NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The Illinois Department of Conservation is calling a Conservation Congress for February 5th thru 7th, 1993. IDOC is asking for more input from user groups. It needs more support in the face of deepening state budget problems.

IDOC not only directly manages a lot of habitat important to birds in state parks, conservation areas and natural areas, but also it has the primary public agency responsibility for non-game species and the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. Peoria Audubon members have been participating in the Region 1 caucus of 24 counties (the NW ¼ of Illinois) to prepare for the Congress. It will take the joint efforts of nature groups, sportsmen and other users to provide the diverse support needed to improve and continue IDOC's essential programs.

Maury Brucker, President

LOCAL EVENTS:

1. "AUTUMN IN THE WOODS--FALL FESTIVAL":
Come! Bring the family and join in the fun as Peoria Audubon and other conservation groups help the Nature Conservancy introduce to the public the PEORIA WILDS. This new effort is to protect and restore a series of oak woodlands which occur along the bluffs of the Illinois River. PEORIA WILDS contains the largest oak woodland remaining north of the Shawnee National Forest.

The event will be held on Sunday, October 11th, noon to 5 PM, at Camp Wokanda near Mossville, Illinois, on Old Galena Road south of Cedar Hills Drive, or north of Route 6. There will be demonstrations of restoration techniques, arts and crafts, folk music, field tours, games for all ages, storytellers, food, and displays of native flora & fauna, and much, much more. Get out and enjoy the fresh air, make new friends, and get to know more about our Peoria natural areas. For more information call Nature Conservancy's Central Illinois Field Office at 309-682-1369. See you there!

2. A follow-up to the introduction of PEORIA WILDS is a lecture series at Lakeview Museum. Unfortunately, most of them occur on our monthly membership nights, but please encourage your family and friends to attend and let you know what they learned from the series. Starting time is 7 PM, and they are free to the public (donations accepted). Please pass the word!

Sept. 9th---"Illinois Oak Woodlands: Past & Present" by Dr. John Ebinger, Prof. of Botany, Eastern Illinois University.
Nov. 11th---"There Were Oaks and Hickories--But Was It Forest?" by Doug Ladd, Dir. of Science and Stewardship for the Missouri Chapter of Nature Conservancy.
Dec. 2nd---(we can all go that night...)
"Peoria Wilds Oak Restoration Project" with Michael Reuter, Field Rep. for NC's Central Ill. Field Office; Mary Kay Solecki, Preservation Specialist for the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Dale Goodner, Chief Naturalist for the Peoria Park District; and Chris Ryan, Volunteer Restoration & Management Coordinator.
LOCAL EVENTS (continued):

3. An "Illinois Forest Conference" sponsored by the Ill. Native Plant Soc., Botany Dept. of Eastern Ill. Univ., Dept. of Forestry, Univ. of Ill, Ill. Council on Forestry Dev., Grand Prairie Friends and the Illinois Natural History Survey will be held on September 26/27, 1992 at Eastern Illinois University. Topics to be discussed will be the types of forests in Illinois, threats to Illinois forests, federal programs in forestry, etc. Registration Information: 217---662-2142.

4. Forest Park Nature Center will offer the following programs this fall:
   "A Birdfeeding Primer", adults, Sunday, September 27th, 1 PM, free.
   "Build a Birdfeeder", adults and accompanied children, Thursday, October 5th, 7 PM, fee: $21 for non-park district residents, $19.50 for park district residents, and $18 for Forest Park CORE members.

5. Jubilee State Park's "1992 AUTUMN HARVESTFEST": September 19th & 20th. Come on out to enjoy the sights, sounds, and crisp smells of fall in Central Illinois. Stop by to say "HI!" at our booth; and better yet, if you plan to attend, volunteer to help for an hour or two at our booth to meet and talk with fellow birdwatchers. To help, call Brenda Onken, Chairperson at 923-7676, or Marj Tattersall, editor, at 692-2247.

6. Be sure to stop in and see LAKEVIEW MUSEUM's new hands-on exhibit called the "Children's Discovery Center". It's for children of all ages and starts Saturday, October 17th. See 16 interactive exhibits on the "Behavior of Light and Color".

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

1. The Department of Conservation's Natural Heritage Division and the Illinois Audubon Society are looking for another word for "NON-GAME". It means wildlife that is not hunted, trapped or otherwise consumed for human purposes. Unfortunately, the term is completely inadequate to describe this all-important part of our wildlife resources. It puzzles people and sometimes implies that non-game concerns are secondary, or subordinate, to concerns for game animals. The name's confusion is doubtless one of the reasons why the non-game income tax checkoff receives a disappointing public response. The name obviously is not working and must be changed. The appeal is being made to all friends of wildlife for a new name. Please send your suggestions to the Illinois Audubon Society, P. O. Box 608, Wayne, IL 60184.

2. The Peoria Public Library has received two new books for us to checkout and enjoy:
   Birding With a Purpose: of Raptors, Goboons, and Other Creatures, by Frances Hamerstrom, Iowa State Univ. Press, 1984 (Library # 598.0924HAM)

   We thank Lu Ann Elwood for keeping in contact with our library for recent additions of interest to our group.

