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

For more information, contact Doug Franks at 309-668-9180 or email franks.doug@gmail.com.

Peoria Audubon Board

mike miller - president
macyo brucker - vice president/program chair
geet pricen - treasurer

marketing committee:

jane l. miller - membership chair / board member
carol bordens - education chair
pelham - volunteer chair
mike linehan - conservation chair

web committee:

debo rowe - board member / newsletter editor

jim miller - board member
melissa sauder - board member
susie granv Ingram - board member

Inside: Sponsor an Audubon Adventure

Conservation

CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGN - BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Leading scientists around the world agree that man-made greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels are causing global warming. Effects are already being seen worldwide. Long-term consequences are devastating, and solutions are harder to obtain each day we fail to act.

But if each of us takes action – in our homes, in our communities, and in our nation – there is still time to reduce global warming pollution and help safeguard our environment for birds, wildlife, and our children. All of us use fossil fuels every day – for heating and cooling our homes, driving our cars, generating the electricity to power our appliances, and more. In the process we produce the greenhouse gases that are primarily responsible for global warming.

Fortunately, each of us also has the power to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels. Here are some of the most important ways we can all make a difference:

NEW DRIVE WAYS: Consider driving less by taking public transportation, walking, bicycling, or carpooling. Drive a more energy-efficient vehicle. When you drive, follow the speed limit and drive at a consistent speed. Take your car in for regular tune-ups and keep your tires properly inflated. Take off any rooftop carriers when not in use.

SWITCHES: Try switching from conventional incandescent bulbs to energy-efficient compact fluorescent. Or better yet, try to maximize your use of natural sunlight for daytime lighting needs.

TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE. Every step we can take reduces excessive use of home heating and cooling. Try turning up the thermostat in the summer and down in the winter. You'll save energy and perhaps even keep your kids cooler and your pets warmer in the winter. If you have an automated thermostat, program it to adjust temperatures at nighttime. Try installing better insulation throughout the house. Seal up windows, close vents, and clean filters. If you really want to save energy, try to avoid using air conditioning on all but the very hottest days. You'll be amazed at how effective ceiling fans alone can be in making you feel cooler.

COLD FACTS: New refrigerators use about 50% less energy than those made just 10-15 years ago. That’s a big deal, considering that refrigerators account for between 10 and 15% of total home energy consumption. The next time you buy a new refrigerator or any major or even minor appliance look for the Energy Star label to be sure you’re getting a high efficiency model. In the meantime, keep your refrigerator’s thermostat set to the recommended temperature and clean the condenser coil regularly.

WATER DROPS: You can reduce your energy consumption a lot by using less hot water. Run your dishwasher only when full, and wash clothes in cold or warm water, not hot. They'll get just as clean! When it’s time to replace your washing machine, choose a new high-efficiency front-loader. You’ll see great savings on water, electricity, and detergent, and you’ll discover you can more safely wash delicate items, too.

PUBLIC ACTIVE CITIZEN: While each individual’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important, we won’t curb global warming without major changes in the kinds of energy we use and an economic system that depends on a high rate of wasteful consumption. These changes will come about only if enough of us become more politically active. So whether you do a lot to support local, state, and national governments to curb global warming. Stay informed, write letters to your leaders, and support those candidates who promise to take the aggressive and farsighted actions necessary to curb climate change. Learn how you can get involved. More information about Audubon’s Climate Change Campaign is found here: http://policy.audubon.org/climate-change-campaign

These Newsletters and an Archive of past newsletters are available on the website: www.peoriaaudubon.org
2013 Audubon Adventures

**SHARING OUR WORLD WITH BIRDS**

by Deb Roe

Peoria Audubon is excited that 19 classrooms from 6 areas schools have agreed to participate in the award winning Audubon Adventures program. Audubon Adventures is a classroom kit that can be used across the curriculum and offers correlations to the Common Core Standards and National Science Education. Standard PLUS student assessment and nature journaling has been included in the kit. The kits help bring the natural world into the classroom and connects kids to the environment. Carol Borders, our education chair, does a great job of getting classrooms signed up for the program.

