



# The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

## February Program

### The Great Backyard Bird Count: History and Use for Conservation

Thursday, Feb 7, 7pm  
Anita Purves Nature Center  
(NOTE LOCATION)

Learn about the tradition and basis for the Great Backyard Bird Count, a community science endeavor that you can take part in! We will also include an eBird tutorial for those looking to learn how to use this useful software for personal and citizen science bird counts.

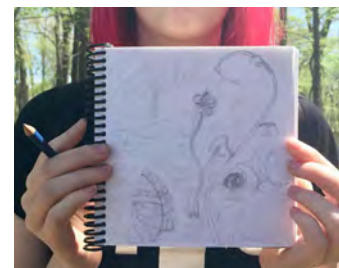
FREE and open to the public.



## \$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. Donate online or send a check made out to CCAS to PO Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882. Please write 'Education Fund' in the memo line. 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: 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

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- 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

Birds are hungry. The shop has a selection of feeders for various kinds of seed, plus suet feeders. Also medium priced binoculars. The puppet stock has been replenished including a delightful wolf pup, grey squirrel and flying squirrel. Check the usual selection of field guides, children’s and coloring books. As always, all proceeds support environmental education programs.



### Field Notes

*Submitted by: Beth Chato*

**December:**

Pine Siskins at Champaign feeder. Has anyone else had them? Beringer Commons had 2 Trumpeter Swans on 12/17. Homer Lake had a Surf Scoter on 12/18. The campus Peregrine Falcon was back on 12/15.

**January:**

The roads east of Homer Lake have had reports of 4 Short-eared Owls, and also a Northern Harrier and Great Horned Owl.

January 3 a Bald Eagle visited Crystal Lake Park and perched in a tree outside the Nature Center.

**For the year:**

My records show 213 species of birds seen by any observer in Champaign County. Of the parks and preserves, Homer Lake had the most with 139 species. Busey/Crystal Lake was next with 138.

This is an unfair tally because the total for any area depends on how often birders cover it. Busey/Crystal Lake is visited each week in spring and fall on our Sunday morning bird walks. These will start again on the first Sunday in March. I’m sure that numbers for the Middle Fork Preserve would go up with more visits by observers.



*Short-eared Owl*  
*Photo: Jeff Bryant*

## Great Backyard Bird Count: Feb 15-18

### Area Events:

**Saturday, February 16, 9am-4pm**

*Anita Purves Nature Center*

Help with bird conservation by counting birds. Anyone can participate--count for as little or as long as you wish! Record the birds you see through the windowed Wildlife Observation Room and during guided hikes. Get instruction in basic bird identification. Dress for the weather, and bring binoculars if you have them or borrow a pair at the nature center. Free activity stations will also be available. All ages. FREE. For more info: (217) 384-4062.

- 10am and 3pm: Winter Bird Hikes
- 11am-1pm: Make a Feeder
- 1-3pm: Nest Builders

**Monday, February 18, 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 2-4 p.m., see birds up close with UIS researchers as they demonstrate mist netting at the bird feeders. All ages. FREE. For more info: (217) 896-2455 or 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.



### **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.*

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

## 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, 2019.**

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).

[Click here for more info and to donate to the Kendeigh Fund.](#)

### 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.

### Sunday Morning Bird Walks

**Sundays, March 3 - May 26,  
7:30-9am**

Meet in Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot. Join us at our longest-running program, the Sunday morning birdwalks! Walks run from 7:30am to about 9am, but if the birds are good some birders will stay longer! Free and open to the public. [More info.](#)

## March Program

### Never Trust a Cowbird: How Brood Parasitic Birds and their Hosts Recognize Each Other

**Thursday, March 7, 7pm  
Urbana Free Library**

Presenter: Mark E. Hauber, Professor of Animal Biology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign ([www.cowbirdlab.org](http://www.cowbirdlab.org))

Brood parasitic birds lay their eggs in others' nests, causing the hosts to raise unrelated young in their brood. Why don't parasites then not imprint on the hosts and why don't hosts reject parasitic eggs? This talk will explore this evolutionary conundrum by reviewing the different types of experiments that we can conduct to answer such questions, including the use of diversely painted and maculated 3D printed eggs.



## CCAS Member Birdwalk

Saturday, March 2,  
7:30am  
Meadowbrook Park

A special birdwalk for  
Champaign County  
Audubon Society  
members! Meet at the  
Race street parking lot.



## Local Bird Programs offered by the Urbana Park District & Champaign County Forest Preserves

### Anita Purves Nature Center

Register online at [urbanaparks.org](http://urbanaparks.org). Program fees vary. For more info: (217) 384-4062.

#### ADULTS ONLY OWL PROWL

Saturday, February 2, 5-7pm  
Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods  
Ages 15 and Up

#### OWL PROWL FOR KIDS

Saturday, February 23, 5-7pm  
Anita Purves Nature Center  
Ages 6-15; Parents Free with Registered Child

#### BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

Saturday, March 2, 9-11am  
Anita Purves Nature Center  
All Ages - under 15 with registered adult



### Museum of the Grand Prairie

Register online at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org). Program fees apply. For more info: (217) 896-2455 or [jwick@ccfpd.org](mailto:jwick@ccfpd.org).

#### OWL PROWL: ALL AGES

Friday, February 1  
Museum of the Grand Prairie,  
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Space is limited; register by Jan 31.

### Homer Lake Interpretive Center

Register online at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org). For more info: (217) 896-2455 or [jwick@ccfpd.org](mailto:jwick@ccfpd.org).

#### OWL PROWL: ALL AGES

Friday, February 8  
Interpretive Center, Homer Lake  
Forest Preserve, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Space is limited; register by Feb 7.

