

# 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

---

JULY/AUGUST 1995

---

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN JULY/AUGUST - Maury Brucker

Summer birding in Central Illinois tends to center around nesting behavior. This activity can extend into August, as some species have two or even three broods. Walking very early or very late in the day becomes imperative, not only to coincide with the active periods of the birds but also for the comfort of the birder. The behavior of a bird provides the clues to nest location and then to the young birds hanging around for a meal. Nesting success or productivity is the evidence of good breeding habitat for each species. Note the features of the habitat around nests and young such as the mix of plant species, density and texture of cover, food sources, water, etc. The continuing existence of good habitat is key to the presence of birds in our area and our pleasure in watching them. (Footnote: sharing observations magnifies their value.)

### RECENT SIGHTINGS:

- + **Eared Grebe** - 5/13 by Brenda Onken/Bert Princen at Hanna City Sportsmen's Club (on Bird-A-Thon).
- + **Cattle Egret** - 5/13 by Greet Princen/Jana Smith at Cat Tech Center in Mossville (on Bird-A-Thon); 5/27 by Bert & Greet Princen at Sand Lake near Havana; 6/3 by Bert & Greet Princen at Woodford Co. Conservation Area.
- + **Hudsonian Godwit** - 5/13 by Brenda Onken/Bert Princen in flooded field on Old Galena Road (on Bird-A-Thon).
- + **Wilson's Phalarope** - 5/13 by Bert & Greet Princen/Brenda Onken/Jana Smith in flooded field on Old Galena Road (on Bird-A-Thon).
- + **Merlin** - 5/18 by Bert Princen in Peoria, migrating north against a stiff wind.
- + **Wood Thrush** - 5/19 by Brenda Onken at Meadow Valley Park in Washington.
- + **Ruby-Throated Hummingbird** - 5/19 same as above.
- + **Philadelphia Vireo** - 5/19 same as above.
- + **Red-Eyed Vireo** - 5/19 by same as above.
- + **Northern Parula Warbler** - 5/19 same as above.
- + **Green Heron** - 5/23 same as above.
- + **Great Blue Heron (22)** - 5/23 by Brenda Onken at Evergreen Lake near Bloomington.
- + **Great Egret (8)** - 5/23 same as above.
- + **Wilson's Warbler** - 5/23 same as above.
- + **Orchard Oriole** - 5/23 same as above.
- + **Common Moorhen** - 5/27 by Bert & Greet Princen at Sand Lake near Havana.
- + **Summer Tanager** - 6/3 by Bert & Greet Princen at Sun Foundation.

### AUDUBON CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

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.

### RARE BIRD ALERT telephone numbers:

Central IL (217) 785-1083

Chicago (708) 671-1522

DuPage (708) 960-5559

Northwest (815) 965-3095

### BIRD-A-THON RESULTS:

The Bird-A-Thon on May 13 in Peoria County was a success in spite of the rainy, windy weather. Two teams saw 105 species each, and the other team saw 73 species, for a grand total of 132 species in 12 hours by 7 observers. The financial side was also a great success, with approximately \$850 collected so far for the Peoria Audubon Society, Forest Park Nature Center, Wildlife Prairie Park, and Partners in Flight. If anyone has collected or pledged money but has not yet paid, please let Greet Princen know as soon as possible so the final tally can be made.

The total list of bird sightings is on the following page.

### BIRD "SPOTLIGHT":

#### ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK - Brenda Onken

I enjoyed seeing groups of beautiful warblers and other migrants this spring on their journey north to nest. Some neo-tropical birds, such as the Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, stay in central Illinois to breed and raise their young.

This bird has a beautiful song, which has been compared to a Robin that has had voice lessons! The male and female are very different in appearance. The male has a black and white pattern with a triangle of rosy red on a whitish breast. The female resembles a large sparrow with an eyebrow stripe and streaks on the breast.

