PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
Newsletter

NO. NINE - A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
DECEMBER 1988

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This will be the last of a series of ramblings that I have provided for our newsletter as your President during the last three years. Soon we will have a new slate of officers elected and installed. A regular change of the guard is what keeps an organization vital and vibrant.

The past three years have seen a lot of activities. There were many good field trips, educational evening meetings, a lot of friendships, some good battles on the conservation and ecology fronts, and much data gathering for migratory, wintering and breeding surveys. We were involved in educating school children and adults, and we sold bird seed. There was something for everybody, and indeed, many members found some pro bono or issue in which to participate.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the officers, directors, and committee members who have worked so well and so hard with me on the Board of Directors. I also thank all the members who have given so generous of their time when we needed people to carry out surveys, sell seed, bring cookies, or do whatever we asked. It is that spirit which makes an organization come alive.

Thank you all for that support and I hope that you will continue to help our next officers and directors, so that their reign may be as happy and successful. I promise that I will continue to do my share.

L. H. Princen
President

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17-PEORIA COUNT-contact Louise Endres at 862-8500 (evenings)
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23-CHAUDAUQUA COUNT-contact Dr. Bjorklund at 477-3012
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31-CHILlicoTHE COUNT-contact Dick Collins at 466-9627

Everyone is welcome to participate—we need volunteers!

Record-breaking Birdathon

The 1988 Birdathon is history—and what history was made! One-hundred and sixty-six chapters raised a total of $300,000—both record-breaking numbers. Three thousand people went birding; nearly 700 prizes (all donated) were awarded to 460 chapters. Top prizes included Zeiss, Leica, Nikon, Minolta, and Swift binoculars, Minolta and Polaroid cameras, Roger Tory Peterson Field Guides from Eastern Birds to Western Birds, Glover, Timberland Boots, Pacific Coast Feather Down Comforters, Audubon Ecology Camp Scholarships, Audubon Advocates subscriptions, and Audubon Sanctuary vacations for two. Congratulations to all!

More birder's records: the Dallas Audubon Society saw 259 species by sending 11 teams out all over the state. The Everglades, Florida, chapter raised the greatest amount of money—more than $15,000—while the Santa Clara Valley, California, chapter had the most money in pledges: $750 per species!

One of the most important reasons for the unprecedented success of this year's Birdathon was that chapters could allocate 50 percent of their proceeds to the national program or office of their choice while keeping the other half for their own conservation activities. This, of course, can bring the money as close to home as your regional office, for example, or an Audubon sanctuary in your area. Attracting sponsors and raising money is easy when you can tell folks where the money is going.

Next year's Birdathon is expected to include another 100 chapters and to see great increases in the amount of funds (and fun) raised by all. Go for it!

AUDUBON MEETINGS

DECEMBER 14 - MEMBERS NIGHT
The Botany Section is invited to our meeting. Bring your favorite slides or movies that relate to plants or nature.
Anyone is invited to bring their favorite piece of nature artwork to display to the group. (You don't have to discuss it unless you would like to)

JANUARY 11 - POTLUCK
Bring your favorite dish to share with the group. The Christmas bird counts will be discussed.

FEBRUARY 1 - THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT FOREST PARK NATURE CENTER: THIS IS BEING HELD A WEEK EARLIER THAN OUR NORMAL MEETING TIME!

TOM SEGERSTROM, director of the Great Plains Wildlife Research Institute, Casper, Wyoming, will be our speaker. The topic will be "Wyoming's Wildlife: A Web of Wonder". He is jointly sponsoring this speaker with Forest Park Nature Center.

His sixty minute presentation is a rich encounter with the spectacular wildlife in Wyoming. Here, are the largest nomadic herds of big game on the continent roved only in Africa. Eleven species of grazers can be found in this wildlife museum of America's past. Predators, songbirds, birds of prey and a myriad of small mammals rove around the roaming of large herbivores and the vast landscape. This program will dramatically increase the pleasure of wildlife viewing by people who plan to visit the West.

SUBJECT: Shawnee National Forest Management Plan

On August 15, 1988, the Audubon Council of Illinois and the National Forest Service, Eastern Region, entered into a settlement agreement concerning the future management of the Shawnee National Forest. The agreement was signed by J. O. Smith, president of Audubon Illinois.

If anyone wishes to read a more detailed report by J. O. Smith of the plan, please contact the Editor.

