



# The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

## March Program

### Never Trust a Cowbird: How Brood Parasitic Birds & 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)

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.

FREE and open to the public.



## Celebrating 75 Years of Sunday Morning Bird Walks!

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

Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot.

FREE! All ages - under 15 with adult

### Join us for our 75th year of birding!

Birding is an adventure for any age. Walk with CCAS leaders and search for birds in Busey Woods and Crystal Lake Park. Learn and practice basic bird watching and identification techniques. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them or you may borrow one from the Anita Purves Nature Center with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15 (pick up Monday-Saturday 9am-4pm).

### Birds, Binoculars and Beverages

On Sundays April 7 to May 12, 7:15-9:45am, the nature center will be open to the public for Birds, Binoculars and Beverages, a program in celebration of the nature center's 40th anniversary where you can enjoy FREE coffee and light snacks before or after the Sunday Morning Bird Walks.

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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: 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

Get ready for those spring birds with a field identification guide. We have a variety. Peterson’s and Stokes are very popular. Also medium priced binoculars. A new stock of puppets includes a wolf pup, eagle, and rattlesnake. There are a variety of animal finger puppets and singing birds. As always, proceeds support environmental education programs. Come check us out.



### Field Notes

Submitted by: *Beth Chato*

2/2 Red-tailed hawks nest building. St. Joe eagles are around their nest.  
2/9 Mute Swan at Kaufman Lake, Short-eared Owls are still in the area.  
Looking towards spring, a Red-winged Blackbird was seen on 2/15, and a Woodcock at Crystal Lake Park. These are indeed early birds.

### Great Backyard Bird Count Report

On Saturday February 16 we participated at the Anita Purves Nature Center from 1am to 4pm in the worldwide Great Backyard Bird Count. Observers saw 22 different species of birds.

Highlights were the resident Cooper’s Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk as well as 5 Eastern Bluebirds. As the day ended, about 100 crows flew over heading to their evening roost. Five of them peeled off to harass the Red-tailed Hawk.

Thanks to Brody Dunn, Sara Johnson, Charlene Anchor and Dorothy Newman who spent time helping with the count and interacting with the visitors. So far 5,639 bird species have been observed worldwide, with 135 from Illinois.

### 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.

## Kendeigh Grant for Research: 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 2 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.](#)

Since its beginning in 1982, the Charles S. Kendeigh Research Grant project has funded over \$30,000 of research on Illinois birds. Many grant recipients have gone on to prestigious careers in the natural history field.

### Who Was Dr. Kendeigh?

Dr. Charles S. Kendeigh, eminent ornithologist, was a renowned professor of zoology at the University of Illinois.

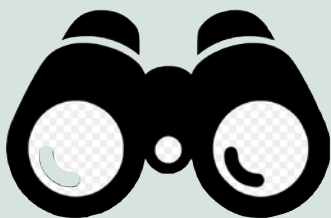
He was a charter member, president, and board member of CCAS, president of the Wilson Ornithological Society, and the Ecological Society of America, vice-president of the American Ornithologists Union, and co-founder of the Nature Conservancy and Animal Behavior Society.

Perhaps Dr. Kendeigh's most enduring contribution was a standard method for censusing birds.

### 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.



### Owl Prowl Success!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Allerton Park owl prowling events! We raised \$138 to buy books for local libraries.

CCAS is so pleased at your generosity, we're matching your donations dollar-for-dollar. A total of \$138 will go toward birding books in Piatt county's Allerton Library, and \$138 will go towards children's books about birds and nature at the Champaign Public Library.

Thank you!

~Brody Dunn, CCAS President

# AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS SHOW

Today's best bird photography is a portal into the natural world, and these images from the Audubon Photography Awards will inspire and inform you. The twelve images on display were chosen from nearly 8,000 images submitted to the National Audubon Society in 2018 in the Amateur, Professional, and Youth categories.



Great Gray Owl.  
Photograph by Steve  
Mattheis, 2018 Grand  
Prize Winner

IN ASSOCIATION WITH NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY

## WHEN

March 6-27

Open hours: Tues-Fri: 1-5pm

**Come see it during spring break!**

## WHERE

Homer Lake Interpretive Center

Homer Lake Forest Preserve

2573 S. Homer Lake Rd

Homer, IL 61849

## CONTACT

hlcenter@ccfpd.org

HomerLakeCenter.org

(217) 896-2455



/HomerLakeInterpretiveCenter

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

### Urbana Park District

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

### BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

Saturday, March 2, 9-11 a.m.

