THE BALD EAGLE’S AMAZING RETURN

Endangered Species Act Success Story

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has three major goals: protect plants and animals from extinction by listing species as endangered or threatened, preserve the essential habitat that these species need, and recover and restore the populations of listed species. As of mid-March 2006, there are 1,800 species on the endangered and threatened species list of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Because of conservation actions taken under the Endangered Species Act, dozens of species have been brought back from the brink of extinction with their populations stabilized and the recovery of the Bald Eagle is one of the great success stories of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

It is hard to believe that not long ago America risked losing its majestic national symbol to extinction. By the early 1970s it was known that pesticides such as DDT were concentrating in the food chain and causing the thinning of the eagles' eggs. The effects of DDT dramatically reduced breeding success because eggs broke during incubation or young birds did not hatch. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1967 listed the Bald Eagle as endangered under the law that preceded the Endangered Species Act. Bald eagles qualified for federal protection in 1973 under the newly authorized ESA.

In 1972, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned most uses of DDT. Listing the Bald Eagle afforded greater protection for important habitat, and saw the beginning of intensive monitoring and management of bald eagle populations in the wild as well as an extensive captive breeding program. In 1995, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “downlisted” the Bald Eagle from endangered to threatened in most states. The FWS estimates there are 7,006 nesting pairs of bald eagles today in the continental United States.

Endangered Species Success Story from: http://www.audubon.org/news/top/10/easuccess

These are just a few of the upcoming events listed at www.peoriaaudubon.org/calendar

The recovery of the Bald Eagle, our national symbol, is also a great national success story. – M. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, February 13, 2006
2009 SPRING BIRD COUNT SUMMARY
by Dr. Jeff Edmondson, Bird Conservation Network (BCN)
Peoria County had three parties in the field. The parties covered over 355 miles by car and 9 miles on foot. A total of 2,301 birds were observed representing 101 species. Noteworthy for Peoria County include Bobolink and Peregrin Falcon. Warner numbers were low this year and we only observed 14 species.
Thanks go out to our observers, Dennis Endicott, Steve Peterson, Harry Eberly, and Sharron Scott, Mike Miller. If you are interested in participating as a team member in the 2010 count, contact Mike Miller at W399681/2858.
The Tazewell County Coordinator, Thad Edmunds, reported that 9 birders spotted 134 species on the day of the Spring Bird Count this year. 64 species were observed for both the number of participants and for the number of species observed.
Dr. Richard Bjorklund reported 162 species counted in Mason County. Species included 3 LeConte’s Sparrow and 3 Red Crossbills.

2009: A Great Fall for Warblers in Central Illinois
by Pete Menke
The fall 2009 migration has been an interesting season for migrating warblers in central Illinois. First, I am struck by the number of Black-throated Blue Warblers I have seen, although others have reported seeing them. I saw three two males and a female on the 11th of September and another on the 14th. I also saw them on the 15th of August at the Peoria Audubon Society meeting. Lastly, I saw three on the 17th in Peoria.
Black-throated blue warbler, on the other hand, is not nearly as common. I have seen them on the 17th in Peoria and in McNaughton Park in Pekin, Joe VanSwassenhove and I saw another on the 19th in McNaughton Park. We also had one on the 20th in Pekin. In addition, we had one on the 22nd in Peoria and the Peoria Riverfront. I also reported to my roommate on the 23rd. Lastly, we had one on the 24th in Peoria.
The other interesting observation was the numbers of Black-and-white Warblers. I saw a couple of them in McNaughton Park in Pekin, Joe VanVassenhove and I saw another on the 19th in McNaughton Park. We also had one on the 20th in Pekin. In addition, we had one on the 22nd in Peoria and the Peoria Riverfront. I also reported to my roommate on the 23rd. Lastly, we had one on the 24th in Peoria.


Re-cap of Birding the Illinois River Peoria to Emiquon and Back
contributed by John Mullers
In mid-August, near two dozen early risers appeared at the Forest Park Nature Center on a Saturday morning with eager anticipation of what the day would bring. The weather was clear, which was a good sign, and the so-called “turkeys” that frequent the Center’s birders’ made their appearance. These were some of the first birds listed by this Birding the Illinois River tour a joint project of the Peoria District Project (PDD) and Peoria Audubon Society (PAS). While the attendees signed in and enjoyed a cinnamon roll, I began the proceedings with introductions all around. These included Maury Bruker, who is in charge of this annual event and the principal guide. We were also fortunate to have Mike Miller, Supervisor of the PPD Environmental Unit, as a guide, and Dennis Endicott, photogarpher and webmaster for PAS to assist. After an overview of what the tour was all about and the logistics for our outing, we continued on to our first stop at Bartonville’s Mendenhall Park, a complex of wetland pools separated by groves of bottomland hardwood. Along the edge of the first pond we had the good fortune to view a black-crowned night heron roosting in a tree along with a green heron, and a snowy egret. Already we were beginning to get the feel of the diversity of life along the Illinois River.

