

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 1995

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN MAY/JUNE - Maury Brucker

May/June is the high point of the birding year for two reasons. First, the main force of brightly-colored spring migrants passes through in waves beginning the last week in April or first week in May. The best time to see many different birds is when a weather front (showers) temporarily stops the migrants in our area. Second, there is a great increase in the activity of breeding birds. Take some time to learn about bird behavior this year.

RECENT SIGHTINGS:

- + **Short-Eared Owl** - 2/18 by Marj Tattersall/Louise Endres in Victoria, IL.
- + **Solitary Sandpiper (3)** - 3/19 by same at Banner Marsh.
- + **White-Throated Sparrow** - 4/1 by Brenda Onken/Dan Holm/Jana Smith at Farmdale Park in Sunnyland.
- + **Fox Sparrow** - same as above.
- + **Scarlet Tanager** - 4/4 by LuAnn Elwood along Route 136 near San Jose.
- + **Brown Thrasher** - 4/7 by Bert & Greet Princen at home.
- + **Yellow-Rumped Warbler** - 4/8 same as above.
- + **Golden Plover (24)** - 4/8 by same at Sand Lake.
- + **Common Loon** - 4/9 by Virginia Humphreys along Route 8 beyond Pottstown.
- + **Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker** - 4/11 by Louise Endres at home.
- + **Winter Wren** - 4/14 by Louise Endres at Forest Park.
- + **Hermit Thrush** - 4/14 by group on bird hike at Forest Park.
- + **Red-Breasted Nuthatch** - 4/14 by Marj Tattersall at home.
- + **White Pelican (13)** - 4/6 by many at Lake Chautauqua.

FIELD TRIP REPORT:

Eleven members participated in the MSD field trip south of Canton on 3/25. The following 49 species were seen:

Pied-Billed Grebe	Killdeer
Great Blue Heron	Ring-Billed Gull
Common Egret	Barred Owl
Mute Swan	Red-Bellied Woodpecker
Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker
Green-Winged Teal	Common Flicker
Mallard	Horned Lark
Northern Pintail	Tree Swallow
Blue-Winged Teal	Blue Jay
Northern Shoveler	American Crow
Gadwall	Black-Capped Chickadee
American Wigeon	White-Breasted Nuthatch
Ring-Necked Duck	Golden-Crowned Kinglet
Lesser Scaup	American Robin
Common Goldeneye	European Starling
Bufflehead	Northern Cardinal
Common Merganser	Fox Sparrow
Red-Breasted Merganser	Song Swallow
Ruddy Duck	Dark-Eyed Junco
Turkey Vulture	Red-Winged Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Eastern Meadowlark
Northern Harrier	Common Grackle
Red-Tailed Hawk	House Finch
Ring-Necked Pheasant	House Sparrow
American Coot	

After the conclusion of the official part of the trip, several groups also saw Wood Duck and Eastern Bluebird on the MWRD property, looking in from an adjacent road. Other species seen around Duck Island included American Kestrel, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, and Brown-Headed Cowbird, for a grand total of 55 species.

AUDUBON CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

May 6 (Sat.): Spring Bird Count. We need volunteers! You don't have to be an experienced birder - we also need people to drive and tabulate. Please contact one of the following people and let them know you'll help - it's fun!

Fulton County	Helen Gasdorf	676-3384
Mason County	Richard Bjorklund	968-6502
Peoria County	Mike Miller	685-6705
Tazewell County	Louise Endres	682-8500
Woodford County	Brenda Onken	923-7676

May 12 (Fri.): Bird Walk - 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Forest Park before meeting. Some hills - might be muddy - could be canceled if it rains. Call Jana Smith at 672-6937 (days) or 382-3889 (evenings) for more information and RSVP.

Membership Meeting - 7:30 PM at Forest Park Nature Center. Program: **Nature's Music**, a witty, engaging program examining the sounds animals make and why they make them (held in conjunction with the Nature Center).

May 13 (Sat.): Bird-A-Thon. This is the second year we are working together with Wildlife Prairie Park, The Nature Conservancy, and Forest Park Nature Center, and 25% of the proceeds will again go to Partners-In-Flight. **We need people to help collect pledges!** Call Bert Princen at (309) 691-9148 for more information.

