As summer turned into the fall of 2005, I watched as some of our yard birds began to migrate, and how they fly through dense forested areas. As soon as I watched that show, I started planning for the upcoming birding season.

The life birds were really piling up, 154 already. I joined PAS, IAS, IOS and ABA and got wired into IBET. We're cookin' now!!

Growing up we had Ladder-backed Woodpeckers and Red-breasted Nuthatches at our feeders year round. Sure we did. What we had were European Starlings, a few Brown-headed Cowbirds, and a few Common Grackles. Hey, wait a minute, here's a bird I've never seen before. Get Sibley's!! We've got some rare birds! But wait, what are they? They were the size of a Starling. They had gray heads with black bills and I'm not sure what species they are. It looks like they could be Asian Starlings.

As I was looking at a huge mixed flock of birds in the field beyond our yard, I noticed some European Starlings flying around. It was a beautiful sight. I had never seen so many European Starlings before. It was like a bird show.

European Starlings are small birds with black faces and gray heads. They are known for their loud, scolding calls. They are often seen in flocks of hundreds and can be found in a variety of habitats, including fields, forests, and urban areas.

I joined the local Audubon Society and started attending meetings and events. I was able to connect with other birders and learn more about the different species of birds that I was seeing. I was also able to learn about the best places to go birding in the area.

Birding is a great way to connect with nature and learn about the different species of birds that live in our area. It's also a great way to get some exercise and enjoy the outdoors. So if you're interested in birding, I would highly recommend joining your local Audubon Society and attending meetings and events. You'll be able to learn more about the different species of birds and connect with other birders in your area.
John James Audubon
American Artist & Naturalist
Lakeview Museum
Sept. 17, 2010 - Jan. 9, 2011

Special Viewing Date for Audubon Members:
Oct. 10, 2010, 2-4 PM

John James Audubon’s art and aesthetic legacy continue to amaze and inspire. His visionary and prolific concern for the environment continue to speak to new generations in America and the world today. His masterpiece, ‘The Birds of America’, and his written journals stand as an unsurpassed contribution to the worlds of fine art, natural science, American history and literature. The exhibit touches on the disciplines of art, history, biology, natural science, literature, and environmental studies. The Illinois State Museum has agreed to lend selected specimens of birds from their extensive collection to complement this exhibit.

There is a special opportunity for members of Peoria Audubon and Illinois Natural History Conservancy to view the exhibit of art and artifacts from John James Audubon at Lakeview Museum. The tour will be offered to members of both organizations. This exhibition provides a selection of extremely rare and valuable Audubon works of art and artifacts, as well as original Audubon letters, rare books, photographs, personal items, and sixty of the original large hand-colored Double Elephant Folio engravings from ‘The Birds of America’, America’s most famous collection of birds. The collection and archives of the John James Audubon Museum at Henderson, Kentucky. Kristan McKinsey, VP of Collections and Exhibits at Lakeview Museum, will provide insights into these rare and valuable works of art created by Audubon.

Furthermore, a special, related presentation of both organizations in September. If you, or someone you know, would like to be included, please contact Tessa Kraym at 312-580-2357. Advance reservations are required, and a modest fee to cover expenses is requested. Please join us!

That Darn Bird, continued from page 4

Early in June, I heard about a barn owl nesting near Jim Johnston’s Small Engine repair shop in Patoka. On the way to the shop I noticed that the Barn Owls roosted and raised their young in the rafters of an old building near the back of the shop. I got permission from the owner of the building to set up a small camera to monitor the owls while they were nesting. Jim Johnston, Supervisory Manager for USFWS, met us on a cloudy Saturday morning. We drove around the leves stopping at various points along the waterfront. Jim explained that the water level manipulation process is currently underway to control the willow population in the lakes. Some of the areas previous efforts to contain the population have been delayed due to the continued high water level of the Illinois River.

Interesting sights around the refuge included the water level control structure in the Rend Lake area. Creesley said, “A massive effort of inactive carp were at one of the water control gates attempting to get out of the lake, as they sensed the water levels dropping. As the cloudy skies started clearing, we got our first look at the dark orioles, blackbirds, and blue jays that had been missing the day before. Jim Edmonds had his camera set up and the Bald Eagles were perched on the south end of the lake. It was an unusual sight looking at the eagle perched on its nest, high up in its oversized coniferous habitat.”

An osprey maintained its stern perch on the limbless trees, as we passed him on the west levee. A killdeer’s wounded bird display was used to steer clear of its egg, perched atop the grass. The killdeer was nesting in the shore grasses and the bird was graceful being run over by their rains. After driving around Chautauqua, Mr. Albright met us back at the office for a special tour of the moist soil management plots at Emiquon NWR. He explained some future plans for the area and how the USFWS has been managing the area referred to as the ‘south levee’.

