Field Trip to Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area
Saturday October 27, 10:30am - Evening
Thousands of Sandhill Cranes congregate at the Jasper Pulaski site on their way south. A sight to remember! Meet at 10:30am at the Anita Purves Nature center parking lot to carpool, and stay until sunset to watch the cranes returning from their day in the fields.

October Program
A Sampler of Australian Birds
Thursday, October 4, 7pm
Urbana Free Library
Presenter: Fred Delcomyn

Fred Delcomyn is a retired university professor interested in nature and travel photography. This talk will describe bird life he saw on a recent 3-week trip to Australia.

FREE and open to the public.

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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Early warblers were seen in late August, and are now at the peak of their migration. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen by St. Thomas Moore school August 25. A juvenile Broad-winged Hawk was well photographed in a Champaign backyard on September 3. Red-breasted Nuthatches are being seen in unusual numbers.

Field Notes
Submitted by: Beth Chato
Early warblers were seen in late August, and are now at the peak of their migration. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen by St. Thomas Moore school August 25. A juvenile Broad-winged Hawk was well photographed in a Champaign backyard on September 3. Red-breasted Nuthatches are being seen in unusual numbers.
$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. 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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**Annual Board Elections**

This year’s CCAS Nominating Committee is comprised of board members Rachel Vinsel, Brody Dunn, and Christina Ruiz. The Nominating Committee members have been working on recommendations for board positions for 2019. The 2019 election slate will be announced in next month’s newsletter.

In the meantime, if you or someone you know has skills to add to our board, whether it be fundraising, data organization, background in areas of education or just a thoughtful presence, please consider becoming a CCAS board member.

If you are interested in learning more about the process, time commitment, and projects we’re currently working on, please send us an email at ccas.membership@gmail.com to start the conversation. We look forward to hearing from you!

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**Sunday Morning Birdwalks: Fall 2018**

**Sundays, Sept 2 - Oct 28, 7:30 am**

*Anita Purves Nature Center*

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

**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 “Go Birding” then click the “Join Birdnotes” button.

**November Program: Expression and Function of Color and Song in Birds**

**Thursday, Nov 1, 7pm at the Urbana Free Library**

**Presenter: Dr. David Enstrom**

Dr. Enstrom is a retired ornithologist with the University of Illinois, Illinois Natural History Survey. Besides having done very interesting research over the years, he is a great storyteller. You don’t want to miss this presentation!
Why We Bird: Alida de Flamingh

"Why we bird" is a semi-regular column meant to explore why birders do what they do and what keeps them coming back for more.

Whether it started with the bird mobile hanging above my crib as a baby, my pet rooster, or all the different birds that lived on the farm where I grew up, I’ll never know. All I know is that for as long as I can remember I’ve always loved birds. There are a multitude of reasons why I love birds and birdwatching. Personally I think that birds are like beautiful pieces of art and the world around us an ever extending museum in which these pieces are displayed. For example, I’ve spent a good deal of time admiring the artistic beauty of my parents’ peacock – his name is Paulus, he loves white bread, and he is a truly magnificent sight to behold.

I’ve traveled to countries that are vastly different from each other but the one thing that remains constant is the beauty that you can find when you go birdwatching. I am intrigued by seeing the artifacts of continental drift and evolution in the different, yet similar, bird species found in countries that used to be connected way-back-when. For example, South Africa (where I am from) and India were both part of the Gondwana supercontinent before India broke off and drifted upwards, and subsequently these two countries share many similar, yet somewhat different, birds species. When I moved to the US I was at a total loss, literally none of the birds were familiar to me, and what’s more, South African bird names did not make sense in America. What’s called a ROBIN in the US looks and acts more like a THRUSH in South Africa.

Instead of being discouraged by not knowing a single bird name, for me it was actually quite an exciting adventure. Every birding trip posed the opportunity of stumbling upon the unexpected. So far almost every time I’ve gone birding with CCAS I’ve seen a new bird species – imagine how exciting! I remember the first time I saw a hummingbird (we don’t have hummingbirds in South Africa) – it was at Meadowbrook, I almost crashed my bike. I remember the first time I saw a green heron, it was at Crystal lake whilst paddle-boating with friends. And so the list goes on…. I guess that’s the nice thing of “re-starting” a hobby in a new place, you pay more attention to detail and make new happy memories by just doing what you love.

As a zoologist and scientist I often preach against anthropomorphizing animals, but who can deny the stoic strut of a secretary bird, the cunning and artful scheming of gulls looking to steal some fisherman’s bait, or the loquacious banter of a flock of starlings sitting in a tree. Bird behavior and recognizing different bird “personalities” has always intrigued me. Discovering new bird species with new personality types is wonderful and another reason why I love bird-watching – well, unless you unexpectedly come across a pair of Canada geese in breeding season, that’s far from wonderful (I have personal experience to back this up).

My list of reasons why I love birding seems almost inexhaustible: Finding a community that makes you feel welcome and who understands and shares your love for nature and birds. Spending time alone and getting to know yourself, and finding piece and solace in nature. Listening to a symphony of forest birds early in the morning. Trying to name all of the colors of a lilac-breasted roller. All of these things, these reasons, speak to the core of my soul and fill my heart with joy and wonder. And that folks, is why I “bird.”

Member’s Bird Walk
Saturday, October 6, 7:30-9am
Meadowbrook Park
All CCAS members are welcome to join us the first Saturday of October for a membership bird walk!

Low-mobility Bird Sit
Saturday, October 13, 8-9am
Crystal Lake Park
Join us for a low-mobility bird sit at the Magic bridge parking lot in Crystal Lake Park. To find the lot, use the N. Broadway entrance to the park and look for the CCAS event sign. Bring a folding chair and your binoculars, or borrow a pair from CCAS. This event is wheelchair accessible.
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: ______________ - __________

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

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](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."

Calendar of Events

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Sunday Morning Bird Walks
Meet in the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot. Walks officially end at 9am, but if things are exciting some folks stay longer. Birders of all ages and experience welcome. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

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Low-mobility Bird Sit
Magic bridge parking lot in Crystal Lake park. Bring a folding chair and your binoculars, or borrow a pair from us. This event is wheelchair accessible.

Monday, October 15, 7pm
Board Meeting: Anita Purves Nature Center
All CCAS Members are welcome and anyone looking to know more about the inner workings of CCAS or those looking to get more involved are encouraged to join us!

Saturday October 27, 10:30am-evening
Field Trip to Jasper-Pulaski
Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot at 10:30am to carpool.

See our website for more info about these events!