



The Meadowlark Messenger

April 2015 • Volume 32, No. 3

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

http://www.effinghamdailynews.com/news/local_news/video-bald-eagle-nursed-back-to-health-released-at-lake/article_311692b8-0b55-5a9c-8ccf-683b2fa07b42.html

President's Column

Barbara Schleicher, President of
Champaign County Audubon Society
(CCAS)

Spring is officially here. We will still probably see fluctuations in air temperatures and precipitation but, we can count on a general warm-up! Now that the weather is improving and warming up, we are seeing many of the migratory birds coming through our area on our Sunday morning bird walks at Busey Wood. I invite you to visit our Facebook page to see some of the birds passing through the area.

I have a special interest in birds of prey, and a friend alerted me to the following story about the University of Illinois' Wildlife Medical Clinic and their recent rescue of a Bald Eagle.

In October 2014 the eagle was found in a ditch just southeast of Newton, Illinois. It was brought to the conservation police at the Prairie Ridge State Natural Area in Newton. One of the workers at the natural area transported the extremely weak bird to the University's Wildlife Medical Clinic. The eagle was unable to stand or even lift its head. Dr. Julia Whittington and a team of veterinarian students from the clinic initially assessed its condition; even though his vitals and body condition were stable, that there was very little hope that he would last the night. Their experience with a previous avian patient showing the same neurological signs were consistent with a West Nile virus infection.

Currently, there is no cure for the infection, just treatment to control inflammation and supportive care. Within one day of treatment, the eagle was able to lift his head and showed signs of coming around. However, he was still unable to stand or move for another four days.

Though the eagle was improving, blood work and X-rays indicated organ dysfunction. The pathology report from the samples taken of the liver, spleen and kidneys showed that they were normal. However, it was confirmed that the eagle indeed had West Nile Virus. The eagle made steady progress. After a month he was eating on his own and showing no sign of illness, even after being weaned off the medication for the virus. After two months the eagle was taken to the Illinois Raptor Center in Decatur, Illinois where he was rehabilitated and prepared for release in the wild. The bird was taken to Lake Sara, within an hour's drive of the site where the eagle was originally found. As soon as the towels were removed, the eagle leaped from the ground and flew as hard and as fast as he could and soon disappeared.

The Wildlife Medical Clinic gave this bald eagle a second chance. If you ever have a chance to tour their facilities or attend a presentation about the clinic, I would highly recommend that you do so. They are a very enthusiastic group of people who have done some amazing work with wildlife.

(Sources: *Hawk Talk*-February, 2015
Effingham Daily News—

APRIL MEETING
Urbana Free Library
Auditorium
Thursday April 2
7 PM
***"What We Miss when We
Listen to Bird Song: the
Hearing Side of Avian
Communication"***



JEFF LUCAS
Professor and Associate Head of
Biological Sciences, Purdue
University

In addition, Jeff has studied fish ecology, antlion ecology and behavior, plant seed dispersal, foraging theory, bird energetics and foraging behavior, avian hearing, and the vocal system of chickadees.

Champaign County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803

www.champaigncountyaudubon.org

Officers

President: Barbara Schleicher, 377-8586
bschleic@life.illinois.edu

Vice President: Brian Stearns, 595-5052
brian@sbstearns.us

Secretary: Charlene Anchor, 359-8214,
charleneanchor@msn.com

Co-Treasurers: John Dunkelberger
344-4973, jdunkel@hotmail.com

Susan Stearns, 595-5052
susan@sbstearns.us

Committee Chairs

Conservation: Jeff Peyton, 714-4171
jbpeyton2@gmail.com

Education: Pam Leiter, 344-9163,
leiterp@msn.com

Field Trip: Beth Chato, 344-6803
ejchato@gmail.com

Finance: Astrid Berkson
356-4647, astrid@insightbb.com

Allan Penwell
359-3720, a.penwell@comcast.net

Habitat: Robert Vaiden, 344-9042
vaiden@isgs.illinois.edu

Membership: Caitlin Lill, 773-951-4900
clkilill@gmail.com

Nature Shop: Beth Chato, 344-6803
ejchato@gmail.com

Program: Dorothy Neumann, 344-1427
djneumann07@gmail.com

Publications: James Nardi, 333-6590
j-nardi@illinois.edu

Publicity: Carie Nixon, 867-2290
dragonfly@illcom.net

Members at Large 2014-2016

Beez Gordon, 355-3402

Janet Jokela, 352-3632

jjokela59@hotmail.com

Germaine Light, 417-5567

lightport@sbcglobal.net

Members at Large 2015-2017

Jim Hoyt, 352-6733

Beth Chato, 344-6803

ejchato@gmail.com

Allan Penwell

359-3720, a.penwell@comcast.net

Newsletter Coordinator: Ruth Walker,
328-1530

Webmaster & BirdNotes Listserve

Manager: Pam Leiter, 344-9163,
leiterp@msn.com

Champaign County Audubon publishes
The Meadowlark Messenger nine times
per year. Comments regarding the news-
letter or articles for submission are
welcome by the President.

