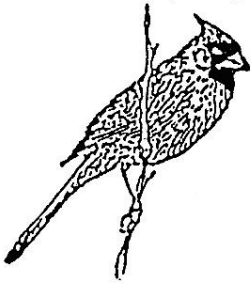


BIRD'S-EYE VIEW



PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SINCE 1981

ORNITHOLOGICAL - AUDUBON CHAPTER
OF THE PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE SINCE 1930

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1995

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN SEP./OCT. - Maury Brucker

Fall migration has already started for many bird species. Some shorebirds are seen in late July and some warblers in late August. The pace of the return migrants is much slower than the spring rush to the breeding grounds. Instead of some warblers passing through the area in as little as a week, the groups of adults and young of the year leisurely spend time feeding on slower insects which have been cooled overnight. Ripening berries and seeds are another attraction of our area. One tip to seeing more birds in the fall is that they respond more quickly to an alarm pishing sound as a carryover from protecting the nest and young. The birds are also feeding quietly, not attracting attention with loud breeding songs and colors, so to see them, waiting quietly and listening often is the key.

RECENT SIGHTINGS:

- + **American Bittern** - 4/15 by Nancy Barr on Cloverdale at the RR tracks in Chillicothe.
- + **"Isabel" American Robin** - 5/4 by Steve Mitchell at Singing Woods ("Isabel" is a type of abnormal coloration on a bird - this bird was all beige but with a red breast).
- + **Loggerhead Shrike** - 8/12 by Bert/Greet Princen at the southern end of Banner Marsh.
- + **Acadian Flycatcher** - by Brenda Onken at her house.

FOREIGN SIGHTINGS:

During their travels in Europe, Bert and Greet Princen saw 138 species of birds and added 4 new life species, which were the Black Stork, Bearded Tit, Red-Footed Falcon, and Middle-Spotted Woodpecker.

SAND RIDGE FOREST SIGHTINGS:

Richard Bjorklund has also reported that the following 14 species have been added to the Sand Ridge Forest Bird Checklist, bringing the total up to 202 species:

Evening Grosbeak
Connecticut Warbler
Semipalmated Plover
Wild Turkey
Worm-Eating Warbler
Cliff Swallow
House Finch

Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher
Bonaparte's Gull
Double-Crested Cormorant
Sanderling
Mute Swan
Sora
Louisiana Waterthrush

OTHER SIGHTINGS:

Louise Endres and Marj Tattersall saw 1 Long-Billed and 22 Short-Billed Dowitchers, 1 Dunlin, 24 Common Snipe, and many Semipalmated Plovers, Pectoral, Solitary, Spotted, and Least Sandpipers in the flooded fields south of Havana on Route 97 on May 6.

On their way back from Audubon member Josephine Franks' 80th birthday party in Pekin on July 30, Bert and Greet Princen stopped briefly at Mendenhall Boat Dock. They saw quite a few shorebirds, including Sanderlings and Stilt Sandpipers among Yellowlegs, Pectorals, peeps, and Killdeer. They also saw 2 Little Blue Herons.

Sally Bridson helps maintain bluebird boxes near her home in Laura. She recommends that anyone who wants to see bluebirds should drive 1-1/2 miles north of Laura on Route 78 and turn west on Lorange Road. From 1 to 1-1/2 miles along the road, bluebirds should be spotted sitting on the telephone wires above their nesting boxes.

Double-Crested Cormorants are now nesting in the Worley Lake heron colony in North Pekin, per Richard Bjorklund.

RARE BIRD ALERT telephone numbers:

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

AUDUBON CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sep. 6 (Wed.): Board meeting - 7:00 PM at Les Bodell's House.

Sep. 8 (Fri.): Membership meeting - 7:00 PM at Forest Park Nature Center. Program: Alan Harkrader will present an exciting slide show on his 290-mile raft trip through the Grand Canyon. Come and join us for this adventure program!

Sep. 9 (Sat.): Audubon Council of Illinois - Decatur. The slate to be voted on consists of Keith Blackmore for President and Russel Johnson for Secretary.

