

Bird's-eye View



Mark your calendars
Saturday Nov. 4
Birdseed Pick-up Day
See the enclosed
Order Form

Fall
2006

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

www.peoriaaudubon.org

Contact the Peoria Audubon Society at audubon@peoriaaudubon.org

Audubon Calendar...

Membership Meetings:

Peoria Audubon meets at 7:00 on the second Wednesday of every month, September through May (holiday potluck starts earlier) It's a relaxed, friendly evening with an interesting presentation followed by refreshments. Free and open to the public.

October 10, 7:00 PM@FPNC

Kankakee Sands: One of Illinois' Last Great Places

**Featured Speaker: Fran Harty, Lands
Program Director, The Nature Conservancy**

Kankakee Sands is located in northeastern Illinois, about an hour south of Chicago on the Indiana border. This expansive preserve takes its name from its sandy soils, which support globally-significant oak barrens, prairies and sedge meadows. This oak savanna ecosystem offers rich habitat for birds, insects and small animals. Kankakee Sands presents an unequalled opportunity to protect a naturally-functioning landscape, which remains almost unchanged since pre-settlement times.

In 1996 the Nature Conservancy acquired the 7,209-acre Kankakee Sands Preserve. It is surrounded by several high-quality, protected natural areas, creating a single, landscape-scale conservation area.

These 25-plus square miles of unfragmented habitat support unusual combinations of bird species: the declining northern bobwhite quail, bobolink and the red-headed woodpecker. It's home to the threatened plains pocket gopher, the regal fritillary and blue racer butterflies, and to a number of state-listed plant species. More information can be found at: www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/indiana

October 18 in Bloomington:

The John Wesley Powell Chapter of the Audubon Society presents a poetry reading on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 7 PM in Studio 222 in downtown Bloomington. Poet Bill Morgan will read a variety of classic and contemporary poems about birds. Admission is free. 309-530-7353

Field Trips

Log onto www.illinoisaudubon.org for information about birding trips state-wide. Peoria Audubon members can participate at IAS member rates

Locally:

*Don't miss the
waterfowl on their
southern migration*

Bert's annual fall bird-watching field trip to the wetlands near Canton is **November 11**.

Call Bert at 691-0519 for details.

April 13-15, 2007@Stoney Creek Inn, East Peoria

Peoria and Emiquon Audubon Societies are co-hosting the Illinois Audubon Annual Spring Meeting! Many events are being planned. Volunteers will be needed!



Log onto

www.audubon.org/bird/at-home/bird=feeding

Audubon At Home offers suggestions on:

- Choosing a Feeder
- Feeder Maintenance
- Selecting Seed Types
- Feeder Location

Also check out the **FAQs** section

FRIENDS OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL & PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

2006 Bird Seed Sale & Fundraiser

You'll want to participate in this year's birdseed sale **for three reasons:**

1. **Kelly Seed's** reputation for selling only high-quality birdseed. And the prices you see on the enclosed seed order form are quite competitive, because Kelly's is offering the seed to Peoria Audubon **at their cost**.
2. Peoria Audubon then marks up the seed to regular retail prices. Half the proceeds go to further Peoria Audubon's mission, and half is given to another very worthy cause – the **Friends of Rock Island Trail**. Read more about the Rock Island Trail on the back of the seed order form.
3. If you've never fed birds before, this may be the winter you want to start. Bird feeding can benefit birds and also provides great bird watching from your own backyard. Know that feeding wild birds is **absolutely safe**. Please read the Avian Flu article below.

Please copy the enclosed order form and distribute to friends and family who might want to try bird feeding this winter. Or you can download additional pdf copies from our WebSite at

www.peoriaaudubon.org

Bags of birdseed make an excellent **Holiday present**.

Peoria Audubon will make available colorful **holiday gift tags** that acknowledge your donation. **Please indicate on your order form how many gift tags you'll need, and we'll have them for you at Seed Pick-up on November 4.**

This sale is **by pre-order only**, so be sure and order all you'll need for yourself and for gifts, and send in your order form before **November 1**.