...Gangster Birds continued from page 1...

Nature always recognizes strength in numbers, a concept that works for organizations as well as with birds. The Bird Conservation Network (BCN) is a coalition of about 18 organizations (Audubon chapters, ornithological societies and conservation groups) sharing an interest in bird conservation, the BCN helps to coordinate and communicate information and data from a number of projects. The BCN helps provide a common voice and forum to inform public officials on policies that affect bird conservation and habitat management. This way, science and research can be used to determine the best public policy on complex issues.

Although there is no full time staff, the BCN board is made up of volunteer representatives from the member groups who carry out the needed work. Disseminating science based information is key to promoting good policies. Technology and the internet are the tools that help us address many of the complex bird conservation issues we face now and in the future. For instance, at the BCN site, information is available in the form of green publications that you can download and print. These options are available, which ones work best?

- How to avoid window collisions in big cities. Tips on better protecting birds.
- Grassland birds and the importance of varied habitat. Tips on which conservation policies work best
- Concerns with deer overpopulation. Tips and policy on how to best manage an ecosystem to improve the health and sustainability.
- Migrant bird habitat. Information and recommendations on which species work best.

For one of the on-going programs, that gathers data and information on bird population trends, the BCN set up a bird monitoring program with a network of volunteers (www.birdconservationnetwork.org html). They regularly send in reports, which come from the pool of 35,000 members of the 18 organizations (Peoria Audubon included), identify birds by sight and sound. By having everyone report their observations, the BCN is able to gather data, the volunteers provide a wealth of statistically significant data. This data can then be used to assist land managers and conservationists to the best of our knowledge.

At the November 11 Peoria Audubon Membership Meeting, Lee Ramsey, a volunteer with the Bird Conservation Network, will discuss “Chicago Region Bird Population Trends.” One of the key goals of BCN is to learn the interregional population trends of various bird species that will help provide sound habitat management guidelines for the policy makers.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting and to visit the BCN website (www.birdconservationnetwork.org) to learn more about the program.非常的支持者。!
experiment was set.

Conservancy's 7000 acre Emiquon Preserve. We were fortunate to gain access to a levy and traveled atop this along the southern border of the preserve. In the area of the marsh, the black-necked stilt, dapperly dressed in its dinner jacket amidst this banquet of life. We also played a modified game of leap frog with a flock of great egrets through the marsh throughout, like slender white beacons of light against the darkness of the surrounding marsh. The bird of the day was spotted here, a greater egret. -

Re-cap of Birding the Illinois River from Peoria to Emiquon and Back.

Peoria to Emiquon and Back.

You can view or download the NOVA Science NOW video for free. A great resource for learning more about the Illinois River and its bird life.

Dr. Jeff Hoover will be the speaker at our Oct. 15 membership meeting. Come to the meeting and find out more fascinating information from his on-going research.

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**Bluebird Suet Recipe**

Loren Hughes and Michelle Keil developed a suet recipe that has been successful in Central Illinois feeding bluebirds throughout the winter. The recipe is as follows:

- 1 cup lard
- 1 cup chunky peanut butter
- 5 1/3 cup yellow corn meal
- 1 cup oatmeal
- 2 cups old fashioned oatmeal
- 1 cup sunflower hearts (or peanut pieces)

Melt together lard and peanut butter, then remove from heat. Add remaining ingredients and store in 1 gallon zip bag in refrigerator. Thanks to Don Axt who donated 26 nice books for Peoria Audubon’s operating fund, we had a used book sale at the Sept. meeting. The used value from Amazon was nearly $200. We sold all but 7. These are listed on our web site and will be available at the Oct. meeting for sale. Thanks to all who participated.

**Book Sale**

by Maury Brucker

Mike Miller points out the differences in swallow nests.

Mike Miller. If you are interested in participating as a team representative, contact Mike Miller at W390681-2858.

The Tazewell County Coordinator, Thad Edmunds, reported that 9 birds spotted 134 species on the day of the Spring Bird Count (May 9, 2009). This was a record for both the number of participants and for the number of species observed.

Dr. Richard Bjorklund reported 162 species counted in Mason County. Special thanks included LeConte’s Sparrow and 3 Red Crossbills.

**2009: A Great Fall for Warblers in Central Illinois**

by Pete Fenner

The fall 2009 migration has been an interesting season for migrating warblers in central Illinois. First, I am struck by the number of Black-throated Blue warblers that we and others have seen. I saw three two males and a female in the first of September and previous to this year had not seen one in Illinois since May 13, 2000! On Sept 3rd, Maury Brucker and I saw a Wilson’s warbler at Ewing. We observed Ewing Lake in Bloomington, and my last record previous to that in Illinois for that species was May 10, 1997.

