

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 1995

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 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".

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

December 13 (Wed): Membership Meeting - 7:00 pm at Lakeview Museum. Members' Night. Bring your slides, photographs, films, artwork, books and stories to share with fellow members.

December 14 (Thu): Annual Meeting of the Peoria Academy of Science. Election of Officers, Review of Section activities. Dr. Max Taylor will present a program, entitled "Who killed Napoleon?"

January 10 (Wed): Annual Potluck - 6:30 pm at Lakeview Museum. Bring your own place setting and a favorite dish to share. We will also review and discuss the Christmas Count results.

February 14 (Wed): Membership Meeting - 7:00 pm at Lakeview Museum. Program to be announced.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

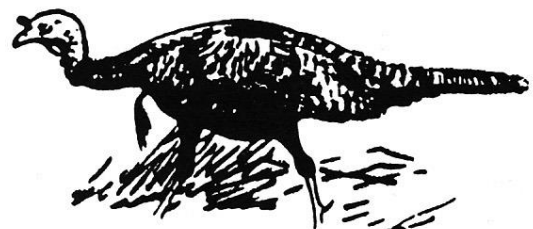
October 28 (Sat): Field trip to the Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago near Canton, IL for ducks, geese, other water birds, raptors, late warblers and seed eaters. Meet at beautiful downtown Farmington at 8:00 am at the most western intersection of Rt 116 and 78 or at 8:30 am at District Headquarters on the Cuba Blacktop. Bring lunch. Call Bert Princen at 691-9148 for participation or more information.

December 16 (Sat): Peoria Christmas Bird Count.

December 23 (Sat): Chautauqua Xmas Bird Count.

December 30 (Sat): Chillicothe Xmas Bird Count.

If interested in participating in any of these Christmas Bird Counts, please contact Bert Princen at 691-9148.



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Fourteen people, including 3 English visiting bird watchers, participated in the field trip on September 23 from Peoria to Havana along the river to see fall migrants. Bert Princen was trip leader. The following (76) species were seen:

Pied-billed Grebe	Mourning Dove
Double-crested Cormorant	Chimney Swift
Mute Swan	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Canada Goose	Common Flicker
Mallard	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Black Duck	Red-headed Woodpecker
Northern Pintail	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
American Wigeon	Downey Woodpecker
Northern Shoveler	Eastern Phoebe
Blue-winged Teal	Eastern Wood Peewee
Green-winged Teal	Horned Lark
Wood Duck	Barn Swallow
Ring-necked Duck	Cliff Swallow
Ruddy Duck	Tree Swallow
Red-breasted Merganser	Blue Jay
Turkey Vulture	Common Crow
Cooper's Hawk	Black-capped Chickadee
Northern Harrier	Tufted Titmouse
Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch
Merlin	American Robin
American Kestrel	Eastern Bluebird
Ring-necked Pheasant	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Common Egret	Cedar Waxwing
Cattle Egret	Common Starling
Great Blue Heron	Orange-crowned Warbler
Little Blue Heron	Magnolia Warbler
Green-backed Heron	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Common Moorhen	House Sparrow
American Coot	Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Eastern Meadowlark
Killdeer	Red-winged Blackbird
Greater Yellowlegs	Common Grackle
Lesser Yellowlegs	Brown-headed Cowbird
Spotted Sandpiper	Northern Oriole
Herring Gull	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	American Goldfinch
Caspian Tern	House Finch
Rock Dove	Field Sparrow

Five people, including Ted Hemstra, a fellow Audubon member from Fort Wayne, IN, who found out about our field trip through Forest Park Nature Center, participated in the Illinois River Field Trip to Henry and back on October 7. Marj Tattersall was trip leader. The group spotted 38 species, but it was windy and overcast, which made identifications difficult, especially for ducks. The team enjoyed the hospitality of Maury Brucker at his prairie project north of Sparland and of Dick Barthel at his cabin on the river backwaters north of Lacon. Special highlights were Philadelphia Vireo, Green Heron and two Belted Kingfishers.

CONSERVATION - Les Bodell (309)-745-5479

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

There is a movement in the U.S. Congress at this very moment to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas drilling. As many of you know, this is home to the 152,000-member Porcupine Caribou Herd and a nesting site for millions of migratory birds from four continents. It is also the denning habitat for the Beaufort Sea polar bear population. Disruption and destruction of this vital area would be for only an estimated 200 days of our Nation's oil consumption (which I feel should be left for future generations). To protect this area, we need your help now! PLEASE, CALL or WRITE your Senators Moseley-Braun and Simon, and your Representatives. The local office number for Representative LaHood is (309)-671-7027, and ask him to oppose oil and gas drilling in the refuge.

