

Bird's-eye View



Conserving
bird habitat
for over
80
years

Fall
2014

Mark your calendars!
Bird Seed Sale!
Order Form Inside!

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

These are some of the upcoming events listed at

www.peoriaaudubon.org/calendar

Please join us for our monthly meetings at Forest Park Nature Center. Between the months of September and May, we meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 PM Membership Meeting-TBA

Monthly membership meeting at Forest Park Nature Center. Details are still being developed. Check the Peoria Audubon website Calendar for updates.

Wednesday, December 10, 7:00 PM Membership Meeting- Saving the Prairie Chicken

. Bob Gillespie, Natural Resources Coordinator at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area will give a presentation on the latest efforts to save the Greater Prairie Chicken. Once commonly found in over 92 of Illinois 102 counties, the Greater Prairie Chicken's numbers now teeter on the verge of extirpation in the prairie state. In early 2014, population estimates were down to less than 100 birds. With financial assistance from USFWS, Illinois Audubon Society, and Illinois Department of Natural Resources, a plan was launched to augment our Illinois population with birds from Kansas. Bob coordinated this effort. Learn the science behind bringing back a species from the brink of extinction and how Illinois is restoring habitat to bring the booming grounds back to the prairie state.

December-Christmas Bird Counts

Dates for the Peoria, Chautauqua and Chillicothe Christmas Bird Counts will be updated at the Peoria Audubon website as they are finalized.

Wednesday, January 14, 6:30 PM Membership Meeting- Annual Potluck and Media Show

Bring table service and a dish to share. Potluck dinner will be followed by the chance to show off birding or other wildlife highlights of the year. Bring your digital images or a slide carousel. Note the earlier start time for this meeting. As always, guests are welcome.

Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education program for children in grades 3 to 5. Developed by professional environmental educators, *Audubon Adventures* presents standards-based science content about birds, wildlife and their habitats. With captivating hands-on activities, students learn that we all have a personal stake in the health of the environment and play an important role in its preservation and future.

Peoria Audubon Society provides the *Audubon Adventures* program to 35 classrooms in 13 different area schools. Peoria Audubon Society's Education Chair, Carol Borders, connects area teachers with the program. Cost is around \$50 per classroom for paper copies, with digital programming now available as well. Donations are always appreciated for this excellent program. If interested, please send donations specified to *Audubon Adventures* to

Peoria Audubon Society
PO Box 3535
Peoria IL 61612



The Squirrel Game

Susy Turner

As kids, my brothers and I loved playing The Squirrel Game with our mom. Mom loved feeding and watching the birds, but it drove her crazy when the squirrels and chipmunks stole the bird seed. Unfortunately for Mom, we lived in an oak forest with a large and healthy squirrel population. During the cold months, it seemed that Mom's full-time job was chasing the squirrels away from the bird feeders. She'd sit at the kitchen table with the newspaper or paperwork and every time a squirrel approached the feeders, she'd bang on the windows and make a loud CH! CH! sound.

CH! CH! was often our morning wake-up call and then we heard it countless times throughout the day. As the oldest child, it was my job to point out to my brothers how funny this was. We quickly learned to occasionally work the word "squirrel" into conversation because it always resulted in a quietly muttered CH! This was The Squirrel Game. It was hilarious and never got old. As a kid I enjoyed the squirrels because they bugged Mom so much.

As an adult, I understand my mom's frustration. It's tough to fill a large feeder that would last the birds a week or more and have it emptied by little chipmunks in under an hour. I've watched a pair of squirrels make off with an entire suet block a bit at a time. These rodents are obsessive!

However, they're also pretty fun to watch. Their acrobatic antics of getting around every baffle and supposedly squirrel-proof feeder are brilliant. I had one squirrel figure out how to bounce off my window to get to a hanging feeder no other squirrel had previously managed to raid. It was an impressive feat, but apparently not terribly difficult since I was soon jumping in surprise over and over at the BOOM on the window as squirrel after squirrel copied the trick and stole the bird seed.

I always have to laugh when the squirrels taunt my dogs. They seem to know exactly how far they can push themselves to maximize the dogs' frustration while staying safe and having fun. I laugh even more when the squirrels get upset and chatter louder and louder when the dogs stop paying attention to them. In the end, I'm glad the squirrels are around. They're worth the extra food and occasionally if I give them some corn and nuts they leave the bird seed alone for a while.

Craig Frank, Ph.D., associate professor of biology at Fordham University, has been studying the effects of climate change on hibernating chipmunks. He found that 87% of chipmunks that go through their normal hibernation cycle survive to the next year. However, in exceptionally warm winters when few chipmunks hibernate, none of the non-hibernating chipmunks in the studies survived. This shows that global warming could have devastating effects on the chipmunk population if they aren't able to adapt to the warmer temperatures. I hope chipmunks are around to steal my bird seed forever.



"Bob" the bobtailed squirrel stealing food from my feeders. He doesn't need a tail to have amazing balance and acrobatic skills!

2014 Bird Seed Sale

Benefitting Peoria Audubon Society & Friends of the Rock Island Trail

We appreciate your generous support! You can pick up your seed at Kelly Seed & Hardware Co. parking lot on **Saturday, November 1 from 9-11 am**. Our friendly volunteers from Peoria Audubon Society and Friends of the Rock Island Trail will load your complete order into your vehicle for you. For more information, please contact Susie at 309-397-3503 or scgrana@gmail.com.

Orders are due by Monday, October 27.

Product	Price per unit	Quantity	Total Price
Black Oil Sunflower - 25 lb	12.99		
- 50 lb	19.99		
Striped Sunflower - 25 lb	18.99		
- 50 lb	30.99		
Sunflower Hearts - 10 lb	12.99		
- 25 lb	29.99		
- 50 lb	56.00		
Safflower - 10 lb	6.99		
- 50 lb	34.99		
Thistle - 10 lb	10.99		
- 25 lb	22.50		
Wild Bird Mix - 25 lb	9.99		
- 50 lb	17.95		
Songbird Mix - 35 lb	19.99		
White Millet - 10 lb	4.95		
No Waste Mix - 20 lb	18.95		
Peanuts in Shell - 25 lb	32.99		
Peanuts No Shell - 10 lb	11.99		
Cracked Corn - 25 lb	6.99		
Earn Corn - 25 lb	10.99		
Suet Cakes - 1 dozen	14.95		

Your name:

Grand Total = _____

Your phone number:

Please mail complete form and payment to:

Birdseed pickup on November 1:

Peoria Audubon Society
c/o Susie Grana Ingram
416 Richwoods Blvd
Peoria, IL 61604
309-397-3503

Kelly Seed & Hardware Co.
202 Hamilton Blvd
Peoria, IL 61602
309-674-0368



Peoria Audubon Society
PO Box 3535
Peoria, IL 61612

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Support Peoria Audubon Society and Friends of the Rock Island Trail by using the enclosed order form to purchase your winter bird seed from Kelly Seed & Hardware Co.



Like the Peoria Audubon Society page on Facebook!

