

# Bird's-Eye View

Aug  
Sept  
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**

## Action Alert!!! by Tracy Fox, Conservation Chair

In the mid 1990s, Peoria Audubon joined with Peoria area residents, farmers, and conservationists to oppose a new Peoria-to-Chicago highway corridor running north of Peoria, through the bluffs, and up the river to I-80. In 1995, IDOT announced that "funding" problems precluded further progress on the project. Instead, ring road feasibility studies were funded. After strong opposition emerged to the ring road, Congressman Ray LaHood publicly stated his intent to secure federal funding for the Peoria-to-Chicago "Heart of Illinois" highway. He explained that money would not be available for both projects and voiced his preference for completing the Heart of Illinois highway project.

In June, IDOT unveiled three corridor alternatives for the Heart of Illinois highway. Corridor A runs north of Peoria, west of the river, from Mossville to Hennepin and joins I-180 to I-80. Corridor B follows 116 and joins I-55 at Pontiac. Corridor C follows 24 to I-55 at Chenoa.

On June 26, The Peoria Audubon Board reconfirmed its commitment in opposition to the proposed "Heart of Illinois Highway" project and in particular Corridor A, since it poses the greatest threat to sensitive bird species and their habitat. We ask you to do your part in voicing your opinions and offer these avenues for your action.

### What You Can Do

To save corridor A, a strong show of opposition is critical. Please take the time to communicate your opinions to IDOT and your elected officials. Don't depend on others to speak for wildlife and natural areas – make your voice heard.

Audubon is working with the No Way Corridor A citizens group on a public rally September 14th. The pavilion at Three Sisters Park in Chillicothe holds 1500 people. Filling the pavilion will send a strong message – be sure and attend.

#### No Way Corridor A Rally:

##### When:

**7:00 p.m. Thursday,  
September 14th**

##### Where:

**Three Sisters park, just  
south of Chillicothe on  
Route 29.**

**For More Information  
Visit the No Way Corridor A web  
site or e-mail NWCA at:**

**[www.nowayca.org](http://www.nowayca.org)  
[nowayca@nowayca.org](mailto:nowayca@nowayca.org)**

**Contact Tracy Meints Fox,  
Peoria Audubon Conservation  
Chair, at 309-579-3264 or 309-  
579-2296.**

### Public Input to IDOT

**Mr. Eric Therkildsen  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
401 Main Street  
Peoria, Illinois 61602**

*All letters received by September  
will be considered in IDOT's  
corridor recommendation.*

### Feedback to Elected Officials

All Central Illinois communities have a stake in Heart of Illinois highway decision. Listed here are Peoria-area contacts. However, even, if you live outside the Peoria area, it is important to let your U.S. and state representatives and local government officials know where you stand on the issue.

#### National

**U.S. Senators from Illinois**  
The Honorable Peter Fitzgerald  
555 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
The Honorable Dick Durbin  
364 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
**U.S. Representative  
from Central Illinois**  
18th Congressional District  
The Honorable Ray LaHood  
100 NE Monroe, Suite 100  
Peoria, Illinois 61602

**See more contacts on  
back page!**

# 2000 Spring Count and Birdathon Results

Spring Count Date- Saturday, May 7, 2000

Birdathon Date- Saturday, May 13, 2000

P=Peoria, T=Tazwell, F=Fulton, M=Mason, B=Birdathon

Species	P	T	F	M	B
Pied-billed Grebe	3	1	1		
Double-crested Cormorant	6	44	1	106	
American Bittern SE	1				
Green-backed Heron		3	6	11	
Great Egret	18	13	23	25	
Great Blue Heron	29	59	18	164	
Mute Swan	2	5	2		
Canada Goose	31	235	274	136	
Wood Duck	12	18	12	97	
Mallard	6	16	34	149	
Gadwall			2	16	
Green-winged Teal				1	
Northern Shoveler	3			26	
Blue-winged Teal	5	4	24	44	
Common Merganser		1		3	
Rudy Duck				4	
Turkey Vulture	16	6	54	38	
Bald Eagle				5	
Northern Harrier	1				
Cooper's Hawk	2				
Broad-winged Hawk	1				
Red-tailed Hawk	6	3	9	8	
American Kestrel	5	1	5	5	
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	1		6	
Wild Turkey	8		4	9	
Northern Bobwhite	6		19	12	
Sora	2			1	
American Coot	35	20	38	870	
Semipalmated Plover	8			5	
Killdeer	14	28	34	56	
Greater Yellowlegs			1		
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	1	1	24	
Solitary Sandpiper			6	7	
Spotted Sandpiper	3	5	20	26	
Ruddy Turnstone				1	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	19	45		37	
Least Sandpiper	2			43	
Pectoral Sandpiper		12	3	18	
Short-billed Dowitcher		2	4	3	
American Woodcock				1	
Ring-billed Gull	24	13	4	4	
Common Tern					
Forster's Tern					
Caspian Tern					
Black Tern					
Rock Dove	65	23	25	13	
Mourning Dove	125	69	123	83	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				4	
Black-billed Cuckoo	5			1	
Great Horned Owl	1				
Barred Owl	2			3	
Eastern Screech-owl	1	1	1		
Common Nighthawk	5	2	6	7	