This year participating schools include:

- Dee Mack Primary
- Charter Oak Primary
- Pleasant Valley
- Christ Lutheran
- Holy Family
- Havana

The cost for each classroom kit is approximately $50. Peoria Audubon pays this fee to encourage environmental education. We are soliciting classroom sponsors. We would like to solicit more classrooms but funding is limited. The more sponsors that we have the more classrooms that will get the beautiful engaging educational materials. Please consider a sponsorship.

Peoria Audubon is a 501(c)3 organization, your donation may be tax deductible.

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**Spring Creek Preserve**

**Field Trip Report**

by Pete Fennor

On the morning of May 18, seven Peoria Audubon members and friends gathered for the hike in Spring Creek Preserve in East Peoria. Spring Creek is not a very well-known preserve, especially considering that it is owned by the Fond du Lac Park District. However, it rose to the forefront of a conservation conversation recently as members of the Eastern Bypass (aka Ring Road) Community Advisory Group (aka CAG) debated several corridors. Two of those corridors would have entered the immediate vicinity of the preserve, or possibly could have gone right through it.

The Spring Creek Preserve extends from Spring Creek Road to Groosenbach Road in northwestern Tazewell County. It is mostly forested river bluff habitat with mature trees and streams, but there are also a couple of open meadows. Although Route 116 is relatively close by, it is very quiet and peaceful. Access is currently limited, and there are no signs directing the public. We were guided that day by Dr. Bob Bartelt, a retired entomologist who lives adjacent to the property. Bob was a strong advocate and advisor to me during the CAG corridor debates, which was helpful because very few other people, myself included, had first hand knowledge of the preserve during those discussions.

We hiked approximately three miles over three hours, and saw several bird species, including Red-Headed Woodpecker, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Acadian Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush and Field Sparrow. We found a few species by sound only, such as Ovenbird and Tennessee Warbler, but were unable to see them. Maury Brucker and Bob pointed out several unusual tree and plant species, such as Leatherleaf, which are very rare for this area. It was clear to all participants that this was a unique and special place.

The experience was peaceful. Access is currently limited, and there are no signs directing the public. We were guided that day by Dr. Bob Bartelt, a retired entomologist who lives adjacent to the property. Bob was a strong advocate and advisor to me during the CAG corridor debates, which was helpful because very few other people, myself included, had first hand knowledge of the preserve during those discussions.

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Sanctuary Initiative
We couldn’t do this without an active membership and sanctuary committee. There is a lot of work to do on this project, and funding is lagging from some of our critical sponsors. If you want to become involved, come to one of our Sanctuary Committee meetings. Contact me at wokandabirder@comcast.net or 309-681-2858 to find out when our next sanctuary committee meeting will meet.

Also, there will be several opportunities to become involved in fund-raising efforts in the near future. Our recent Celebrity Birding with Brian “Fox” Ellis helped our sanctuary endowment grow. Thanks go out to all of the donors and everyone that made this possible. In the near future we will be reviving our Sanctuary Fund-raising Auction. These were always great fun and we will be returning to our early spring calendar of events. To keep up to date make sure to visit our Sanctuary page on our website:

http://www.peoriaaudubon.org/sanctuary.htm

It’s gratifying to see that we started over a decade ago is finally becoming a reality. I’m sure the future will be.

2013 Audubon Adventures “SHARING OUR WORLD WITH BIRDS”
by Deb Roe
Peoria Audubon is excited that 19 classrooms from 6 areas schools have agreed to participate in the award winning Audubon Adventures program. Audubon Adventures is a classroom kit that can be used across the curriculum and offers correlations to the Common Core Standards and National Science Education. Standard PLUS student assessment material. The kits help bring the natural world into the classroom and connects kids to the environment.

Carol Bolders, our education chair, does a great job of getting classrooms signed up for the program. This year participating schools include:

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The cost for each classroom kit is approximately $50. Peoria Audubon pays this fee to encourage environmental education. We are soliciting classroom sponsors. We would like to solicit more classrooms but funding is limited. The more sponsors that we have the more classrooms that will get the beautiful engaging educational materials. Please consider a sponsorship.

