



# The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

## December Program

### Coal Ash Threatens the Middle Fork and Waters Across Illinois

Thursday, Dec 6, 7pm

Urbana Free Library

Presenter: Andrew Rehn, Prairie Rivers Network

The Middle Fork River is Illinois' only National Scenic River, a treasure for the state. However, it is threatened by huge dumps of toxic coal ash on the bank of the river - and it's not alone.

Find out how toxic coal ash threatens the Middle Fork and waters across the state, what we're doing to fix the problem, and how you can help.

We will be joined by Andrew Rehn from Prairie Rivers Network for a presentation and discussion about local issues in Central Illinois.

FREE and open to the public.



## Nerds Who Bird Trivia Night

November 29, 6:30pm

Broadway Food Hall

Challenge your friends to some nerdy competition with Champaign County Audubon Society! We will be hosting our 2nd Annual Nerds Who Bird Trivia event! Prizes to winning teams from local businesses and organizations!

This event is FREE and open to the public but teams must pre-register ahead of time by emailing [sjohnsonccas@gmail.com](mailto:sjohnsonccas@gmail.com). Up to 6 members per team. Donations gratefully accepted.

Broadway Food Hall has a variety of food available for purchase and drinks are available for sale for 21+ members. Join us for this great event!

## NEW! Donate Online!

Now accepting membership dues and donations online! Check out our new PayPal feature and save time contributing via your mobile device or computer!

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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: Brody Dunn
- Secretary: Charlene Anchor
- Treasurer: Allan Penwell

Members at Large, 2017-2018

- Beth Chato
- Carie Nixon

Members at Large, 2018-2019

- Janet Jokela
- Christina Ruiz
- Roger Digges

Committee Chairs

- Bylaws: vacant
- Conservation: Jeff Peyton
- Education: Pam Leiter
- Field Trip: Beth Chato
- Finance: Astrid Berkson
- Hospitality: vacant
- Membership: Rachel Vinsel
- 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 in your inbox!

Would you like to go paperless and help our funds go further? Please visit the Membership page on our website and enter your name and email address.



Find us on Facebook!



/ChampaignAudubon



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

Time to consider a new bird feeder? The shop has a selection of feeders for various kinds of seed, plus suet feeders. Also medium priced binoculars. Also the usual selection of children’s and coloring books. Come see, shop, and support our environmental and conservation programs.



### Field Notes

Submitted by: Beth Chato

Northern Shrikes seen at Middle Fork and River Bend Forest Preserves.

Homer Lake Forest Preserve also had Pied-billed Grebes and a Red-breasted Merganser.

Middle Fork had a Pintail Duck. Tree Sparrows are back and a late Chipping Sparrow was seen at Middle Fork.



Northern Shrike  
Photo: CheepShot, flickr

### Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who donated beyond membership dues:  
*Mark Koster & Megan Skrip*

### Welcome New Members!

*Allen Barne*

### Thank you Renewing Members!

*Mark Koster*

**Questions?** Please contact our Membership Chair, Rachel Vinsel (ccas.membership -at- gmail.com)



## Restore Point Pleasant with a Triple Match Donation!

*What if your \$1 donation could become \$4 just by donating now?*

What if that \$4 donation could help save the habitat for unique and beautiful wetland species, such as the sandhill crane and the endangered whooping crane, in the Point Pleasant natural area at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve?

The Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) has approved a Community Stewardship Challenge Grant to restore the Point Pleasant natural area at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. This grant offers a three-to-one match for the first \$7,000 the Champaign County Forest Preserve receives in private donations.

Point Pleasant is a picturesque natural area and critical wetland habitat in Champaign County. It was once one of the best places in the county to see cranes, shorebirds, and waterfowl!

The wetland also helps sustain a healthier Middle Fork River ecosystem by filtering out excess nutrients and absorbing excess rainwater, managing flooding while combating erosion.

With your help we can make Point Pleasant an ecological success story! For every \$1 you donate, the ICECF will match it with \$3!

**To Donate Online:** <https://forest-preserve-friends-foundation.networkforgood.com/projects/56735-point-pleasant-triple-match-challenge>



*Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes at Point Pleasant, 2011 (Dan McHale)*

## \$250 Mini-Grants for Educators

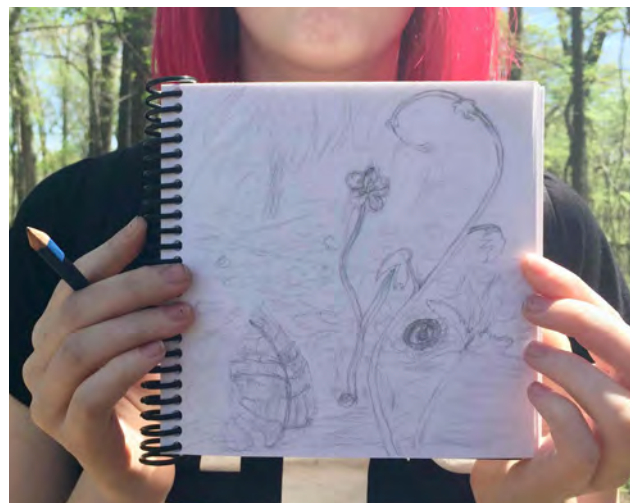
**Deadline: February 8, 2019**

Our mini-grants provide help to Champaign County educators with bringing environmental education to students. Some suggestions are: classroom equipment, books, guest speakers, outdoor learning areas, field trip costs, professional development, etc. Be creative!

