



# The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

## February Program: Gardening for Wildlife

Thursday, February 1, 7pm  
Urbana Free Library

The days indoors during the snowy, cold winter are the perfect time to plan for spring plantings and summer gardens.

Learn not only how to bring birds to your yard but how to encourage a healthy and interactive ecosystem.

We will discuss native plants, backyard critters, and learning to “embrace the mess” of a well-balanced garden. Presentation by board president, Sara Johnson.

Light refreshments will be served.



## \$250 Mini-Grants for Educators

*Deadline: February 2*

Our mini-grants provide help to 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! See our website for more info and an application form.



## Sponsor a Mini-Grant!

Your donation of \$250 will provide one mini-grant to a local classroom. Checks can be made out to CCAS and mailed to PO Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for supporting these valuable education opportunities!

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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

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 delivered right to your inbox—in color!



your name and email address.

Would you like to go paperless and help our funds go further? Please visit the Newsletter page on our website and enter



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

We have just completed the shop inventory. Thanks to Beez Gordon and Charlene Anchor for helping Beth count everything. There are a variety of bird feeders. If you are ready to think spring, think binoculars, bird and wildflower guides to learn ahead. Also the usual selection of children’s books and nature related toys. As always all proceeds support environmental education programs.



### Field Notes

*Submitted by: Beth Chato*

County roads have been interesting with multiple flocks of Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs, and on January 6 a Short-eared Owl. A trip through south Champaign County on Dec 27 had 6 Short-eared Owls, a Western Meadowlark and a Rough-legged Hawk. December also had reports of several Snowy Owls, one near St. Joe. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskins, Purple Finch, and a Common Redpoll have been reported from feeders. Jim Smith had Brewer’s Blackbirds at his farm feeders on Jan 13. Keep your eyes open!

### Winter

W hite and cold with  
I nteresting marks in the snow indicating  
N eat tracks that make me feel like a real  
T racker.  
E nvironmental bottleneck ensuring that the best suited  
R eproduce.

*by Jim Hoyt*

### Birdnotes Listserve

Join our Birdnotes listserve 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.’

## Christmas Bird Count Results

Submitted by: Helen Parker

Results of the Champaign County Christmas Bird Count, conducted Dec. 16, 2017: total of 54 species, plus 1 during count week. Total individuals: 5,869.

- Snow Goose 1
- Canada Goose 1496
- Gadwall 1
- Mallard 1153
- Green-Winged Teal 4
- Hooded Merganser 1
- Ring-Neck Pheasant 16
- Great Blue Heron 13
- N. Harrier 2
- Cooper's Hawk 3
- Bald Eagle 3
- Red-Shouldered Hawk 1
- Red-Tailed Hawk 30
- Ring-Billed Gull 1
- Rock Pigeon 244
- Mourning Dove 74
- Great Horned Owl 3
- Barred Owl 5
- Red-Headed Woodpecker 3
- Red-Bellied Woodpecker 41
- Downy Woodpecker 40
- Hairy Woodpecker 3
- N.Flicker 17
- Pileated Woodpecker 7
- Kestrel 11
- Peregrine Falcon 1
- Blue Jay 42
- Am. Crow 346
- Horned Lark 30
- Carolina Chickadee 57
- Tufted Titmouse 34
- Red-Breasted Nuthatch 6
- White-Breasted Nuthatch 57
- Brown Creeper 6
- Winter Wren 1
- Carolina Wren 30
- E. Bluebird 3
- Robin 4
- Starling 964
- Cedar Waxwing 45
- Yellow-Rumped Warbler 1
- Fox Sparrow 1
- Junco 290
- White-Crowned Sparrow 40
- White-Throated Sparrow 12
- Song Sparrow 11
- Cardinal 106
- E. Meadowlark 1
- Cowbird 6
- House Finch 84
- Pine Siskin 5
- Goldfinch 81
- House Sparrow 438
- Seen count week but not count day: Snowy Owl

## Kendeigh Grant: Request for Proposals

**Deadline: March 25**

Each year we offer grants for research in ornithology in Illinois for a maximum of \$1000.

Applications must contain:

1. The applicant's name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address
2. Description of the research to be carried out
3. Proposed budget
4. Evidence of your qualifications to do the research, including a brief CV and at least two references

Submit to:

Champaign County Audubon Society,

Attn: Kendeigh Grant Committee

P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803

jbpeyton2 -at- gmail.com

**Applications must be received by March 25, 2018.**

Notification of awards will be made in April.

After the completion of the research, grantees must present the results in writing to CCAS. He/she will also be asked to give a presentation at a CCAS general meeting (typically the first Thursday in May, the year following grant award).

## Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who have donated beyond membership dues:

Mirian Bauers, Joyce Burdge, Carol Elliott, Peter and Beverly Fagan, Charles and Patricia Ann Helm, Jim Hoyt, Antje Kolodziej, Kay Lindsay, Mike and Jane McCulley, Karen Pruiett, Iris Swanson (In Memory of Edna Arend), Kay Thompson, David and Diane Weible, Ruth Wene & Jim Zivic



## Great Backyard Bird Count: Feb 16-19

### Events:

**Saturday, February 17, 9am-4pm**

*Guided Hikes at 10am and 3pm*

*Anita Purves Nature Center*

Help with bird conservation by counting birds for as little or as long as you like.

Audubon members will be there to help with identification in the Wildlife Observation Room and will lead hikes at 10am and 3pm. All ages. FREE. For more info: (217) 384-4062.

**Monday, February 19, 1-5pm**

*Live Birds! 2-4pm*

*Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve*

Enjoy making bird-themed crafts and help count the birds at our feeders for this citizen science event. From 2-4pm, see birds up close! UI researchers will demonstrate bird banding outside, and we will host live birds from the Wildlife Medical Clinic inside. All ages. FREE. For more info: (217) 896-2455 or [pleiter@ccfpd.org](mailto:pleiter@ccfpd.org).

### Or Count on Your Own!

Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day, each new location, and for the same location if you counted at that location again at a different time of day. Estimate the number of individuals of each species you saw during your count period. Enter your results on the GBBC website by clicking “Submit Observations” on the home page ([gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org)). Download the free eBird Mobile app to enter data on a mobile device.

*Learn more about this annual citizen science event at [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org).*



**How many birds will you find?**

**21st Annual Great Backyard Bird Count**  
**February 16-19, 2018**

**Join in!** Count birds in your backyard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird, and submit your observations online.

[birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org)

Cedar Waxwing  
Photo: Jane Toner/GBBC

Audubon    BIRD STUDIES CANADA    The Cornell Lab of Ornithology    Sponsored in part by: 

### About the GBBC

*Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time.*

*Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.*

# 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!

## Thank You December New and Renewing Members!

*Jenny Applequist, Mirian Bauers, Maynard Brichford, Martha Brown, Joyce Burdge, Carol Elliott, Peter and Beverly Fagan, Susan Farner, Beverly Foote, Steve Heater, Charles and Patricia Ann Helm, Jim Hoyt, Audrey Ishii, Julia Kellman, Antje Kolodziej, Martha Landis, Kay Lindsay, Melanie Loots, Cheryl Louviere, Mike and Jane McCulley, Phil Miller, Anne Mirapaul, Joe Muskin, Charles Nixon, Steve Ogle, Allan Penwell, Susan Pollock, Karen Pruiett, Jane Quinlan, Dawn Schultz, Megan Skrip, Iris Swanson, Clyde Sweet, Kay Thompson, Elizabeth Tyler, David and Diane Weible, Ruth Wene, Jaqui Worden & Jim Zivic*

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

## 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

**Thursday, Feb 1, 7pm**  
**Monthly Program: Gardening for Wildlife**  
Urbana Free Library

**Saturday, February 17, 9am-4pm: Anita Purves Nature Center**  
**Monday, February 19, 1-5pm: Homer Lake Interpretive Center**  
**Great Backyard Bird Count Events**  
See Page 4 for more info.

**Monday, February 19, 7pm, CCAS Board Meeting**  
Anita Purves Nature Center

**Saturday, March 3, 7:30am**  
**CCAS Member's Birdwalk: Meadowbrook Park**  
Meet at the Race street parking lot.

**Sundays, March 4 - May 27, 7:30-9am**  
**Sunday Morning Bird Walks**  
Meet in Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot.

**Saturday, March 10, 8-9am**  
**Low Mobility Bird Sit**  
Meet in Crystal Lake Park at the magic bridge parking lot. Bring a comfortable chair and a pair of binoculars.

*Visit our website for more information!*

### *Local Owl Prowls*

#### **Urbana Park District**

- Saturday, February 3, 7-9pm  
Anita Purves Nature Center  
Adults only! Register at [urbanaparks.org](http://urbanaparks.org). For more info: (217) 384-4062

#### **Champaign County Forest Preserve District**

Registration required at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org); For more info: (217) 896-2455

- Friday, February 9, 6-8pm  
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
- Friday, February 16, 6-8pm  
Homer Lake Forest Preserve
- Friday, February 23, 6-8pm  
Middle Fork River Forest Preserve