Recent Bird Sightings: FIELD NOTES from Beth Chato

New spring migrants are arriving every day. Numbers of Sandhill Cranes are flying overhead, as are Killdeer. Woodcock arrived in Meadowbrook Park a day or so after our March 10 Woodcock Walk. A Tree Swallow, about a month early, was seen on our March 15 Sunday Bird Walk, and migrating gulls were high overhead. Rusty Blackbirds arrived the same day.

APRIL FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, April 18, 7:30 am. MIDDLE FORK FOREST PRESERVE led by Brian Sterns. Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center to car pool to the Environmental Center on the Preserve. Chance to see the resident Bald Eagle family, perhaps Sandhill Cranes, and much more on the county's largest forest preserve.

Sunday, April 26, 12:30 pm. WARBLER WOODS led by Pam Leiter and David Mott, the local site steward. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Near Charleston, this is a 200-acre designated nature preserve with hills, ravines and old oak forest – great for migrating warblers.

APRIL BIRD WALKS

SPRING BIRD WALKS CONTINUE EACH SUNDAY April 5- April 26, 7:30-9:am. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot. Walks continue each Sunday until the end of May.



AUDUBON NATURE SHOP for Unique Nature-Related Gifts

ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER, 1515 NORTH BROADWAY, URBANA, IL
9-4 MONDAY-SATURDAY

The Nature Shop is your source for nature-related items for young and old. New are Exploding Volcano and Mining for Minerals kits. Illinois Wildflowers by Don Kurz is an excellent and beautiful aid to identifying spring blooms.



Get Your Meadowlark Messenger Delivered Right to Your Inbox

Would you like to go paperless and receive your newsletter earlier? You can receive all the information you depend on from this newsletter in your inbox! Please visit our website (www.champaigncountyaudubon.org) and look under "What's New" for a link to a page where you can enter your email address. *(Please be patient with us as we work out the kinks of this system; you may still receive a printed newsletter for a limited time after signing up.)*

SPRING BIRD WALKS CONTINUE EACH SUNDAY April 5-May 31 7:30-9:am.

Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot. Walks continue each Sunday until the end of May.

The Bluebird in April by John Burroughs

A wistful note from out the sky,
“Pure, pure, pure,” in plaintive tone,
As if the wand’rer were alone,
And hardly knew to sing or cry.

But now a flash of eager wing,
Flitting, twinkling by the wall,
And pleading sweet and am’rous call,—
Ah, now I know his heart doth sing!

O bluebird, welcome back again,
Thy azure coat and ruddy vest
Are hues that April loveth best,—
Warm skies above the furrowed plain.

The farm boy hears thy tender voice,
And visions come of crystal days,
With sugar-camps in maple ways,
And scenes that make his heart rejoice.

The lucid smoke drifts on the breeze,
The steaming pans are mantling white,
And thy blue wing’s a joyous sight,
Among the brown and leafless trees.



Now loosened currents glance and run,
And buckets shine on sturdy boles,
The forest folk peep from their holes,
And work is play from sun to sun.

The Downy beats his sounding limb,
The nuthatch pipes his nasal call,
And robin perched on treetop tall
Heavenward lifts his evening hymn.

Now go and bring thy homesick bride,
Persuade her here is just the place
To build a home and found a race
In Downy’s cell, my lodge beside.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANELS – DEMOCRACY IN ACTION.

Newly elected State Representative of the 103rd House District Carol Ammons, is reaching out to Champaign-Urbana community members to bring their passion and expertise to her Community Advisory Panels. Each panel is responsible for following the bills moving through corresponding committees in the state legislature, analyzing them for their impact on the 103rd district and the state overall, providing feedback to Representative Ammons on the bills, and proposing and drafting legislation that is needed. For example, at the first Environment & Energy meeting this past week several proposed House bills were discussed, including one that proposed to close the ban on Bobcat hunting. The panel recommended that Representative Ammons oppose that bill. Each Panel has its own dedicated and competent University of Illinois intern to assist with research, writing, and coordination of meetings.