L. H. Princen
President

BANNER MARSH/RICE LAKE

The Illinois Department of Conservation held a public hearing on Wednesday, November 16, at Canton High School to receive reactions on the latest version of the future plans for Banner Marsh and the Rice Lake areas. Conservation concerns were expressed by members of the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, Illinois Audubon Council, Peoria Audubon Society and others. Also, well represented were various fishing, hunting, and trapping interests.

Almost everyone expressed appreciation for the way DCO staff had addressed critiques and criticisms presented orally and in writing last spring when an earlier version of the draft was presented. The latest plan is a great improvement for everyone concerned, but it is not totally satisfactory. Even under the multiple-use concepts there are opportunities to improve the properties as well as uses with more consideration of conservation issues. Two glaring examples are the present plan to rotate certain resting and hunting areas for waterfowl every three days or so, and the fact that there will only be 500 acres of land off limits for hunting and fishing at the north end of Banner Marsh. Another 500 acres or so should be added on the south end near the town of Banner. That would still leave several thousand acres for other uses.

I am sure that the final version will still have to be put on paper and that there is still opportunity to speak your piece. If you have some ideas or a pet peeve, please write to the Director of DCO, Mr. Mark Frech, 524 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62707.
1,000 Bird Species
As Risk Of Extinction

More than 1,000 of the 9,000 species of birds in the world are now at risk of extinction, some say. The reasons for this are manifold: habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, and hunting. The situation is particularly dire in the Amazon rainforest, where deforestation is occurring at an alarming rate. Conservation efforts are needed to protect these vulnerable species.

**Ozone Costs Billions**

In Crop, Tree Losses

Ozone air pollution costs agriculture billions of dollars each year, with crops like soybeans and corn suffering significant damage. In some cases, yields have dropped by more than half due to exposure to ozone.

**FIELD TRIP RESULTS**

The October 2nd field trip to Johnson Sauk Trail State Park included the sighting of 40 species. Four species of warblers were observed, including the chestnut-sided warbler. A ruddy-crowned sparrow was also seen along with a rufous-sided flycatcher, red-breasted nuthatch, golden-crowned kinglet, cedar waxwing, black-throated warbler, bay-breasted warbler, black and white warbler and an american redstart.

**Louise Endres**

On Saturday, October 22, 15 persons enjoyed the annual fall tour of the Illinois River Valley south of Peoria. The day was clear, temperatures brisk 35-38°F, and the wind calm. The autumn colors were excellent despite earlier predictions that the drought would cause them to be less vibrant. While we did not record the diversity of species of some prior years, 71 species were observed, most of them seen well. Highlights include both color morphs of the Snow Goose, as well as Canada Geese: fourteen species of ducks which included a ruddy, hooded, and bufflehead; a large flock of Bonaparte’s Gulls, Belted King- crowned Sparrows reported early, but Brenda had them in her yard at Roanoke 10/20 Woodco. She saw 19/22 in her backyard, and 20/22 in her back yard near the river. If you see or hear of a Harris’ Sparrow, please pass on the information.

**Pine Siskins have arrived 10/30 in Mason Co—seen by Dick Bjorklund. Immature Scarlet Tanager in Old Franklin Co on a bare tree—seen 10/28. Dr. Princent Jones a great new bird to their list.**

Virginia Humphreys

Dick Bjorklund

On November 5th 19 observers were led on a hike by the MGR group to the Marmaduke Bird Sanctuary near Canton. The weather was cloudy, windy day but 68 species were observed. Highlights included Swainson’s Thrush, Tondara Snow, Snow Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Purple Finch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Brown Creeper, Rinn-necked Pheasant, 15 species of ducks which include Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Redhead, Canvasback, Spot-billed Teal, Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, a Harrier and a Rough-legged Hawk.

**Bert Princent Jones**

On November 1st 12 observers were led on a hike by the MGR group to the Marmaduke Bird Sanctuary near Canton. The weather was cloudy, windy day but 68 species were observed. Highlights included Swainson’s Thrush, Tondara Snow, Snow Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Purple Finch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Brown Creeper, Rinn-necked Pheasant, 15 species of ducks which include Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Redhead, Canvasback, Spot-billed Teal, Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, a Harrier and a Rough-legged Hawk.
Endangered Storks Make Tentative Comeback... by Tim Bancroft, Research Biologist National Audubon Society

Wood storks were listed by the federal government as endangered in 1984, and their current status is of concern to many biologists and conservationists. Recently, a team of biologists analyzed the data on breeding populations of the wood stork in the southeastern United States for the period 1959 through 1985. Their analysis provides some interesting new information.

