

Bird's-Eye View

January
February
March
1999



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

Christmas Bird Count, 1998...

Chillicothe's Count took place on Sat, December 19. Chautauqua's Count was held on Sat, December 26, and Peoria's Count was on Sat, January 2.

This was the first year that waterfowl hunters were out on the same weekend as the Chillicothe Bird Count. Most groups reported hearing gunfire and finding few birds in traditional river areas. Several groups were also denied access to good birding spots due to the presence of hunters. Probably, if there had been no hunting, waterfowl numbers would have been closer to average and we would have beaten the 1993 high of 75 species. The Chautauqua count tied last years record of 91 species. A first was a Golden Eagle on count day! And there are now 4 active Bald Eagle nests within the Chautauqua Count circle. The Peoria Count had to be canceled due to the ongoing blizzard. Counters who lived within the zone, watched feeders on count day, and compiled notes as to what was seen during the count week.

	Chilli.	Chau.	Peo.
Pied-billed Grebe	3	7	
American White Pelican*		7	
Double-crested Cormorant	5		
Great Blue Heron	37	185	
Mute Swan		11	
Greater White-fronted Goose	12	7	
Canada Goose	1229	4324	CW
Wood Duck	2	25	
Green-winged Teal		146	
American Black Duck	1	76	
Mallard	779	25042	CW
Northern Pintail	4	21	
Northern Shoveler	5	81	
Gadwall	63	281	17
American Widgeon	10	13	
Ring-necked Duck	1	206	
Greater Scaup*			
Lesser Scaup		18	CW
Common Goldeneye		7	
Bufflehead		5	
Hooded Merganser	3	15	
Common Merganser	4	68	
Red Breasted Merganser		2	
Ruddy Duck		34	
Bald Eagle	15(10a/5i)	99(58/41)	CW
Northern Harrier	1	2	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	4	
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	
Red-tailed Hawk	76	70	2
Rough-legged Hawk	2	2	
Golden Eagle*		1	
American Kestrel	48	22	1
Ring-necked Pheasant		9	
Wild Turkey		8	
Northern Bobwhite	21	4	
American Coot	26	75	
Killdeer	3	16	CW
Common Snipe	2	19	2
Ring-billed Gull	1385	180	CW
Herring Gull	34	3	CW
Rock Dove	114	29	2
Mourning Dove	458	106	161
Eastern Screech Owl	1	2	
Great Horned Owl	2	3	
Barred Owl	3	3	CW
Belted Kingfisher	6	3	CW
Red-headed Woodpecker	40	4	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	114	87	15
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	2	CW
Downy Woodpecker	127	91	35
Hairy Woodpecker	8	14	6
Northern Flicker	38	64	9

	Chilli.	Chau.	Peo.
Pileated Woodpecker	2	6	1
Horned Lark	67	20	
Blue Jay	118	49	19
American Crow	242	797	37
Black-capped Chickadee	480	112	75
Tufted Titmouse	136	59	28
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	3	
White-breasted Nuthatch	107	50	23
Brown Creeper	11	6	2
Carolina Wren	14	19	3
Winter Wren	2	2	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	19	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	1	
Eastern Bluebird	33	19	
American Robin	1284	538	3
Northern Mockingbird	5	4	
Cedar Waxwing	41	6	
European Starling	2989	5836	112
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	16	
Northern Cardinal	413	241	143
Eastern Towhee		1	1
American Tree Sparrow	186	488	8
Field Sparrow	2	1	
Savannah Sparrow		1	
Fox Sparrow		7	
Song Sparrow	24	71	2
Swamp Sparrow		30	
White-throated Sparrow	22	34	14
White-crowned Sparrow		15	
Dark-eyed Junco	770	686	196
Lapland Longspur		1	
Red-winged Blackbird	13	3526	
Eastern Meadowlark		2	
Common Grackle	4	5480	8
Brown-headed Cowbird		80	3
Purple Finch	1	CW	
House Finch	72	2	135
American Goldfinch	148	61	96
Evening Grosbeak			
House Sparrow	1436	418	270
European Tree Sparrow		180	

OTHERS

Tundra Swans*	54	
Common Redpoll		20

* Indicates Documented Species

Total Species:	72	91 30 (+8CW)
Total Birds:	13322	50462 na

Species Spotlight... Cedar Waxwing

by Brenda Onken

Happy New Year to Everyone!
Birding in the winter is fun and there is a lot to see. The Eagles are here, the Tundra and Trumpeter Swans at Chautauqua NWR are getting a lot of attention. The Pelicans are a sight to behold, and with some luck, you might get a Northern Goshawk or a Short-eared Owl. With the leaves fallen, glimpsing the Barred or Great-horned Owl sunning themselves becomes easier. But to a lot of us, our feeder birds are the favorites. They are the ones we see everyday, and they bring smiles to our faces.