3. A note of interest from the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Assoc. near Kepton, Pennsylvania. Sometime this autumn the millionth-recorded bird of prey will pass by North Lookout. The first bird recorded there was a Broad-Winged Hawk on Sept. 11, 1934 by Maurice Broun, the Sanctuary's first curator. Their 58th season began on August 15th. Congratulations, Hawk Mountain—keep up the good work!
4. Birdwatchers, campers, hikers, anglers, and other outdoorsmen who are planning a visit to a part of Illinois they are unfamiliar with, may want to invest in some maps or a state atlas. Topographic maps are available from the Illinois Geological Survey for all parts of Illinois for $2.50 plus postage. An atlas is also available for $15.00. They show the lay of the land (hills, valleys, rises and dips), cities and towns, roads and railroads, rivers and lakes (some lake bottom contours), and forested areas. Profits from the sale of these maps/atlases are deposited in the Wildlife and Fish Fund. To order a topographic map or request a free index to those maps, write: Illinois State Geological Survey, Topo Dept., 615 E. Peabody, Champaign, IL 61820. (217-33-4747)

5. Rare Transfusion Saves Starving Eagle:
(from Int'l. Wildlife's March/April 1992 issue):
"Veterinarians at the Wildlife Center of Virginia recently performed an unusual blood transfusion to save the life of a six-month old Bald Eagle that was near starvation. Blood was injected directly into the bone marrow cavity of the young bird to sustain the eagle while the staff administered additional fluids and nutrients. After she recovered, the eagle was taught to eat a variety of wildlife to increase her chances of survival before she was released back into the wild."

6. This winter might be a good time for you to take a "Home Study Course in Bird Biology". Offered through the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, you will probe the mysteries of migration, the complex behavior of birds, the unique physiology of the avian body, the dynamics of flight, and much more. Learn at home at your own pace under the guidance of the lab's education staff. Info: "Home Study Course", Cornell Lab. of Ornithology, Dept. PW, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. (607-254-2444)

RECENT SIGHTINGS:


Summer trip to SE Arizona by Maury Brucker: Beautiful Chiricahuas, cool temps, green hills (unusual rains) and birding was great. Lots of hummingbirds in Madera Canyon, Peta- gonia, Ramsey Canyon & Portal: Broad-billed, Black-Chinned, Rufous, Allen's, Lucifer, Magnificent, Blue-throated, Violet-crowned, Broad-Tailed, Anna's, Plain-capped Starthroat. Also Spotted Owls (with guide) and Elegant Trogon (with luck). Trip tips gladly given.


Aug 30 - Shorebird Field Trip to Duck Island Gravel Pit, Rice Lake and Banner Marsh; Previous rains raised water level and covered many shore areas, so a lot of the birds had moved on. Still saw 50 species: Least Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, Osprey, White Pelicans, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, and E. Bluebird family.

NOTE ON PEORIA AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS: We apologize for any confusion on our field trip dates, but we had to change a trip since the Peoria Academy of Science Newsletter went out. This is why it is very important that you call a trip leader in advance to let them know you're coming and to verify the date of the trip.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER:
9 - Wed. --- Membership Meeting, 7 PM, Lakeview Museum, Rm. A/B. Program: Summer sightings review, and view one of Nat'l. Audubon Society's bird series tapes--majority vote will select which one to be viewed. (Board Meeting: 6:30 PM).

19 - Sat. --- Northern Illinois River Route Field Trip. Meet at Forest Park nature Center at 8 AM. Pack lunch and dress to weather. If you plan to attend, call Marj Tattersall at 692-2247.

19/20 - Sat/Sun. --- Jubilee State Park's 1992 "Autumn Harvestfest". (See Page 2)

27 - Sun. --- Johnson Sauk Trail State Park Field Trip. Meet at 7:30 AM at Landmark's parking lot closest to Forest Hill, or at 8:30 AM at JSTSP's first parking lot on left. Pack a lunch and dress warm. If you plan to attend, call Louise Endres at 682-8500.

OCTOBER:
11 - Sun. --- "Autumn in the Woods" at Camp Wokanda. (See Page 1).

14 - Wed. --- Membership Meeting, 7 PM, at Forest Park Nature Center. Program: brief meeting followed by an "owl prowl". Dress warm.

17 - Sat. --- Chautauqua Field Trip. Meet at 7:30 AM at Powerton Fish & Wildlife parking lot. Pack a lunch and dress warm for a full day of birding. If you plan to attend, call Marj Tattersall 692-2247.

31 - Sat. --- Metropolitan Sanitary District Field Trip, to Canton area. Dress warm and pack a lunch. Meet at 8 AM in Farmington at Jct. Rtes. 116 & 78, or at M.S.D. Headquarters at 8:30 AM. If you plan to attend, call Bert Princen 691-0519.

NOVEMBER:
11 - Wed. --- Membership Meeting, 7 PM. Place and Program to be announced.

DECEMBER:
9 - Wed. --- Membership Meeting, 7 PM, Lakeview Museum, Rm. A/B. Program: "Members' Night"--bring your favorite picture, slides, videos, books or bird artwork to show members.

19 - Sat. --- Chillicothe Christmas Bird Count.

26 - Sat. --- Chautauqua Christmas Bird Count.

JANUARY 1993:
2 - Sat. --- Peoria Christmas Bird Count.

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