Species	P	T	F	M	B
Whip-poor-will	1	2	2	13	
Chimney Swift	89	112	90	31	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2		11	5	
Belted Kingfisher	2	4	5	2	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	25	16	18	39	
Red-headed Woodpecker	6	7	30	55	
Northern Flicker	6	8	17	25	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1				
Downy Woodpecker	12	9	9	21	
Hairy Woodpecker	2		2	3	
Pileated Woodpecker	1			4	
Olive-sided Flycatcher					
Eastern Wood-pewee	2	1	7	19	
Least Flycatcher	2			5	
Acadian Flycatcher	1			1	
Eastern Phoebe	8	3	28	10	
Great Crested Flycatcher	22	5	13	31	
Eastern Kingbird	12	4	32	24	
Horned Lark	15	15	39	18	
Tree Swallow	150	37	40	610	
Purple Martin	29	14	45	21	
Bank Swallow	25	30	17		
Northern RW Swallow	109	6	31	7	
Cliff Swallow			14		
Barn Swallow	45	108	107	110	
Blue Jay	98	70	63	190	
American Crow	125	34	71	53	
Tufted Titmouse	25	14	24	33	
Black-capped Chickadee	33	7	30	22	
White-breasted Nuthatch	16	10	10	14	
House Wren	31	24	75	68	
Carolina Wren	2	1	5	19	
Marsh Wren	2			1	
Sedge Wren				1	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				1	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	42	3	8	6	
Eastern Bluebird	6	16	52	19	
Wood Thrush	8	4	3	11	
Veery				3	
Swainson's Thrush	22	1	3	7	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	1	1	1	
American Robin	352	269	241	202	
Gray Catbird	6	24	40	62	
Northern Mockingbird	1		4	4	
Brown Thrasher	25	12	36	59	
Water Pipit			1		
Cedar Waxwing	8		29	166	
Loggerhead Shrike			1		
European Starling	265	545		228	
White-eyed Vireo			1	4	
Yellow-throated Vireo	3	1		3	
Red-eyed Vireo	16		9	27	
Warbling Vireo	31	6	46	27	

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Species	P	T	F	M	B
Philadelphia Vireo .....	1				
Prothonotary Warbler .....	1	1		22	
Blue-winged Warbler .....	5			4	
Golden-winged Warbler .....	5			1	
Tennessee Warbler .....	105	6	9	54	
Orange-crowned Warbler .....	2				
Nashville Warbler .....	9		1	5	
Northern Parula .....	9			6	
Black-and-white Warbler .....	3			5	
Cerulean Warbler .....	1				
Blackburnian Warbler .....	2			3	
Chestnut-sided Warbler .....	10			7	
Cape May Warbler .....	1			4	
Magnolia Warbler .....	9	1		5	
Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	18	24	2	60	
Black-throated Green .....	4			4	
Yellow-throated Warbler .....				1	
Blackpoll Warbler .....	3	2		13	
Pine Warbler .....				1	
Palm Warbler .....	12	11	1	26	
Yellow Warbler .....	8	6	9	15	
Mourning Warbler .....	1				
Kentucky Warbler .....				1	
Canada Warbler .....					
Wilson's Warbler .....	1			1	
Hooded Warbler .....	2				
Worm-eating Warbler .....	2				
Ovenbird .....	1		1	19	
Louisiana Waterthrush .....	3	5	3		
Northern Waterthrush .....	1			10	
Common Yellowthroat .....	12	5	106	27	
Yellow-breasted Chat .....				1	
American Redstart .....	1			20	
Scarlet Tanager .....	8		2	15	
Summer Tanager .....				1	6
Northern Cardinal .....	64	65	86	88	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	16	14	39	119	
Indigo Bunting .....	24	14	61	96	
Dickcissel .....			20	83	
Eastern Towhee .....	8	5	16	71	
Grasshopper Sparrow .....	5	1	9	49	
Vesper Sparrow .....			3	5	
Savannah Sparrow .....	2			7	8
Song Sparrow .....	34	21	37	54	
Lark Sparrow .....			5	20	
Field Sparrow .....	12	2	34	43	
Chipping Sparrow .....	40	19	70	85	
White-crowned Sparrow .....	31	16	56	37	
White-throated Sparrow .....	5	3	2	23	
Lincoln's Sparrow .....				3	
Swamp Sparrow .....			2		
Bobolink .....	1		15	17	

