

# Bird's-eye View



Mark your Calendars  
for **May 8:**  
The Statewide Spring Bird Count

*May*  
Spring Activities Issue  
2004

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 . . .

### Saturday, May 10: Statewide Spring Bird Count

The count runs all day – from sunrise to sunset with extra hours allowed for owling. The purpose of the count is to take a sampling of bird populations at the peak of the spring migration. Teams can be assigned territories looking for birds and recording the number of each species seen. When the weather is good, teams can see up to 100 species in a single day (and sometimes as many as 1000 individual birds).

**Volunteers are needed!** If you can donate all or part of the day to help with the effort, contact one of the following count coordinators:

Fulton  
Helen Gasdorf (309-676-3384)

Mason  
Dick Bjorklund (309-968-6502)

Tazewell  
Mike Miller (309-685-6705)

Peoria  
Tracy Fox (309-579-3264)

Woodford  
Brenda Garman (309-923-7676)

Results from the counts are compiled by the Illinois Audubon Society and the statewide report is a key tool used to assess the health of Illinois' feathered population.

Wednesday, May 12, 2004 @ 7 pm  
Forest Park Nature Center  
Fire, Habitat Restoration  
and Birds in Illinois with  
Jeff Brawn, Program  
Director, Ecology and  
Evolutionary  
Biology, University  
of Illinois

Many species of birds in Illinois depend on habitats that are created or maintained by some type of ecological disturbance such as fire or floods. Without periodic disturbance, these habitats undergo ecological succession and become unsuitable for many birds species. In Illinois, these habitats include grasslands, shrublands, oak savannas, and floodplain forest. This talk will present information on birds of successional habitats in Illinois and how they respond to disturbance and habitat restoration. Emphasis will be on savanna birds such as the Red-headed Woodpecker.



### Saturday, May 15, 8:00 am-4:30 pm *Migratory Bird Day & Native Wildflower Plant Sale*

Come celebrate and appreciate the wonders of birds as Forest Park presents bird walks, displays and presentations. Then pick up some native prairie plants to make your backyard a bird & butterfly haven. There will be something for all ages on this day to marvel at the miracle of migration. There will even be some live hawks present!

#### Schedule of Events:

8:00 AM - **Bird Tour of Camp Wokanda** with Rick Fox. See migrating warblers and residents like the red-headed woodpecker.

Meet at the Forest Park Nature Center parking lot.

9:00 AM - **Bird Tour of Forest Park Nature Preserve** with John Mullen. Warblers plus vireos and maybe a broad-wing hawk or two.

9:30 AM-4:30 PM - **Native Plant Sale!** Great deals on prairie and open woodland wildflowers. Proceeds go to Forest Park's Prairie School Project.

11:00 AM - **Beginning Birding 101:** Quick overview of what's needed to get started including types of binoculars, books, and field marks to look for. There will be an outdoor component to practice. Limited number of binoculars available for use.

1, 2 & 3 PM - **Live hawk presentations** with wildlife rehabilitator Alison Wolverton. The perils of migration and survival will be discussed along with advice on making things safer for birds. Watch these hawks do their thing!

2-4:30 PM - **Crafts:** Bring children to make a bird mobile, bird flip book or one of the other offerings!

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

See your Park District catalogue for more details

**Sundays: 5/9-5/23 7:00 am  
Early Worm Bird Walks**

Join a naturalist on our early morning bird hikes to see the influx of beautiful songbirds that grace the forests and prairie in the spring.

