

# Bird's-eye View



Spring  
2016

Mark your calendars!  
Spring Bird Count  
Saturday, May 7

Newsletter of The Peoria Audubon Society . . . Chapter of National Audubon since 1981  
Chapter of The Peoria Academy of Science since 1930

[www.peoriaaudubon.org](http://www.peoriaaudubon.org)

Contact the Peoria Audubon Society at [audubon@peoriaaudubon.org](mailto:audubon@peoriaaudubon.org)

These are some of the upcoming events listed at

[www.peoriaaudubon.org/calendar](http://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.

## Saturday, May 7, All Day- Spring Bird Count

Statewide survey of birds timed to be at the peak of spring migration. Peoria Audubon Society organizes teams to participate in the Peoria area for the statewide count. Contact Mike Miller, Peoria County Compiler, at (309)681-2858 for more information.

## Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 PM- Membership Meeting-A DIY South

### African Safari

**\*Change in Venue for the May meeting only- Due to scheduled flooring work at the Nature Center, this meeting will be held at the Noble Center (former Lakeview Museum) classroom 107.**

Tracy and Rick Fox will share stunning photos of the birds and other memorable creatures encountered on their 3 week self-driven safari through South Africa's National Parks. From ostriches and hornbills, to starlings and finches, South Africa offers birding at its best. The trip was easy to book and surprisingly affordable. A definite trip of a lifetime!

## Saturday, August 13, 9:00 AM-Noon- Peoria Hummingbird Festival,

### Sommer Park

Vernon Kleen, one of only a few licensed hummingbird banders in the U.S., will be on hand to demonstrate hummingbird banding and discuss the fascinating world of hummingbirds. You will have the opportunity to feel a hummingbird's heartbeat and to "adopt" and release a hummingbird. This free family friendly event is come as you please, with banding starting at 9:00 AM.

## Saturday, August 20, 7:00 AM-5:00 PM- Field Trip-Birding Tour of the Illinois River

Sign up early to visit shorebird migration hot spots. The \$35 fee includes transportation, lunch and snacks. Call the Nature Center for more info.

## Notes from our President

Dennis Endicott

My favorite season has to be Spring. After being cooped up inside with the drab grayness of winter, I look forward to being outdoors and to witness the spring migration of birds and the renewed vibrance of nature. Of course, to some species, and "early spring" starts in February or March. Waterfowl may begin migrating as soon as the frozen lakes and marshes start to thaw. Then other groups of birds begin their northward migration.

But the greatest northward flood of songbirds, which is timed to following their insect foods of choice, is in April and May. It is during this peak of spring songbird migration, the first week of May, that we in Illinois participate in the Spring Bird Count. This year on May 9, teams of volunteers from each county will go out into the field to "count" birds.

- Volunteers record the (1) number and (2) species of all birds seen or heard.
- Additional information is also recorded: (3) the number of hours spent looking for birds; (4) the number of miles driven; and (5) the number of miles walked.
- Within each county, count teams will visit the wide range of different bird habitats that is unique for each in order to garner a count for the widest number of species.
- May include "owling" during the pre-dawn hours.

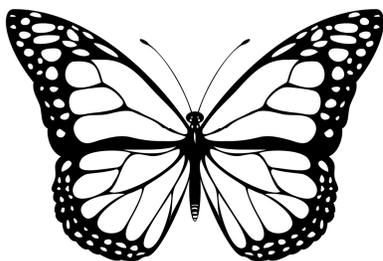
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## Notes from the President continued

The count is organized within each of Illinois' 102 counties by a compiler who is responsible for organizing their count and for compiling and upward reporting of results. We encourage anyone who would like to participate to contact one of the local county compilers. It is OK if you are a novice and not sure of your identification skills. The compiler will match you with an experienced team to go out in the field. This is a fun way to help with our local citizen science. We encourage you to contact one of the local compilers and help bring in spring!

- Fulton County: Maury Brucker- [maurybrucker@gmail.com](mailto:maurybrucker@gmail.com) 309-696-5490
- Knox County: Jim Mountjoy- [jmountjo@knox.edu](mailto:jmountjo@knox.edu)
- Marshall County: Carol Beatty- [cjbeatty17@gmail.com](mailto:cjbeatty17@gmail.com) 630-284-1134
- Mason County: Sigurd Bjorklund- [sigurdb28@gmail.com](mailto:sigurdb28@gmail.com)
- McLean County: Angelo Capparella- [apcappar@ilstu.edu](mailto:apcappar@ilstu.edu)
- Peoria County: Mike Miller- [mmiller@peoriaparks.org](mailto:mmiller@peoriaparks.org)
- Stark County: Jeff Walk- [jwalk@tnc.org](mailto:jwalk@tnc.org)
- Tazewell County: Pete Fenner- [phf@mchsi.com](mailto:phf@mchsi.com) 309-258-5969
- Woodford County: Mary Jo Adams- [mjadams@ilstu.edu](mailto:mjadams@ilstu.edu)

Although the first Spring Bird Count was in 1959, it was reorganized in 1972 with the help of Illinois Audubon Society and Vern Kleen. Vern continued to organize the count for over 30 years before transitioning the count and data to the Illinois Natural History Survey. (Note: Vern will be with us in August to conduct hummingbird banding at Sommer Park in Peoria.)



## Central Illinois Butterfly Count

Tracy Fox

The Fourth of July Butterfly Count is the butterfly equivalent of the Christmas Bird Count. The Peoria count circle is centered at Forest Park Nature Center and encompasses butterfly hotspots such as Cooper Park, Springdale Prairie, the Kickapoo Creek bottoms, Wildlife Prairie Park and the Kickapoo Creek Recreation Area off the Rock Island Trail. As on a Christmas Count, teams of butterfly watchers go out and count all the butterflies and skippers they encounter (that they can identify). This count started in 2000. In past years, counters have encountered over 40 species. If you'd like to help out but aren't confident about your butterfly identification skills, come out for one or both of the preparatory events.

### Annual Butterfly Count Saturday, July 9, 9AM- 5PM

Teams of butterfly watchers visit established territories for 4+ hours and count all the butterflies and skippers they can find. The methodology is similar to Audubon's Christmas Bird Count. New and past participants welcomed to help monitor the health of local butterfly populations.

### Butterfly ID Hike Sunday, July 2, 1:30PM Forest Park Nature Center

A hike through the Forest Park Nature Center prairies focusing on butterfly and skipper identification techniques. Optional indoor review to follow.

### Butterfly ID Drive Saturday, June 25, 9:30AM 15215 N. Ivy Lake Road, Chillicothe

We'll carpool to a variety of habitats including road side, native prairie remnant, riverside and garden in search of as many butterflies as we can find.

Please pre-register for the hikes so enough materials can be prepared. To pre-register as well as to be assigned a count territory, contact count coordinator Tracy Fox, 309-369-5331, [tracy@tracyfox.com](mailto:tracy@tracyfox.com).





Peoria Audubon Society  
PO Box 3535  
Peoria, IL 61612

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Some of the first purple martin visitors of the spring to the new purple martin houses next to the Riverplex in downtown Peoria. *Photo by Pete Fenner*



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