May 19-21 (Fri.-Sun.): Illinois Audubon field trip - 5:00 PM Fri. to 1:00 PM Sun. in Southern Illinois and Shawnee National Forest. Cost is a donation to the I.A.S. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary of \$50 per person for I.A.S. members and Friends of the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary or \$65 for others and does not include traveling/eating/sleeping arrangements. Contact Vernon Kleen at (217) 785-8774 (days) or (217) 636-8476 (evenings) or RR 2, Box 481, Athens, IL 62613 for more information. Register in advance and receive an itinerary, specific trip details, a list of places to stay (motels or camping), and other pertinent information.

May 27 (Sat.): Field Trip/Birding Breakfast - 7:00 AM at Robinson Park. Come and join members of the Nature Conservancy for a tour of parts of the park. It is located on Mossville Road, off Route 88/Knoxville. Park in the second lot from Route 88 and meet at the picnic shelter. We'll hike for an hour or two and then have a breakfast provided by Susy Barber of the Nature Conservancy. For more information, call Marj Tattersall at 692-2247.

June 10 (Sat.): Audubon Council of Illinois - DuPage.

June 16-18 (Fri.-Sun.): Kirtland's Warbler North Woods Birding Trip - Contact Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, 1000 Aullwood Road, Dayton, OH 45414-1129, (513) 890-7360 for more information.

Sep. 9 (Sat.): Audubon Council of Illinois - Decatur.

Dec. 9 (Sat.): Audubon Council of Illinois - Thorn Creek.

Dec. 16 (Sat.): Peoria Christmas Bird Count.

Dec. 23 (Sat.): Chautauqua Christmas Bird Count.

Dec. 30 (Sat.): Chillicothe Christmas Bird Count.

BIRD "SPOTLIGHT":

GREAT BLUE HERON - Brenda Onken

We are fortunate to live by the Illinois River and its backwaters because of the opportunity to see many different kinds of waterfowl, egrets, and herons. The Great Blue Heron, an impressive bird, is the largest and most common heron in this area. He is bluish-gray and has long legs, a long neck, and a long, pointed bill, which he uses to catch fish. This heron is an excellent fisherman! He wades out along the shore and waits patiently for a fish to swim by, then spears it with his sharp bill.

Great Blue Herons can be seen around rivers, lakes, ponds, and even creeks. They fly with their necks pulled in and their long legs straight out behind them and have a slow, even wing beat. They nest in colonies in tall trees, usually with other herons and egrets. It must be a noisy place when the young hatch and beg for food!

BIRD-A-THON on May 13:

Four teams, representing Peoria Audubon Society, Wildlife Prairie Park, Nature Conservancy, and Forest Park Nature Center, will try to find and identify as many bird species in Peoria County as possible in one day as a fund raiser for these organizations. You can help by pledging your money (cents or dollars per species reported) to one or more of these teams or soliciting others to pledge their donations. Of the total collected, 25% will be donated to Partners in Flight, to help protect the neotropical migrants during their migration and stay in their winter quarters. The remainder will be used locally by these organizations for conservation purposes.

RARE BIRD ALERT telephone numbers:

Central IL	(217) 785-1083
Chicago	(708) 671-1522
DuPage	(708) 960-5559
Northwest	(815) 965-3095

FIELD TRIP REPORT - Jana Smith

Brenda Onken and I participated in the Illinois Audubon field trip to the Jasper County Prairie-Chicken Sanctuary on March 10-11. It was great! We saw Northern Harriers going to roost, Short-Eared Owls leaving the roost, and Woodcocks doing their strange mating ritual Friday night. We were up before dawn on Saturday and watched Prairie Chickens displaying and calling, Northern harriers leaving the roost, and Short-Eared Owls that we surprised in their roosting area. This was the first year for that trip, and we think Vernon Kleen did a great job of organizing and leading it! We'll probably do it again next year and hope you'll join us!

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
FACT SHEET**

**CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON CONTRACT
WITH AMERICA LEGISLATION**

Themes for Environmental Advocates

- * Anti-environmental revolution under way by the new Congressional majority. They are determined to roll back 25 years of environmental progress.
- * HR 9 which passed the House March 3 is not what America voted for.
- * It will lead to higher taxes, more bureaucrats and new entitlements, as well as destroy much of the legacy of environmental protection built up over the last 25 years.
- * It is a radical rewriting of the 75 years of Supreme Court interpretation of the Constitution's property clause.
- * In the guise of regulatory reform, it will make it impossible to enforce environmental laws, let corporations off the hook for polluting, and snarl the government in miles of red tape for trying to do its job.