The Rose-Breasted Grosbeak can be found in deciduous woods and hedgerows with big shrubs. This bird feeds on many insects that are pests, such as tent caterpillars and gypsy moths. This fall, they will migrate south to Mexico and South America for the winter.



SPECIES	Wildlife Prairie	Nature Center	Peoria Audubon	SPECIES	Wildlife Prairie	Nature Center	Peoria Audubon
Pied-Billed Grebe			X	House Wren	X	X	X
Eared Grebe	X			Carolina Wren	X		X
Double Crested Cormorant	X			Ruby-Crowned Kinglet		X	
Great Blue Heron	X	X	X	Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher	X	X	
Great Egret	X	X		Eastern Bluebird	X	X	X
Cattle Egret			X	Veery	X	X	
Green Heron	X			Gray-Cheeked Thrush	X		X
Black-Crowned Night Heron	X			Swainson's Thrush	X	X	X
Canada Goose	X	X	X	Wood Thrush		X	
Wood Duck	X	X		American Robin	X	X	X
Mallard	X	X	X	Gray Catbird	X	X	X
Green-Winged Teal		X		Brown Thrasher	X	X	
Blue-Winged Teal	X	X	X	Cedar Waxwing		X	
Common Merganser			X	European Starling	X	X	X
Turkey Vulture	X	X		Yellow-Throated Vireo	X	X	X
Northern Harrier	X	X		Warbling Vireo	X	X	X
Broad-Winged Hawk		X		Red-Eyed Vireo	X	X	X
Red-Tailed Hawk	X	X	X	Blue-Winged Warbler	X	X	X
American Kestrel	X	X	X	Golden-Winged Warbler		X	X
Peregrine Falcon		X		Tennessee Warbler	X	X	X
Ring-Necked Pheasant	X			Orange-Crowned Warbler		X	
Bobwhite	X	X		Nashville Warbler	X		
American Coot	X		X	Northern Parula Warbler	X	X	X
Semipalmated Plover	X			Yellow Warbler	X	X	X
Killdeer	X	X	X	Chestnut-Sided Warbler	X	X	
Greater Yellowlegs		X		Magnolia Warbler	X	X	X
Lesser Yellowlegs	X	X	X	Cape May Warbler	X		
Solitary Sandpiper			X	Yellow-Rumped Warbler	X	X	X
Spotted Sandpiper	X			Black-Throated Green Warbler	X		
Hudsonian Godwit	X			Blackburnian Warbler	X		X
Least Sandpiper	X	X		Palm Warbler	X	X	
Baird's Sandpiper	X			Blackpoll Warbler	X	X	X
Pectoral Sandpiper		X	X	Cerulean Warbler		X	
Short-Billed Dowitcher	X	X	X	Black-and-White Warbler		X	X
Wilson's Phalarope	X		X	American Redstart	X	X	X
Ring-Billed Gull	X	X	X	Ovenbird		X	
Rock Dove	X	X	X	Northern Waterthrush	X	X	X
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	Kentucky Warbler		X	
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo		X		Common Yellowthroat	X	X	X
Black-Billed Cuckoo		X		Scarlet Tanager	X	X	X
Common Nighthawk	X			Northern Cardinal	X	X	X
Whippoorwill			X	Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	X	X	X
Chimney Swift	X	X	X	Indigo Bunting	X	X	X
Belted Kingfisher	X	X		Dickcissel	X	X	
Northern Flicker	X	X		Rufous-Sided Towhee	X	X	
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	X	X	X	Chipping Sparrow	X	X	
Red-Headed Woodpecker	X	X	X	Field Sparrow	X	X	
Hairy Woodpecker		X		Vesper Sparrow		X	
Downy Woodpecker	X	X	X	Lark Sparrow		X	
Pileated Woodpecker	X			Grasshopper Sparrow	X	X	
Olive-Sided Flycatcher		X		Song Sparrow	X	X	X
Eastern Kingbird	X	X	X	White-Crowned Sparrow	X	X	X
Great-Crested Flycatcher	X	X	X	White-Throated Sparrow		X	X
Eastern Phoebe	X			Red-Winged Blackbird	X	X	X
Least Flycatcher	X	X		Eastern Meadowlark	X	X	X
Eastern Wood Peewee	X	X		Western Meadowlark		X	
Horned Lark	X	X	X	Common Grackle	X	X	X
Cliff Swallow	X	X		Brown-Headed Cowbird	X	X	X
Barn Swallow	X	X	X	Orchard Oriole	X		
Tree Swallow	X	X		Northern Oriole	X	X	X
Bank Swallow	X	X		House Finch	X	X	X
Rough-Winged Swallow	X	X		American Goldfinch	X	X	X
Purple Martin	X	X	X	House Sparrow	X	X	X
Blue Jay	X	X	X	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	X		
American Crow	X	X	X				
Black-Capped Chickadee	X	X	X	<b>Total:</b>	105	105	74
Tufted Titmouse	X	X	X	<b>Grand Total:</b>		132	
White-Breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X				