**Saturday-7/17 9:30am at Robinson  
Park Summer Prairie Plant &  
Butterfly ID** with Suzie Barber

**Saturday-7/24 9:30am-2:30pm  
Summer Wildflower Festival**

**Tuesdays 6/22, 7/20, 8/17 9:30 am  
Saturdays 7/31 & 8/28 9:30 am  
Prairie Wildflower Walks**

**Saturday-8/21 10:00 am-3:00 pm  
Butterfly Day**

# Conservation Notes...



## Good News for Wintering Bald Eagles

— by Maury Brucker

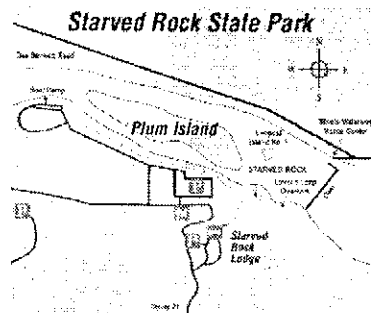
Peoria Audubon's statewide affiliate — The Illinois Audubon Society — has just purchased most of Plum Island (55 acres) for a Bald Eagle Sanctuary. Plum Island is adjacent to Starved Rock State Park east of Peru, Illinois.

Each winter Bald Eagles gather on Plum Island, attracted by its proximity to a lock and dam on the Illinois River. Although the sanctuary will be closed to public access, the eagles can be easily observed from either Starved Rock S. P. or the waterway museum on the north side of the river.

After three years of opposition to the ill-conceived plan to develop a resort with a marina, the purchase of the island was negotiated by a national not-for profit group and was financed by the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation.

Special thanks to Rick and Tracy Fox, Jim Miller and Maury Brucker as well as all the other Peoria Audubon members who wrote letters or supported this land protection effort.

Plan to visit Starved Rock State Park this winter to see the Bald Eagles and to enjoy the continuing natural view of Plum Island.



### Special note:

This victory doesn't mean the work is finished. Illinois Audubon plans to maintain the island as an eagle sanctuary closed to public visitation. Committees are now being organized to dive into the

cleanup and study ways to improve the island's habitat for wintering eagles.

A meeting was held on May 3rd at Starved Rock Lock and Dam Visitor's Center. Plans were discussed for scheduling cleanup days and identifying other ways interested citizens could get involved with the effort.

For periodic updates on the Plum Island Sanctuary and information about volunteer opportunities, email [dgoerne@yahoo.com](mailto:dgoerne@yahoo.com) and ask to be added to the Plum Island mailing list.

You can also contact Tracy Fox 309-579-3264 or [tracyfox@mtco.com](mailto:tracyfox@mtco.com)

## A Victory for Illinois River Conservation

Earth Day came early for the Illinois River this year. The Heartland Water Resources Council's April 6th Silt Sendoff celebrated a milestone achievement — the first bargeloads of silt left the Peoria Lakes bound for a South Side Chicago park. The deal, several years in the making, turned a Peoria area liability into a Chicago asset.

Dr. John Marlin of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources spearheaded the effort. His team sampled silt and demonstrated its suitability for growing grass and trees. After working out the economics of transporting tons of silt, the team found a willing recipient in the Chicago Park District. Throughout April and May, over seventy barge loads will make a 165-mile trip up river to the former U.S. Steel site on Lake Michigan. There, truckloads of silt will be spread over the slag-glazed site and landscapers expect to have grass, flowers, and trees growing by mid-summer.

To highlight the historic occasion, Heartland Water Resources Council organized a Silt Sendoff event at the Par-A-Dice Hotel in East Peoria. Following breakfast, U.S. Representative Ray LaHood and Illinois Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn praised the way that federal, state and local officials coordinated efforts with Illinois River scientists to make Dr. Marlin's vision a reality. Following the speeches, the gathering moved to Spindler Marina to say goodbye to the first barges carrying 1500 tons of mud.

Peoria Audubon has long supported the efforts of the Heartland Water Resources Council. Former Peoria Audubon President Rick Fox currently represents us on the council. Both Representative LaHood and Lt. Governor Quinn praised the council's ongoing efforts to focus attention on the ecological health of the river and cited the strong local involvement as a major factor in making the project a reality.

Members of Peoria Audubon have contributed over \$300 to Heartland Water Resources Council. Send your contribution to Heartland Water Resources Council, 416 Main, Peoria, 61602.