#### OWL PROWL: ADULTS

Wednesday, February 20  
Interpretive Center, Homer Lake  
Forest Preserve 6-7:30 p.m.  
Space is limited; register by Feb 19.



## Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who donated beyond membership dues:

*Charlene Anchor, Tom Anderson, Mildred Barnett, Michael Barnhardt, Miriam Bauers, Stephanie Bennett, Phyllis Brussel, Irene & Clark Bullard, Gene Campbell, Catherine Capel & Ken Smith, Beth Chato, Roger & Cathy Digges, Maggie Dougherty- Roberts, Cindy Duffy, Joyce Eisold, Carol Elliott, Beverly & Peter Fagan, Don A. Fischer, Karen Folk, Beverly D. Foote, Robin Hall, Susan Haney, Laura Hartman, Jennifer Hines, Winifred Hlavna, Jan Houston, Rich Howard, Audrey Ishii & Charlie Smyth, Gary & Dixie Jackson, Doug*

*Jackson, Larry Johnson, Faye Jones, Dwaine & Chris Keller, Cindy Kempke, Todd Kinney & Peggy Patten, Patricia Knowles, Antje H. Kolodziej, Curtis Krock, Paul Kruty & Jane Block, Betsy and Peter Kuchinke, Martha Landis, Derek Liebert, Cheryl Louviere, Douglas Maddox, Mike and Jane McCulley, Rick McElmurry, Richard McPhee, Bruce & Theresa Michelson, Nancy Morse, Kay E. Mulhall, Ken & Brenda Mulle, Joe Muskin and Susan Pollock, Jane & Walter Myers, Dorothy Neumann, Steven Ogle, Dorey Panno, Allan Penwell, Belinda Porter & Greg Walburg, Terry Prinn, Dennis Prinn, Anne Robin, Mary Jean Sattazahn, Richard Schicht, Patricia Simpson, Megan Skrip, Deanna Uphoff, Sandy Volk, Shirley Walker, Shirley Walker, John & Julie Wilcox, Jacqui Worden, and Mary Ellen Wuellner*



## Welcome New Members!

*Nancy Dietrich, Susan Haney, Mei Ling Johnston, Jane McClintock & Jarrod Scheunemann*

## Thank you Renewing Members!

*Charlene Anchor, Tom Anderson, Jenny Applequist, Mildred Barnett, Michael Barnhardt, Miriam Bauers, Stephanie Bennett, Jennifer Black, Robert Black, Maynard Brichford, Phyllis Brussel, Irene & Clark Bullard, Fred Bunting, Gene Campbell, Catherine Capel & Ken Smith, Beth Chato, Carla Cravens Mansini, Lynne Dearborn, Kirk Deen, Norman Denzin & Katherine Ryan, Roger & Cathy Digges, Maggie Dougherty- Roberts, Tamara Ducey, Maggie Duncan- Flowers, Cindy Duffy, Joyce Eisold, Carol Elliott, Beverly & Peter Fagan, Don A. Fischer, Karen Folk, Beverly D. Foote, Robin Hall, Laura Hartman, Steve Heater, Susan Hesketh, Jennifer Hines, Winifred Hlavna, Joyce Hofman, Jan Houston, Rich Howard, Audrey Ishii & Charlie Smyth, Gary & Dixie Jackson, Doug Jackson, Larry Johnson, Faye Jones, Dwaine & Chris Keller, Julia Kellman and Phil Miller, Cindy Kempke, Josphine Kibbee, Todd Kinney & Peggy Patten, Patricia Knowles, Antje H. Kolodziej, Curtis Krock, Paul Kruty & Jane Block, Betsy and Peter Kuchinke, Martha Landis, Linda Larson, Derek Liebert, Cheryl Louviere, Randi G. Lundstedt, Elaine Lutz, Douglas Maddox, Lucy Mailing & Steven Sedig, Kyle McCafferty, Mike and Jane McCulley, Rick McElmurry, Mary Pat McGuire, Richard McPhee, Bruce & Theresa Michelson, Jay Mittenthal, Nancy Morse, Kay E. Mulhall, Ken & Brenda Mulle, Joe Muskin and Susan Pollock, Jane & Walter Myers, Michele Neill, Dorothy Neumann, Carie & Phil Nixon, Charles Nixon, Steven Ogle, Barbara Opal, Dorey Panno, Allan Penwell, Elaine & Russel Peppers, Jeff Peyton, Belinda Porter & Greg Walburg, Brock Price, Terry Prinn, Dennis Prinn, Jane Quinlan, Anne Robin, Malcomb L. & Ann P. Sargent, Mary Jean Sattazahn, Richard Schicht, Dawn Schultz, Karen Silver, Patricia Simpson, Megan Skrip, Kim Smith & David Skadden, Kay Thompson, Joseph Troy, Joel & Brenda Tucker, Deanna Uphoff, Rachel Vinsel, Sandy Volk, Shirley Walker, Shirley Walker, John & Julie Wilcox, Jackie Wilen, Jacqui Worden, Mary Ellen Wuellner & Jim Zivic*

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

# 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!

### ***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

**Thursday, February 7, 7pm**  
**Program: The Great Backyard Bird Count:  
History and Use for Conservation**  
Anita Purves Nature Center (NOTE LOCATION)

**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 3 for more info.

**Monday, February 18, 7pm**  
**CCAS Board Meeting**  
Champaign Public Library, Rm 215

**Saturday, March 2, 7:30am**  
**CCAS Members 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.

**Thursday, March 7, 7pm**  
**Program: Never Trust a Cowbird: How Brood  
Parasitic Birds and their Hosts Recognize Each  
Other**  
Urbana Free Library

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