Peoria Audubon is a 501c3 organization your donation may be tax deductible.

Spring Creek Preserve
Field Trip Re-Cap
by Pete Fenner
On the morning of May 18, seven Peoria Audubon members and friends gathered for a hike in Spring Creek Preserve in East Peoria. Spring Creek is a not well-known preserve, especially considering that it is owned by the Fond du Lac Park District. However, it rose to the forefront of a conservation conversation recently as members of the Eastern Bypass (aka Ring Road) Community Advisory Group (aka CAG) debated several corridors. Two of those corridors would have entered the immediate vicinity of the preserve, or possibly could have gone right through it.

The Spring Creek Preserve extends from Spring Creek Road to Grosvenor Road in northeastern Tazewell County. It is mostly forested river bluff habitat with mature trees and streams, but there are also a couple of open meadows. Although Route 116 is relatively close by, it is quiet and peaceful. Access is currently limited, and there are no signs directing the public. We were guided that day by Dr. Bob Bartelt, a retired entomologist who lives adjacent to the property. Bob was a strong advocate and advisor to me during the CAG corridor debates, which was helpful because very few other people, myself included, had first hand knowledge of the preserve during those discussions.

We hiked approximately three miles over three hours, and saw several bird species including Red-Headed Woodpecker, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Acadian Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush and Field Sparrow. We found a few species by sound only, such as Ovenbird and Tennessee Warbler, but were unable to see them. Maury Brucker and Bob pointed out several unusual tree and plant species, such as Leatherleaf, which are very rare for this area. It was clear to all participants that this was a unique and special place.

More people should know about and be familiar with this preserve. The future of Spring Creek is uncertain; the park district has discussed options for increasing access, but funding and political will are always in question. More people should know about and be familiar with this preserve. The park district has discussed options for increasing access, but funding and political will are always in question.

Shorebird Migration Field Trip.

FALL SHOREBIRD MIGRATION FIELD TRIP
SAT, AUGUST 17, 2013, 7 AM - 4 PM
Catch the peak of shorebird migration with this field trip led by Maury Brucker of Peoria Audubon Society, and Mike Miller, of the Peoria Park District. Destination includes Emiquon, Lake Chautauqua, Oak Bluff Pheasant habitat area for Dickcissel, Lake McClintock, Marsh-Banner Marsh and other great birding areas. All of the data is forwarded to Tara Beveroth at the Illinois Natural History Survey where the count data is double checked and compiled as part the Illinois Spring Count Database. The database is accessible and viewable at:

http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/databases/sbc/about.html

Here you can access the database and see results from 30+ years of data. This year so we could recruit birders from Mason and Peoria. It turned out to be a great weekend for birding!

Anatomy of the Spring Bird Count
by Mike Miller
Each May, birders across the state of Illinois hit the field in search of birds with tally sheets in one hand and binoculars in the other. Members from Peoria Audubon assist with counts in several counties, including Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Fulton and Mason Counties. The Illinois Spring Count was initiated by Vernon Kleen of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in 1975. It usually occurs on the Saturday that falls between May 4 and 10. This year, the count was extended to include the Sunday of the weekend in an effort to get some birders involved in counties that were unable to recruit enough volunteers. We did this in our area for Fulton County this year so we could recruit birders from Mason and Peoria. It turned out to be a great weekend for birding!

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Here you can access the database and see results from 30+ years of data. This year, I was the compiler for Peoria County. We had 4 teams covering the county and saw 128 species of birds.

If you are interested in participating in a bird count, there are many opportunities to get involved. Besides the Illinois Spring Count, Peoria Audubon also has teams involved in the Christmas Bird Count and Midwinter Bald Eagle Count. To find out more about our counts, and to become involved, visit:

http://www.peoriaaudubon.org/bcs.htm or contact me at wokandabirder@gmail.com or 309-681-2858.
**Conservation**
**CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGN - BE PART OF THE SOLUTION**

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But if each of us takes action — in our homes, in our communities, and in our nation — there is still time to reduce global warming pollution and help safeguard our environment for birds, wildlife, and our children. In the months of December, January and February, the Peoria Audubon Society will be launching a Climate Change Campaign.

