NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Although we are not meeting officially until September, please let us not lose contact. Field trip plans are noted elsewhere in this newsletter. But, what is more important, is our need for additional people to conduct the surveys for the Illinois Bird Breeding Atlas. We are supposed to do 8 designated blocks in Mason County and 14 blocks in Fulton County. So far we have 3 blocks filled in Mason and 4 in Fulton County. That is a rather meager showing. We do still have some choice blocks open around Canton. It is still not too late to join us.

I am sorry to say that I am still waiting to receive the detailed maps for these counties, that are needed to carry out a good study. However, I have received the work and reporting sheets and instruction booklets. So, I hope to be able to mail you all information as soon as the maps arrive. In the meantime, you can satisfy your eagerness for getting in the field by spending some more time in the blocks you did last year in Peoria and Tazewell Counties. Those need to be up-graded if at all possible.

If you are at all interested in participation we can reimburse you for up to $30, per block for mileage and other costs upon submission of an acceptible report. Give me a call in the evening or weekend on (309) 691-1519 and I can assign you to a good territory. It is an experience totally different, but extremely enjoyable.

L. H. Princent

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 23, a field trip is planned to Mendenhall Park to hopefully see shorebirds. Meet at the park on Route 24 one mile south of Bartonville Allied Rd at 4:00 p.m. Lacking birds there, the group may move on. Call 688-2088 if you plan to attend.

Next meeting will be September 9 at 7:30 p.m., at Lakeview Museum. A newsletter announcing fall activities will be mailed in late August.

National Audubon Society’s Biennial Convention will be August 24-29 in Dallington, Washington. "Ancient Forest—Priceless Treasure" will be the theme of the convention which will feature a variety of speakers and field trips planned before, during and after the convention. For more information, call the Editor (309) 697-0553.

Watch for airing on your Public Television Station this summer of 6 World of Audubon Specials. The programs will be on consecutive Sunday evenings, July 12 - August 16.

GRANDFATHER CLAUSE MEMBERS

of the Peoria Audubon Society

If you care to continue your membership with the Peoria Audubon Society and receive the newsletter, please pay your dues made out to the Peoria Audubon Society and mail to:

Mrs. Greet Princent
677 6, High Point Terrace
Peoria, Illinois 61605

Family membership $8.00
Single Membership $5.00

PURPLE MARTIN COLONY REGISTRY

The Purple Martin Conservation Association is a newly formed international non-profit organization dedicated to the conversation of the Purple Martin through research, wildlife management techniques and public education. Research will include the entire range of the species.

The colony registry program is currently being promoted seeks to help in locating and registering Purple Martin colonies in preparation for several projects designed to help this species.

If you or someone you know is interested in information from this organization, write:

Purple Martin Conservation Association
Institute of Environmental Studies
Edith Brooks University of Pennsylvania
Eddboro, PA 16444

BIRD BREEDING ATLAS PROJECT

Again birders from Peoria Audubon, or any interested birders, are being urged to participate in the Bird Breeding survey this year in Fulton and Mason Counties. For those who may not have been involved last year, the purpose is to document the current status and distribution of the birds breeding in these counties. This is accomplished by volunteers who go into the field and find evidence of the breeding of birds within areas delineated by the maps.

Specific procedures are outlined. Within each county are certain atlas blocks 3 miles by 3 1/2 miles each. A person, or persons, is needed to bird each of these blocks finding evidence of nesting or young and keeping a record on forms provided. These forms are returned by Dr. Princent to the Illinois Department of Conservation.

FIELD NOTES

Members of Audubon birdied and explored the Rock Island Trail, led by Craig Bruker from Wyoming, northwest to the Spoon River bridge on April 19. This section of the trail starts 1/2 mile north of the Wyoming Super Valu and traverses a varied terrain. For many birders, Yellow-throated Warblers, Vesper Sparrow, Cedar Waxwings, Kinglets, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Hermit Thrushes.

Saturday, May 15, twelve people again enjoyed Dick and Katy Collins' hospitality at a warbler walk at their farm near Lacon. Fifty species were counted including several Turkey Vultures on the ground within a hundred feet of the party, a Wood Thrush and Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-throated, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos. Warblers did not appear as readily as had been hoped. However, 7 species of warblers were listed including the Connecticut Warbler. The Yellow-throated Warbler usually found there wasn't there.

In the last two weeks of May, several good sightings were reported:

- Yellow-headed Blackbird at Negro Lake
- Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Acadian Flycatcher at Jubilee Park
- 3 Black-crowned Night Heron at Mendenhall
- Laughing Gull at Duck Island Farm
- King Rail at former ear dump near Mendenhall
- Black-shouldered Kite near Galesburg

BUTTERFLY COUNTERS WANTED

The Nature Conservancy is looking for people who can spend at least one morning a week this summer chasing butterflies through sunny meadows. The project sounds like nothing but fun and frivolity, but, in fact, it is a serious undertaking, a chance to help the Conservancy check on the state of their assets, the natural areas that are in preserves.

The point of the project is to census the butterflies on key preserve areas, to record species and numbers seen on each visit. Census takers will follow a route that allows them time in each plant community, according to Field Representative Steve Packard.

By any measure, insects represent most of the animal life in land ecosystems. They account for most of the individuals, most of the species and even most of the living mass. Their effects on the ecosystem are profound. Without them, most flower plants would not produce seeds.

While butterflys account for only a small portion of the total insect population, they were selected for this project because they are relatively large, conspicuous and easy to identify. Suddenly, interest in insect populations can signal changes that could affect the rare plant communities that a preserve is supposed to protect.

