

Bird's-eye View



Mark your Calendars
for **Sept. 10:**
First meeting of the season

September
Fall Activities Issue
2003

The Newsletter of The Peoria Audubon Society. . . Chapter of National Audubon since 1981
www.peoriaaudubon.org Chapter of The Peoria Academy of Science since 1930

Audubon Calendar...

Wednesday, September 10, 7:00 pm
Forest Park Nature Center
First membership meeting of the season
Emiko and Maury Brucker will present
Wildlife of Kenya, a slide show.

September 27 & 28 The National Audubon Upper Mississippi River campaign is sponsoring a Hawk Watch weekend at Effigy Mounds National Monument in McGregor, Iowa. The **Audubon Ark**, the campaign's floating riverfront education boat, will be there. Interpreters will also be on hand to help with hawk identification. If you haven't visited Effigy Mounds, it makes a beautiful fall trip. The prehistoric Indian burial mounds are located in the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi river just across from Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Effigy Mounds is about an hour's drive from Galena, Illinois.

Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 pm
Membership Meeting. Program TBA

Orders for the annual **Bird Seed Sale** will be taken starting **October 8**. Order deadline is **October 30**, and pick-up day will be **November 1**. Support our local environmental organizations by ordering your winter supply of bird seed through this fundraiser. Kelly Seed Co. supplies premium seed for this sale at reduced prices. Look for more information and an order form in the October newsletter.

Saturday, October 25 - Field Trip to the Metropolitan Sanitary District area in Canton, Illinois. Meet in downtown Farmington at 8:00 am or at the MSD headquarters at 8:30 am. Contact Bert Princen at (309)691-0519 to RSVP.

Mark your calendars for the **Christmas Bird Count**. The dates: Saturday, December 20, Peoria Circle; December 27, Chautauqua Circle; January 3, Chillicothe Circle.

Every Sunday at 3:00 PM, tune in for National Public Radio's **Living on Earth**, an environmental news radio program endorsed by a coalition of Peoria area environmental groups.



Don't miss these fall programs at Forest Park Nature Center:

Saturday-9/6 9:30 am Whoo's in My Tree? The Inside Scoop on Cavity Nesters and Tree Dwellers A presentation on birds and mammals that nest inside trees, followed by a walk to see some of these tree-dwellers. For all ages.

Sundays-9/7 & 9/21 1:30 pm Tree ID Walks Learn to identify trees by their leaves with a simple key.

Saturday-9/20 1:00 pm Tree Pruning and Care Tom Wilz is an urban forester, and will demonstrate how to care for your trees and shrubs. Free.

Saturdays-9/20 & 10/18 3:30 pm Grownups and Kids in the Woods Bring your child or grandchild to each of these classes. For children ages 6-10 accompanied by an adult. Free.

Sundays-10/5 & 10/19 1:30pm Fall Color Walks

Wednesday-10/29 5:30 pm Fall Walking Meditation Stella O'Hanlon will demonstrate a simple meditation approach. Please call ahead to register. Free.

Sunday-11/2 1:30 pm A Bird Feeder Primer Information you need to make your yard appealing to many different bird species, including types of feeders, feeder placement, seeds and suet mixes, and general bird lore. Adults. Free.

Conservation Notes...

Plum Island Update

The development plans for Plum Island, critical wintering eagle habitat across from Starved Rock State Park, continue to move forward. In June, the developers had an open house showcasing fifty half-acre lots.

Shortly thereafter, Friends of Plum Island updated the Illinois River Coordinating Council on the situation. Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, who heads the council, announced his **Save the Eagles** campaign to protect eagle habitat in Illinois, including Plum Island. Since then, the Lt. Governor's office has sponsored rallies in Chicago, Alton, and at the State Fair. The Lt. Governor is also coordinating an online petition drive to demonstrate public support for the eagles.

Please take the time to visit www.saveoureagles.org, learn more about the situation, and sign the petition.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to send the Illinois Audubon/Friends of Plum Island letter to the Utica Planning Commission. Convincing the Village of Utica to deny the developer's annexation request will buy time for the eagles – and Lt. Gov. Quinn, as he works to save the island.

Stay informed!

Audubon and our members are dedicated to protecting birds, wildlife and our shared environment, and we carry that dedication to working with policymakers in Washington, D.C. However, with an almost evenly divided U.S. Congress, every vote on Audubon's priority issues – restoring and protecting our natural legacy, securing funding for vital conservation programs, and preserving key natural resource protections will come down to the wire, and your lawmakers may cast the deciding vote!

Visit National Audubon's **Issues and Action** homepage at www.audubon.org/campaign/ for up-to-the-minute coverage of these important issues.

