



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

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.



Photo: I Bird 2



Photo: Jeff Bryant

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!

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.



In This Issue:

- Mini-grants for Educators*Page 3
- Why We Bird: Alida Flamingh*Page 4
- Low-mobility Bird Sit* Page 4
- Member's Walk*Page 4
- Calendar of Events*Page 6

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

Enjoy fall migration with new binoculars from the shop. The shop has a choice of bird and wildflower guides to help identify what you see. New stock of nature related small items. 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

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.



Photo: Jeff Bryant

Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who donated beyond membership dues:
Charlene Anchor & Ann Bentley

Welcome New Members!

Ann Bentley & Rich Howard

Thank You Renewing Members!

Susan Farner

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



\$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!

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!

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**

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.



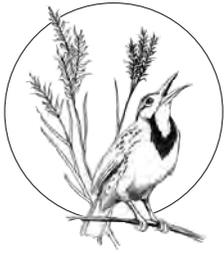
Join National Audubon Society

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

Calendar of Events

Sundays, Sept 2 - Oct 28, 7:30-9am

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Low-mobility Bird Sit

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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

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See our website for more info about these events!