

Bird's-Eye View

February
March
2000

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



CBC Turns 100...

One Hundred years ago, in an effort to save our bird species, ornithologists started the tradition of the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The established tradition of that time was to walk off the holiday meal by shooting birds while strolling the countryside. All of us are glad that the birding tradition has changed! The 100th year was a blockbuster for all three counts that involved Peoria Audubon Members. The Peoria Count was held on Saturday, December 18, The Chautauqua Count was held on Thursday, December 23, and the Chillicothe Count was held on Sunday, January 2. All three counts either tied or broke the record for the number of species seen and both Peoria and Chillicothe broke their records for the number of individual birds seen. Peoria Audubon has been conducting annual Christmas Bird Counts starting in 1963, which was the first year of the Peoria Count. Locally, Dr. Bert Princen was instrumental in organizing the first CBC. Since then he and his wife Greet have participated in over 100 CBC's and was recently honored at the January membership meeting with the gift of a commemorative desk clock as a "thank you" from the members of Peoria Audubon.

	Peo.	Chau.	Chilli.
Common Loon	1	1	1
Pied-billed Grebe	CW	5	2
Double-crested Cormorant	6	9	14
Great Blue Heron	101	111	14
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	1	1
Snow Goose	33	1	1
Canada Goose	4319	8043	1624
Mute Swan	15	15	15
Trumpeter Swan	15	15	15
Tundra Swan	5	5	5
Wood Duck	2	28	2
Green-winged Teal	5	1	1
American Black Duck	3	99	93
Mallard	436	1604	5599
Northern Pintail	103	2	3
Northern Shoveler	72	7	1
Gadwall	72	138	45
Canvasback	22	16	1
Redhead	2	6	1
American Widgeon	1	4	1
Ring-necked Duck	136	156	2
Lesser Scaup	294	30	1
Common Goldeneye	641	35	60
Bufflehead	86	2	1
Hooded Merganser	10	11	1
Common Merganser	951	1549	2635
Red Breasted Merganser	16	16	12
Ruddy Duck	79	84	1
Bald Eagle	43	151	153
	(28a+15i)	(79a 72i)	(77a 49i 27?)
Northern Harrier	CW	18	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	3	4
Cooper's Hawk	5	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	80	80	63
Rough-legged Hawk	3	10	6
Golden Eagle	1(i)	1	1
American Kestrel	34	19	54
Ring-necked Pheasant	CW	21	1
Wild Turkey	CW	1	40
Northern Bobwhite	2	1	1
American Coot	88	68	2
Killdeer	9	5	6
Common Snipe	16	16	2
Bonaparte's Gull	4	1	1
Ring-billed Gull	15209	2276	4617
Herring Gull	623	47	55
Rock Dove	718	37	32
Mourning Dove	303	88	224
Eastern Screech Owl	2	1	2
Great Horned Owl	3	1	2
Barred Owl	3	3	1
Belted Kingfisher	7	9	4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	1	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	3	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	70	53	82
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1	2
Downy Woodpecker	112	93	104

	Peo.	Chau.	Chilli.
Hairy Woodpecker	13	18	12
Northern Flicker	20	2	13
Pileated Woodpecker	2	13	1
Loggerhead Shrike	1	1	1
Northern Shrike	1	1	1
Horned Lark	40	93	60
Blue Jay	151	255	82
American Crow	528	550	300
Black-capped Chickadee	311	99	380
Tufted Titmouse	109	68	96
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	16	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	95	63	98
Brown Creeper	8	3	10
Carolina Wren	6	10	4
Winter Wren	6	1	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	37	2	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	2	2
Eastern Bluebird	6	6	19
Hermit Thrush	1	1	1
American Robin	15	6	25
Northern Mockingbird	1	3	1
Cedar Waxwing	CW	72	3452
European Starling	3506	606	262
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	1	1
Northern Cardinal	268	193	201
American Tree Sparrow	95	524	134
Chipping Sparrow	1	4	4
Field Sparrow	3	3	3
Savannah Sparrow	3	3	3
Fox Sparrow	1	4	4
Song Sparrow	80	125	40
Swamp Sparrow	7	216	9
White-throated Sparrow	24	16	25
White-crowned Sparrow	12	18	1
Dark-eyed Junco	752	937	396
Lapland Longspur	125	125	125
Red-winged Blackbird	5472	646	43
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	1	1
Rusty Blackbird	203	1	1
Eastern Meadowlark	15	15	15
Common Grackle	1006	29	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	502	3	78
Purple Finch	1	17	1
House Finch	118	8	43
Red Crossbill	12	12	12
Common Redpoll	31	1	1
Pine Siskin	1	1	1
American Goldfinch	208	154	205
Evening Grosbeak	1	1	1
House Sparrow	1324	504	1121
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	224	224	224
Total Species:	80	91	78
Total Birds:	39631	20714	22664
Observers	24	22	20