The tour was enjoyable and informative. Audubon will wait until May 10, 2011, for the water levels to drop, in order for the USFWS to continue their plans to improve the birds at the Chautauqua Wildlife Refuge.

Lake Chautauqua NWR Tour Recap

By Deb Roe

On May 15, 2010 several Peoria Audubon members were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of Lake Chautauqua Wildlife Refuge. Lee Albright, Supervisory Manager for USFWS, met us on a cloudy Saturday morning. We drove around the levees stopping at various points along the waterfront. Jim explained that the water level manipulation process is currently underway to control the willow population in the lakes. Some of the areas previous efforts to contain the population have been delayed due to the continued high water level of the Illinois River.

Interesting sights around the refuge included the water level control structure in the Rend Lake area. Creesley said, “A massive effort of inactive carp were at one of the water control gates attempting to get out of the lake, as they sensed the water levels dropping. As the cloudy skies started clearing, we got our first look at the dark orioles, blackbirds, and blue jays that had been missing the day before. Jim Edmonds had his camera set up and the Bald Eagles were perched on the south end of the lake. It was an unusual sight looking at the eagle perched on its nest, high up in its oversized coniferous habitat.”

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Audubon Response to Oil Spill, continuing from page 1

In addition to directly aiding in bird rescue operations, Audubon is training and deploying volunteers throughout the Gulf States to monitor bird populations and habitat conditions. This will be an ongoing effort that continues into the Christmas Bird Counts. One of the initiatives to channel the energies of a force of volunteers that desire to help birds, wildlife and mitigate the harmful effects of the oil spill was to create a National Oil Spill Volunteer Response Center. To date, more than 17,000 volunteers are now in the National Audubon Database to assist on a number of fronts:“People just want to do something to help...Volunteers with the right skills and a positive attitude can make a difference by being available when and where they’re needed,” according to Audubon National Field Director Sean Savill.

Areas where volunteers are needed include:

- Coastal Bird - Surveying and collecting data on birds and habitats.
- Wildlife Transport Facilitators - assist USFWS and Tri-State Bird Rescue, working round-the-clock shifts in key locations.
- Bird Capture and Rescue Materials - volunteers are needed to make nests, cages and other materials to assist trained professionals in oiled bird rescue efforts.
- Citizen Science Monitoring - submitting electronic information on bird sightings at Gulf Significant Bird Areas, refuges or sanctuaries to assess population impacts. Audubon partners - provide on-site bird expert for Volunteer Response Center.

How can you help? Audubon’s Volunteer Response Center is located at 6016 Highway 63 in Moss Point, MS. Interested volunteers may register for Audubon Members:

- Coastal Bird - Surveying and collecting data on birds and habitats.
- Wildlife Transport Facilitators - assist USFWS and Tri-State Bird Rescue, working round-the-clock shifts in key locations.
- Bird Capture and Rescue Materials - volunteers are needed to make nests, cages and other materials to assist trained professionals in oiled bird rescue efforts.
- Citizen Science Monitoring - submitting electronic information on bird sightings at Gulf Significant Bird Areas, refuges or sanctuaries to assess population impacts. Audubon partners - provide on-site bird expert for Volunteer Response Center.

with Audubon. Invitations will be mailed to current members of both Illinois Audubon Societies. There is a special opportunity for members of Peoria Audubon to visit the Lakeview Museum on Oct. 10, 2010, 2-4 PM. A personalized and guided tour of the exhibit and artifacts from John James Audubon at Lakeview Museum will be offered to members of both Illinois Audubon Societies. The exhibit presents a selection of extremely rare and valuable Audubon works of art and artifacts, as well as original Audubon letters, rare books, photographs, personal items, and sixty of the original large hand-colored Double Elephant Folio engravings from The Birds of America, a three-volume collection. The collection and archives of the John James Audubon Museum at Lakeview,person, Kenton. Michael Kristoff VP of Collections and Exhibitions at Lakeview, will provide insights into these rare and valuable works of art created by Audubon. Furthermore, a special, related presentation will be offered and will be provided by Jeff Walk, Ph.D. Dr. Walk is uniquely qualified to be the featured speaker for this collaborative event; he is the Director of Science for The Nature Conservancy, plus he serves on the Board of Directors for Illinois Audubon. He is the author of the book, "A Century of Change: Landscape & Bird Populations in Illinois." He will discuss the amazing conclusions from repeating the oldest bird survey in North America and what has been discovered, some of which were for the better and some for the worse. Catered refreshments will be served.

