



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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



“Get to Know Birds” 2018-19 Audubon Adventures Class Kit

Teachers: request a FREE kit by Sept 14 by emailing mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org.

Audubon Adventures is an educational kit for 3rd grade and up, developed by the National Audubon Society.

The kit includes both printed student resources and online content for three new topics:

- Get to Know Birds
- Hooray for Hummingbirds
- Plants are for the Birds!

Visit our website for more information!

Sponsor a Kit!

Your generosity has enabled us to support environmental education in hundreds of classrooms over the years!

Your sponsorship of \$50 will provide one printed Audubon Adventures classroom kit. 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!

September Program

Thursday, September 6, 7 pm
Urbana Free Library
Presenter: Heather Herakovich, 2017 Kendeigh Grant Recipient

Heather will present the results of her research that was funded in part by a 2017 Kendeigh Grant.

Heather’s research explores the impacts of reintroduction of historical disturbances in prairie restoration on grassland-dependent birds. She studied the effects on nesting success management practices like prescribed fire and, in a few large-scale sites, introduction of bison herds.

The Kendeigh Grant from CCAS helped pay for transportation to study sites, field supplies, and artificial nest materials for studying depredation of eggs.



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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

The shop has been restocked. New items include a variety of new mineral kits. Come see, shop and support our environmental and conservation programs.



Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who donated beyond membership dues:

Charlene Anchor, Maggie Duncan-Flowers, John Dunkelberger, Jean Holley, Jan Houston, Marilyn Lindholm, Mary Pavilon, Anne Robin, Deborah Rugg, Tod and Beth Satterthwaite & Ann Wiseman



Welcome New Members!

Jennifer Black, Robert Black, Kathy Claussen, Jean Holley, Paul Kruty & Jane Block, Dorey Panno, Mary Pavilon, Tod and Beth Satterthwaite, John White & John Wilcox

Thank You Renewing Members!

Charlene Anchor, Maggie Duncan-Flowers, John Dunkelberger, Jan Houston, James Hoyt, Janet Jokela, Marilyn Lindholm, Anne Robin, Deborah Rugg, Jackie Wilen, John Wilcox & Ann Wiseman

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

Field Notes

Submitted by: Beth Chato

Fall migration has begun. August 1, Solitary, Pectoral, and Least Sandpipers were seen. August 3, Kaufman Lake had cormorants. August 14, Redstarts and Tennessee Warbler were seen, and a Blackburnian Warbler on August 16. A possible Nelson's Sparrow was seen on August 14.

Tribute to Ruth Walker

Ruth S. Walker died February 16, 2018 at the age of 88. Ruth was a sculptor, poet, organic gardener, conservationist and a member of Champaign County Audubon for approximately 40 years.

Ruth graduated from the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in 1951 and continued her studies on a fellowship going to Paris and Florence. One of her sculptures has been installed in the courtyard of the Meadowbrook Health Center in Urbana where she had been a resident. Five of her pieces are currently on display at the Cinema Art Gallery in downtown Urbana.

Ruth joined the Red Herring Poets at the Channing Murray Foundation in 1983 and in 1986 she became the director for a number of years. Ruth had many poems published by The Red Herring Press. Her love of the earth and concern for its inhabitants, birds, plants, insects and animals, were frequent themes of her poems.

The Urbana Park District opened the Meadowbrook Park organic gardens to the community in 1975. Ruth spent about 35 years gardening at Meadowbrook. She happily shared her plants and ideas about gardening with anyone interested. Ruth also developed landscaping skills which she used to help landscape several community churches and schools. She also worked on a project at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Eventually she was referred to as the "Green Queen."

Ruth also became known as the "Possum Lady." She found a young possum on one of the neighborhood streets and took it home. The possum ended up living in Ruth's kitchen and even had young. Ruth wrote a journal about the experience which was donated to the Nature Center.