Species	P	T	F	M	B
Eastern Meadowlark .....	41	29	108	99	
Western Meadowlark .....	2		8		
Red-winged Blackbird .....	892	469	800	797	
Common Grackle .....	286	436	302	261	
Brown-headed Cowbird .....	55	2	94	121	
Orchard Oriole .....		2	5	5	
Baltimore Oriole .....	26	30	94	116	
House Finch .....	18	10	30	10	
American Goldfinch .....	64	52	96	86	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow .....			7	35	
House Sparrow .....	541	104	276	175	
Total Birds .....	4568	3409	4482	7199	na
Total Species .....	130	90	110	140	125

## THANK YOU DONORS!!!

Peoria Audubon would like to thank all donors to the Birdathon. It was an exceptional day, with three teams in the field. All together we saw 125 species! If you have made a pledge, please submit your payment to the treasurer. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds will go to Partners in Flight, an international organization dedicated to the preservation of neotropical migratory bird species. The remaining funds will remain with Peoria Audubon and will assist with costs associated with programs, educational outreach, and publications. Your donations are most appreciated.

## THANK YOU COUNTERS!!!

This years birdcount documented 163 species of birds in the 5 county area on May 7! Central Illinois with its various habitats is one of the best places to see birds anywhere! Thanks go out to all of the birders in the region for making the Spring Count a success.

## PAS to Host Field Trips for Illinois Audubon

**Meeting.** Illinois Audubon will be meeting at Wildlife Prairie Park and the Holiday Inn, Brandywine in Peoria from Friday, October 6 through Sunday, October 8. We will be leading the field trips on Saturday and Sunday to Cooper Park, Chautauqua, Banner Marsh, Forest Park, Singing Woods, Hopwell Hill Prairies and Oak Bluff Natural Area. Complete information on field trips can be obtained from Mike Miller (309)686-3360 or in the Illinois Audubon Newsletter.

**Peoria Audubon Society Field Trip to Lake Chautauqua** will be held on Saturday, August 19. There should be plenty of Shorebirds to see. Meet at the parking lot at Powerton Cooling Lake at 8:00 AM. To participate, contact Bert Princen at (309)691-0519.

## Upcoming Meetings...

Wednesday, September 13, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center

**Membership Meeting, Bert Princen will give a program on Butterflies of Central Illinois.**

Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center

**Membership Meeting, Program to be announced**

Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center

**Membership Meeting, Program to be announced**

Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center

**Members Night... Bring slides to share and nonination of Board Members**

Wednesday, January 10, 1999, 6:30 PM, Forest Park Nature Center

**Members Potluck... Bring a table service and a dish to share.**



**More Contacts from page 1**

## State Officials...

### State Senators

46th District

The Honorable George Shadid

401 Court Street

Pekin, Illinois 61554

47th District

The Honorable Carl Hawkinson

4 Weinburg Arcade

Galesburg, Illinois 61401

### State Representatives

92th District

The Honorable Ricca Slone

456 Fulton Suite 150

Peoria, Illinois 61602

93th District

The Honorable David Leitch

3114 North University

Peoria, Illinois 61604

## Tips

Use your voter registration card  
to identify the elected officials  
for your area.

Keep your letters to one page  
and your phone calls short.

**Peoria Audubon Society**  
**677 E High Point Terr**  
**Peoria IL 61614**



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### Peoria Audubon Board

#### Officers

Mike Miller – President

Cary Garman – 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 Garman 00/01

Rick Fox 00/01