The Illinois Audubon Society announced today its further protection of federally endangered Indiana bat habitat in southern Illinois within the Shawnee National Forest. In 2010, through its land acquisition program, the Society protected Illinois’ second largest Indiana bat hibernacula. The Society now announces the acquisition of additional acreage surrounding this habitat.

“The with-white-nosed syndrome killing hundreds of thousands of bats across the northeast U.S., protection of bat hibernacula and surrounding habitat is crucial,” said Tom Clay, Executive Director of Illinois Audubon. “The Society’s protection of this land comes at a critical time for a species clinging to its very existence.” Clay said.

The Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) was 1 out of 14 mammals listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966, the precursor to the Endangered Species Act of 1973. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data, the entire population of Indiana bats in 1981 was over 509,000. The most recent survey conducted in 2009 estimated the population at 417,000, a decline of almost 20% since the 1981 survey.

This latest parcel was acquired at the request of the U.S. Forest Service. As a conservation land trust, the Society protects additional acreage around the hibernacula.

When does your annual membership expire? Check the date on your mailing label.

Conservation

Illinois Audubon Society Protects Indiana Bat Habitat

The mission of the Illinois Audubon Society is to promote the perpetuation and appreciation of native plants and animals and the habitats that support them. The Illinois Audubon Society is a member-supported, not-for-profit, statewide organization. Founded in 1897, the Society is Illinois’ oldest private conservation organization with over 2350 members, 20 chapters and 13 affiliate groups. Illinois Audubon Society has protected over 3000 acres by investing more than $5 million to protect land and water throughout Illinois.

Learn More: Scan the adjacent code with your smartphone to connect with the Peoria Audubon Event Calendar

Newsletter of The Peoria Audubon Society... Chapter of National Audubon since 1981

www.peoriaaudubon.org

Contact the Peoria Audubon Society at audubon@peoriaaudubon.org

Peoria Audubon meets at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May at the Forest Park Nature Center (FPNC). It’s a relaxed, friendly evening with an interesting presentation followed by refreshments. Free and open to the public.

Sat. Nov. 5, 2011, 8 AM - 10 AM

Bird Seed Sale at Kelly Seed

Order Form and Details are inside the newsletter.

Wed. Nov. 9, 2011, 7 PM

Monthly Membership Meeting at FPNC

Marshall B. Plumley, Illinois River Basin Instructor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will speak on the present status in establishing the artificial islands in the Peoria Lake and plans for continued progress.

Wed. Dec. 14, 2011, 7 PM

Monthly Membership Meeting at FPNC

Travis Wicaksono, Assistant Professor of Zoology at Milliken University, will share plenty of information and new data on his recent research into bird feeding. Travis will present, “Are your feeder birds healthy?”

Christmas Bird Counts

121st Annual Christmas Bird Count will be on Saturday near Christmas. Peoria Audubon counts for Peoria, Chatauqua and Chillicothe. Details forthcoming. Check the website or future newsletters for details.

Sat. Jan. 5, 2012, 10 AM - 5 PM

Annual Potluck and Slide Show at FPNC

Bring your CD of jpgs, videos, or slide carousel, to the Potluck and Slide Show at FPNC. We will provide radios to stay in communications. Travis will provide, “Are your feeder birds healthy?”

These are just a few of the upcoming events listed at www.peoriaaudubon.org/calendar
In order to catch the peak of the annual Fall migration of shorebirds, Maury and Mike scouted the area the day before. Maury indicated that the window of time available for this trip has become an annual event thanks to Maury and Mike, who had organized it last year. For more information on what Audubon is doing and how you can get involved, please visit: http://gulfoilspill.audubon.org

 sitio.jpg

For more information on DU’s efforts can be found at: www.ducks.org/conservation/glavio/illinois-projects

One unexpected highpoint was the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, which was then added to the www.peoriaaudubon.org website. On November 24, after meeting at Forest Park, nine people drove to then hiked for about an hour at the Oak Bluff Nature Preserve near Henry, Illinois. We saw 35 Wood Ducks and 12 White Pelicans. The event also included community restoration work. Our group then drove to the conservation area near Herrin, Illinois to walk Chautauqua Lake boardwalk where we saw ducks, coots, Closed Gentians and Spiranthus Orchids. Afterwards, a few individuals returned to Oak Bluff NP to try some hawk watching. No hawks were visible on that day, only Turkey Vultures showed up due to the weather conditions that were not right for the hawks.

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The Big Year

Audubon has a presence in the film:

In the beginning of the film, actor John Cusack explains how the concept of a Big Year got started. He says people used to compete to see how many birds they could shoot over the holidays, but Frank Chapman and the Audubon Society decided to compete to see how many species they could shoot. Chapman (played by Steve Martin) had a taxidermy business and was able to make a good living selling bird specimens. The film centers around his efforts to compete to see how many birds he could shoot in a calendar year. The movie also shows Chapman’s relationship with his partner, played by Owen Wilson (who portrays the defending champion birder) is pictured on the cover of Audubon magazine.