The Community Advisory Panels are:

- *Education Panel meets every [Friday at 4:00 pm.](#)*
- *Environment & Energy Panel meets every [Wednesday at 5:30 pm.](#)*
- *Business & Labor Relations Panel meets every [Tuesday at 5:30 pm.](#)*
- *Judicial & Criminal Justice Panel meets every [Thursday at 3:00 pm.](#)*
- *Health Care & Human Services Panel meets every [Thursday at 4:00 pm.](#)*

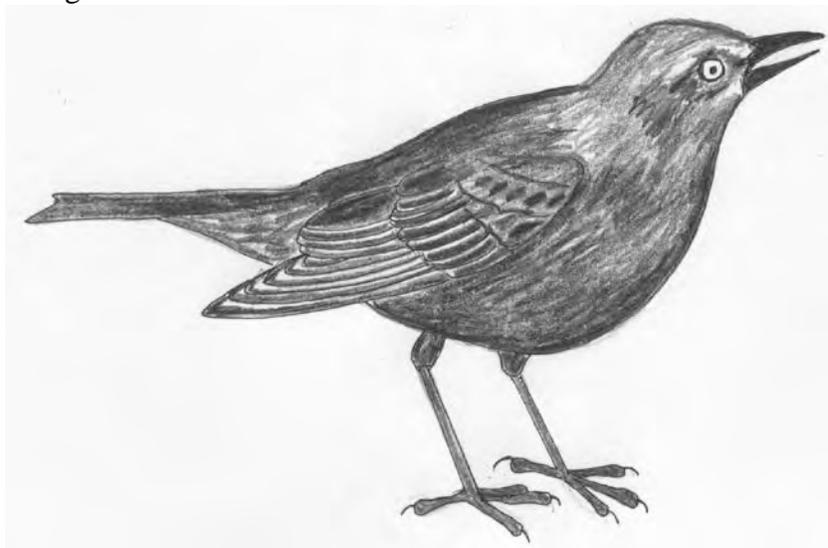
All Panel meetings are held at Representative Ammon’s office at [407 E. University Ave., Champaign](#). The office is accessible and parking is available behind the office building. For more information, go to [staterepcarolammons.com](#) and call the local office at [\(217\)531-1660](#) to sign up for a Panel so you will receive relevant materials before the meeting and be updated on any changes. Please grab this chance to make a difference for our community and state! This is what democracy looks like!

**Conservation News Jeff Peyton, Conservation Chair
New Conservation Chair**

You may have noticed a new name above the Conservation column for this month. My name is Jeff Peyton, and I'm excited to be stepping in as the chapter's new chair for conservation. I have interned for the Grand Prairie Friends and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District; and I currently work for the Urbana Park District. I am also an East Central Illinois Master Naturalist. I'm fairly new both to Audubon and to birding, and I'm still learning a lot. I will endeavor to continue Helen Parker's work providing a quality digest of national and local conservation news. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, ideas, or suggestions.

Rusty Blackbird Blitz

The Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz is in full swing! Rusty Blackbirds have lost over 95 percent of their population over the last forty years, and the Blitz is part of a larger effort to identify and mitigate the causes of their decline. Acting as a complement to studies of breeding and wintering grounds, the Blitz seeks to gather information about migration timing and paths and to raise public awareness of Rusty Blackbird conservation efforts. The Blitz got started at the beginning of March, but you can still help! Rusty Blackbird migration season runs through April 15th. Just go out and bird like normal, keeping an eye out for Rusties, and be sure to report your sightings to ebird. More information on the Blitz, including data reporting instructions and identification tips, can be found at rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz



Mahomet Aquifer

Good news for the ongoing effort to protect the Mahomet Aquifer! After years of local effort, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency decided in March to designate the aquifer a “sole-source” under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The designation is an additional step toward protecting the aquifer, which provides water to more than 750 thousand people in fifteen counties. The fight is not over: but this decision, as well as last year's Illinois EPA decision to rescind the Clinton Landfill's permit for PCB waste, are significant victories.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES : Join other volunteers and the Urbana Park District (UPD) for **Stewardship Saturdays**. Help collect seeds, remove invasive weeds, plant natives, improve trails and restore the native landscape. Please dress accordingly; gloves, tools and refreshments are provided. Call Anita Purves Nature Center (384-4062) to notify the UPD you are coming, **and so you can be notified if the work session has to be canceled! Stewardship work days:**

