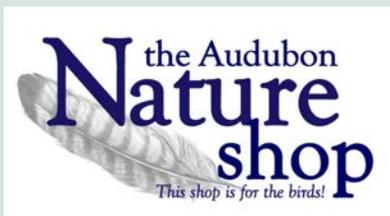




The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

Champaign County Audubon Society • A Chapter of the National Audubon Society



Nature Store Coupon \$5 off a \$25 purchase

Take a look at what's new at the Audubon Nature Shop at Anita Purves Nature Center.

Bring in this coupon (during normal hours) and get \$5 off with your \$25 purchase.

Hours & Location:

Monday–Saturday, 9am–4pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
1505 N. Broadway, Urbana, IL

Birdnotes Listserve

Join our Birdnotes listserv to get the latest local bird sightings in your inbox!

Here's how: go to ChampaignCountyAudubon.org and click on 'Join Birdnotes.' Enter your info, then click 'Subscribe.'

June Potluck & Birdwatching

Thursday, June 8

6pm; potluck begins at 6:30pm

Walnut Hill Shelter

Homer Lake Forest Preserve

2573 S. Homer Lake Rd, Homer, IL

For directions: www.ccfpd.org

Enjoy an evening at beautiful Homer Lake with fellow bird enthusiasts while you practice your bird identification skills. Watch a variety of swallow species, including many other notable species, and enjoy the sunset over the lake. Please bring your own table service, your own beverage and a dish to share. More birding after the potluck for those interested.

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Champaign County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803
ChampaignCountyAudubon.org
mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org

Officers

- Co-Presidents: Sara Johnson and Cheryl Pettus
- Vice President: John Dunkelberger
- Secretary: Charlene Anchor
- Treasurer: Allan Penwell

Members at Large, 2016-2017

- Janet Jokela
- Caitlin Lill
- Jeff Peyton

Members at Large, 2017-2018

- Beth Chato
- Brody Dunn
- Carie Nixon

Committee Chairs

- Bylaws: vacant
- Conservation: Jeff Peyton
- Education: Pam Leiter
- Field Trip: Beth Chato
- Finance: Astrid Berkson
- Hospitality: vacant
- Membership: Caitlin Lill
- Nature Shop: Beth Chato
- Program: Sara Johnson
- Publications: vacant
- Publicity: Carie Nixon

Newsletter Coordinator: Ruth Walker

Webmaster & BirdNotes Listserve
Manager: Pam Leiter

Champaign County Audubon
publishes *The Meadowlark Messenger*
nine times per year. Comments
regarding the newsletter, or articles
for submission, are welcome.



Get this newsletter delivered right to your inbox—in color! Would you like to go paperless and help our funds go further? Please visit the Newsletter

page on our website and enter your name and email address.



10% discount for CCAS members!
Monday–Saturday, 9am–4pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
1505 N. Broadway, Urbana, IL



A flock of new plush singing birds has just flown in. Lots of help in identifying those puzzling birds—books, CDS & DVDs, binocs. Also hummingbird and other feeders to bring them down close. A good selection of coloring books and children’s books and much, much more. Come check out the shop. Come shop and help support local environmental programs.

Field Notes

Submitted by: Beth Chato

It is the peak of spring migration and most all warblers have been seen, including a co-operative Prothonotary at Busey Woods. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Le Conte’s Sparrow, and a late Gadwall are some of the highlights.

Spring Bird Count

May 6 was the day of the Illinois Spring Bird Count. On the Champaign County part of the count we had 26 observers in 16 parties. Our species total was 154. Three species were late visitors and have to be documented: White-fronted Goose, Bufflehead, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Other unusual sightings included an American Bittern and a group of 4 Forster’s Terns. Thanks to all who took part.

Birdathon

This is our annual fundraiser for our Kendeigh Grant Scholarships. We have results from: Oldtimers, 99 species We couldn’t find that 100th. The Big Sit, 41 species seen from their spot at Heron Park. Krazy Kayakers, 54 species, by land due high river water. Ghostbusters, 53 species on their tour of 5 cemeteries. Northeast Corner, 62 species. The Urbana Park Rangers and Forest Preserve Rangers are still putting their list together, but it stands at 109 so far.

Donations to the cause are still most welcome.

Low-Mobility Birding Pilot Program

CCAS is exploring yet another pilot program! Over the past year, we've been contacted by several members about the possibility of running an expert-led program similar to our public bird walks, but for individuals with mobility issues.

Such a program would likely involve finding an accessible, diversity rich location in a local park, and then staying put an hour to see what sort of birds come to us. It would be free and open to the public.

If you have interest in such a program please contact Brody Dunn at lbdunn2@illinois.edu so we can gauge membership interest.

Thank You from Brody Dunn

Leading the Sunday bird walks this spring has been a real blast. We had great birds, lots of new birders, and good laughs among the regulars. As much as i'm going to enjoy having my Sunday mornings back this summer, I'm already looking forward to leading in the fall.

I want to thank CCAS for entrusting me with the walks, to all the experienced birders who have been patient with a rookie, and to all the regulars who make the bird walks such a welcoming space for new birders. Thanks guys!

Bee Spotter Bee Blitz: Saturday, June 17

Two opportunities to get involved!

U of I Pollinarium, 10am-Noon

Join the Pollinarium on June 17, from 10AM - Noon to kick off another National Pollinator Week. We will venture out into the fields surrounding the Pollinarium and photograph honey & bumble bees, then upload the photos to BeeSpotter. We encourage you to bring your camera or smartphone, though we will have cameras available for those who need one. We will also have computers available so you can upload your spottings immediately, should you wish to do so.