The takings provision of HR 9 are opposed not just by environmental groups, but by the National Conference of State Legislatures, National League of Cities, and 35 state attorneys general.

Congressional Actions through early March:

Takings Bill Passes House

On March 3, the House passed (277-148) HR 925 to compensate landowners whose property has been diminished in value by the effect of federal law or regulation. The bill was narrowed to apply only to "takings" caused by the Endangered Species Act and wetlands protection provisions of the Clean Water Act and Swampbuster in the Farm bill. A further provision guarantees that an owner of water rights under most federal water-related statutes is guaranteed compensation if his water right is diminished by a government action. Congressman Billy Tauzin's original proposal to compensate landowners if 50% of their property value was taken away was considered too mild, and the final bill compensates any landowner if s/he loses 20% of the value of *the portion of the property affected* by the Endangered Species Act or wetlands law. In other words, if a landowner is restricted from cutting a tree because a bald eagle nests there, the landowner can claim compensation from the federal government. If more than 50% of the landowner's property is affected, the government must buy the entire property at the landowner's request. Funding for these payments is to come from the appropriated budgets for the federal programs involved, and the government can enforce the law only if the agency has the money to compensate the affected party.

This radical reinterpretation of the Constitution's compensation clause would cause an avalanche of claims against the government that would cost taxpayers incalculable millions of dollars, perhaps billions, to compensate landowners automatically for virtually any impact by these laws on private property. Or conversely, it will cost the government very little, but the country will have abandoned its efforts to protect endangered species and our most productive type of ecosystem, wetlands. The bill is an extremely effective backdoor effort to gut both the Endangered Species Act and the federal wetlands provision of the Clean Water Act and Swampbuster in the Farm Bill.

Senate Agrees to ESA Moratorium

On March 13, the Senate subcommittee of the Environment and Public Works Committee passed a bill to put a 6-month moratorium on listing of endangered species or designation of critical habitat. A walkout by committee democrats forced Chairman John Chafee (RI) to cancel full committee markup. More recently, Senator Hutchison attached her moratorium to a Defense Rescission appropriations bill, HR 889. In addition to the moratorium, her rider amendment rescinds \$1.5 million for listing endangered species from the US Fish and Wildlife Service budget.

Environmental Pledge Takes Off

This spring, national and local environmental groups are gathering petitions across the country to pledge to an Environmental Bill of Rights. National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and others will be collecting signatures through the spring with a particular emphasis on Earth Day. We will present the petitions to Congress in mid-July. We hope to collect at least a million signatures across the country and encourage environmental advocates to join in this campaign.

For more information, contact the Washington, DC office at (202) 547-9009.

CONSERVATION - Les Bodell (309) 745-5479

Takings Bill

It appears that Senator Moseley-Braun is a key swing vote on the "takings" issue. Please phone her at (202) 224-2854 or write her at Room 320, Hart Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 asking her to oppose bill S.605. We need your help!

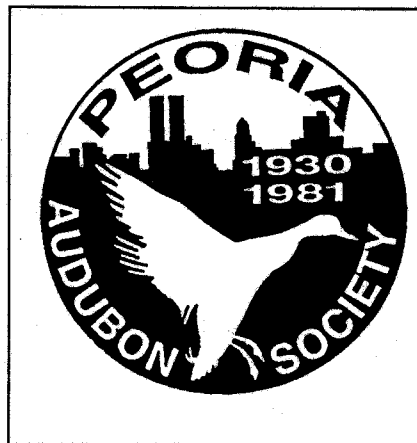
Hats Off to Nature Conservancy!

They did a great job in prairie maintenance this spring.

"Bird's Eye View" is published bi-monthly by the Peoria Audubon Society. The next article due date will be June 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
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**ALL PEORIA BIRDATHON
SPONSOR SIGN-UP SHEET**

Pledge Collector: _____ Phone _____
of species sighted: _____

	Sponsor's Name	Address & Phone	Pledge per Species	Total Owed/ Collected	Organization to donate to
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Peoria Audubon Society Wildlife Prairie Park Forest Park Nature Center The Nature Conservancy

Send Pledges to: Great Princes, 677 E. High Point Terrace, Peoria, IL 61614