— reported by Tracy Fox

## Environmental Groups Rally in Springfield *Springfield IL, Thursday, April 22, 2004 -*

The battle continues against the Governor's proposed elimination of dedicated funding for the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Fund and the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund. Environmentalists and some lawmakers rallied in Springfield on Earth Day to publicize the effort to oppose these cuts.

One hundred twenty groups representing recreation, environmental and other outdoors interests have formed a coalition called The Partners for Parks and Wildlife in order to lobby against the cuts.

**Please contact your legislators** to protest the proposed elimination of the capacity to protect and maintain the small remaining high quality natural areas of Illinois and the species that depend upon them.

Log onto [www.partnersforparksandwildlife.org](http://www.partnersforparksandwildlife.org) for additional information. The site also has a provision for sending faxes and emails to your own elected officials.

Contact information for your state elected officials: [www.elections.state.il.us/dls/pages/DLSAddresscrit.asp](http://www.elections.state.il.us/dls/pages/DLSAddresscrit.asp)

# *It's not too late to attract Hummingbirds*

Hummingbirds are arriving in Illinois, so now is the time to set out a hummingbird feeder.

A mixture of 4 parts tap water to 1 part table sugar (no dye) is all that's needed.

Hummingbirds won't drink sugar water that's spoiled, so it's important to empty, rinse and refill your feeders regularly, especially in warm weather.

Hummingbirds are looking for natural or garden areas that provide trees, bushes, flowers rich with nectar and safe places to roost and nest.

Page 2 — May 2004

## **Plants that attract hummingbirds include:**

### **Trees and Shrubs**

Azalea  
Butterfly Bush (Buddleia)  
Cape Honeysuckle  
Flame Acanthus  
Flowering Quince  
Lantana  
Manzanita  
Mimosa  
Red Buckeye  
Tree Tobacco

### **Turk's Cap**

Weigela

### **Vines**

Coral Honeysuckle  
Cypress Vine  
Morning Glory  
Scarlet Runner  
Bean  
Trumpet Creeper

### **Perennial Flowers**

Bee Balm (*Monarda*)  
Canna

### **Cardinal Flower**

Columbine

Coral Bells

Four O'Clocks

Foxglove

Hosta

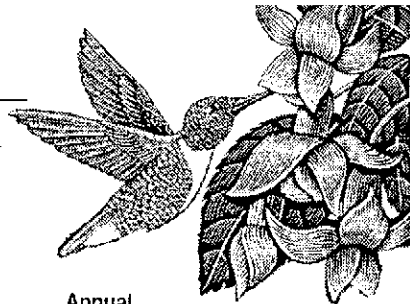
Hummingbird Mint (*Agastache*)

Little Cigar

Lupine

Penstemon

Yucca



### **Annual Flowers**

Beard Tongue (and other penstemons)  
Firespike  
Fuchsia  
Impatiens

Jacobiana  
Jewelweed  
Petunia  
Various Salvia species  
Shrimp Plant

## *Sanctuary News...*

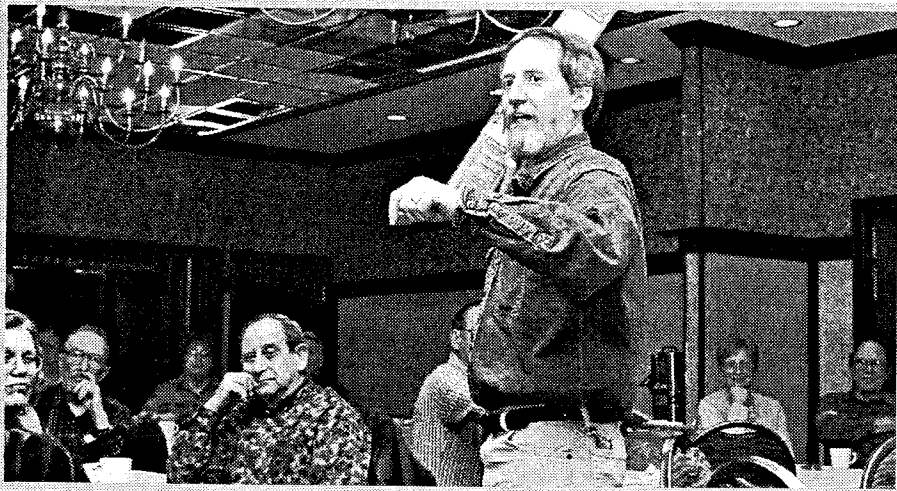
Wetland specialists are monitoring a possible sanctuary site near Singing Woods.

