

Bird's-eye View



Conserving
bird habitat
for over
80
years

Winter
2015

Mark your calendars!
Waterfowl Trip
Saturday March 2

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

These are some of the upcoming events listed at

www.peoriaaudubon.org/calendar

Please join us for our monthly meetings at Forest Park Nature Center. Between the months of September and May, we meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 PM Membership Meeting-All About Eagles

Mike Miller, Chief Naturalist for the Peoria Park District, will present and discuss facts about our Bald Eagles. Mike will provide a historic account of how eagle populations in our area have changed over the past fifty years and will also show results from our January Peoria Eagle Count.

Saturday, March 7, 7:00 AM-4:00 PM Birding the Illinois River-Waterfowl Trip

Peoria Audubon and Peoria Park District jointly lead this daylong field trip to find migrating waterfowl at hotspots along the Illinois River. Registration is required and a \$35 fee will cover van transportation, lunch and snacks. (Audubon and Nature Center members receive a \$5 discount.) Contact Forest Park Nature Center at 309-686-3360 for more information.

Saturday, May 2, 9:00 AM Field Trip to Oak Bluff Prairie Nature Preserve

Oak Bluff Prairie Nature Preserve is a privately owned sanctuary for birds, insects and prairie plants located on a high quality prairie-savanna remnant along the Illinois River bluffs in rural Marshall County. Maury Brucker will lead the tour that will meet at the Forest Park Nature Center parking lot and carpool to the site. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Call Maury at 309-696-5490 for more information.

Saturday, May 9, All Day- Illinois Spring Bird Count

This statewide survey of birds is timed to be at the peak of spring migration. The Peoria Audubon Society organizes teams to participate in the Peoria area. Contact Mike Miller, Peoria County Compiler, at 309-681-2858 to volunteer and for more information.

Notes From the President

Dennis Endicott

With the recent break from the sub-zero temperatures, relief seems in sight with hints of Spring just around the corner. And with the new year, Peoria Audubon is welcoming several new members to our board to continue on with a tradition of conservation, education and connecting people to the outdoors. This is our 85th year of fulfilling that mission!

And as we plan and work toward the future, it's exciting to be surrounded by the new faces with new ideas, and people who are full of enthusiasm.

One of the more recent ideas, which has turned into a big success, is that several of the board members and volunteers put Peoria Audubon on Facebook. Our Facebook page has become a venue for showcasing recent birding results as well as providing a heads-up for upcoming events. Check us out!

Conservation: We are continuing to work with Ducks Unlimited to establish Chillicothe Bottoms as a prime wetlands habitat. The progress is slow at times, but our longer term vision is to provide enough development so that it can be opened to the public. Plans are being put together for a field trip the public can join to experience this great site in person. If you would like a hint of the future vision, Google the term "Chillicothe Bottoms" and then view the YouTube video "*Chillicothe Bottoms: Connecting Land, Connecting People, Connecting People to Land.*"

Continued Inside

Birds and Windows

A Deadly Combination- But You Can Help!

By Carol Beatty

I work at Caterpillar in Mossville and every day I walk through a long, glass-lined walkway to get into the building. The walkway is much appreciated when the weather is bad, providing shelter and a windbreak, but unfortunately, the glass windows have proven deadly for birds.

Last year I would walk in and see dead birds that had hit the glass panes. I found Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Gray Catbird and baby Robins among others. I found over a dozen dead birds in a two month period. As a Master Naturalist, avid birder and Audubon Society member, I felt I needed to do something.

But why do birds hit windows? Because they don't know it's a window. When they see the average window, they see the reflection of trees or sky and think they can fly through. Another cause of window collisions is male birds defending territories during mating season. They will see their reflection in the glass and think it's another competing male and attack the glass in an attempt to drive off the intruder. It is estimated that one billion birds are killed each year due to window collisions. This puts window strikes just behind cats as the largest human-related threat to our birds.

Glass walkways, as described in an article in "Living Bird" from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (Winter 2014) are especially deadly. Birds don't see the glass and just see the trees and grass on the other side and try to fly right through.

I found several options, did a rough measurement of the windows and submitted a proposal to the Facilities Engineering group at my building. As Sustainability is a key Caterpillar value, they worked with me and identified a solution that was cost effective and did not require harsh chemicals to install.

