as above.
- + **Cedar Waxwing (lots)** - 10/5 - same as above.
- + **Eastern Bluebird (lots)** - 10/5 - same as above.
- + **Merlin** - 10/9 by Virginia Humphreys at the Crumley Farm off Spring Creek Road.
- + **Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher** - 10/9 - same as above.



AUDUBON CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Nov. 9 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum (in the Auditorium). Program: **Kelly O'Leary**, a photographer who has traveled extensively in the United States and Canada. Also, the slate of officers will be presented. (Due to lack of Nominating Committee members, this was not done in October.)

Nov. 12 (Sat.): Bird Seed Sale - see attached flier for more information or contact Bert Princen at (309) 691-0519.

Nov. 9 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum (in the Auditorium). Program: **Kelly O'Leary?**, a photographer and world traveler, will be speaking. Also, the slate of officers will be presented. (Due to lack of Nominating Committee members, this was not done in October.)

Nov. 19 (Sat.): Bird Hike* - 9:00 AM (to approx. 12:00 PM) at **Evergreen Lake** near Bloomington. I haven't been there yet, so I'm not sure what the trails are like. Come and be surprised! (We'll probably stop somewhere interesting in Bloomington for lunch!)

Dec. 14 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum (in the Auditorium). Program: **Members' Night** - bring your slides, movies, stories, etc. and brag a little about this past year's sightings and activities. Also, we will have the election of officers.

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

Dec. 23 (Fri.): Chautauqua Christmas Bird Count. We need volunteers! Call Richard Bjorklund at 968-6502 for more information.

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

Jan. 11 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum. Program: **Potluck Supper** - bring your favorite dish (with food in it, of course)! Also, we will be discussing the results of the three Christmas counts.

Jan. 28 (Sat.): Bald Eagle Day at Forest Park Nature Center. More information in next newsletter.

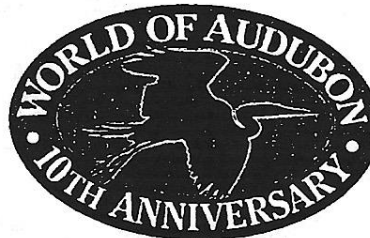
Feb. 4 (Sat.): Bald Eagle Count - 8:00 AM along Illinois River between Henry and Havana. More information in next newsletter.

Feb. 8 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum. Program: to be announced in next newsletter.

Mar. 8 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum. Program: to be announced in next newsletter.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

We really need your help! You don't have to know anything about birds - we can also use people to drive and tally. For more information, see the details listed on the left.



**National Audubon Society
&
Turner Broadcasting
present**

The World of Audubon 10th Anniversary Special

Join hosts Lauren Hutton and Richard Dean Anderson on this remarkable adventure, featuring Audubon's most powerful and controversial films of the last decade.

**Premieres on TBS SuperStation
Sunday, November 20, 1994
at 9:00PM (EST)**

**Encores: Monday, November 21 at 12:00AM (EST)
Saturday, November 26 at 10:05AM (EST)
Monday, November 28 at 2:35AM (EST)**

BE SURE TO WATCH!

* **BIRD HIKES:** Trails will probably be muddy, so be sure to wear grubby clothes and shoes. May be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions (namely, rain), so be sure to RSVP. Call Jana Smith at 382-3889 (home) or 672-6937 (work) for more information and RSVP.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS - Jana Smith

On the September 10 canoe trip on the Fox River near Ottawa, we observed 28 species of birds. The fun-loving people who went were Joe Laszlo, Holly Love, Brenda Onken, Dan Holm, Les ("The Wettest of Them All") Bodell, Mary Bodell, and me. On the way home, we ate at Duffy's, an 1890's pub in Utica, where the food and the atmosphere are both good.

The Jubilee Harvest Fest and bird hike on September 17 were enjoyed by Les, Brenda, Dan, and me. 20 species of birds were counted, and mass quantities of good food were consumed! Roasted corn-on-the-cob, freshly-baked bread and cinnamon rolls, corn stew, and apple slices covered with hot caramel were just some of the delicacies available. Brenda manned the Audubon booth (also on September 18) in the old-fashioned blouse and long skirt we coaxed her into wearing!

Les, Mary, Brenda, and I were foolish enough to hike 26 miles on the Rock Island Trail from Alta to Toulon on October 9. We were all sore by the 21st mile at Wyoming (with the exception of Brenda, with whom we were mildly annoyed for being in such good shape). I think I was in the worst shape, even though I was the youngest one there. My husband, Jerry, rode 80 miles back and forth on his mountain bike, and we were mildly annoyed with him, too, because he could have ridden another 80. We do plan to do this again some time, but some of us have vowed to get into better shape first! (We did identify 46 species of birds!)

Our wiener roast on October 15 at McNaughton Park in Pekin was fun, but only the usual few were there - Les, Mary, Brenda, and I - plus my husband, Jerry. We ate hot dogs (of course), potato salad, baked beans, and s'mores and talked about hundreds of subjects around the fire.

BIRD "SPOTLIGHT": PURPLE FINCH - Brenda Onken

The Purple Finch is a delightful little bird that migrates from its nesting area in the northern United States to winter with us here in Central Illinois. It may be found in woodlands, forest edges, and even parks, but is most likely to be observed at winter feeders.