Upcoming Meetings

Wed, February 9
7:00 PM

Forest Park Nature
Center

Jim Herkert, Listing
Coordinator with The
Endangered Species
Protection Board, will
present a program on
*The Status of Grassland
Birds in Illinois.*

Wed, March 8
7:00 PM

Forest Park Nature
Center

Steve Havera, from the
Illinois Natural History
Survey, will present a
program on the compila-
tion of his new book,
*Waterfowl of the Illinois
River Valley.* A book-
signing will also be held.

All Meetings are free
and open to the public.
For directions and infor-
mation, call Forest Park
Nature Center at
(309)686-3360

Peoria Audubon Board

Officers

Mike Miller – President
Cary Garmon – Vice President
Greg Brown – Secretary
Greet Princen – Treasurer
Tracy Fox – Conservation

Board

Maury Brucker 99/00
Emiko Yang 99/00
Luann Elwood 99/00
Marj Tatterstall 00/01
Brenda Onken 00/01
Rick Fox 00/01

Focus on outstanding Audubon Members...

Dr. Richard and Sigurd Bjorklund received the Volunteer of the Year award from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the years of 1997, 1998, and 1999. What a way to end a millennium! This father/son team has conducted weekly census of the Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge raptor and waterbird species for several years. This information has become essential to the USFWS in evaluating the success of management practices and helps them provide the best habitat possible for these birds.

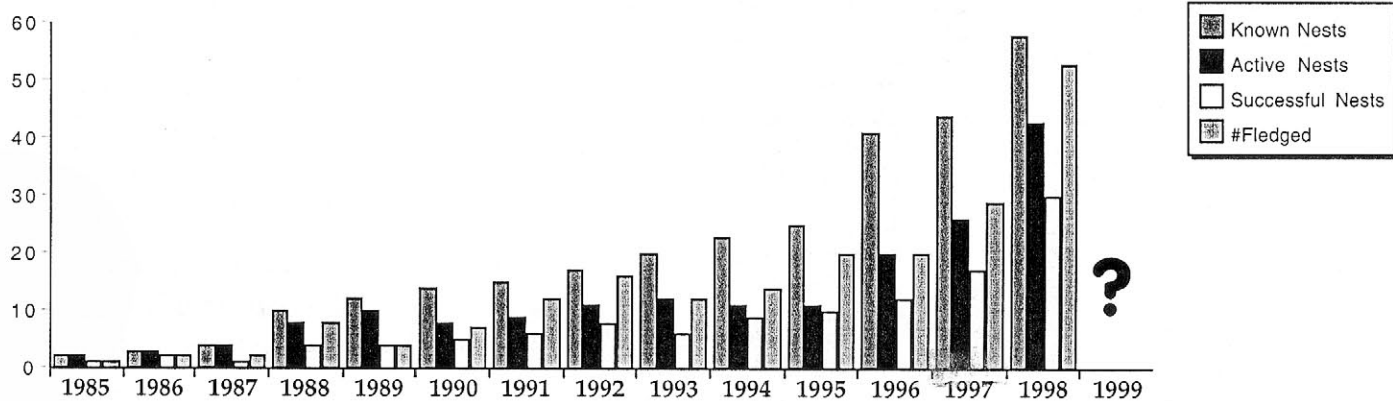
Dr. L.H. (Bert) and Greet Princen were presented with an appreciation award from The Peoria Audubon Society for their dedication to Christmas Bird Counts and Spring Counts. On this 100th anniversary of the Christmas Bird Count, Bert and Greet have helped organize or partaken in over 100 Christmas Birdcounts throughout Central Illinois. Bert and Greet were instrumental in starting the local CBC's that we participate in, and they were also trendsetters for the State of Illinois by establishing the first Spring Count which since then has become a statewide census.

Dr. Maury Brucker and Emiko Yang received the 1999 Conservation Award from the Illinois Audubon Society for the work that they have done in the restoration of savanna and hillprairie remnants at Hopewell Estates in Marshall County. These areas were threatened by development for homesites. Maury and Emiko took it upon themselves to purchase individual tracts, restore their beleaguered habitats and in many cases permanently protect them through dedication as Illinois State Nature Preserves.

Bird Fact Corner...

Nesting Bald Eagle's in Illinois are making a comeback. While we still don't have the official numbers for 1999's nesting season, things are looking good. Next issue of Bird's-Eye-View, we will look at winter population trends in the state.

Eagle Nesting History in Illinois



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