



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

May Program

2018 Kendeigh Grant Recipients

Thursday, May 2, 7pm

Urbana Free Library Auditorium

The recipients of last year's Kendeigh Grants from will present the results of their research funded by the grants.

Samantha Capel is a PhD student at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Her research used genetic sequencing to assess mate choice and hatchling survival among translocated Greater Prairie Chickens from Kansas. The last century saw a dramatic decline in the numbers of prairie chickens in Illinois, from millions in the 19th century to 46 individuals in 1994. Samantha hopes that her results can inform conservation practices when it comes to translocating populations.



Photo: Greg Schechter

Daniel Goldberg, a PhD student from Illinois State University, used acoustic monitoring to analyze population distributions of rails and gallinules. Several rallid species are suffering declining numbers with three species listed as endangered in Illinois. Daniel hopes to use his data to create species distribution maps that can inform future research and conservation efforts.

FREE and open to the public. Light refreshments to be provided.

Announcing the 2019 Kendeigh Grant Recipients

Congratulations to Hannah Scharf and Daniel Goldberg!

Each year, the Champaign County Audubon Society offers two grants of up to \$1000 for research in ornithology.

Hannah Scharf is pursuing a Ph.D. in evolution, ecology, and behavior at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Her undergraduate degree

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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

It's time to put out hummingbird and oriole feeders, which the shop has. For the rock lovers there are an assortment of mineral collections and geodes. There are a variety of animal finger puppets, singing birds, children's books and coloring books, and as always bird guides.



As always, proceeds support environmental education programs. Come check us out.

Field Notes

Submitted by: Beth Chato

White Pelicans in flight over Busey Woods.

Pine, Palm, and Yellow-throated warblers are back as well as the first Ruby-throated Hummingbird of the season.

The Homer area Bald Eagles are on their nest.

Great Horned Owl nestlings have left their nest.



Great Horned Owl nestling at Homer Lake Photo: David Weible

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.



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**S P R I N G B I R D
C O U N T**

SATURDAY MAY 4TH

The Illinois Spring Bird Count was initiated by the IDNR in 1975. Join a team or put together one of your own to benefit science! Please let Beth Chato (ejchato@gmail.com) know if you are available and your preferred area.

B I R D - A - T H O N

MAY 5TH - MAY 12TH

The Bird-a-thon is our annual fundraiser where teams eagerly search for as many bird species they can find. Pledge donations are based on the number of species seen or a flat amount.

Please participate or choose a team and pledge your support!

www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/bird-counts-and-bird-a-thon



36th Annual Birdathon: May 5-12, 2019

Illinois birds are in trouble - and you can help!



Your pledges needed!

During the Birdathon, teams eagerly search for as many birds species they can find. Pledge donations are based on the number of species seen by your selected team, or you may pledge a flat amount.

Last year's teams and their results:

1. Old-timers: Jim Smith, Beth Chato - 92 species
2. The Big Sit: Beez Gordon, Helen Parker - 45 species
3. Urbana Parks & Forest Preserves Staff - 125 species
4. Ghostbusters: Charlene Anchor, Janet Jokela - 51 species
5. President's Team: Sara Johnson & friends - 61 species
6. Bird Nerds: Melissa Ricketts & Brock Price - 146 species

Or form your own team! Go where you like and collect pledges from friends.

For more info, contact Beth Chato at ejchato@gmail.com or 344-6803.

Who was Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh?

Dr. Kendeigh was an eminent ornithologist and a renowned professor of zoology at the University of Illinois. He was a founding member, president, and board member of CCAS.

One of Dr. Kendeigh's most enduring contributions was a standard method for censusing birds.

Donate Online!

Save time by contributing via your mobile device or computer! [Visit our website to donate online.](#)

Where will my donation go?

Your birdathon contributions go toward the CCAS Kendeigh Memorial Fund, which supports scientific ornithological research in Illinois.

Since its beginning in 1988, the fund has supported over \$30,000 of research projects on Illinois birds. Topics have ranged from the impact of cowbird nest predation to the varied problems of declining grassland birds. Many grant recipients have gone on to prestigious careers in the natural history field. A successful Birdathon will support next year's grants and move toward our dream of a sustaining endowment fund.

Yes! I will pledge to support the Birdathon!