Invitations will be mailed to all members and regulars of both organizations in September. If you, or someone you know, would like to be included; please contact Tessa Kayment at 312-580-2357. Advance reservations required, and a modest fee to cover expenses is requested. Please join us!

Lake Chauteaugua NWR Tour Re-cap

by Deb Roe

On May 15, 2010 several Peoria Audubon members were treated to a behind-the-scene tour of Lake Chauteaugua Wildlife Refuge. Lee Albright, Supervisory Manager for USFWS, met us on a cloudy Saturday morning. We drove around the lewes stopping at various points on the walkway system. Lee explained the greater water manipulation process is currently underway to control the willow population in the lakes. Some say that the largest floating invasive carp were being managed to protect the ecosystem.

We decided the drizzle wasn’t enough to keep the hardy bird watchers at bay, so we continued our trek around the lakes. A pair of peregrine falcons soared across the可疑 cloud cover. The next stop showed off the brown pelican and a group of black birds took flight, as we passed their nesting site. The willow roosting at the lake is being managed to protect the ecosystem.

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But I’ll always call it THAT DARN OWL!!

I got the email at 2:00 pm on Tuesday. By 6:00 am Wednesday, I loaded my 89-year-old mother into my pick-up and headed for Fayette Co. We were there just after the Barn Owl was on the front page of the local newspaper. The egg narrowly escaped being eaten over by their own roof. The owls had not been seen since.

Audubon will wait for Audubon Members:

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BY THAD R. EDMONDS

That Darn Bird

Everyone has a nemesis, something, right? Well mine was a Tyto Alba - I had to see this bird! I became obsessed with it. It was everywhere: books, magazines, TV, CBC's, SBC's, and sightings all over the state. (Well it seemed like it.) I wanted in on this bird, I WANT TO SEE THIS BIRD! But wait, we're getting ahead of the story.

Born in 1946; an Eagle Scout in 1960; Worked at Caterpillar Tractor Co. for 34 years and traveled to 17 different countries before I retired (No Birding yet). I began birding after I retired because I wanted to do something new and different. Growing up we had Ladder-backed Woodpeckers and Red-breasted Nuthatches at our feeders year round. Sure we did. What we had were European Starlings, a few Brown-headed Cowbirds, and a few Common Grackles. Hey, wait a minute, here's a bird I've never seen before. Get Sibley's!! We've got some rare birds! But what are they? They were the size of a Starling. They had gray heads with black bills and white spots just like a Starling! Oh boy am I glad I didn't post on IBET about an immature starling!

As summer turned into the fall of 2005, I watched as some of our yard birds began to disappear and new ones starting coming to our feeders. American Goldfinches lost their bright yellow plumage to Fall dull colors. One afternoon I was standing in the sun porch looking at a huge mixed flock of birds in the field beyond our yard. I noticed some European Starlings, a few Brown-headed Cowbirds, and a few Common Grackles. Hey, wait a minute, here's a bird I've never seen before. Get Sibley's!! We've got some rare birds! But what are they? They were the size of a Starling. They had gray heads with black bills and white spots just like a Starling! Oh boy am I glad I didn't post on IBET about an immature starling!

So on January 4, 2004 I went on my first Christmas Bird Count with Maury Bucker and Emiko Yang and saw my first Greater White-Fronted Goose. My wife Jan and I saw Prairie Chickens in March and Vern Kleen wowed us with new birds. April came and we went on a guided tour with Dr. Bert Prinsen. Bert mentioned that if we wanted to learn about birds, we should read, read, and read some more. Then spend as much time as we could in the field, observing bird behavior. Even if we made mistakes, every observation would give us a new perspective and more experience.

Then the Spring Bird Count with Maury Bucker and Emiko Yang and saw my first Greater White-Fronted Goose. We're cookin' now!

My wife Jan mentioned one night that PBS had a program about "Silent Flight". An Englishman was doing studies with a Barn Owl, discerning how they locate prey in low light, and how they fly through dense forested areas. As soon as I watched that show, I knew I had to see that OWL!! But where? When? How?

As summer turned into the fall of 2005, I watched as some of our yard birds began to disappear and new ones starting coming to our feeders. American Goldfinches lost their bright yellow plumage to Fall dull colors. One afternoon I was standing in the sun porch looking at a huge mixed flock of birds in the field beyond our yard. I noticed some European Starlings, a few Brown-headed Cowbirds, and a few Common Grackles. Hey, wait a minute, here's a bird I've never seen before. Get Sibley's!! We've got some rare birds! But what are they? They were the size of a Starling. They had gray heads with black bills and white spots just like a Starling! Oh boy am I glad I didn't post on IBET about an immature starling!

...Continued inside...