

Bird's-Eye View November/December 1997



The Newsletter of The Peoria Audubon Society...

A Chapter of National Audubon since 1981

Ornithological-Audubon Chapter of The Peoria Academy of Science since 1930

Conservation Report...

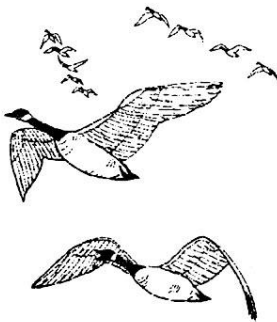
by Les Bodell

I would like to start off by saying that on Friday, September 19, I drove 4 hours to a Chicago Suburb to attend a 7:00 PM Healthy Habitats meeting only to find out that it was canceled (not a happy camper). But the Audubon Council of Illinois meeting the following day at Ryerson Forest Preserve made up for it. We received numerous updates and reports on pending legislation including reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. By the way, October is the 25th anniversary of this all important piece of legislation.

Steve Sedam gave a report on the upcoming Great Lakes Regional Conference to be held on Friday, November 7 through Sunday, November 9 at Michigan City, Indiana. While there, we can expect to see up to 20,000 Sandhill Cranes at nearby Jasper-Pulaski State Wildlife Area. There will be numerous seminars and field trips led by expert birders.

For those of you who would like to keep up to date on current legislation, call the Legislative Information Hotline at (202)225-1772. Have the Bill's number handy. You can also contact me at (309)745-5479 for more information.

Don't forget to help Peoria Audubon Society achieve it's 1998 goals by participating in the annual birdseed sale!



Annual Christmas Count Dates...

It's once again time to brush off the binocs and head out during the holidays to track our winter bird populations. Please note that this year we are in need of a compiler for the Chillicothe Count. If you are interested in helping Compile for Chillicothe, contact Brenda Onken at (309)923-7676. If you are interested in participating in any of the other counts, contact the compilers listed below.

Peoria Christmas Count, Sat, Dec 20
Dr. Bert Princen, (309)691-0519

Chautauqua Christmas Count, Sat, Dec 27
Dr. Richard Bjorklund, (309)968-6502

Chillicothe Count, Sat, Jan 3

Species Spotlight...

The Red-bellied Woodpecker by Brenda Onken

Fall is definitely here! I love the cooler temperatures and the beautiful colors that appear from the turning leaves. On my search for migrating warblers, I was also noticing the butterflies that were attracted to the tall prairie plants and goldenrods. The Monarchs were present in large numbers. After all, they were on migration too.

Turning my mind back to the warblers, I entered the woods. There I began to observe a busy Red-bellied Woodpecker, flying back and forth. It landed on a dead tree, where, through my binoculars, I noticed it stuffing an acorn into a hole. Off it would fly, then return with another acorn. Tap, tap, tap... it would stuff the acorn in, making sure that it was there to stay.

When I returned home, I pulled out my copy of *The Birder's Handbook* to find out about this behavior. I learned that Red-bellies hoard nuts, fruits, seeds and acorns. All make up part of their diet.

This particular bird was a female and she was busy. Most people are familiar with the Red-bellied Woodpecker. They frequently visit feeders to eat suet and black oil sunflower. The nape of the neck on the female is red, while the male sports a red nape and crown. They get their name from the tinge of red that adorns their bellies. They construct nests in dead wood by excavating a hole.

To encourage these birds and others to visit you this winter, order your seed from Peoria Audubon today. Your purchases will directly support the Peoria Audubon Society. It will also help keep your yard busy with bird activity. So order early and by lots! To borrow a phrase from Dr. Princen, "The birds will love you!"

Annual Bird Seed Sale

Saturday, November 8, Pick-up Date
Pick-up Location: Farmers Market @
Metro Centre

This is our annual fundraiser for Peoria Audubon. Send in the order form included with this newsletter. All seed is provided by Kelly Seed. Don't delay... Order today!

Field Trips...

Sat, Oct 18; Waterfowl and other migrants- Meet at 7:30 AM at Powerton Lake Fish and Wildlife Area Parking Lot. We will be stopping at Spring Lake, Chautauqua NWR, Banner Marsh and Rice Lake. Bring your lunch. Call Brenda Onken at 923-7676 for more info.

Sat, Nov 1; Fieldtrip to the Greater Chicago Water Reclamation District near Canton. Bert Princen will be the trip leader. Call (309)691-9148 for times and information.

Events and Meetings...

Wed, Oct 22; Board Meeting, 7:00 PM at Forest Park Nature Center.

Sat, Nov 8; Birdseed Sale Pickup at Farmers Market in Metro Center

Wed, Nov 12; Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM at Forest Park Nature Center. Paul Beirenger, Enforcement Officer with The US Fish and Wildlife Service will present a program on Oil Pits and their hazards to wildlife.

Wed, Dec 10; Members Night, 7:00 PM at Forest Park Nature Center bring your slides, movies, photographs and stories to share.

Wed, Jan 7; Annual Potluck, 7:00 PM at Forest Park Nature Center. Bring your table setting, and a dish to share.

National Wildlife Week...

October 11-18
Celebrate by visiting Chautauqua on
our Field Trip on Sat, Oct 18!



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Deadline for submissions to next issue: December 15.

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