The other interesting observation was the number of Wilson’s warblers found in the state at McNaughton Park in Pekin, Joe VanWassenhove and I saw more than 20 Black-and-White Warblers in McNaughton Park this day, the 1st day of fall migration this year. It is the day for warblers when you brush off a bird sighting by saying “oh, just another Black-and-white warbler”. And, there were 40 American Redstarts at Sugar Grove Nature Center south of Bloomington on September 13. I also heard that Ewing Park hosted “literally hundreds” of warblers during an early morning walk on September 26. I wish I had been there, but it has been a great fall for warbler migration nonetheless!

**TRUMPER SWAN CITIZEN SCIENCE**

by Dennis Endicott

The restoration of Targeted Swans to Central Illinois has been highly successful, most of the flocks remain vulnerable. Historically much of the Interior population migrated to favorable sites south of the 40th parallel, today, a small percentage of the flocks are exploring and possibly establishing roots in their historic winter range. Trumpeter Swans have not frequented for over 100 years. Audubon members and fellow birders are asked for help to document and monitor winter habitat use in twenty states of the Central, Southern and eastern U.S. Observers are asked to fill out the SWAN WATCH, a program of The Trumpeter Swan Society. The program is free of charge and data forms to be printed for field use can be found online. Photographic documentation is useful but not required.

Find out more about this Citizen Science project on The Trumpeter Swan Society website (www.trumpeterswansociety.org) today!
These are just a few of the upcoming events listed at www.peoriaaudubon.org/calendar.

Sue Winter - President
Kevin McQuaid - Treasurer
Dave Farnum - Conservation Chair
Mary Findlay - Education Chair
Patel Foster - Board Member
Deb Roa - Board Member / Newsletter Editor
Jim Miller - Board Member
Marvin Brucker - Board Member
Holli Cook - Board Member

FPNC = Forest Park Nature Center, 5809 N. Forest Park Drive, Peoria Heights

Birds-eye View Newsletter of The Peoria Audubon Society... Chapter of National Audubon since 1981
Chapter of The Peoria Academy of Science since 1930

Welcome to the Peoria Audubon Society! As the nation's oldest Audubon chapter, we are proud to continue the long tradition of wildlife conservation. Our goal is to promote the understanding and appreciation of birds and other wildlife through education, conservation, and habitat protection. We believe that by working together, we can make a difference for the future of our natural world.

- **Birding Events:**
  - October 7, 2009: "Bird and Nature Sale at the Forest Park Nature Center"
  - November 7, 2009: "Annual Bird Seed Sale"

- **Upcoming Lectures:**
  - October 22, 2009: "The Natural History of Bats of Illinois" by Thad Edmonds
  - November 19, 2009: "Chillicothe Count: Contact: Thad Edmonds at: 309-243-1854" by Thad Edmonds

- **Volunteer Opportunities:**
  - **Peoria Audubon volunteers are needed:**
    - **Sat. Dec. 5, 2009** - Chautauqua County: "Chautauqua" by Dick Bjorklund
    - **Sat. Dec. 12, 2009** - Champaign County: "Champaign" by Thad Edmonds
    - **Sat. Dec. 19, 2009** - Chillicothe County: "Chillicothe" by Thad Edmonds

- **Annual Bird Seed Sale:**
  - **Sat. Nov. 19, 2009** - "Annual Bird Seed Sale by Thad Edmonds at: 309-243-1854"

- **Contact Information:**
  - **Thad Edmonds:** (309)-243-1854
  - **Dick Bjorklund:** (309) 968-6502
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nests would become trashed - eggs destroyed. The usual parasitic nesting behavior. Birders who have known many years that the cowbirds parasitize the nests of other bird species by laying one of their eggs and having the “host” bird raise the nestling, …....
2009 BIRD SEED SALE
PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY and FRIENDS OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL

Support your local environmental organizations by ordering your bird seed now. Our seed is the same high quality seed sold by Kelly Seed & Hardware Company, who provides the seed to us at a reduced price and tax-free. Order plenty to last!

Please pre-order -- we don't want to run out!. For more information, please call 309-278-5251.

**IMPORTANT DATES:** Order deadline is November 4, 2008
Pick-up Day: Saturday, November 7, 9:00-11:00 am

**PICK-UP LOCATION:** Kelly Seed & Hardware Parking Lot
Washington Street and Hamilton Blvd. in Peoria

**PERSONAL REMINDER:** I ordered and will pick up on Saturday, November 7:

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**ORDER FORM**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TYPE OF SEED</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>NO. OF BAGS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<td>Sunflower (black oil)</td>
<td>25 lbs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25 lbs.</td>
<td>$23.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Songbird Mix</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ear Corn for Squirrels</td>
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<td>Case</td>
<td>$15.50</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Good news -- No sales tax!

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** $ Make check out to Peoria Audubon Society

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By November 4th, mail order form and check for amount due to

Peoria Audubon Society
9712 N. Cherry Bark Ct.
Peoria, IL 61615

Thank you for your support!