The Newsletter of the Peoria Audubon Society... 
A Chapter of National Audubon since 1981
Ornithological-Audubon Chapter of The Peoria Academy of Science since 1930

January February March 1999

Christmas Bird Count, 1998...

Chillicothe’s Count took place on Sat, December 19, Chautauqua’s Count was held on Sat, December 26, and Peoria’s Count was on Sat, January 2.

This was the first year that waterfowl hunters were out on the same weekend as the Chillicothe Bird Count. Most groups reported hearing gunfire and finding few birds in traditional river areas. Several groups were also denied access to good birding spots due to the presence of hunters. Probably, if there had been no hunting, waterfowl numbers would have been closer to average and we would have beaten the 1993 high of 75 species. The Chautauqua count tied last years record of 91 species. A first was a Golden Eagle on count day! And there are now 4 active Bald Eagle nests within the Chautauqua Count circle. The Peoria Count had to be canceled due to the ongoing blizzard. Counters who lived within the zone, watched feeders on count day, and compiled counters as to what was seen during the count week.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pleated Woodp.</td>
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<td>Horned Lark</td>
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<td>American Crow</td>
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<td>Black-capped Chickadee</td>
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<td>Evening Grosbeak</td>
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<td>House Sparrow</td>
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<td>418</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Tree Sparrow</td>
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</table>

Total Species: 72 | 91 | 30 (+SCW)

OTHERS
Tundra Swans* | 54 |
Common Redpoll | 20 |

* Indicates Documented Species

Species Spotlight...

Cedar Waxwing

by Brenda Onken

Happy New Year to Everyone!

Birding in the winter is fun and there is a lot to see. The Eagles are here, the Tundra and Trumpeter Swans at Chautauqua NWR are getting a lot of attention. The Pelicans are a sight to behold, and with some luck, you might get a Northern Goshawk or a Short-eared Owl. With the leaves fallen, glimpsing the Barred or Great-horned Owl sunning themselves becomes easier. But to a lot of us, our feeder birds are the favorites. They are the ones we see everyday, and they bring smiles to our faces.

One of my favorite birds is the Cedar Waxwing. This pretty, sleek looking bird is usually seen in compact flocks, flying in search of their favorite food, berries. They will take insects, but when the berries are ripened, they take them with gusto! I’ve seen a flock of 30-40 in a wild cherry tree. They also like mulberry, cedar, and wild grape.

The Cedar Waxwing is a handsome bird. They are brown and have a yellowish wash on the belly, a black mask that surrounds the eyes, a yellow tail-tip and a crest that is usually lowered. Their call is high pitched, thin, orse “see-see-see-see.” Many times I hear them off in the distance, after a few seconds I look up to see a flock fly by.

Cedar Waxwings can be scarce in the winter, but depending on the availability of berries, they can be frequently seen... Good birding in 1999!
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Notice to Subscribers...
The Bird's Eye View will be changing its issue dates to better accommodate the publishing of Bird Count information to better facilitate publicity for programs. The publication dates are as follows:

February/March (to include Christmas Count data)
April/May (publicity for Spring Count and Birdathon)
June/July/August (to include Spring Count and Birdathon results)
September/October (to publicize membership meetings and fall field trips)
November (to include Annual Bird Seed Sale order form)
December/January (publicity for Christmas Counts)

Layout and Editing by Mike Miller
Deadline for submissions to next issue: March 15.
Send submissions to:
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Peoria IL 61614
e-mail rmiller3@ix.netcom.com
FAX (309) 686-8820

Upcoming Meetings...
February 10, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center
Membership Meeting - Dr. Bert Princen will present a program on Waterfowl Identification

March 10, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center
Membership Meeting - Vernon Kleen, from IDNR will present a program on strategies for successful birding. A how to plan for a "Big Day." Mr. Kleen holds the Illinois record for seeing the most bird species in Illinois in a 24 hour period (174 species!)

April 14, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center
Membership Meeting - Ross Adams, Refuge Manager with the USFWS Illinois River Refuge System will give an overview of the status of the 4 refuges along the Illinois River

May 12, 7:00 PM, Forest Park Nature Center
Membership Meeting – Program to be announced.

Events and Outings...
Saturday, January 23, 9:30 AM, Forest Park Nature Center
Eagle Day in Peoria – Join members of Peoria Audubon and Forest Park Nature Center Staff as we explore the status of the Bald Eagle in Central Illinois. We will first present a program on the eagle's status in Illinois, where to look for eagles, and proper eagle- watching etiquette. We will then caravan along the Illinois River in search of eagles.

Saturday, January 30, Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Count
Four teams from Peoria Audubon will be looking for Bald Eagles along the Illinois River from Henry to Havana. If you are interested in being part of a team, call Marj Tatersall at (309) 692-2247.

Saturday, March 27, Field trip to Greater Chicago Water Reclamation District near Canton. Meet in downtown Farmington at 8:00 AM or at the GCWDRD Headquarters at 8:30 AM. For more information and to RSVP call Bert Princen at 691-0519.

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