Well... Then the weather did not cooperate. This spring, with the various cold snaps, they were unable to implement the bird film as the temperature needed to be above 50 degrees for at least three evenings in a row- and of course, no rain...

From March through April and into May, I monitored the walkway. There were four casualties. Then, in early June, the team was able to clean the windows appropriately and install the film!



If you feed the birds at your home, there are precautions you can take as well. Actually moving feeders closer to the windows can help as the birds will not be moving as fast and if they do hit the window, it will cause less harm. Rule of thumb for feeder placement is – less than three feet or more than twenty feet from a window.

As for my project, it took research, lots of emails, phone calls, personal visits and a proposal, but it was worth it. Hopefully now the hazard will be diminished, if not eliminated, and I can watch the baby robins without fear they will hit the windows.



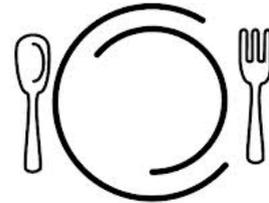
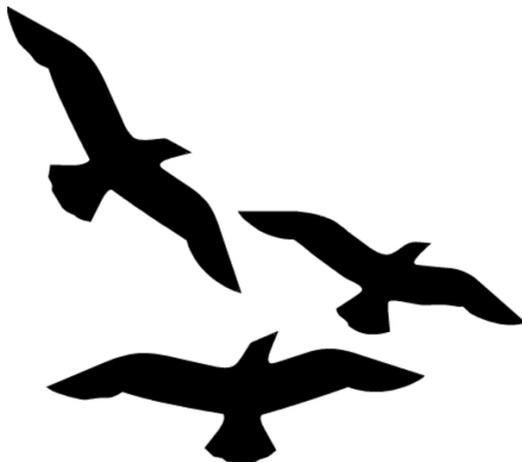
Above: Anti-collision stickers on the windows near the feeders at FPNC and Below: Window Stickers for sale at the Nature Center gift shop.

Notes From the President
Continued from Page 1

Connecting People: For an opportunity to connect people to land, we are finishing plans for a field trip to bird along the hotspots of the Illinois River on March 7. This field trip will be led by Maury Brucker of Peoria Audubon and Mike Miller of the Peoria Park District. Transportation will be provided in a Peoria Park District van. Although there will be a small fee of \$35 (\$30 for Audubon members), lunch and snacks along with the transportation are provided. This trip will be near the peak of when waterfowl are beginning their migrations north. Call Forest Park Nature Center at 309-686-3360 for more information and to sign up. Our intrepid birder, Maury, will be scouting along the Illinois River the day before to determine where the hot spots are for the birds.

Education comes about in many venues. Our field trips are educational in that one can experience firsthand the effects and benefits of conservation and seeing the interactions of nature. Our monthly membership meetings provide a forum for a wide range of topics. For example, our upcoming Wednesday, February 11 meeting will be all about Bald Eagles. Mike Miller will present and discuss all sorts of interesting facts as well as the latest trends of our national symbol. These are only a few of the activities as we plan for a new year.

We hope to see you there!



SAVE THE DATE
For These Fundraisers!

Join us for dinner on Wednesday, March 11 at TGI Friday's, where a percentage of all sales will be donated to Peoria Audubon Society. Check the website for updates and further information!

On Wednesday, April 29, Mashie's Pub will host a Trivia Night to benefit Peoria Audubon. Starting at 7:00 PM, Audubon members will get a 10% discount and 10% of sales that night will be donated. Check the website for more information and be sure to join us for this fun event!



Bluebird Workshop
Camp Wokanda
Saturday, February 28, 9:30 AM

Workshop will include instruction from successful bluebird monitors as well as the chance to build your own bluebird box to take home. One box can fledge as many as 20+ babies per season, so you really could make a difference in the population of these beautiful birds! Registration is required and space is limited, so call 309-579-2157 to register today!



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Hooded Merganser taking flight at Spring Lake on Spring Waterfowl Field Trip jointly hosted by Peoria Audubon Society and Peoria Park District. Photo by Dennis Endicott



Like the Peoria Audubon Society page on Facebook!