Sep. 16 & 17 (Sat. & Sun.): Jubilee Autumn Harvestfest, 10:00 - 5:00 both days at Jubilee College State Park. Audubon will have a booth. Come and enjoy good food, interesting displays, and good old-fashioned fun.

Sep. 23 (Sat.): Field Trip - Peoria to Havana for migrant aquatic birds, warblers, finches, and sparrows. Meet at 7:30 am at parking lot of Powerton Cooling Lake south of Pekin. Bring a lunch. Call Bert Princen at 691-9148 for more information and RSVP.

Oct. 7 (Sat.): Field Trip - Peoria to Henry along the river and back down the other side to observe migrating waterfowl. Meet at 7:30 am at Forest Park Nature Center. Trip will last to approximately 3:00 PM. Bring a lunch. Call Marj Tattersall at 692-2247 for more information and RSVP.

Oct. 13 (Fri.): Membership meeting - 7:00 PM at Forest Park Nature Center. Program: Jeff Brawn from the INHS will be speaking on Restoration and Prescribed Burning Effects on Birds in the Peoria Wilds, the results of the bird study in Singing Woods.

Oct. 28 (Sat.): Field Trip - Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago near Canton for ducks, geese, swans, and other water birds, raptors, late warblers, and seed eaters. Meet at downtown Farmington at intersection of Rte. 116 & 78 at 8:00 am or at District Headquarters at 8:30 am. Bring a lunch. Call Bert Princen at 691-9148 for more information and RSVP.

Nov. 1 (Wed.): Special Program - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum. Brant Calkin of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance will present a program pertaining to the canyon and desert lands of the Utah wilderness, entitled "Imagine Wilderness: A Journey Through Light and Sound".

Nov. 8 (Wed.): Membership meeting - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum. Program: Bill Douglass, Site Superintendent of Rice Lake and Banner Marsh, will present an informational talk on the Banner Marsh Environmental Management Plan.

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

Dec. 13 (Wed.): Membership meeting - 7:00 PM at Lakeview Museum. Program: Members' Night. Bring your favorite slides, photographs, artwork, and books to share with fellow members.

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

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

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

Mar. 9 (Sat.): Audubon Council of Illinois - Lake County.

June 8 (Sat.): Audubon Council of Illinois - location undecided.

BIRD "SPOTLIGHT":

AMERICAN DIPPER - Brenda Onken

The American Dipper, or Water Ouzel, cannot be found in Illinois, but I saw this bird on vacation out west this summer and found him extremely fun to watch. He loves swift mountain streams and waterfalls, and what makes him unique is his ability to dive into the stream and "fly" underwater using powerful wing beats. He is often seen flying from rock to rock, then he'll dive and pop right back up again. His food consists of insects, mollusks, crustaceans, flatworms, and small fish that he finds underwater. This bird nests on rocky ledges and crevices near the water and returns to the same nest site year after year.

The Water Ouzel is 7 to 8-1/2" long and has slate gray coloring. He has a bobbing or dipping motion - it seems he is never still! His body is protected by a layer of insulating down, with plumage is so dense it is difficult to saturate. The Dipper has a thin membrane (third eyelid) that can be drawn across the eye to keep it clear of dirt and spraying water. Small, moveable flaps of skin close the nostrils when the bird is submerged.

John Muir, the naturalist, had a great fondness for this bird. He wrote, "He is the mountain stream's own darling, the hummingbird of blooming waters, loving rocky ripple slopes and sheets of foam as a bee loves flowers, as a lark loves sunshine and meadows. Among all the mountain birds, none has cheered me so much in my lonely wanderings - none so unfailingly. For both in winter and summer, he sings, sweetly, cheerily, independent alike of sunshine and of love, requiring no other inspiration than the stream on which he dwells."

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

On Saturday, August 19, Greg Brown and the Princens made a quick 2-hour tour of the Peoria Sanitary District's sludge ponds and saw 39 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
Gadwall
Blue-Winged Teal
Red-Tailed Hawk
American Coot
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Ring-Billed Gull
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Red-Bellied Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Tree Swallow
Rough-Winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
American Crow
Carolina Wren
American Robin
European Starling
Northern Cardinal
Indigo Bunting
Song Sparrow
Red-Winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-Headed Cowbird
American Goldfinch

BIRD SEED SALE:

Don't worry about the heat - we're only a few short weeks away from bird feeding time! We will be having our annual seed sale in early November, and you will be getting your order forms in the mail as soon as prices have been established. As always, the seed will be provided by Kelly's Seed and Hardware Store. Please hold off on your purchases until after you get our order form!