If you're new to backyard bird feeding, consider attending Forest Park Nature Center's **Attracting Birds to Your Backyard** on Saturday, October 21 @1:30 pm

Avian flu and birding

It is safe to watch and feed wild birds, especially in North America, where the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus has not been detected.

Here's 6 facts, courtesy of Cornell Lab of Ornithology: www.birds.cornell.edu/birdflu

1. Avian flu viruses have circulated in birds worldwide for thousands of years, and most pose no threat to birds or humans.
2. Avian flu causes fewer deaths **by far** than other types of flu. In the United States **alone**, about 36,000 people die **each** year from complications of seasonal flu. By contrast, in the past **three** years, 139 people **worldwide** have died from the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian flu virus, and **none** in the United States.
3. Nearly all cases of human illness from the H5N1 virus have been associated with close contact with diseased poultry or poultry products.
4. The H5N1 virus is not easily transmitted from person to person. It is remotely possible that the virus could mutate to more dangerous forms but no one knows when, if at all, this might occur.
5. The H5N1 virus has been detected in only 45 (out of millions of) wild bird species. Most noted outbreaks have been among waterfowl.
6. Wild birds are capable of carrying the H5N1 virus with them when they migrate, but in most cases so far the virus appears to have spread to new locations through the transportation of infected poultry and poultry products.

November 8, 7pm@FPNC

Joe Allen, Caterpillar Sustainability Manager: **Caterpillar's Contribution to Sustainability**

December 13, 7pm@FPNC

Svalbard Arctic Cruise - Jim Miller will share his remarkable wildlife photos from their eco-trip to Svalbard, an archipelago north of Norway – home to polar bear, walrus, reindeer, arctic fox & birds.

January 10, 6:30*pm@FPNC

Potluck & slide/digital-photo show
Bring your CD of jpg's, videos or slide carousel, table service, and a covered dish to share. Note the time change*.

Join/renew your Peoria Audubon membership!

- 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
- Voice your concern for birds and central Illinois' wild places by participating in conservation efforts

- Peoria Audubon is affiliated with both **National Audubon and Illinois Audubon Societies.**
- Peoria Audubon membership includes membership in the **Peoria Academy of Science.***

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 local Peoria Audubon membership 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
- ☐ 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 a charitable contributions tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Please include my email in Peoria Audubon's Network

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

Did you know – Caterpillar now matches employee and retiree gifts of \$50 or more to environmental organizations – such as Peoria Audubon. More information and matching gift forms can be found at the following web site: www.cat.com/cda/layout?m=41980&x=7

Many other central Illinois companies match their employee or retiree donations. Why not ask if your workplace sponsors a matching-funds program? And, please be sure to include the matching gift forms with your membership renewal or donation.

Conservation National Issues:

COURT REINSTATES ROADLESS FOREST PROTECTIONS

On Sept. 20, Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Laporte of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco sided with four attorneys general and environmental groups - including the National Audubon Society - in reinstating the 2001 Roadless Rule. This is an **important victory** for conservation, reinstating protection from road construction, logging and mining in 58.5 million acres - safeguarding one-third of our U.S. national forests.

The Bush Administration had reversed its own pledge to uphold the 2001 rule. Conservation groups, in addition to protesting the administration's decision on legal grounds, also said the change ignored the 1.7 million who opposed the Bush rule during the 2004 comment period.

Log onto www.audubon.org/campaign to stay informed on these, and other issues important to all citizen scientists who understand the importance of environmental stewardship. While you're on the Web Site, consider subscribing to Audubon's monthly update, the **Audubon Advisory**.

Local:

HISTORIC PRAIRIE, SIGN NEAR JUBILEE COLLEGE THREATENED

A number of local organizations are opposing Jubilee Township's bid to claim to a 1.6 acre parcel of land. This land was donated in 1860 by the family of Jubilee College founder Bishop Philander Chase "for public use forever". This small area is ecologically valuable because it has retained a complex prairie ecosystem, which contains at least 45 native plants, some rare and/or endangered.