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 11 | Busey Woods | 9-11 am. | Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center. |
| | Weaver Park | 1-3 pm. | Turn right into park at entrance on East Main near Smith Road. |
| April 18 | Boneyard Clean-Up Day | 9-11 am. | Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center.
Crystal Lake Park Saline Creek |
| April 25 | Perkins Road | 1-3 pm. | Meet at Dog Park parking lot on Perkins Road |

Join Audubon. Yes, I'd like to join! Please enroll me as a member



Membership for 2015

Friend of Champaign County Audubon Society \$15.00..... new renewal
(includes CCAS newsletter only)

Friend of CCAS and National Audubon Society \$20.00..... new renewal
(includes "Audubon" magazine & CCAS newsletter)

Donation to Champaign County Audubon Society

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed, made **payable to Champaign County Audubon Society (CCAS)**. Your information and NAS contribution will be forwarded to National.

Name: _____

Address: _____ C5ZG500Z

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ 7XCH

(Please provide 9-digit zip code)

To receive newsletter electronically, please provide e-mail address:

Send this application and your check to: Champaign County Audubon Society, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882. Thank you!

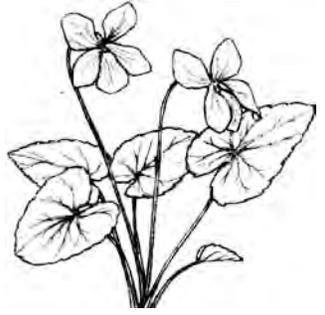
CCAS Member Activities & Benefits:
 14 Audubon Adventures
 Classrooms
 Mini-grants to educators
 Kendeigh grants for scientific studies
 Great Backyard Bird Count
 Youth Bird Count Day
 Nature Shop at the Nature Center
 Meadowbrook prairie restoration
 Field trips, Annual Bird Counts
 Annual Birdathons
 Monthly member meetings
 Meadowlark Messenger

Education Corner, Pam Leiter

Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Homer Lake, leiterp@msn.com

New Online Teaching Unit for Grades 3-5: "The Buzz about Native Bees"

Many members of our local community have embraced the plight of pollinators! Now you can bring this important topic into your classroom. Biologists consider native bees to be keystone species because so many other species depend on these insects and their pollination work. AudubonAdventures.org, a National Audubon Society educational website, now features "The Buzz about Native Bees," a complete online classroom teaching unit for grades 3-5. Visit www.audubonadventures.org to learn more (the link is at bottom of the page).





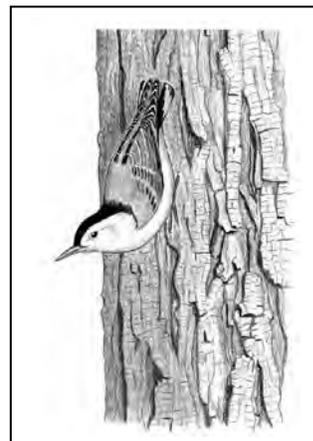
The Meadowlark Messenger

April 2015, Vol.32: No.3

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Urbana, Illinois
Permit No. 58

Champaign County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 882
Urbana, Illinois 61803-0882

Return service requested



Calendar of Events, April 2015

- Thursday April 2, 7 PM. Monthly meeting** at Urbana Free Library Auditorium. **Dr. Jeff Lucas** from the Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University will present a program entitled *“What We Miss When We Listen to Bird Song: the Hearing Side of Avian Communication”*.
- Sundays April 5 - April 26, 7:30 - 9 AM.** Sunday morning bird walks through Crystal Lake Park and Busey Woods began on March 1 and will continue every Sunday through May 31. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot. Bring binoculars if you have them. Audubon members will be present to help beginners.
- Saturday April 18, 7:30 AM. MIDDLE FORK FOREST PRESERVE** led by Brian Sterns. Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center to car pool to the Environmental Center on the Preserve. Chance to see the resident Bald Eagle family, perhaps Sandhill Cranes, and much more on the county's largest forest preserve.
- Thursday April 16, 7:15 PM. Champaign County Audubon Society Board Meeting** at Anita Purves Nature Center.
- Sunday April 26, 12:30 PM. WARBLER WOODS** led by Pam Leiter and David Mott, the local site steward. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Near Charleston, this is a 200-acre designated nature preserve with hills, ravines and old oak forest – great for migrating warblers.