#### Anita Purves Nature Center

This workshop is for folks with little or no birding experience. Learn how to use binoculars, spot and identify common local birds and discover a bit about each bird's natural history. All equipment will be provided.

### WOODCOCK WALK

Wednesday, March 20, 6:30-8 p.m.

#### Meadowbrook Interpretive Center

Discover the secret life of the bird with the upside-down brain during a guided twilight stroll. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them. Call 217-384-4062 by March 19 if you plan on attending. All ages. FREE.

### Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

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

### WOODCOCK WALK

Friday, March 15, 7-8 p.m.

#### Buffalo Trace, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

Join us in a search for the elusive American Woodcock as the males perform their amazing courtship display at dusk. A short presentation will be followed by a hike to look for the sky dancers. Meet at the Buffalo Trace Prairie parking lot on Rt. 47 / N. Lombard across the street from the Museum of the Grand Prairie. All ages. FREE. Register by March 14.



## Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who donated beyond membership dues:  
*Joyce Burdge, L. Brody Dunn, Robert Espeseth, Susan Farner, Robert Fiedler, Darcy Gentner, Jennifer Hines, Claire Johnson, Rob Kanter, David Lampert, Marilyn Lindholm, Karen Pruiett, Melissa Records, Deborah Rugg, Edward & Nancy Schneider, Brian Wallen & Kathleen Weibel*



## Welcome New Members!

*Robert Fiedler, Kate Gardiner, Claire Johnson, David Lampert & Lucy Moynihan*

## Thank you Renewing Members!

*Joyce Burdge, L. Brody Dunn, Robert Espeseth, Susan Farner, Don A. Fischer, Beth Garrigus, Darcy Gentner, Jennifer Hines, Rob Kanter, Marilyn Lindholm, Karen Pruiett, Barbara Ramsey, Melissa Records, Deborah Rugg, Christina Ruiz, Edward & Nancy Schneider, Lisa Lynn Travis, Brian Wallen, Kathleen Weibel & Albert Willms*

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

## Nine Mini-Grants for Educators Funded!

We were able to fund ten educational projects this year! Thank you to all who make it possible for us to directly support environmental education in our community.

### Congratulations to our 2019 mini-grant recipients:

School/Agency	Project	Number Impacted
Anita Purves Nature Center	40th & Flying anniversary school events	500
Barkstall Elementary	Exploring the Mountains of the World with Hokusai	144
Centennial High School	Centennial School 2 Lunch Program	22-1350
Champaign Public Library	"Flowers & Feathered Friends" Children's Program	24
Fisher Grade School	Hummingbird, Bird, Butterfly Garden	50
Middletown Elementary	Bird Provocations in Kinder	23
Prairielands Boy Scout Council	Planting for Pollinators: Inspiring Conservation in Scouts and Their Families	200
Prairieview-Ogden Elementary	Building Bird Awareness	122
University Primary School	Multilevel Children's Garden	100

*Each year, we offer mini-grants to educators in Champaign County to support environmental education. Educators can apply for up to \$250 toward expenses for projects or activities that help enhance students' learning about our natural world and environmental issues.*

# 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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**CCAS Members Birdwalk: Meadowbrook Park**  
Meet at the Race street parking lot.

**Saturday, March 2, 9-11am**  
**Birding for Beginners**  
Anita Purves Nature Center. Register online at  
[urbanaparks.org](http://urbanaparks.org).

**Sundays, March 4 - May 27, 7:30-9am**  
**Sunday Morning Bird Walks**  
Meet in Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot.

**March 6-27**  
**Audubon Photography Awards Show**  
Homer Lake Interpretive Center

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

**Friday, March 15, 7-8pm**  
**Woodcock Walk**  
Buffalo Trace, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve  
Register online at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).

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

**Wednesday, March 20, 6:30-8pm**  
**Woodcock Walk**  
Meadowbrook Interpretive Center  
Call 217-384-4062 by March 19 if you plan on  
attending.

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