Jubilee Township has declared its intention to sell the land to the highest bidder. Although this is contrary to the donor's wish of "public use forever", the public recipient was not specified in the will. If the township succeeds in selling the land, the precious native prairie would most likely be destroyed.

The landmark sign "Jubilee College State Historic Site and Park" stands on this site. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and Jubilee Prairie Dawgs - who restored and have maintained the site for many years - and the Illinois Native Plant Society and Heart of Illinois Sierra Club have so far hindered the township.

Peoria Audubon Board stands with these organizations. We believe the title should be with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, as this would respect the donor's wishes to remain in public use forever and remain connected with Jubilee College. The Board asks Peoria Audubon members to contact **Rep. David Lelch** with your views, as he is trying to mediate between the two agencies' interests. His local address is: 3114 N. University Peoria, IL 61604. Or his office email: lindadaley@ameritech.net



Plants in this high-quality prairie include the endangered royal catchfly.



Fall Birding North of Peoria:

Putnam County Conservation area

In Peoria:

Forest Park Nature Center
Singing Woods

South of Peoria:

Chautauqua Unit of the Illinois River National Wildlife Refuge
Mendenhall Boat Ramp
Worley Lake
Sand Ridge State Forest

Log onto www.peoriaaudubon.org and select **Local Birding** for details and directions to these locations

Please Bird Safely!

Hunting seasons for certain game animals has already begun.

- Be aware of the hunting seasons.
- Research any publicly-owned areas before you visit, especially Fish and Wildlife areas - find out where hunting is allowed. This IDNR site has some information on state lands: www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmg/hunter_fact_sheet
- Don't take for granted that hunted areas will be clearly marked with warning signs.
- Regardless of where you bird, be alert to parked vehicles in the vicinity, as this may indicate the presence of hunters in the area.

Must-See Websites

www.peoriaparks.org/fpnc/fpncfree

Get information about the FPNC Photography Contest, the Native Wildflower Seed Exchange & Potluck, the Nature Art Show & Sale, the Holiday Shop & Stroll, naturalist-guided walks, Tai Chi, Meditation...

www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide

The Cornell Ornithology WebSite just keeps getting better! Select a species, listen (!!) to its calls; see its range, its diet, status, habitat, behavior; view lots of photos, learn some "cool facts"

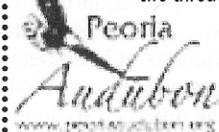
SHADE-GROWN COFFEE



This coffee is certified 100% Sustainable by the Rainforest Alliance - ensuring that farmers are following growing standards for protecting wildlife, wild lands and workers' rights. An important aspect of this certification is that it's grown under a natural, tropical forest canopy. This protects neotropical migratory bird habitats. It also happens to make an outstanding, flavorful cup of coffee. You can order online at www.auduboncoffeeclub.com

Peoria Audubon Logowear

You can now have the new Peoria Audubon logo embroidered onto your own apparel - hats, t-shirts, jackets, anything! Just drop off the item at **EmbroidMe** in Sheridan Village (next to Panache). Cost is \$10, and you can pick any two thread colors.



Peoria Audubon Board

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John Mullien - President

Pete Fenner - Vice President/Programs Chair

Karen Solomon Dunn - Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Greet Princen - Treasurer

Maury Brucker - Conservation

Bert Princen - Membership/Field Trips

Board

Dennis Endicott - Web site administrator

Holly Cook - Jim Miller - John Mori

Deb Roe - Roseann Tomko

audubon@peoriaaudubon.org



Special Events

Field trips, fine arts, learning

Fall birding:

Best sites, safety

Inside:

3 reasons to participate in the Bird Seed Sale

Peoria Audubon Society
577 E. High Point Terrace
Peoria, IL 61614