Feasibility issues include drainage, clearing the overgrowth, and ongoing maintenance. More information will be available next fall.

## *Board News...*

The Board authorized the option of local-only membership for Peoria Audubon. The choice of dual membership in National and Peoria Audubon Societies is still available. Please see the new form on page 6.

# Sanctuary Initiative Benefit Auction



Auctioneer Mike Miller works hard to raise the bids for a bird feeder donated by Kelly Seed



Greet Princen and Holli Cook collect the cash and tally up a very successful auction

Jim Miller goes home with lots of goodies



Next time you're in downtown Peoria, stop by the RiverPlex to check for tenants in the newly-installed purple martin house.

(Rick and Tracy Fox purchased this auction item and then donated it to Peoria Audubon.)



Cup drawing winner Jim Parrott has a hard time choosing among the geode ornaments donated by Les and Mary Bodell



Rick Fox demonstrates the parabolic microphone donated by Gill and Mary Hebard



Auction organizer Emiko Yang checks the progress on the silent auctions while attendees ponder whether to up their bids

# Thank You

to all who helped make  
this year's fundraiser a  
success!

Item .....	Donated by
Bald Eagle Print .....	Wonders of Wildlife
Lex Adjustable Walking Poles .....	Bushwacker
Two Prints .....	Junction Gallery, Metro Center
Large Gift Basket .....	Lakeview Museum Store
2 Art Prints: Pelican & Eagle .....	Bill Hardin
Droll Yankee Bird Feeder .....	Kelly Seed
Two Bird Field Trips .....	Bert Princen
Pintail Print with \$20 Gift Certificate for Framing .....	Jim Miller & "Picture This" Custom Framing & Gallery
Mallard Print .....	Jim Miller
Book - "Illinois: Seasons of Light" .....	Jim Miller
Binoculars .....	Peoria Camera
Orchid .....	Green View Nursery
Three Massages .....	Balanced Health Concepts
Three Framed Photo Prints .....	Mike Ingram
New Sibley Guides .....	Rick/Tracy Fox
Several binoculars, tri-pods, & scopes .....	Gill Hebert
Glass Bird Feeder .....	Luthy Botanical Gardens
* Purple Martin House .....	Jim & Deb Parrott of Wild Birds Unlimited
2 day boat trip on "Spirit of Peoria" and overnight stay at Starved Rock Lodge .....	Alex Grieves & Starved Rock Lodge
Hummingbird Gift Boxes, Mug, Bird Friendly Coffee, FPNC Membership .....	Trailhead Nature Store, FPNC
24 Wildlife Prints by J. Lockhart .....	Bill Allen
Books and bird décor .....	Rick & Tracy Fox
Large Polar Bear Print .....	Mark Werner

