



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

Getting Ready for Nesting Season

Spring migration is underway, and that means some birds are already on the lookout for nesting sites. Why not give them a hand this year by providing a nest box? The lack of adequate nesting locations can cause birds to pass up otherwise suitable habitat, and putting up bird boxes can draw in a wider variety of species to your area.

Birds can be particular about where they nest, and different species have very different requirements for boxes and surrounding habitat. Fortunately, there are numerous resources available to help you decide what kind of nest box is right for you. The website nestwatch.org has a wealth of information about choosing, placing, and maintaining boxes for birds. The site also has an interactive tool called "Right Bird, Right House" to help you determine what birds nest in your region and type of habitat, and plans for nest boxes if you want to build them yourself. Be sure to give special consideration to those birds flagged as being "in decline" for your region, which may be particularly in need of nesting habitat.

Be sure to follow up with maintaining and monitoring your nest box, and be on the lookout for undesired competitors like house sparrows. Also consider leaving standing dead trees in place instead of removing them as long as they are not a safety hazard, as they provide great habitat for woodpeckers and other wildlife. The birds will thank you!

April Program

Veracruz: River of Raptors

Thursday, April 7, 7pm

Anita Purves Nature Center (*note location change*) 1505 N Broadway Ave, Urbana

Presenter: Marilyn Campbell

Each September, hundreds of thousands of Broad-winged Hawks migrate over the state of Veracruz, Mexico, on their way to Central and South America. They are joined by other raptor species, too, and together they create a super spectacle for birders. From two prominent hawk watches, volunteers count the hawks as they pass overhead, streaming from one thermal to another.

Birders can also enjoy Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in migration, and see many endemic species including the tiny Bumblebee Hummingbird.

Other highlights of the area are the old capital of Xalapa, in the mountains, and wetlands which are home to the Pinnated Bittern and other species.

Historic sites include the home of Cortez, built in the early 1500s, and the museum of anthropology with priceless relics of the early Olmec and other Indian cultures.

Marilyn Campbell is a retired educator and naturalist, and served as Executive Director of the Illinois Audubon Society from 1994 to 2006. She enjoys travel and birding, and has a life list of 1313 species, with 638 in the ABA area.

Champaign County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803
ChampaignCountyAudubon.org
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- Vice President: Allan Penwell
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- Beth Chato
- Carie Nixon

Members at Large, 2016-2017

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Champaign County Audubon
publishes *The Meadowlark Messenger*
nine times per year. Comments
regarding the newsletter, or articles
for submission, are welcome.



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visit our website and look for the link "Get your Meadowlark Messenger via email."



10% discount for CCAS members!

Monday–Saturday, 9am–4pm

Anita Purves Nature Center
1505 N. Broadway, Urbana, IL

Featured this month are a variety of nature-related coloring books as well as binoculars and field guides to birds and wildflowers. Enjoy spring! Come and shop! A portion of the proceeds support CCAS!



Field Notes: March

Submitted by: Beth Chato

Large flocks of Snow and White-fronted Geese going over as well as a few Sandhill Cranes. A Snowy Owl near Cropsey. Trumpeter Swans at Homer Lake. Phoebes are back as are Woodcock. An early Tree Swallow at Riverbend on March 6. A Northern Shrike was seen at the Middle Fork Preserve. Redwings and Rusty Blackbirds have arrived. Spring migration is underway.

Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who have donated above and beyond their membership dues!

- Gene Campbell
- Loretta Dessen
- Kay Elmer
- Jacquetta Hill
- Jim Hoyt
- Dorothy Neumann
- Rebecca Porter
- Jean Smith
- Greg Walburg



Join Audubon! Yes, I'd like to become a member!

\$ _____ Membership dues for 2016. (\$15: Friend of CCAS ~OR~ \$20: Member of NAS & CCAS)

\$ _____ Additional donation to Champaign County Audubon Society

\$ _____ **TOTAL**

I am a new member I am renewing my membership

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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!

Membership Types	
Friend of Champaign County Audubon Society Annual Dues: \$15 When you choose to become a member of CCAS only, 100% of the membership dues support this local Audubon Society chapter. Renewal is due each January.	Member of National Audubon Society (includes membership in CCAS) Annual Dues: \$20 If you choose this option, we will forward your info and dues to NAS. Members of NAS are automatically a member of their local chapter. A portion of your dues are returned to CCAS.
Have questions? Please contact Caitlin Lill, our Membership Chair, at cklill@gmail.com .	

Welcome New Members!

Greg Ryan, Jeff Peyton, Bonnie Langhaar, April Conner, Mr. Frederick Neumann, Ms. Lori K. Garrett, Cheryl Pettus, Beverly Lewman, H. Conrad, Mr. Clyde Sweet, Lori Holmes, Glenda Becker, Mr. Douglas Maddox, Barbara Glaser, Chad Hyman

Thank You Renewing Members!

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The Champaign County Audubon Society is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

Don't see your name and think you should? Contact Caitlin Lill.



Champaign County Audubon Society
PO Box 882
Urbana, IL 61803-0882

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Calendar of Events

Saturday April 2, 7:30am

Field Trip: Sangamon River Forest Preserve. Meet at Anita Purves Center at 7:30 to carpool.

Sundays April 3 - May 29, 7:30 - 9am

Sunday Morning Birdwalks. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot.

Thursday, April 7, 7pm

February Program: Veracruz: River of Raptors. Anita Purves Nature Center (note location change)

Saturday, April 9: 9-11am Busey Woods; 1-3pm Weaver Park

Saturday, April 23: 9-11am Boneyard Creek Cleanup Day (meet at Anita Purves Nature Center)

Urbana Park District's Stewardship Days. Call Anita Purves Nature Center (384-4062) for more info and to register.

Saturday April 16, 7:30am

Field Trip: St. Joseph Wetland & Homer Lake. Meet at Anita Purves Center at 7:30 to carpool.

Sunday April 17, 6:30-8:30pm

Birds, Bites & Brews. Pizza M (in the back room) 208 W. Main St. Urbana. RSVP to cklill@gmail.com

Thursday, April 21, 7:15pm

Board Meeting. Anita Purves Nature Center. Members are welcome.

Visit our website for more information!

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org
