

# 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

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1995

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### NOTE FROM THE OFFICERS/BOARD

Check the back page for new officers/board members.

### RECENT SIGHTINGS:

- + **American Avocet (10)** - 11/4 by Dick & Sigurd Bjorklund at Lake Chautauqua.
- + **Common Loon** - 11/13 by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith at Evergreen Lake near Bloomington and **(3)** on 11/20 by Brenda Onken/Les & Mary Bodell, same place.
- + **Sandhill Crane (5)** - 11/16 by Gussie Beetschen/Virginia Humphreys/Eunice Tjaden at Lake Chautauqua.
- + **Glossy Ibis** - 11/16 - same as above.
- + **Oldsquaw** - 11/20 by Virginia Humphreys/Linda Nicot at Spring Lake.
- + **Horned Grebe** - 11/22 by Brenda Onken/Les Bodell at Spring Lake.
- + **Bald Eagle NEST** - 11/25 by Dick Bjorklund.
- + **Winter Wren (2)** - 11/25 by Brenda Onken/Jana Smith at Cooper Park boardwalk trail in East Peoria.
- + **Red-Necked Grebe (2)** - 11/25 by Virginia Humphreys/Louise Endres at Spring Lake.
- + **Bald Eagle** - 10/29 by Bert & Greet Princen at MSD near Canton and 12/6 (2 adults, 1 immature) by Gussie Beetschen/Virginia Humphreys/Eunice Tjaden at Lake Chautauqua.

60 species were seen on the 10/29 MSD field trip, and the Princens saw many of the same plus 19 more on their trip along the river on 11/19. That's a lot of birds for late fall, and many species that we know are around weren't spotted on those trips. Check the next newsletter for a detailed listing!

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN JAN./FEB - Maury Brucker

Finding birds on a sunny winter day in Illinois is a special delight. Tree Sparrows, Juncos, Cardinals, Chickadees, woodpeckers, and other species can be found feeding in mixed flocks. So walk briskly until you find a flock, then take time to let all the species show themselves. Winter is the only time to find Rough-Legged Hawks, Snowy Owls, and Northern Shrikes in this area. Let other birders know if you spot these birds, because they do settle down in winter feeding territories. Watch your feeders for winter finches. Once in awhile in areas with food protected from the wind, a late robin may be seen.

### BIRD "SPOTLIGHT": CAROLINA WREN - Brenda Onken

The Carolina Wren is a rather large wren that is reddish brown on the back and wings and buffy below. Above its eye is a prominent white eyebrow stripe. Like most wrens, its tail often sticks straight up. It is most likely to be found in bottomland woods and brushy undergrowth. These wrens tend to stay low, but will come up occasionally to sit on a log or stump and sing "tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea". When you are out in the woods and hear this song, do try to find the singer. It is a joy to see this wren in the winter.

As a result of severe winters, the Carolina Wren population suffered a drastic decline in the late 1970's. The birds that did survive these bad winters did so by visiting feeders and seeking shelter in old outbuildings and garages. There has been good news, though, for the last several years. Christmas bird counts have indicated a good recovery for these dear little birds. If you live near the woods, check your feeder for a possible visit from a Carolina Wren.

**CONSERVATION - Les Bodell (309) 745-5479**

**Bird Seed Sale**

Thanks again to Bert & Green Princen for their efforts in organizing the annual bird seed sale, jointly held by Friends of the Rock Island Trail & Peoria Audubon Society. They had just been home an hour from their South American trip when their phone started ringing with our requests for help. It was our best year yet in terms of pounds sold.

**Peoria-to-Chicago Corridor**

On November 29, I attended a meeting with Hal Gardner, the Sierra Club Conservation Chair, and Gary McConkey (and other staff members) of the Illinois Department of Transportation. The purpose of the meeting was to bring us up to date on the proposed Peoria-to-Chicago corridor. Although it is still in the feasibility stage of planning, it appears it would take one of 4 possible routes. One possible route would run along the bluff from just outside Peoria to I-80 near Hennepin. This route could be devastating to the ecology along the river bluff, cost millions, and according to IDOT personnel, save only 10 minutes of travel time. If you agree that this is not the best route, please contact: Dale Risinger, IDOT, 401 Main Street, Peoria, IL 61602.

**OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

**CORRECTION regarding open areas at Chautauqua:**

Because of the Lake Chautauqua Habitat Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project (HREP), which is scheduled to extend through 1995, the following areas are closed: Boatyard #3 access area; north levee; crossdike; access road from Recreation Area to crossdike; and south levee.

From January 15 through October 15, all of the Refuge except for the HREP area is open for wildlife observation. From October 16 through January 14, only the land area from the Refuge Headquarters to the Recreation Area is open. Certain areas of the Refuge are closed during this time to lessen the disturbance of migrating waterfowl and bald eagles.

The **Workshops** section of Audubon Camps and Workshops program has a **new address**: National Audubon Ecology & Photography Tours, P.O. Box 530, Sandstone, MN 55072, (612) 245-2648, fax (612) 245-5272.

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"Bird's Eye View" is published bi-monthly by the Peoria Audubon Society. The next article due date will be February 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 (W) 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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	Linda Nicot.....95/96
	Mike Miller.....95/96
Information	Greet Princen.....(309) 691-0519

**AUDUBON CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

Jan. 5 (Thu.): Board Meeting - 7:00 PM at Maloof Realty.  
Jan. 11 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 6:30 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. 21 (Sat.): Bald Eagle Day at Forest Park Nature Center. Call Marj Tattersall at (309) 692-2247 for more information.  
Jan. 28 (Sat.): Bald Eagle Count - 8:00 AM along Illinois River between Henry and Havana. Call Marj Tattersall at (309) 692-2247 for more information.  
Feb. 8 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum.  
Program: to be announced.  
Mar. 8 (Wed.): Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum.  
Program: to be announced.

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