Audubon logos and signs appear at several points in the movie. In general, birding is treated with remarkable respect throughout the movie. There are many scenes where the wonder of birds and the joy of seeing them are featured.

Audubon has launched an online scavenger hunt, to introduce millions of people of all ages to the thrill and fun of birding—and to highlight our work to save birds and their habitats. The Big Year Scavenger Hunt will help in a demonstration of the value of birds in our environment. The project also provided an opportunity to identify prairie plants and birds. One unexpected highpoint was the discovery of a rare orchid among the plants in our local prairie.

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The Big Year

The long-awaited film about three birders and their Big Year will be released nationwide on Friday, October 14, 2011. Audubon Members and supporters are invited to see the movie as a way to introduce non-birders to the wonderful world of Audubon, birding and our mission.

The new movie starring Steve Martin, Owen Wilson and Jack Black features America’s first two-time growing hobby after gardening – birding. In The Big Year, the three stars undertake a whirlwind competition to see who can identify the most species of birds in North America within one calendar year. The extraordinary race becomes a nature journey for wealthy industrialists – Steve Martin, Owen Wilson (who portrays a birding celebrity) and Jack Black, and a long-time Audubon volunteer, Kenny (Owen Wilson), who races across the continent on a ‘Big Year.’

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One of the first sites we visited was Spring Lake; about 5 miles north of the town of Hennepin, Illinois to walk the new marsh boardwalk where we saw ducks, coots, Closed Gentians and Spiranea Orchids. Afterwards, a few individuals returned to Oak Knoll NF to try some hawk watching. No hawks were visible on that day, only Turkey Vultures showed up due to the weather conditions that were not right for the hawks.

Brimfield Railroad Nature Preserve Prairie Restoration Demonstration by Maury Brucker

An impromptu field trip was announced at the September meeting of the Audubon Society, which was then added to the www.peoriaaudubon.org website. On December 24, after meeting at Forest Park, nine people drove to then hiked for about an hour at the Oak Bluff Nature Preserve near Henry, Illinois. We saw Cascade Woodswings and the latest plant community restoration work. Our group then drove to the conservation area near Hennepin, Illinois to walk the Chautauqua Lake on a "Big Year," and Jack Black features Steve Martin, Owen Wilson and Christopher Walken.

The new movie starring Steve Martin, Owen Wilson and Jack Black features America's favorite family, the Burns family, going on a camping trip. The Big Year is the story of a breathtaking journey for wealthy birders Tompkins, Paul and Sandy. The burning question is, do you have what it takes to compete to see how many birds they could shoot over the holidays, but Frank Chapman and the Audubon Society decided to compete instead.

The extraordinary race to see who can see the most birds in a calendar year.

In the film, the audience will see how the birding movie is not just a way to get people to the theater, but also a way to introduce people to the world of birding. The film will also provide a window into the lives of some of the world's top birders, as well as the challenges they face in their quest to see as many species as possible in a given year.

The Big Year was released nationwide on Friday, October 14, 2011. Audubon members are invited to watch the film, and in return, Audubon will donate a percentage of ticket sales to the organization that supports local tracts of land for the benefit of birds, wildlife, and habitat conservation. Audubon members are encouraged to purchase tickets through the organization's website, where they can enter a promo code to receive a discount on their admission price. The discount code is "Audubon11." This offer is valid for purchases made through the organization's website until November 14, 2011.

Audubon has launched a nationwide scavenger hunt, to introduce millions of Americans to the fun of birding—and to highlight our work to save birds and their habitats. This unique event will be a way to introduce non-birders to the wonderful world of Audubon, its mission, and our work to protect birds and their habitats.

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“The white-nosed syndrome killing hundreds of thousands of bats across the northeast U.S., protection of bat hibernacula and surrounding habitat is crucial,” said Tom Clay, Executive Director of Illinois Audubon. “The Society’s protection of this land comes at a critical time for a species clinging to its very existence.” Clay said.

The Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) was 1 out of 14 mammals listed as endangered under the Species Protection Act. This friendly, guided night hike will end at our Trailhead Nature Store, where refreshments and seasonal stories will top off the evening. Dress for the weather; costumes welcome. Feel free to bring a flashlight. Fee: $3 per person; $2/core members.

Sat. Nov. 5, 2011, 7:30 – 9:00 PM MSWDR Field Trip & Bird Survey

Thad Edmonds will lead a fall birding trip to the 15,000 acre Chicago MSWDR wetlands, just southwest of Canton, IL. Thad wishes to do a bird survey of the wetlands, and to compare it to a survey next spring and the following fall. Goal is to gather some data and assist in the effort to determine the effect of the oil spill on wintering grounds of waterfowl by assessing the impact on this very important migration flyway stop. Should be an enjoyable trip as we will provide radios to stay in communication. Bring your lunch. Reservations are required. Contact Thad Edmonds at 309-243-1854.