In 1973 Ruth started helping Champaign County Audubon with their newsletter assembly. Eventually she took over managing the job. The assembly meeting was held monthly at her home. Afterwards, those helping were treated to something homemade by Ruth. During the right season it could be a recipe using the fruits of her front-yard Paw Paw trees or Jerusalem artichokes from her garden.

Ruth was short in stature, strong in will and travelled her roads well. Our thoughts are extended to her daughter, son and grandchildren.

Champaign County Audubon Club: A Brief History

From our newsletter 70 years ago! On August 8 1948:

On May 9, 1940 the Champaign-Urbana Bird Club was organized, according to its constitution, "to afford opportunity for meeting together of ornithologists; to promote field trips and ornithological research; to discuss, report and review ornithological topics; to get acquainted with visiting ornithologists." Meetings were held then in the homes, and members and qualified guests provided the programs. A picnic breakfast was held in Monticello Park in June, the first of the annual spring breakfast field trips.

In October 1941 the name was changed to the Urbana/Champaign Bird Club.

In 1943/44 a movement was started by the Club to have Busey Pasture made a bird sanctuary, with the approval of the owner, Mrs. Guy Tawny. (It was a long fight. Busey was donated to the U/I in 1971, leased to the Urbana Park District in 1974, and purchased by the Park District in 1991.)

In 1944/45 regular Sunday field trips to Busey Pasture were instituted. The Club voted to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the name was changed to Champaign County Audubon Club. At the end of the year 1947/48 plans were under way for the incorporation of the Club so that it could hold property.

Membership 8/1/48: 24

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 "Go Birding" then click the "Join Birdnotes" button.

Birdwatching Basics for Everyone at the Urbana Park District

Saturday, September 1, 9-11am

Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods

Bring your friend, child, or other family member, and start a lifelong hobby together! This partner workshop is for folks with little or no birdwatching experience. Learn how to use binoculars, spot and identify common local birds and discover a bit about each bird's natural history. We will spend time outdoors getting acquainted with bird watching and then try out new skills during a hike in Busey Woods and Crystal Lake Park. All equipment will be provided, including trail snacks! Registration is for two people with the option to add more to your group. Age 8-Adult; Children under 15 must attend with adult. Pre-register at www.urbanaparks.org/register or by calling 367-1544

Field Trip: Heron Park

Saturday September 15, 7:30am-Noon

Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot at 7:30 to carpool. Heron Park, about 1/2 hour's drive away in Vermillion County, has an observation tower and board walk overlooking a waterfowl area. Chance of seeing the resident Bald Eagle. Return around noon.

Low-mobility Bird Sit

Saturday, September 8, 8-9am

Join us for a 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.

Board Appeal

The CCAS is proud to have a committed team of board members, many of which have served for a number of years. We hope that we have inspired you in some way whether that be through our informative programming, conservation projects, or education initiatives. 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!

NEW! Official CCAS Ebird Account and a Special Thank you!

CCAS has created an official Ebird account for our events. If you attend CCAS events like the Sunday Morning Birdwalks, and you want to record a bird seen on your personal account, let us know and we'll add you to our Ebird checklist! "CCAS official" is our designation.

We would like to extend special thanks to Jenny Applequist. Not only has she agreed to operate the account, she's taken on the massive project of entering into Ebird the massive CCAS historical archives. Converting the many analog files into digital data not only serves to back up our own data, but also allows the wider scientific community to benefit from years of careful observation by CCAS members. Thank you Jenny!

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.

Member's Bird Walk

Saturday, September 1, 7:30-9am

Meadowbrook Park

All CCAS members are welcome to join us the first Saturday of September for the first of the Fall membership bird walks!

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: _____

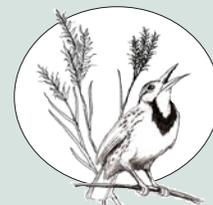
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

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 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!

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.



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PO Box 882
Urbana, IL 61803-0882

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Monday, Sept 17, 7pm

Board Meeting; Anita Purves Nature Center

See our website for more info about these events!