If you would like to apply, please fill out the application found on our website.

### ***Sponsor a Mini-Grant!***

Your donation of \$250 will provide one mini-grant to a local classroom. *Donate online*, or send a check made out to CCAS to PO Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882. Please write 'Education Fund' in the memo line. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for supporting these valuable education opportunities!





## Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 15

Join us for the nations longest running community science project: the annual Christmas Bird Count!

The count will be held this year on December 15th, the first Saturday of the count period. The count runs all day--from first light until you "can't see anymore." People may count birds at their feeders or in the field.

You do NOT need to be an experienced birder to participate; we do our best to have "newbies" in a party with experienced people.

Please email [h-parker@illinois.edu](mailto:h-parker@illinois.edu) to sign up to count. Helen will be organizing data and teams for the big event.

To learn more about the CBC, find out here at National Audubon: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>.



## Annual Board Elections

The December program meeting is also the annual CCAS board election. During the program meeting, CCAS membership elects officers and members-at-large.

The Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following candidates for board positions:

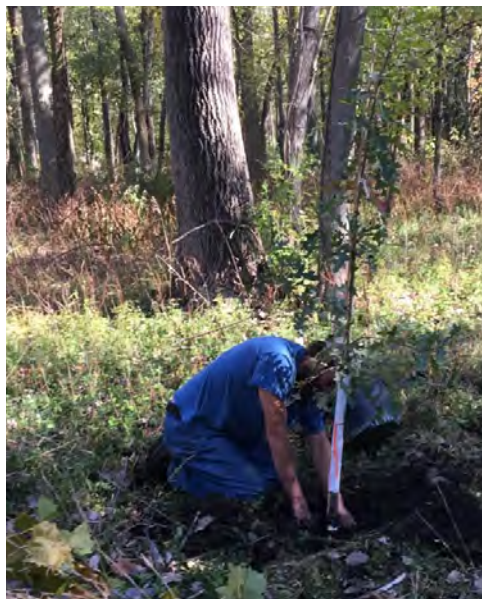
- President: Brody Dunn
- Vice President: Sara Johnson
- Secretary: Christina Ruiz
- Treasurer: Allan Penwell
- Bylaws: Roger Digges
- Member at Large 2019: Jennifer Wick
- Member at Large 2019-2020: Charlene Anchor
- Member at Large 2019-2020: Beth Chato
- Member at Large 2019-2020: Tyler Owens

## Busey Woods Fall Tree Planting!

Special thanks to all our donors! This year we were able to fund a native tree planting in Urbana's Busey Woods.

The overlook area was once a shaded wetland, but the ash trees that composed the canopy all died in a matter of a few years due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

We planted a range of native tree species to give a new forest canopy a head start!



## Birdnotes Listserve

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

Here's how: go to [ChampaignCountyAudubon.org](http://ChampaignCountyAudubon.org) and click on "Go Birding" then click the "Join Birdnotes" button.

# 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**

***NEW! Donate Online!***

Save time by contributing via your mobile device or computer! Visit our website to join or donate online.

I am a new member     I am renewing my membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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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***Our Mission:***

*Promote interest, enjoyment, and understanding of all aspects of our natural environment, and actively encourage the protection of wildlife and native habitats.*



## 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

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## Calendar of Events

**November 29, 6:30pm**

**Nerds Who Bird Trivia Night**

**Broadway Food Hall**

Get your study on for the 2nd Nerds Who Bird trivia event! FREE but donations are appreciated! Pre-register your team by emailing [sjohnsonccas@gmail.com](mailto:sjohnsonccas@gmail.com).

**Thursday, December 6, 7pm**

**Program: Coal Ash Threatens the Middle Fork River**

Urbana Free Library

Presenter: Andrew Rehn, Prairie Rivers Network

Find out how toxic coal ash threatens the Middle Fork and waters across the state, what we're doing to fix the problem, and how you can help.

**Saturday, December 15**

**Christmas Bird Count: Champaign County**

Contact Helen Parker at [h-parker@illinois.edu](mailto:h-parker@illinois.edu) if you would like to participate.

*See our website for more info about these events!*