FOREST PARK NATURE CENTER EVENTS:

Museum and Nature Store open Monday through Saturday 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM and Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Trails open daily from dawn to dusk. Call (309) 686-3360 for more information.

Sep. 1 (Fri.): Members Night at the Van Zandt Observatory with Dave Grebner, 8:00 - 9:30 PM, CORE members of all ages; free.

Sep. 9 (Sat.): Insect collection workshop with Bob Bartelt, 9:30 - 11:30 AM, high school age and adults; \$12 for CORE members, \$15 for residents, \$18 for non-residents.

Sep. 10 (Sun.): Enjoying Nature With Your "Buddy", 1:30 - 2:30 PM, ages 7-10 and an adult "buddy"; free.

Sep. 15 (Fri.): "Ant Antics" with Mark Dubois, 7:30 - 8:30 PM, adults and accompanied children; free for CORE members, \$1 for residents, \$1.50 for non-residents.

Sep. 24 (Sun.): Bird Feeder Primer, 1:30 PM, adults; free.

Sep. 30 (Sat.): Tree ID Walk, 1:30 - 2:30 PM, all ages; free.

Oct. 1 (Sun.): Prairie Day, 1:30 - 4:30 PM, all ages; free.

Oct. - May (1st Sat. of each month): Ranger Rick, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, ages 5 - 7; \$28 for CORE members, \$30 for residents, \$32 for non-residents.

Oct. - May (1st Sat. of each month): Explorers, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, ages 8 - 10; \$28 for CORE members, \$30 for residents, \$32 for non-residents.

CONSERVATION - Les Bodell (309) 745-5479

Illinois Riverwatch Network Workshops

On June 12, Audubon and Sierra Club members attended a workshop sponsored by the Illinois Riverwatch Network to learn how to monitor streams for erosion, pollution, vegetation, etc. A follow-up workshop on August 7 taught us to identify macro-invertebrates, which are pollution indicators. We have chosen Crow Creek as one of our sites, and if you are interested in helping in the future, please contact me or the Illinois Riverwatch Network office at (309) 677-3685.

River/Wetland Tours

Several Audubon members recently had the opportunity to tour the man-made island in upper Peoria Lake and the reopened east channel of the Illinois River. Following that, we also toured at the Woodford County Conservation Area, where a 160-plus-acre forested wetland was modified to enhance migratory waterfowl usage. Both areas showed some promise for improved wildlife habitat, although fish promptly ate the planted lake bottom vegetation. In the case of the conservation area, many fine trees were lost to levee construction. Over three miles of levee were built to enclose ponds that will be filled during migration and then drained during the rest of the year. The island is about 1 mile long and was built from dredged material, making that part of the lake slightly deeper. At nearly 1.5 million in cost, let's hope it works!

Hats Off!

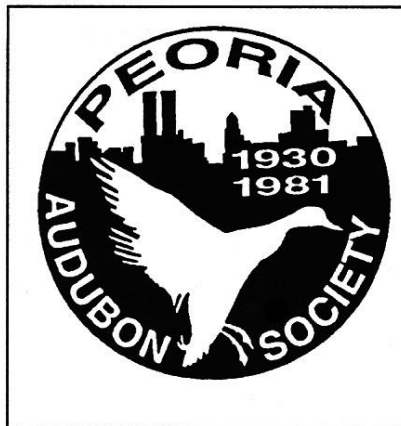
Hats off to three of our members:

- ~ Linda Nicot, for another year of work on the John Findlay III Bluebird Trail!
- ~ Jana Smith, for another year of work on the newsletter!
- ~ Brenda Onken, for combining birding and mountaineering when she climbed Hallett Peak (12,713 feet) in search of a bird!

"Bird's Eye View" is published bi-monthly by the Peoria Audubon Society. The next article due date will be October 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.

-4-

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



Officers	PresidentJohn 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 *