**NEW DRIVE WAYS:**

**TAKING YOUR TEMPERATURE.** Take every step possible to reduce excessive use of home heating and cooling. Try turning up the thermostat in the summer and turning it down a few degrees in the winter. If you have an automated heating or cooling system, set it to adjust temperatures at nighttime. Try installing better insulation throughout the house. Seal up windows, close vents, and clean filters. If you really want to save energy, try to avoid using air conditioning on all but the very hottest days. You’ll be amazed at how effective ceiling fans alone can be in making you feel cooler.

**NEW FACTS:**

Refrigerators use about 50% less energy than those made just 10-15 years ago. That’s a big deal, considering that refrigerators account for between 10 and 15% of total home energy consumption. The next time you buy a new refrigerator or any major or even minor appliance look for the Energy Star label to be sure you’re getting a high efficiency model. In the meantime, keep your refrigerator’s thermostat set to the recommended temperature and clean the condenser coil regularly.

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**BECOME AN ACTIVE CITIZEN:**

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__Peoria Audubon Society__

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

**Chapter of The Peoria Academy of Science since 1930**

www.peoriaaudubon.org

Contact The Peoria Audubon Society at audubon@peoriaaudubon.org

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**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.**

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**Bird’s-eye View Summer 2013**

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

**Sat. July 27, 2013, 9 AM - 12 PM**

**Neponset Hummingbird Festival**

Vernon Kleen from Springfield (one of the two licensed hummingbirders in Illinois) will lead us on a tour of the fascinating world of hummingbirds. You will have a chance to feel the heartbeat of a hummingbird and “adopt” one of these beautiful flyers with a donation to the Peoria Audubon or Peoria Park District. This free event is a come-as-you-please activity. Jointly sponsored by Forest Park Nature Center and Peoria Park District. Fee. FREE, donations greatly appreciated.

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**Sat. Aug. 17, 2013, 7 AM - 4 PM**

**Birding the Illinois River Field Trip**

Pete and James Fenner banded in south Texas this past March and will present photos and commentary about the fabulous birding there. They will discuss the birds, the area’s hotspots and their experiences while there. Both added several new birds to their life lists; you’ll also see some if you are lucky. Dress for tall grass. Insect repellent recommended.

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**Sept. 20-22, 2013**

**Annual Meeting & Fall Gathering**


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**Wed. Oct. 9, 2013 7 PM**

**Monthly Membership Meeting at FPNC**

Program to be announced.

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**Wed. Nov. 14, 2012, 7 PM**

**Monthly Membership Meeting at FPNC**

Joe Hand, volunteer eagle handler from the Wildlife Prairie State Park, will be on hand to talk about handling and the rehabilitation of eagles. Learn everything you wanted to know about taking care of our national symbol.

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**Over a decade, Peoria Audubon embarked on a process to establish a local birding sanctuary. We developed preserve criteria, and established a sanctuary in the far north of Jubilee State Park. The Peoria Audubon Sanctuary Foundation of Central Illinois to receive donations. We are finally in a position to be moving forward and bringing this long-term dream to reality!**

Last year, Ducks Unlimited approached Peoria Audubon in partnering with the long-term protection of a property near Chillicothe, Illinois. The property, known as Chillicothe Bottoms, is a 232 acre emergent wetland, buttonbush swamp, and floodplain forest. Ducks Unlimited was interested in purchasing the property, but was looking for a long-term partner to ensure its future protection and stewardship. Our sanctuary committee and board met with Eric Schienck from Ducks Unlimited and started a project of monitoring and documenting birds species on the site. This summer we will be doing a 3-month bird survey at the site to meet our preserve criteria. Given the amount of shorebird and waterfowl activity, we are hoping to be able to safely to say that Chillicothe Bottoms is a real gem!

As part of the long-term partnership, Peoria Audubon and Ducks Unlimited are developing a letter of intent and memorandum on how we will work together in the long-term protection and stewardship of the site. Paramount to the long term care of the site is the growth of our sanctuary fund with The Community Foundation of Central Illinois to receive donations. We are finally in a position to move forward and bringing this long-term dream to reality!