Roger Tory Peterson describes the male Purple Finch "like a sparrow dipped in raspberry juice". The female is brown and sparrow-like with broad streaks on her breast and a broad jaw stripe. This bird is often confused with the House Finch, but the male House Finch is more red than purple and more brown on the back. The female House Finch has finer streaks.

Hopefully, you will get to see Purple Finches at your feeder this winter. They are especially fond of sunflower seeds.

HAWK WATCH DAY REPORT - Richard Bjorklund

Tom Lerczak and I participated in Hawk Watch Day from the Sand Dome at Gleason Nature Preserve in Sand Ridge Forest on October 1. Here are the results: 31 Turkey Vultures, 1 Osprey, 1 Bald Eagle (immature), 8 Sharp-Shinned Hawks, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 10 Broad-Winged Hawks, 19 Red-Tailed Hawks, 2 unidentified Buteos, and 1 unidentified Accipiter, for a total of 74 birds of prey.

No "kettles" (large groups of migrating hawks) were observed, except for the initial activity of the Turkey Vultures. It was interesting to see a naive juvenile Red-Tailed Hawk make a very close pass at my plastic Great Horned Owl, which was mounted on a fence post!

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:


Peoria Audubon would like to thank the following businesses for donating the wonderful **bird feeders** that we used for game prizes at the September and October meetings:

Schneider's Gartenhaus
Tom & Deb Schneider
310 S. Main St., N. Pekin
(309) 382-2200

Creative Landscaping
Feed and Garden Center
1400 Broadway, Pekin
(309) 353-7777

The levee rehabilitation project at Chautauqua National Refuge was still in progress and that area closed to the public as of October 17. The eastern shoreline between the headquarters and the recreation area and between the crossdike and the north levee are open to public access. For more information, contact the refuge headquarters on weekdays between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM at (309) 535-2290.

**PEOPLE
WATER
WILDLIFE**



**1994
Audubon
National
Convention**

Nowhere in our country better emphasizes the complex interactions of exploding growth, an internationally renowned ecosystem (The Everglades) and endangered species forging a new dynamic in ecosystem management, than South Florida. Audubon is returning to its roots of a century ago—now facing a far more complex set of circumstances, with many more players. Audubon can again be the leader to "save the glades" and its incomparable wildlife values.

Will this be a worthwhile experience? Each of us asks this question when investing time and money. Consider these personal benefits:

- Gain valuable insights from fellow Auduboners and interact with staff
- Develop proactive strategies to win environmental battles in your "backyard"
- Enjoy fabulous field trips with premier birding
- Learn about effective communication networks and chapter building
- Share an evening with Audubon's National Board members, who will award the Audubon Medal to Jimmy Carter at the Great Egret Annual Dinner
- Receive the very latest info from the Cairo Population Conference
- "Rub elbows" with leading scientists on the Mobile Learning Lab
- Hear about new programs offered by our Education Dept. & TV Productions

Participants can choose from three unique components—Fort Myers Convention, Mobile Learning Lab into Everglades National Park, and the Population Conference in Miami. It's a perfect opportunity for you to make a difference!

For registration information please contact:
AUDUBON CONVENTION OFFICE
4150 Darley Avenue, Suite 5; Boulder, CO 80303
(303) 499-3622; Fax (303) 499-0286
Travel Information: CALIGO VENTURES (800) 426-7781

CONSERVATION - Les Bodell (309) 745-5479

Endangered Species Conference

On September 24, Brenda Onken and I attended an all-day conference at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. It was sponsored by the Endangered Species Coalition, of which National Audubon is a member, and the topic was the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. There were about 16 different workshops and lectures covering everything from current legislation to amend ESA, to private property rights. Please contact Brenda or me if you would like more information.

Other Issues

I recently received a letter inviting Peoria Audubon to submit ideas for local conservation issues and leadership programs to be discussed by the Great Lakes Regional Office. They will then choose which ones to focus on in the coming year. If you have any suggestions for our submissions, please contact me, and I will bring it to the attention of our board for approval. A nomination form must be sent in by December 14, which gives us little time, so let me know soon.

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club HARVEST DINNER

✦ A dinner of homemade soups, breads and desserts

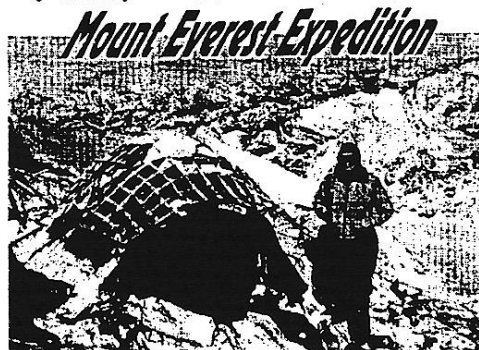
6:00 PM, Saturday, November 3

✦ GRACE and PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7611 N. Knoxville Ave.

\$6 for adults, \$3 for children

✦ Reservations - Contact Joyce, 682-0990 or Chris, 682-0949

✦ Guest Speaker **BARB GURTLE**



Barb Gurtler of Peoria will give a slide presentation of her recent climbing expedition to Mt. Everest. Join us to hear about her experiences in one of the world's most forbidding and beautiful environments.

"Bird's Eye View" is published bi-monthly by the Peoria Audubon Society. The next article due date will be December 10. Call or send items of interest to Jana Smith, Newsletter Editor, Peoria Audubon Society, 104 S. Main St., N. Pekin, IL 61554. (H) 382-3889 or (V) 672-6937 or work fax 672-6079.

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



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