The best news is that the southeastern population of wood storks appears to be stabilizing. In fact, approximately 10,000 pairs of wood storks attempted to nest in Florida this year, the largest number in the last 25 to 50 years. By 1985, however, the population had increased and stabilized at 2,500-6,000 nesting pairs.

The analyses have also uncovered a disturbing trend: a net migration of the geographical center of nesting. During 1958-1960, the breeding population of storks was centered south of Florida. By 1980, the center of nesting had shifted to the southern part of Port Florida, 130 kilometers to the north. Concurrently with this, the nesting density per square kilometer decreased by 44 percent, from 8,800 pairs in 1960 to fewer than 1,500 pairs in 1985.

Two factors seem important in explaining the observed shift in the center of breeding. Storks nesting in the northern part of the range appear to be much more successful than those in the south, with the result that annual production of young is annually mortality in the north, while the reverse has been true in the south. The second factor is that adult storks and their offspring that once nested in the northern colonies in some or most years. These factors are likely to be related to the availability of adequate feeding habitat in the two regions. In the south, the scarcity of five important wetland feeding habitats decreased by 35 percent between 1960 and 1973. Furthermore, many of the remaining wetlands have been modified to support other crops or pastures, and dewatering, or manipulation of natural hydrologic cycles. These managed wetlands may not provide adequate food base for storks if they fail to concentrate fish at the proper water depths and in the proper seasons. The problem, therefore, is not simply one of competition for habitat, but many of the food sources that provide many feeding options for the storks. The availability of favorable feeding habitat may well explain the greater success of the northern population.

Although south Florida no longer supports the number of breeding wood storks it once did, this region still may be critical to the preservation of the species. The south remains an important nesting area and may be an important wintering location for storks from throughout the southeastern United States breeding range as well. That the southeastern wood stork population has stabilized is reassuring. The northern shift of nesting sends us a message that the environments of south Florida on which the storks depend are in trouble, something we have heard from other species as well.

Scientists Explore Risks of Superconductivity

D. Jan Beyea from Audubon’s Environmental Policy Department recently joined a host of physicists and industry leaders at Robert Birnbaum’s Institute for Resource Management to ponder the implications of superconductivity. Scientists and engineers are claiming that superconductors—specialized materials that, when cooled to abnormally low temperatures, conduct electricity with little or no resistance—are expected to lead to the eventual development of nontoxic superconductors, making the technology more economical.

Scientists predict superconductivity will one day have a major impact in many areas of modern society, it will be some time before its applications reach a scale where they might be noticed, Beyea says. But as Beyea feels that we still have an opportunity and an obligation to channel its growth into environmentally benign directions.

Despite the promise of enhanced electrical conductivity, scientists are discovering that superconductivity will not significantly improve the efficiency of power transmission. In fact, calculations show that if full-scale transmission were based on superconductors, power losses would be decreased by only three percent. In addition, superconducting devices would greatly increase the intensity of magnetic fields in the environment. This poses potential human health threats, and could interfere with magnetic-based animal orientation, such as bird migration. Clearly, Beyea says, this technology should be developed to proceed as the next technology to evolve.

Audubon Special Looks at Sharks

People have always beheld viciously and with seeming hatred toward sharks. As a result, several species are now greatly reduced in number. Theined basking shark is severely threatened, and the great white, the shark of dreams and nightmares, is now hunted by a furtive and successful southerner. There have also been setbacks in blue and dusky shark research programs. The most Audubon Television Special on SuperSharks attempts to counter the charge that these sharks are feed on endangered marine species.

Sharks are an important and valuable part of the marine ecosystem. They are no more unlimited than whales, dolphins, seals, and sea lions, which are also targets for our concern has long been established. They have much more to fear from humans than they have to fear from them.

The Biroders Handbook for the Field covers the Natural History of North American Birds is a new book by Paul Elwood and World Birds. Why? This is broadly reviewed in American Birds, National Audubon Society’s quarterly journal, Biodiversity Handbook. It deals with the new addition to every birder’s bookshelf. Its 800-plus pages are a compendium of information, yet the book is compiled in a lively and readable manner.