### Rescission Bill Veto

Congratulations to President Clinton on his first veto! Anti-environmental provisions were important in choosing to exercise the veto upon the Rescission Bill, especially the "forest salvage" mandate to cut two million board feet of dead, diseased, or potentially diseased trees on federal land in the next three years. It would suspend all federal laws in the process, including the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and others. The veto decision was influenced by more than 30,000 calls and e-mail messages on this issue. You can voice your opinion and thank President Clinton for this key veto by calling the White House Opinion Line at (202) 456-1111.

### Dirty Water Bill

The Clean Water Act Reauthorization, H.R. 961, also known as the Schuster Dirty Water Bill, passed the House recently and will soon be acted upon in the Senate. Among its many faults, this act strips protection from most small wetlands. Over 78% of all wetlands in the Prairie Pothole states are less than one acre in size and 50% of all ducks produced in the lower 48 states depend on small wetlands in the Dakotas to provide food and breeding habitat. Please write Senators Simon and Moseley-Braun to oppose this bill.

### Illinois Riverwatch Network

The environmental committee of Peoria Audubon plans to participate in the Illinois Riverwatch Network by monitoring water quality in Crow Creek and possibly other streams. Please let me know if you would like to be involved. A training session will be held soon.



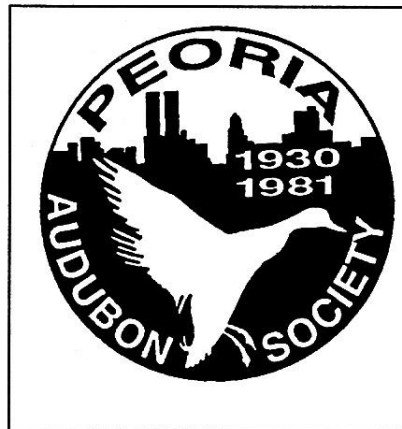
---

"Bird's Eye View" is published bi-monthly by the Peoria Audubon Society. The next article due date will be August 10. Call or send items of interest to Jana Smith, Newsletter Editor, Peoria Audubon Society, 104 S. Main St., N. Pekin, IL 61554. (H) 362-3889 or (W) 672-6937 or work fax 672-6079.

---

-4-

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



Officers	President .....John Ruggles Past President.....Marj Tattersall Vice President.....Brenda Onken Secretary.....Greg Brown Treasurer.....Greet Princen Conservation.....Les Bodell
Board	Jerry Pini.....95 Dick Collins.....95 Katy Collins.....95 Helen Gasdorf.....95/96 Linda Nicot.....95/96 Mike Miller.....95/96
Information	Greet Princen.....(309) 691-0519

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION \*  
\* U. S. POSTAGE PAID \*  
\* PERMIT NUMBER 875 \*  
\* PEORIA, ILLINOIS \*  
\*\*\*\*\*