Sat. Nov. 5, 2011, 2:30 PM FPNC Attracting Birds to Your Backyard Learn how to make your front or back yard appealing to many different kinds of birds. The various kinds of bird feeders, bird feeder placements, and the importance of seed and fuel mixes, plus some general bird lore will be presented. Take home a free sample of our own Forest Park Special Mix too! Age: 12+. No fee, but donations are always appreciated!

Fri. Oct. 28, 2011, 7 PM - 9 PM FPNC Creatures of the Night Prepare to enter the dark of the forest on a walk through trails filled with eerie sounds that come from the creatures of the night! Learn about bats, owls, and many more nocturnal animals. This friendly, guided night hike will end at our Trailhead Nature Store, where refreshments and seasonal stories will top off the evening. Dress for the weather; costumes welcome. Feel free to bring a flashlight. Fee: $3 per person; $2/core members.

Monthly Membership Meeting at FPNC

February: Travis Wilcoxen, Assistant Professor of Biology at Millikin University, will speak on the present status in establishing the artificial islands in the Peoria Lake and the plans for continued progress. According to National Audubon, this is such an unprecedented investment in conservation of an important area for birds and people, Audubon’s policy office is prioritizing this legislation and will be inviting all elements of the Audubon network to participate. Each year hundreds of bald eagles over-winter in the Illinois River Valley. We dedicate this day to the appreciation of these incredible birds of prey as the Peoria Audubon Society and Forest Park Nature Center offer a presentation and tours to view Bald Eagles along the river.

Wed. Jan. 11, 2012, 6:30 PM FPNC Annual Pollack and Show at FPNC Bring your CD of jpeg, videos, or slide carousel, table service and a covered dish to share. Members present photo/video highlights from the year. Christmas Bird Count results will be presented. Note the earlier 6:30 start/earlier closing time. As always, guests are welcome!

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The Illinois Audubon Society protects Indiana Bat Habitat

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This latest parcel was acquired at the request of the U.S. Forest Service. As a conservation trust landowner, the Society often acquires vital Illinois land for its federal state and government land conservation partners. According to the Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis) was 1 out of 14 mammals listed as endangered under the Species Protection Act. This friendly, guided night hike will end at our Trailhead Nature Store, where refreshments and seasonal stories will top off the evening. Dress for the weather; costumes welcome. Feel free to bring a flashlight. Fee: $3 per person; $2/core members.

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Contact the Peoria Audubon Society at audubon@peoriaaudubon.org or visit our website: www.peoriaaudubon.org

Newsletter of The Peoria Audubon Society... Chapter of National Audubon since 1981

The mission of the Illinois Audubon Society is to promote the perpetuation and appreciation of native plants and animals and the habitats that support them. The Illinois Audubon Society is a member supported, not-for-profit, statewide organization. Founded in 1897, the Society is Illinois’ oldest conservation organization with over 2300 members, 20 chapters and 13 affiliate groups. Illinois Audubon Society has protected over 3000 acres by investing more than $5 million to protect land and water throughout Illinois.
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 for the winter! Please pre-order -- we don't want to run out! For more information, please call 278-5251.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Order Deadline is November 2, 2011
Call 278-5251 after November 2.

Pick-up Day: Saturday, November 5, 9:00-11:00 am
Call 370-8263 if you will not be able to pick up your seed on Saturday.

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

PERSONAL REMINDER: I ordered seed and will pick it up on Saturday, November 5:

ORDER FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF SEED</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>NO. OF BAGS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunflower (black oil)</td>
<td>25 lbs.</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 lbs.</td>
<td>$34.25</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflower (striped)</td>
<td>25 lbs.</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 lbs.</td>
<td>$33.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflower Hearts</td>
<td>10 lbs.</td>
<td>$13.75</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 lbs.</td>
<td>$31.75</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safflower</td>
<td>10 lbs.</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 lbs.</td>
<td>$37.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle (Niger) Seed</td>
<td>10 lbs.</td>
<td>$11.50</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 lbs.</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Bird (Premium) Mix</td>
<td>25 lbs.</td>
<td>$12.75</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Cracked corn, oil sunflower, white Proso millet, milo)</td>
<td>50 lbs.</td>
<td>$22.25</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songbird Mix</td>
<td>35 lbs.</td>
<td>$23.25</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Oil &amp; striped sunflower, white Proso millet, safflower)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Millet</td>
<td>10 lbs.</td>
<td>$5.25</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peanuts (in the shell)</td>
<td>50 lbs.</td>
<td>$10.50</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peanuts (no shell)</td>
<td>10 lbs.</td>
<td>$39.75</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cracked Corn</td>
<td>25 lbs.</td>
<td>$8.25</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear Corn for Squirrels</td>
<td>25 lbs.</td>
<td>$10.25</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suet Cakes (12 cakes)</td>
<td>Case</td>
<td>$15.75</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE $ Remember -- No sales tax!

By November 2nd, mail order form and check for amount due to

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

Make check to Peoria Audubon Society

Thank you for your support!