Species accounts appear on left-hand pages of the Handbook. Each summarizes each bird, and each has key information on each bird’s biology, nesting, feeding, eggs, habitat, conservation. The right-hand pages contain detailed essays on topics, from migration to bird migration. The naturalist will find a clear and profound understanding of bird behavior and the uses of the birds. Extensive cross-referencing and bibliographic information make this book an invaluable resource.

The Biodiversity Handbook costs $14.95 and is available in bookstores.

Birds Have New Field Guide

The Biroder’s Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds is a new book by Paul Elwood, author of World Birds. What? It deals with the natural history of North American birds, it will be broadly reviewed in American Birds, National Audubon Society’s quarterly journal. The Handbook is designed for birds of the entire bird’s biotope. Its 800-plus pages are a compendium of information, yet the book is compiled in a lively and readable manner. Species accounts appear on left-hand pages of the Handbook. Each summarizes each bird, and each has key information on each bird’s biology, nesting, feeding, eggs, habitat, conservation. The right-hand pages contain detailed essays on topics, from migration to bird migration. The naturalist will find a clear and profound understanding of bird behavior and the uses of the birds. Extensive cross-referencing and bibliographic information make this book an invaluable resource.

The Biodiversity Handbook costs $14.95 and is available in bookstores.

Scientists Explore Risks of Superconductivity

D. Jan Beyea from Audubon’s Environmental Policy Department recently joined a host of physicists and industry leaders at Robert Birnbaum’s Institute for Resource Management to ponder the implications of superconductivity. Scientists and engineers are claiming that superconductors—specialized materials that, when cooled to abnormally low temperatures, conduct electricity with little or no resistance—are expected to lead to the eventual development of nontoxic superconductors, making the technology more economical.

Scientists predict superconductivity will one day have a major impact in many areas of modern society, it will be some time before its applications reach a scale where they might be noticed, Beyea says. But as Beyea feels that we still have an opportunity and an obligation to channel its growth into environmentally benign directions.

Despite the promise of enhanced electrical conductivity, scientists are discovering that superconductivity will not significantly improve the efficiency of power transmission. In fact, calculations show that if full-scale transmission were based on superconductors, power losses would be decreased by only three percent. In addition, superconducting devices would greatly increase the intensity of magnetic fields in the environment. This poses potential human health threats, and could interfere with magnetic-based animal orientation, such as bird migration. Clearly, Beyea says, this technology should be developed to proceed as the next technology to evolve.

Audubon Special Looks at Sharks

People have always beheld viciously and with seeming hatred toward sharks. As a result, several species are now greatly reduced in number. Theined basking shark is severely threatened, and the great white, the shark of dreams and nightmares, is now hunted by a furtive and successful southerner. There have also been setbacks in blue and dusky shark research programs. The most Audubon Television Special on SuperSharks attempts to counter the charge that these sharks are feed on endangered marine species.

Sharks are an important and valuable part of the marine ecosystem. They are no more unlimited than whales, dolphins, seals, and sea lions, which are also targets for our concern has long been established. They have much more to fear from humans than they have to fear from them.

The Biroders Handbook for the Field covers the Natural History of North American Birds is a new book by Paul Elwood and World Birds. Why? This is broadly reviewed in American Birds, National Audubon Society’s quarterly journal, Biodiversity Handbook. It deals with the new addition to every birder’s bookshelf. Its 800-plus pages are a compendium of information, yet the book is compiled in a lively and readable manner. Species accounts appear on left-hand pages of the Handbook. Each summarizes each bird, and each has key information on each bird’s biology, nesting, feeding, eggs, habitat, conservation. The right-hand pages contain detailed essays on topics, from migration to bird migration. The naturalist will find a clear and profound understanding of bird behavior and the uses of the birds. Extensive cross-referencing and bibliographic information make this book an invaluable resource.

The Biodiversity Handbook costs $14.95 and is available in bookstores.

Information, Please

By Barbara Linton and Ann Stevens

National Audubon Society

O K. You’ve always wanted to know the answer to the question, “Are there special contact lenses for night-time viewing?” Who do you ask the answer? You could ask your friendly chapter bird expert, or call Information Services at the New York office of National Audubon Society.