Spring Bird Count Highlights

– By Tracy Fox

Thanks to all who participated in the 2003 Spring Bird Counts. Hats off to those who gave up a Saturday in May to census birds. Complete count results are posted on our website. The direct address is www.peoriaaudubon.org/bcs.htm

Here's a tally of the number of species observed during the count:

County	Compiler	Number of Species
Fulton	Helen Gasdorf	118
Mason	Dick Bjorklund	162
Peoria	Tracy Fox	117
Tazewell	Mike Miller	102
Woodford	Brenda Garman	77

Mason County, as usual, had by far the highest number of species – approaching the all-time high for the entire nation of 166.

Notable species in Mason County: a snow goose, yellow-bellied flycatcher, Connecticut Warbler, Clay-Colored Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Nelson's Sharp-Tailed Sparrows. A Henslow's Sparrow was also spotted in Fulton County.

Peoria and Tazewell counties both reported uncommon raptor species. Tazewell County hosted a Peregrine Falcon and Peoria County a juvenile Swainson's Hawk. The Swainson's Hawk was sighted north of Peoria just east of Singing Woods. Another interesting sighting in Peoria county: a male Black-throated Blue Warbler, found in the lower area of Singing Woods.

As the results indicate, there's plenty of room for additional counters – especially in Tazewell and Woodford counties. You don't need to live in a particular county to get involved – you just need to drive there.

The date for next year's count is Saturday, May 10th. Put it on your calendar and plan to join us!

Virginia Humphreys, long-time Peoria Audubon member, passed away at the age of 94 on June 12, 2003 in Jacksonville, Illinois where she was in the care of the Barton W. Stone Christian Home.

A life member of the Illinois Audubon Society, Virginia compiled the Peoria area Christmas Bird Count for 21 years and the Spring Bird Count in Fulton County for many years.

Virginia built and placed many bluebird houses and monitored them for years. And she delighted in simply watching a cardinal or robin sitting in the sunshine.

She is survived by one step-daughter and four step-grandchildren. Virginia was our oldest member and we have traditionally celebrated her birthday at the May meeting. She will be missed.

Butterfly Count Wrap-Up

– By Tracy Fox

Thanks to all who participated in Greater Peoria's fourth **Fourth of July Butterfly Count**. Although we didn't beat last year's high of 40 species, we did have 7 species not recorded on previous counts. Five of these were skippers, so it may say more about the expertise of some of our participants than anything! Overall, we had 12 participants, 39 species, and 800 individual butterflies (and skippers) recorded.

We still haven't found any Zebra Swallowtails on the count, but the bigger miss was Giant Swallowtails! I observed them in the week before and after the count, but couldn't find a one on the actual count day. Other surprises were the absence of both Mourning Cloaks and Red-Spotted Purples. The weather seemed agreeable enough, but many of the teams felt they had to really work for the butterflies they found. The Wildlife Prairie team did report a sighting of a Reversed Haploa moth. Kudos on identifying that one!

What is a Fourth of July Count?

Modeled after Audubon's Christmas Bird Counts, the North American Butterfly Association began sponsoring a nationwide effort to census butterflies in 1974. Counts across the county take place in the four weeks surrounding the Fourth of July. Groups of butterfly enthusiasts census butterflies in a fifteen-mile diameter count circle. The results are compiled into a national database which helps wildlife biologists track national butterfly population trends. Peoria Audubon sponsored the fourth Peoria Area count circle this year.

SWALLOWTAILS

Pipeline Swallowtail	5	Painted Lady	11
Black Swallowtail	12	Red Admiral	7
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	15	Hackberry Emperor	3
Spicebush Swallowtail	2	Eyed Brown	1

WHITES & SULPHURS

Cabbage White	254	Common Wood Nymph	6
Clouded Sulphur	8	Monarch	27
Orange Sulphur/Alfalfa	38		
Cloudless Sulphur	1		
Little Yellow	1		

GOSSAMER WINGS

Gray Hairstreak	1	SKIPPERS	
Eastern Tailed Blue	8	Silver-Spotted Skipper	22
Spring Azure	6	Northern Cloudywing	8

BRUSHFOOTS

Great Spangled Fritillary	18	Juvenal's Duskywing	1
Silvery Checkerspot	4	Horace's Duskywing	32
Pearl Crescent	35	Common Sootywing	3
Question Mark	4	Fiery Skipper	2
Eastern Comma	2	Tawny-Edged Skipper	3

Milbert's Tortiseshell	1	Crossline Skipper	65
American Painted Lady	3	Little Glassywing	1
		Delaware Skipper	3
		Byssus Skipper	11
		Zabulon Skipper	1
		Common Roadside Skipper	4
		Total Individuals	800
		Total Species	39



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