Item .....	Donated by
Framed painting of sailboat .....	Mark Werner
Octagonal framed painting .....	Mark Werner
Framed, 2 paintings in one frame .....	Mark Werner
Xylophone .....	Global Village (Nancy Long)
One year Membership to Zoo .....	Glen Oak Zoo
Kestrel Bird House .....	Bob Sloan
Blue Bird Houses .....	Camp Wokanda, PPD
Books: Hawks Peterson Guide, Warblers Peterson Guide, Guide to Alaska. ....	Maury Brucker & Emiko Yang
Two Framed Hand Painted Iris' .....	Maury Brucker & Emiko Yang
Ceramic Bird .....	Maury Brucker & Emiko Yang
Bird Feeder .....	Maury Brucker & Emiko Yang
Monographs .....	Eunice Tjaden
Framed Print of Golden Eye .....	Thad Edmonds
Framed Print of Pintails .....	Thad Edmonds
Audubon Birds of America Prints .....	John Mullen
Four Puzzles .....	Lu Ann Elwood
Hanging "Warbler" note pad .....	Lu Ann Elwood
Two Rabbits .....	Lu Ann Elwood
Porcelain Bluebird .....	Lu Ann Elwood
Blue Bird Shirt .....	Lisa Sandall
Two Porcelain Birds .....	Lisa Sandall
Books: Shorebirds of N.A., Dial B for Birder, A Bird Lover's Life List And Journal, Sibley's Birding Basics, The Peregrine, A Field Guide to Little Known & Seldom-Seen Birds of N.A., The Life of Birds, The Nature Company Guides to Birding .....	Various Contributors
Gems, minerals .....	Les & Mary Bodell

## A Special Thanks

The Sanctuary Fund also received cash donations  
from these generous contributors during the past year:

- Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Hebard
- Dr. & Mrs. L. H. Princen

- PAS Geology Section
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Contratto
- Roseann Tomko
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bowman
- Emiko Yang

The following list represents  
most of the generous members  
and friends who contributed  
items for the auction.  
Please contact Karen Solomon  
at 693-0760 if a contribution  
was not included in this list, and  
we'll include it in the next  
newsletter.



## *Reports from the Bird Counts*

### **Chillicothe Christmas Count**

61 species

Saturday, January 4, 2004

Participants: 19 in 8 parties

Reported by Tracy Fox

The Chillicothe Christmas Bird Count didn't rack up many notable species and the overall total, 16468 birds of 61 species, didn't set any records.

Thankfully two of the parties reported count week birds. Maury Brucker and Emiko Yang found our only Snow Goose and Alex Castenada and Jim Gorb found the best bird in the results (in some opinions) – a Loggerhead Shrike.

Other notable results include 154 Gadwall, 7 Pileated Woodpeckers, an amazing 105 Eastern Bluebirds, 5 Northern Mockingbirds, and 9 Yellow-rumped Warblers – all the highest results for a Chillicothe Christmas count

in the past twelve years. The results also confirm that Chillicothe residents are keeping their feeders filled. The count reported twelve-year highs for Mourning Doves, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, White-Breasted Nuthatches, European Starlings, House Finches, and House Sparrows. This abundance of feeder birds may explain the twelve-year high of 8 Cooper's Hawks as well.

Although we lacked birds, we didn't lack participants this year. Thanks to all of the regulars and first-time participants Thad Edmonds, Paulette Sibrel, and Shane Kieswetter and Mark Werner. Welcome back to long-time Audubon members and past counters Alex Castenada and Jim Gorb as well.

It was exciting to meet so many new people at the get-together following the count. We hope you will join us next year.

### **Peoria Christmas Count**

69 Species

Saturday, December 20, 2003

Participants: 23 in 8 parties

Reported by Bert Princen

Mark Werner participated and it was his birthday, so we celebrated that first at our point of departure. Then we proceeded to hike and drive for 8 hours through

our assigned area, where we saw a good deal but also missed a good number that we had expected.

Notable species sighted included a Broad-winged Hawk, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, and a Brewer's Blackbird.

Highest-ever counts included 53 Bald Eagles 96 Gadwalls, 169 American Robins, and 3 European Tree Sparrows.

### **Lake Chautauqua Christmas Count**

68 Species

Saturday, December 27, 2003

Reported by Dick Bjorklund

The Chautauqua count was good in every respect. Our team had 68 species, better than we have done in a long time. The highlight for every one

was the Northern Shrike. For some that was only one seen in Illinois ever. If that was not enough, we found two Greater Scaup in one of the stripmine lakes, and we got to see a Golden Eagle as well.