Information Services handles a whopping 30,000 inquiries a year, from queries about bird behavior to requests for background materials on acid rain. During the school year, about half of the calls and faxes come from students, mostly in the elementary grades. The topics of interest include wildlife, endangered species, pollution, and other environmental issues. We fulfill hundreds of requests from teachers who are looking for educational materials for classroom use. We provide reading recommendations for the kids and its programs and back issues of American magazine.

References

1. The general mag at of this book consists of questions about bird feeding habits and animal species that are the favorites of bluebirds, purple martins, and hummingbirds. Of the approximately 11 species of birds, approximately 11 species have puzzles with pigeons and woodpeckers are all birds of prey. The last few years have shown enormous advances in bird families predominately in spring and summer when it is possible to see that many of these birds are becoming too shy. One caller even wanted to know if birds will eat insects and in some cases even shellfish.

Questions, answering Information Services refers some callers to other organizations that have a specialty in a special area. We help newspaper and magazine reporters check facts, and—"as ‘communication central’ for Audubon, we distribute brochures to our regional offices and sanctuary staff. But don’t discourage them: ‘this, your assistance to you, please drop us a line!”
Announcing Audubon Wildlife Adventures

Audubon Television has just released all-new computer software to complement the TV series. The first disk, entitled "Grizzly Bears," introduces players to that magnificent animal through a series of four interactive stories.

Taking the part of a park ranger, a research biologist, or a natural resource developer, the player searches for creative solutions to the conflicts between people and the bear. Additional software in the Audubon Wildlife Adventures series includes "Whoa!," "Raptors," and "Posse on Patrol." Each title comes with a curriculum guide with expanded activities. "Grizzly" is now available from your local software retailer; "Whoa!" will be out next year.

For more information, contact: Christopher Palmer, Vice-president and Executive Producer, Audubon Television Programs, 801 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003; (202) 547-8099.

Audubon and Activism

Work for Each Other

Readers of Audubon usually enjoy the magazine's beauty and the elegance with which it presents environmental topics. But activists should not forget that the magazine is also one of the finest political tools available. During the past year alone, the magazine has run more than a dozen articles focusing on the National Audubon Society's High Priority Campaigns, including six on wetlands, two on acid rain, and three on old-growth forests. The entire May issue was devoted to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The magazine also covered a broad array of other topics of NAS concern, including pesticides and international issues.

Audubon does more than provide nicely packaged information; however. It is also a vital tool for effecting change. For example, Washington lobbyists used the May issue on the Arctic Refuge to call Capitol Hill, and the magazine's thorough analysis of the financial loss that clearingcutting of Alaska's Tongass National Forest means to the federal government was bound to recruit budget-conscious congresspeople into the environmental camp.

Look for the upcoming March issue focusing on the world's oceans, and a spring issue about the problems of the Plate and Rio Grande rivers. Expect, too, more vital information on acid rain, wetlands, and other crucial issues. When losing your weapons for the next battle, don't forget that one of the sharpest tools at your disposal is Audubon.

Citizens who want to do even more—to get behind the scenes and into the fray—can join Audubon's Activists Network. The network gets you a subscription to the bimonthly newsmagazine of environmental issues, Audubon Activist, and puts you on the mailing list for Action Alerts on especially urgent issues! You also receive Audubon's Activist's hotline number for up-to-the-minute news. For membership in the Activists Network, send $9 to Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Tucson to Host '89 Audubon Convention

This Tucson Audubon Society, ably assisted by five other Arizona chapters, will be hosting the Biennial National Audubon Society Convention, from Tuesday through Saturday, September 12-16, 1989, at the Doubletree Hotel at Randolph Park in Tucson. An impressive array of field trips to various Southwestern ecosystems will be offered before, during, and after the convention. Programs will be designed around the convention theme, "Our Southwest—Challenged by Growth."

Audubon's convention office in Boulder, Colorado, will be handling the administrative details, including registration, and will be glad to answer your questions. A brochure giving full registration and field trip details will be available after the first of the year. Audubon President Peter A. Bent is asking all chapters to consider sending at least one representative to the convention to help chart the Society's future course.

For more information, contact: Gail Turner, Convention Coordinator, 4150 Darby, Suite 5A, Boulder, Colorado 80303, or your local chapter leader.

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. Great Princen
677 E. High Street
Peoria, IL 61614

Family membership: $8.00
Single membership: $5.00

PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE
PEORIA, IL 61614
NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEORIA, ILLINOIS
PERMIT NO. 875