



# The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

## December Program

### The Legacy and Future of the Christmas Bird Count

Thursday, December 5, 7pm

Urbana Free Library Auditorium

Open to the public; for all ages; FREE

Since the Christmas Bird Count began over a century ago, it has relied on the dedication and commitment of volunteers like you. Join us the week before the count begins to learn more about the history and importance of this citizen science effort and how you can be part of it! Learn more about it here: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>.

The presentation will begin with a quick overview of some business followed by a presentation and short film about the Christmas Bird Count. Learn about some trick winter IDs and how to better differentiate between some of the more common birds you might see this winter!

Light refreshments served.



## 120th Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 14

This will be National Audubon's 120th year for the Bird Count!

It takes place in USA, Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Pacific Islands. Last year there were 2,585 count locations and 59.2 million birds were counted! Each location has a count Circle with a 15 mile radius. Our circle centers on Deers. Participants are needed for any amount of time.

Contact Helen Parker, 367-3130 to help or for more info.

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Champaign County Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803  
ChampaignCountyAudubon.org  
mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org

Officers

- President: Brody Dunn
- Vice President: Sara Johnson
- Secretary: Christina Ruiz
- Treasurer: Allan Penwell

Members at Large, 2018-2019

- Janet Jokela
- Roger Digges
- Jennifer Wick (2019)

Members at Large, 2019-2020

- Beth Chato
- Charlene Anchor
- Tyler Owens

Committee Chairs

- Bylaws: Roger Digges
- Conservation: Jeff Peyton
- Education: Tyler Owens
- Field Trip: Beth Chato
- Finance: Astrid Berkson
- Hospitality: vacant
- Membership: Rachel Vinsel
- 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



Open Monday–Saturday, 9am–4pm  
Anita Purves Nature Center  
1505 N. Broadway, Urbana, IL

### Big Changes!

The shop transitioned to being operated by the Urbana Park District on December 1. This transition is supported by Audubon as a practical solution. Thanks to Beth Chato for her many dedicated years managing our Nature Store and please continue to support Anita Purves Nature Center by staying in the loop about their new plan for the shop!



The Nature Shop has a variety of field guides to birds, wildflowers and animals. For the rock lovers there is an assortment of mineral collections and geodes. There are a variety of animal finger puppets, singing birds, children’s books, bird feeders, and coloring books.

### Field Notes

*Submitted by: Beth Chato*

Trumpeter Swans at Homer Lake, November 7. Hundreds of White-fronted Geese overhead by St. Joseph on November 6. Both Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets at Meadowbrook November 17, and a Bald Eagle at the St. Joseph Wetlands.

### Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who donated beyond membership dues:

*Maggie Dougherty-Roberts & Joe Williams*



### Welcome New Members!

*C.T. Bandy*

### Thank You Renewing Members!

*Maggie Dougherty-Roberts, Sue Finkenbiner, Sara Johnson, Allan Penwell & Joe Williams*

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

## Report: Field Trip to Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area

Eight of us took the trip to Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area to watch the 11,000 cranes gather by the observation platform as the sun went down. It was a beautiful sunny, but cold day. All the water was frozen.

We ate lunch at the Willow Slough area, and then visited the nearby Bison Viewing area.

We had to look hard to find the bison, but had good views of a Harrier. Not many land birds or water birds other than mallards.

*Images: Judy Rowen*



## 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:

Officers:

- President: Brody Dunn
- Vice President: Sara Johnson
- Secretary: Ted Velesky
- Treasurer: Vacant

Members at Large 2020-2021

- Jeff Peyton
- Zak Sutton

## 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**

### ***Or Join 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

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**December Program**

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More info: <http://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/bird-counts-and-bird-a-thon/>



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