



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

October Monthly Meeting: Turkeys

Thursday, October 5th, 7pm

Urbana Free Library

Presenter: Christine Parker

Fall is here! Join us for our monthly meeting for refreshments and a presentation about some interesting research being conducted with turkey populations in Illinois. Open to the public.



Brian Stearns

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.'

Sunday Morning Birdwalks

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

Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot

Walks officially end at 9am, but if things are exciting some folk stay longer. Birders of all ages and experience welcome. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

Field Trip: Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, October 14, 7:30am

Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center at 7:30 to car pool. The refuge of 2,114 acres is about a 100 mile drive. Just across the Illinois River from Havana, it is a primary stopping point for migrating waterfowl as well as egrets, herons, and shorebirds.

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

Officers

- President: Sara Johnson
- 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: Brody Dunn
- Nature Shop: Beth Chato
- Program: Sara Johnson
- Publications: vacant
- Publicity: Carie Nixon

Newsletter editor, 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



Especially designed post cards by local photographer Tyson Kruse, featuring the Nature Center’s animals and other local wild life. A display of Tyson’s work will be at the Nature Center beginning September 30. As always, binoculars, CDS & DVDs, hummingbird and other feeders. A good selection of field guides, coloring books, children’s books and much, much more. Come check out the shop. All proceeds go for environmental education projects.

Field Notes

Submitted by: Beth Chato

Fall migration is at its peak with many warbler species reported, including a Black-throated Blue at Busey, and a Brewster’s hybrid and a Hooded at Meadowbrook.

Large flocks of Common Nighthawks have flown over and a few Broad-winged Hawks. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are back, and the Black-crowned Night Herons continue at Kaufman/Heritage Lake, an excellent birding spot.

Nominating Committee announcement

Brody Dunn

CCAS is gearing up for board position nominations and has selected Sara Johnson and Brody Dunn as heads of the nominating committee. If you have any interest in helping to steward a growing charitable organization, please contact Brody Dunn at brody.CCAS@gmail.com with your interest in becoming a board member.

The Arc of Human History: Challenges to Sustainability.

First Presbyterian Church of Urbana is sponsoring a public seminar series on The Arc of Human History: Challenges to Sustainability. Sundays at the church, 602 West Green, 11 am, from Oct. 1 to Nov. 5.

As Grasslands Disappear, so Goes the Melodious Meadowlark

Brought to you by BirdNote, a partner of The National Audubon Society. BirdNote episodes air daily on public radio stations nationwide.

With their bright yellow breasts and superlative songs, meadowlarks are among our most familiar and cherished birds.

The Eastern Meadowlark's clear, whistled music is the unmistakable anthem of eastern North America's farmlands and open country. The Western Meadowlark and its sweet, liquid notes epitomize the natural expanses of the American West.

Sadly, both meadowlarks face ominous threats. True to their name, they are birds of meadows and grasslands. Birds of such grassy habitats are among the fastest declining species in North America.

How could this happen? Well, with most native grasslands transformed by settlement and farming, meadowlarks have turned to pastures and hayfields as habitat. But here, their nesting is often disturbed by overgrazing, the cutting of hay, and seasonal burning. More permanently disruptive: Vast tracts of farmland are succumbing to suburban development.

The meadowlarks' best hope for the future lies in farmland and grassland conservation. There are agricultural practices that are compatible with the needs of birds – such as delaying hay-cutting until nesting birds have fledged. And the Conservation Reserve Program enables landowners to keep their acreage in grasslands.

“Birds, Bees, Flowers & Trees” Audubon Adventures Classroom Kit

This fall, we funded kits for 4 classrooms! Classrooms at these schools received kits:

- Holy Cross Elementary
- Leal Elementary
- Wiley Elementary (2)

Audubon Adventures is an educational kit for 3rd-5th grade classrooms, developed by the National Audubon Society. The kit includes both printed student resources and online content for three new learning modules each year. Plus... a subscription to Audubon magazine and the Audubon Adventures eNewsletter.



Birds that rely on grassy habitats are among the fastest declining species in North America.



Blast from the Past

Beth Chato

The first of a series of ongoing quotes from a newly rediscovered trove of CCAS newsletters dating back to 1966.

From the July 1971 issue: "The generous gift of Busey Woods, by Mrs. James Klassen and other owners, to the University of Illinois was good news to area nature lovers."

This followed a long struggle to preserve the area, including efforts to obtain private foundation support and a failed referendum. The owners had originally planned for sale for industrial development. This met with strong local opposition including from Champaign County Audubon. In 1974 the Urbana Park District secured a 20 year lease from the UI for Busey Woods. Busey Woods was purchased by UPD from the UI in 1991.

Educator's Spotlight: Bird Adaptation Loan Kit

Enhance your lessons on bird adaptations by exploring the types of beaks, eggs and feet that help birds survive!

This kit includes replicas of bird skulls, eggs and tracks, as well as hands-on activities, and is appropriate for grades K-12.

To reserve the loan box email hlcenter@ccfpd.org or call 217-896-2455. Loan box can be reserved for 2 weeks. It is housed at the Homer Lake Interpretive Center at Homer Lake Forest Preserve.

Special arrangements can sometimes be made if you cannot pick it up at that location. \$25 refundable deposit required.

Regular Member's Walk at Meadowbrook Park

Brody Dunn

We've been hearing lots of positive feedback regarding our member walks. As a result, we're making them a regular program!

All CCAS members are welcome to join us on the first Saturday of each migratory month. If you are a member of CCAS and think you'd enjoy a smaller, more casual walk than our Sunday morning bird walks, please join us at 7:30am on the first Saturday of March, April, May, September, and October at the race street parking lot of Meadowbrook park. We will hold additional member walks at our various other locations as announced.

Low-Mobility Birding Program

Brody Dunn

Thank you all for contacting us about your interest in a low mobility birding program.

The CCAS board has decided to pursue the project and is currently laying out plans for a regular program to take place each spring.

Keep an eye out for future announcements regarding location and time.

Wishing Tyler Hedlund good luck.

Brody Dunn

Tyler Hedlund, the former co-leader of the Member's walks, wishes us all well from his new home in Texas. He's putting his UIUC Entomology degree to good use as a USDA inspector identifying arthropods in international imports. From all of CCAS, thank you Tyler and we wish you good luck!

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!

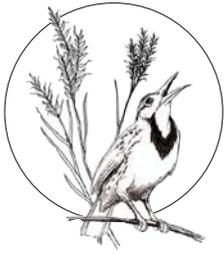
When you join National Audubon Society you receive one year of Audubon magazine. You also have the option to receive local birding and community events delivered to your inbox from CCAS.

- **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

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

Sunday Morning Bird Walks

Meet in the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot.

Thursday, Oct 5, 7pm

Monthly Meeting: Turkeys

Urbana Free Library

Saturday, Oct 7, 7:30am

Member's Walk: Meadowbrook Park (Race St parking lot)

Saturday, Oct 14, 7:30am

Field Trip to Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge

Meet at 7:30am at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot to car pool.

Urbana Park District's Stewardship Days

October 14: 9-11am Busey Woods; 1-3pm Weaver Park

October 28: 9-11am Meadowbrook Park; 1-3pm Perkins Road Wet Prairie

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

Monday, Oct 16, 7pm; Board Meeting

Anita Purves Nature Center. Members are welcome.

Visit our website for more information!