Logging in Sand Ridge State Forest

Locally, the Audubon Conservation Committee has been involved in the proposed logging issue at Sand Ridge State Forest. Originally, nearly 300 acres were to be logged or thinned, and we made two trips to the area, map in hand, to see what the impact would be in our opinion. Subsequently, I sent a fax to the Department of Natural Resources to explain our position, to approve some logging plans, and to reject some others. Since then, the DNR has revised its plan and has reduced the proposed logging by about 45 acres. In response to this, flying ace and Audubon member Richard Barthel flew Mary Bodell, Brenda Onken and me over the area to get a better assessment of what was involved. Thereafter we have contacted the DNR, expressing our concerns about logging in areas that contain established trails. Our aerial survey of the Forest revealed that only approx. 30% of the area is made up of thick stands of pine, and we feel that the more majestic of these stands should be left undisturbed.

Hats Off !!!!

To Dick Barthel, who was kind enough to fly the committee over the Forest for the survey.

To the S.A.F.E. group from Illinois Central College for its roadside clean-up efforts.

BIRDSEED SALE - November 11 Pick-Up

Attached to this newsletter is the form to order your birdseed as part of our joint annual fund drive with the Friends of the Rock Island Trail. All seed is of high quality and will be provided by the Kelly Seed and Hardware Co. as usual. Seed can be purchased by pre-ordering only. Please, fill in your form and mail with your check for the required amount immediately to the designated address. Last year, the total order was a record 8100 lbs. Let us break that again this year. We can do it. As the late Mayor Daly Sr. of Chicago used to say: "Vote early and vote often". In our situation, we must paraphrase that to: "Buy early and buy lots". We will be looking forward to your orders. And don't forget to pick up your seed on Saturday, November 11 between 9 am and noon at the Metro Centre Farmer's Market.

AUDUBON COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

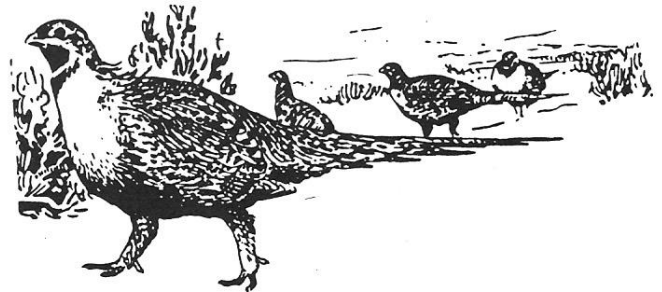
Our Peoria Audubon Society is an active member of the Audubon Council of Illinois, which is a cooperative effort by all the chapters of the National Audubon Society in Illinois to coordinate their operations regarding environmental issues. They work together on contacting Federal and State legislators about upcoming laws and regulations, on education of members and nonmembers alike, and on development of new leaders for the chapters. The Council meets four times a year somewhere in Illinois with one of the chapters serving as host. We have 4 votes on Council matters, but we rarely have that many people present at the meetings. If you are interested in attending and participating, please contact Bert or Greet Princen (691-9148) for more information. The next meeting will be December 2 in the Chicago area with Thorn Creek Audubon Society as host.

BIRD "SPOTLIGHT"

CANADA GOOSE - BRENDA ONKEN

Just as the Robin is the harbinger of Spring, the migration of Canada Geese signals the arrival of Fall. Seeing great skeins of Canada Geese flying in their typical "V" formation is an enjoyable sight. There are early migrants, and others arrive later when it gets colder. They come down from the north to warmer waters. Canada Geese nest around this area near lakes, ponds and marshes. A pair of geese will form a long-term bond. They are protective of their nest site and young. In the Spring, they can be found on the water with their goslings. One parent takes the lead, the babies swim in the middle, and the other parent closes up the rear.

Visiting a lake where Canada Geese land in great numbers is a wonderful experience. I enjoy hearing them "honk" and watch them feeding. Bottoms up! One evening, Virginia Humphries, Eunice Tjaden and I were birding at Lake Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge in October, and the moon stood low, big and orange. We were watching the Canada Geese fly in. One particular line of geese flew right in front of the moon. What a beautiful sight! We all thought that it was a wonderful way to end a good birding day.



**Peoria Audubon Society
Peoria Academy of Science
1125 West Lake Ave.
Peoria, IL 61614**



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