This event is free and open to the public. Feel free to come for the whole time or stop in for only part of the event. We'd love to have you join us, even if only for 20-30 minutes!

Urbana Park District, 1-3pm

Location: Garden Pavilion, Meadowbrook Park (Race St. entrance)

All ages (under 15 with adult)

Celebrate National Pollinator Week (June 19 - 25, 2017) by becoming a citizen scientist! Join the Urbana Park District for the third annual BeeBlitz, where people all over Illinois are encouraged to go outside and photograph bees on a single day, then upload their photos to www.beespotter.org.

A guided expedition through Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie is departing from the Garden Pavilion at 1pm. Bring your camera or smartphone and comfortable walking shoes, and be ready for an adventure! Learn more online at www.beespotter.org/beeblitz.

Call 217-384-4062 by Friday, June 16 to let them know you are coming.

Conservation Spotlight: Prairie Rivers Network

Submitted by: Jeff Peyton

We are featuring an ongoing series of monthly spotlights on local conservation organizations to highlight their efforts to preserve our natural resources and habitats. It is a critical time for protecting our natural areas, and we hope to provide concerned readers with information about how they can join the effort, either through volunteering, contributions, or just by taking advantage of the services these organizations provide.

In the 1960s, the Army Corps of Engineers was making plans for the creation of a reservoir on the Sangamon River near Decatur. The Oakley Reservoir, one of many major federal dam projects threatening river systems across the country at the time, would have flooded thousands of acres of bottomland, including much of Allerton Park.

Led by Bruce and Patricia Hannon, a group of concerned citizens formed the Committee on Allerton Park in 1967 to resist the creation of the reservoir. It would take until 1985 for the committee's efforts to finally result in the deauthorization of the project. Over that time the group's scope broadened, fighting and successfully halting other environmentally harmful projects in the region. In 1984 the committee's name was changed to Central States Education Center, and was changed again to Prairie Rivers Network in 1998 in order to reflect the group's focus on issues impacting rivers and watersheds.

Today, Prairie Rivers Network's mission is to "[champion] clean, healthy rivers and lakes and safe drinking water to benefit the people and wildlife of Illinois." Last year, they won an important legal victory concerning Illinois EPA permits resulting in stronger pollution controls, specifically concerning nitrogen and phosphorus. They also helped with the effort to hold at bay the destructive New Madrid levee project, which would destroy tens of thousands of acres of wetland habitat and increase the risk of flooding for Southern Illinois towns. They pushed for more sustainable farming practices, protections for waterways from coal ash, and other environmental protections.

Currently, Prairie Rivers Network continues to work with great interest on the issue of coal ash, joining a lawsuit to fight the EPA's rollback of safeguards against discharges from coal plants. Additionally, PRN and its partners have formed the Middle Illinois River Conservation Collaborative (MIRCC), a group of conservation organizations interested in restoring and protecting the Illinois River. The collaborative hopes to build awareness about challenges and opportunities related to the river, leading to more support for restoration and stewardship.

They have also been pushing for passages of the Natural Areas Stewardship Act (HB 2031/SB 1029) that would allow nonprofit organizations to help local and state government conduct needed stewardship on Illinois Nature Preserves, which are some of the highest quality wildlife habitat in the state.

You can find more information about these and other issues, as well as how to volunteer or donate to Prairie Rivers Network, at prairierivers.org.



Join Champaign County Audubon Society!

Yes, I'd like to become a member!

When you join the Champaign County Audubon Society, 100% of your dues and donations support our efforts (and they're tax deductible!).

\$ _____ CCAS Membership (\$15 due each January).

\$ _____ Additional donation to CCAS

\$ _____ **TOTAL**

I am a new member I am renewing my membership

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone # (_____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Beginning in 2017, CCAS members will be automatically enrolled to receive our newsletter by e-mail; check this box if you would prefer to receive a **paper** copy.

Checks should be made payable to CCAS. Send this form and your payment to: CCAS Membership Chair, P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882. Thank you!

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Join National Audubon Society!

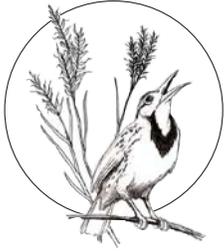
When you join National Audubon Society you receive one year of Audubon magazine. You also have the option to receive local birding and community events delivered to your inbox from CCAS.

- **New members:** Go online to <http://bit.ly/nas-g50> or call 1-844-428-3826. Please tell them Champaign County Audubon Society sent you using our chapter code "G50."
- **Renewing members:** Go online to <http://bit.ly/renew-nas> or call 1-844-428-3826.



Audubon

The Champaign County Audubon Society is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.



Champaign County Audubon Society
PO Box 882
Urbana, IL 61803-0882

Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 8, 6pm; potluck begins at 6:30pm

Potluck and Birdwatching

Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake Forest Preserve

Enjoy an evening at beautiful Homer Lake with fellow bird enthusiasts while you practice your bird identification skills. Please bring your own table service, your own beverage and a dish to share. More birding after the potluck for those interested.

Urbana Park District's Stewardship Days.

- June 10: 9-11am Busey Woods, 1-3pm Weaver Park
- June 24: 9-11am Meadowbrook, 1-3pm Perkins Road Prairie
- July 8: 9-11am Busey Woods, 1-3pm Weaver Park
- July 22: 9-11am Meadowbrook Park, 1-3pm Perkins Road Prairie

Call Anita Purves Nature Center (384-4062) for more info and to register.

Thursday, August 17, 7pm; Board Meeting.

Anita Purves Nature Center. Members are welcome.

Sundays, Sept 3 - Oct 29, 7:30-9am

Sunday Morning Bird Walks

Meet in the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot.

Visit our website for more information!