I pledge \$ _____ per species seen by team _____

I will make a flat donation of \$ _____ to help the cause

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone # (____) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Send this form to: CCAS Birdathon, P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882, or contact Beth Chato (ejchato@gmail.com or 344-6803). Checks should be made out to CCAS; note Kendeigh Fund on the memo line. **Thank you!!**

GET OUTSIDE WITH THE

Champaign County Audubon Society

**March - May &
September - November**

Sunday Morning Bird Walks

7:30am at Busey Woods

Member Walks

1st Saturday: 7:30 am - location varies

Low Mobility Birding

2nd Saturday: 8 am - Crystal Lake Park, Urbana

For field trips, programs, and events visit:

www.champaigncountyaudubon.org



Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who donated beyond membership dues:
Joyce Beitel, Richard & Dolores Bishop, Andrea Bretl, Jeff Bryant, Joyce Burdge, Kay Elmer, Noah Horsley, Michael Jeffords, Mary Pringle, Gary Russell, Carol Swearingen, Carole Stephenson, Marilyn Silkwood & Lucy Whalley



Welcome New Members!

Joyce Beitel, Andrea Bretl, John & Annette Buckmaster, Yuan-Ning Chu, Marsha Daniels, Kay Elmer, Darwin Fields, Marilyn Fields, Noah Horsley, Carl Pi-Cheng Huang, Michael Jeffords, Mary Pringle, Mary Richardson, Gary Russell, Marilyn Silkwood, Carole Stephenson, Carol Swearingen & Lucy Whalley

Thank you Renewing Members!

Richard & Dolores Bishop, Jeff Bryant, Joyce Burdge, Sydney Cameron, Sara Johnson, Judith L. Rowen, Jim Whitfield & Jackie Wilen

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

2019 Kendeigh Grant Recipients . . .Continued from Page 1

is from the University of Dayton. Hannah is interested in avian behavioral ecology with a focus on brood parasitism, specifically the strategies of female Brown-headed Cowbirds to increase reproductive success.

Hannah's study will evaluate the response of female cowbirds to artificial traits predictive of reproductive success. Specifically, she will attach one of two plastic shapes, a square or a circle, to nesting boxes of prothonotary warblers in the Cache River watershed, where brood parasitism by cowbirds is common. She will then manipulate reproductive success by removing all cowbird eggs from the boxes corresponding to one of the two shapes, and monitor to see if the cowbirds subsequently tend to favor boxes displaying the shape that proved more successful for previous clutches of eggs. She will also trap female cowbirds and attach tags that can be tracked by RFID data loggers installed in nest boxes, to determine whether the cowbirds return to parasitized nests to check on the status of their eggs.

Kendeigh Grant funds will help to cover the cost of the RFID equipment needed to track the visits of female cowbirds to nest boxes.

Daniel Goldberg is a doctoral student in Biological Sciences at Illinois State University, with a Master's degree in Biology from the University of California, Riverside. Daniel's research study seeks to investigate antipredator behavior in rallids (rails, soras, and gallinules). While Illinois has several large rivers whose floodplains support substantial populations of rallids, many of those populations are in decline, and further research on rallids can have an important impact on their conservation.

In this study Daniel will use audio recording and playback to monitor response of rallid populations to predator calls in Cook County wetland sites. Great Horned Owl calls will be broadcast at select sites, to determine whether vocalization rates of rallids decrease in response. At the other sites, playback of Blue-winged Teal, a species that poses no threat to rallids, will be used as a control. Records of cloud cover and lunar phase will also be recorded, as these factors can influence owl hunting and vocalization behavior. Daniel's goal is to determine whether rallids can identify calls of Great Horned Owls as a threat and how their vocalizations change in response to those stimuli.

The Kendeigh Grant will cover the cost of one Autonomous Recording Unit required for the study.

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

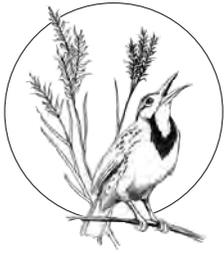
When you join National Audubon Society you receive one year of Audubon magazine. You also have the option to receive local birding and community events delivered to your inbox from CCAS.

- **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

Calendar of Events

Sundays, March 4 - May 27, 7:30-9am

Sunday Morning Bird Walks

Meet in Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot.

Saturday, April 27, 8am

Allerton Park Field Trip

Meet at the Allerton park visitor's center. Those that wish to carpool should meet at Anita Purves Nature center and leave by 7:30am.

Thursday, May 2, 7pm

Monthly Program: 2018 Kendeigh Grant

Recipients

Urbana Free Library

Saturday, May 4

Statewide Spring Bird Count

If you are interested, let Beth Chato know you are available and your preferred area: ejchato@gmail.com.

May 5-12, 2019

Spring Bird-a-Thon

The Bird-a-thon is our annual fundraiser, and is held in May. It starts the Sunday after the Illinois Spring Bird Count and lasts one week. Please participate or choose a team and pledge your support!

Saturday May 11, 8am

Low-mobility Bird Sit

Anita Purves Nature Center

Bring a folding chair and join us as we relax for an hour and let the birds come to us. This event is wheelchair accessible.

See our website for more info about these events!