For more information, contact the Nature Conservancy's Chicago office at 79 W. Monroe, Chicago, Illinois 60603.
FULTON COUNTY

May 9, 1987

138 species — 12 observers — 4 parties
Highest Count — 1963 145 species, 14 observers, 5 parties
Lowest Count — 1977 116 species, 8 observers, 5 parties

Marie Hely reported their first Pilateed Woodpecker in Banner Township. She was pleased to have the only Black-billed Cuckoo, Nighthawk, and Carolina Wren reported in Fulton County.

Dr. Princon reported Anderson Lake area was a great disappointment. No birds as observed and reported by other area birders, also in May at Anderson Lake. His total of 109 was low for his area even though he reported the only Cattle Egret, Double-created Cormorant, Sora, Semi-palmed Plover, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prairie Warbler and Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but also 5 Mockingbirds. Primnet's water hole area near Dickson Mounds (or the Snowy Plover 5/10 area) was being plowed Saturday which added to Fulton County's count woes also, so, few sightings of Warblers.

The Benson family was pleased to find the only Little Blue Heron, Brown Creeper, Common Tern, Herring Gull and Cape May Warbler in Fulton County.

In Farmington, Fairview and Joshua Townships, our duck lake spots were recently fenced, some beaded wire, too! The two good "no man's land" roads were only a chase - a big cool shoveling was working. We had our worst count of 16 years, but we did see 2 Bobolinks, the only ones reported in the county.

Virginia Humphreys, Compiler

WOODFORD COUNTY

Eight birders in 3 parties in a 15 hour day produced a list of 112 species, a record number for their county on count day, reported John Todt, Compiler.

Among ducks seen were 21 Wood Ducks, 18 of which were beautiful males. The Woodford County Conservation Area netted up to 25 each of 7 species of shorebirds. Two Great-horned Owls were an unexpected sighting in early afternoon when they took flight from dense 145 species, 14 observed Silver Maple. Three Least Flycatchers were seen in Roanoke Park, as well as many of the 16 species of warblers counted. Of particular interest were: Purple-rumped Warbler, a Marsh Wren, 3 Veerys and a Hermit Thrush.

On the day before and the day after the count, 4 Wild Turkeys were seen near Isaac Walton near Metamora. These were apparently released 2 years ago by the Department of Conservation.

STARK COUNTY

Stark County may be small in physical size, but it was certainly well represented "bird-wise" on May 9. Maury Brucker, in a stand of virgin timber near Bradford, sighted warblers: Tennessee, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush and Common Yellowthroat.

We didn't do badly in the sparrow department either: Chipping, Field, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, Song, Lincoln's, Swamp, White-throated and White-crowned. Other highlights were: Green-banked Heron, Lesser Golden Plover, Great-horned Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird and Pine Siskin.

My personal highlight, although not an unusual species, was a female Wood Duck with 14 very young, swimming.

Total of 99 species, 5 observers.

Mary Hartley, Compiler

PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

President — L. H. Princon
Editors — Chuck and Eleanor Voeste
Hailing — Jean Gebert
Art Work — Jason Hauser

Next newsletter deadline — August 17

MARION COUNTY

Count day with 10 participants in 4 parties netted a total of 151 species! This topped previous county totals reported Dr. Richard Bjorklund, Compiler.

Species listed, which are considered unusual for the count date, require documentation. The nine Mason County species documented were 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Wild Turkey, 1 King Rail, 2 Western Sandpipers, 1 Chuckw willow warbler, 1 Olive-sided Flycatcher, 1 Sedge Wren, 2 Blue Grosbeak and 4 Red Crossbills.

Among the other 142 listings for the day were:
424 Great Blue Heron
56 Double-striped Cormorant
228 Wood Duck
1 Cooper's Hawk
1 Virginia Rail
24 Sora
11 species of shorebirds, including 42 Killdeer and 1 Short-billed Dowitcher
1 Black Tern
1 Common Tern
59 White-poor-will
1 Water Pipit
6 species of vireo
23 species of warblers, including 12 Prothonotary Warbler and 1 Kentucky Warbler
12 Summer Tanager
177 Dickcissel
11 species of true sparrows
2 Yellow-headed Blackbird

PEORIA COUNTY

Our twelve participants in 5 parties generally seemed to feel good about their day's listing which resulted in a county highest count of 133. Of course, there are always those elusive birds which should have been there but weren't.

Thirty-three Great Blue Herons and 21 Great Egrets were in the Mendeshall Park area. This year these numbers may finally be accounted for with the discovery of the renewed heronry across the Illinois River in the Worley/Slim Lake areas.

Eighty-one Canada Geese, many of them nesting, made us aware that they are now residents here.

John Marshall's group was pleased to, again, find Black Swallows near Pottstown, 74 of them. Dale Goodner and party tallied 19 or our 23 warbler species, including a Cerulean and 2 Worm Eating Warblers, in Forest Park and other bluff locations.

Most groups didn't see warblers they expected. Dense foliage and considerable wind compounded the problem.

Don Schmitt had a great day ending with 101 species. Among those found in Banner Marsh were 1 Common Moorhen, 1 American Woodcock, and 1 White-fronted Goose which seemed very comfortable with the Canada Geese.

We greatly appreciated the help of all participants. Each one helps in the real purpose of trying to census the birds in all counties of Illinois on a given day.

Eleanor Voeste, Compiler

TAZEWELL COUNTY

With a sunny 85 degree day, Tazewell's ten birders in three parties reported 99 species according to Louise Endres, Compiler.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Purple Finch, seen only in Tazewell County, as well as the 2 documented Fox Sparrows were undoubtfully late migrants. Three Common Moorhens, 219 Purple Martins, 15 Bobolinks, 1 Willow Flycatcher and 50 Canada Geese were of particular interest. Six species of shorebirds, 4 species of vireos and 11 species of Warblers, including 1 Yellow-throated Warbler, were listed.

PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

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Peoria, IL 61614

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