Other notable species sighted included two Red-shouldered Hawks, 17 Eurasian Collared Doves, and a Marsh Wren.

*Thanks to all who participated!*

## *Fifth Annual Fourth of July Butterfly Count*

Who: Anyone interested in counting butterflies

What: Census of butterfly species and numbers

Where: Peoria area parks, preserves, and gardens

When: Saturday, July 10 2004

The Fourth of July Butterfly Count is a national program, coordinated for the past 26 years by the North American Butterfly Association, to track butterfly populations across the continent. Similar to Audubon's Christmas Bird Counts, the Fourth of July Count is a one-day census of butterflies within a 15-mile diameter count circle. Nationally, censuses are

conducted around the Fourth of July, from June 12th to July 24th.

The count circle encompasses Peoria area parks: Wildlife Prairie, Singing Woods, and Cooper Park in East Peoria. Last year, participants observed 800 butterflies of 39 species. Volunteers are asked to spend around four hours counting the butterflies in an assigned territory. In the event of bad weather, the count will be rescheduled for Sunday, July 11, 2004

If you are interested in participating, please contact Tracy Meints Fox, 309-579-3264, [tracyfox@mtco.com](mailto:tracyfox@mtco.com)

## Invite a friend to join us . . .

### Why join?

- Learn about birds, their natural habitats, and related conservation issues through monthly programs and special events
- Sharpen your bird identification skills through field trips and networking with other local bird enthusiasts
- Contribute to the collective knowledge of Central Illinois birds by participating in bird counts and censuses
- Pass your knowledge along by assisting in public education programs
- Voice your concern for birds and central Illinois' wild places by participating in conservation efforts
- Get involved with the *Sanctuary Initiative* to support the long-range goal of acquiring a local bird sanctuary for public wildlife observation.

- Peoria Audubon is affiliated with both **National Audubon** and **Illinois Audubon Societies**.
- Peoria Audubon membership includes membership in the **Peoria Academy of Science.\***
- Peoria Audubon partners with local and state organizations to further bird and habitat conservation.

### Special Note

**Peoria Audubon members now have a choice!**

**Join Peoria Audubon only for \$15.00**

**Or join or renew with National Audubon (includes Peoria Audubon membership) for \$35.00.**

**The only privileges lost to those who choose to join local Peoria Audubon only is National's quarterly magazine.**

**Local-only members will still receive the local newsletter and also \*Peoria Academy of Science's newsletter.**

☐ **Local Only** (Peoria Audubon) . . . \$15

☐ **Dual** (National Audubon & Peoria Audubon)  
Regular/Renewal . . . . . \$35

☐ **Dual Student/Senior** . . . . . \$15

☐ Local Program Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sanctuary Fund Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed** . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make all checks payable to  
Peoria Audubon Society.**

Peoria Audubon is incorporated in the State of Illinois with 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, making all charitable contributions tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

### Peoria Audubon Society Membership Form

G66-7XCH

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or email \_\_\_\_\_

Send your membership form to: Peoria Audubon Society • c/o Greet Princen • 677 East High Point Terrace • Peoria, Illinois 61614

## Mark your Calendars for July 10: Fourth of July Butterfly Count

*Peoria Audubon Society  
677 E High Point Terrace  
Peoria, IL 61614*

### Peoria Audubon Board

#### Officers

John Mullen – President  
Joe Cordio – Vice President  
Programs Chair  
Karen Solomon – Secretary  
Newsletter Editor  
Greet Princen – Treasurer  
Maury Brucker – Conservation  
Bert Princen – Membership  
Field Trips  
LuAnn Elwood – Education

#### Board

Dennis Endicott  
Jim Miller  
Jim Parrott  
Suzie Barber  
Thad Edmonds  
Mary Luan Borquist

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

PERMIT NUMBER 875  
PEORIA, IL