One of my favorite birds is the Cedar Waxwing. This pretty, sleek looking bird is usually seen in compact flocks, flying in search of their favorite food, berries. They will take insects, but when the berries are ripened, they take them with gusto! I've seen a flock of 30-40 in a wild cherry tree. They also like mulberry, cedar, and wild grape.

The Cedar Waxwing is a handsome bird. They are brown and have a yellowish wash on the belly, a black mask that surrounds the eyes, a yellow tail-tip and a crest that is usually lowered. Their call is high pitched, thin, lispy "see-see-see." Many times I hear them off in the distance, after a few seconds I look up to see a flock fly by.

Cedar Waxwings can be scarce in the winter, but depending on the availability of berries, they can be frequently seen... Good birding in 1999!



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Notice to Subscribers...

The Bird's Eye View will be changing its issue dates to better accommodate the publishing of Bird Count information to better facilitate publicity for programs. The publication dates are as follows:

February/March (to include Christmas Count data)

April/May (publicity for Spring Count and Birdathon)

June/July/August (to include Spring Count and Birdathon Results)

September/October (to publicize membership meetings and fall field trips)

November (to include Annual Bird Seed Sale order form)

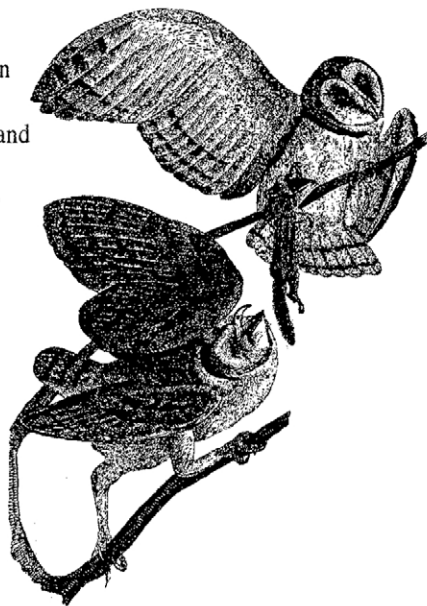
December/January (publicity for Christmas Counts)

Layout and Editing by Mike Miller

Deadline for submissions to next issue: March 15.

Send submissions to:

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Upcoming Meetings...

February 10, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center

Membership Meeting -Dr. Bert Princen will present a program on Waterfowl Identification

March 10, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center

Membership Meeting -Vernon Kleen, from IDNR will present a program on strategies for successful birding. A how to plan for a "Big Day." Mr. Kleen holds the Illinois record for seeing the most bird species in Illinois in a 24 hour period (174 species!)

April 14, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center

Membership Meeting -Ross Adams, Refuge Manager with the USFWS Illinois River Refuge System will give an overview of the status of the 4 refuges along the Illinois River

May 12, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center

Membership Meeting – Program to be announced.

Events and Outings...

Saturday, January 23, 9:30 AM, Forest Park Nature Center

Eagle Day in Peoria – Join members of Peoria Audubon and Forest Park Nature Center Staff as we explore the status of the Bald Eagle in Central Illinois. We will first present a program on the eagle's status in Illinois, where to look for eagles, and proper eagle-watching etiquette. We will then caravan along the Illinois River in search of eagles.

Saturday, January 30, Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Count

Four teams from Peoria Audubon will be looking for Bald Eagles along the Illinois River from Henry to Havana . If you are interested in being part of a team, Call Marj Tatersall at (309) 692-2247.

Saturday, March 27, Field trip to Greater Chicago Water Reclamation District near Canton. Meet in downtown Farmington at 8:00 AM or at the GCWRD Headquarters at 8:30 AM. For more information and to RSVP call Bert Princen at 691-0519.

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