



# The Meadowlark Messenger

December 2014 ♦ Volume 31, No. 9

Jim Nardi (Publications). Beth Chato member if you would like to chair  
Champaign County Audubon Society ♦ A chapter of the National  
Audubon Society

## Presidents' Column

Susan Stearns

Co-President of Champaign County  
Audubon Society (CCAS)

There are times when things are going as planned, but you get hit with a sudden, unexpected change. It actually reminds me a little of the fall weather this year – beautiful fall temperatures, nice fall colors - then smack! Arctic temperatures arrive in the middle of November.

Our Bylaws Committee had a similar experience this fall. If you recall, much of my last article was about December meeting plans and proposed changes to the bylaws. The Bylaws Committee worked hard to get things ready in time for a December vote, but more discussion, and thus more time, was requested by the board. Therefore, we will not vote on Bylaws at the December program meeting. Therefore, committee chairs will continue to be appointed, not elected. As usual, we will vote only for officers and members-at-large at the annual December business meeting on December 4, prior to a presentation on Owls by Marilyn Campbell. Board nominations have been posted on the website the past few weeks and are also listed in this newsletter. The following people have been appointed to serve another term in their current positions: Caitlin Lill (Constitution/Bylaws and Membership), Astrid Berkson & Allan Penwell (Finance co-chairs), Dorothy Neumann (Program), and

has been appointed to Field Trip Chair. Furthermore, Pam Leiter will continue serving as our webmaster, Beth Chato will also continue as the Nature Store coordinator, and Bob Vaiden will continue as Habitat Chair.

Two people are not continuing on the board. Helen Parker is retiring from a lifetime of service to CCAS. She has served in just about every position on the board and more recently served as Conservation Chair. Stacey Clementz, on the other hand, is dedicating more time to new adventures. She has done an amazing job as Education Chair. We send them our best wishes and enormous thanks for their years of service and dedication.

While Jim Nardi has agreed to continue creating the newsletter, he too is ready to retire from years of service to CCAS. We thank him for his willingness to continue as Publications chair in 2015 while we seek out a volunteer to fill his shoes.

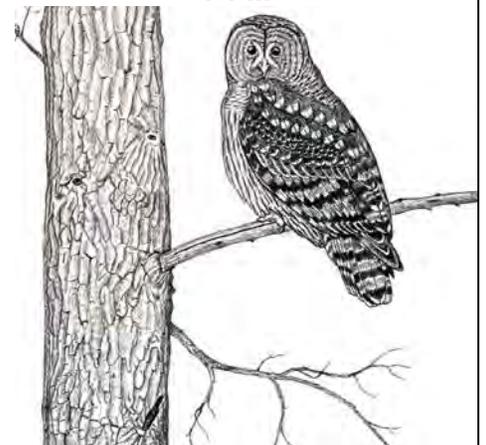
With no new board members thus far, we have positions to fill for 2015! These positions are all one-year terms, with no expected life-long commitment. Just like me, you don't have to be an avid or knowledgeable birder. We have a wonderful and very dedicated group of people who work well together. It is a pleasure to serve on this board – hence why so many continue year after year. Feel free to contact the current chairperson and ask questions. Please contact any board

the Conservation, Education, Hospitality, Publicity, or Publications Committee. Positions are described at the bottom of the “About Us” page of the website and in the Bylaws (also posted at the bottom of the “About Us” page).

As always, thank you for your continued support to the Champaign County Audubon Society. We hope you have a happy holiday season.

### DECEMBER MEETING

Urbana Free Library  
Thursday December 4  
7 PM



### OWLS OF NORTH AMERICA

Presented by

**Marilyn Campbell -**  
former editor of *Illinois Audubon*  
magazine, former Executive  
Director of Illinois Audubon  
Society, and long-time birder with  
a life list of 1263 species and an  
ABA list of 637 species

**Officers**

Co-Presidents: Brian Stearns, 595-5052  
[brian@sbstearns.us](mailto:brian@sbstearns.us)

Susan Stearns, 595-5052  
[susan@sbstearns.us](mailto:susan@sbstearns.us)

Vice President: Pam Leiter, 344-9163,  
[leiterp@msn.com](mailto:leiterp@msn.com)

Secretary: Charlene Anchor, 359-8214,  
[charleneanchor@msn.com](mailto:charleneanchor@msn.com)

Treasurer: John Dunkelberger  
344-4973, [jdunkel@hotmail.com](mailto:jdunkel@hotmail.com)

**Committee Chairs**

Conservation: Helen Parker, 367-3130  
[h-parker@illinois.edu](mailto:h-parker@illinois.edu)

Education: Stacey Clementz, 896-2455,  
[sclementz@ccfpd.org](mailto:sclementz@ccfpd.org)

Field Trip: Charlene Anchor, 359-8214,  
[charleneanchor@msn.com](mailto:charleneanchor@msn.com)

Finance: Astrid Berkson  
356-4647, [astrid@insightbb.com](mailto:astrid@insightbb.com)

Allen Penwell  
359-3720, [a.penwell@comcast.net](mailto:a.penwell@comcast.net)

Habitat: Robert Vaiden, 344-9042  
[vaiden@isgs.illinois.edu](mailto:vaiden@isgs.illinois.edu)

Membership: Caitlin Lill, 773-951-4900  
[clkill@gmail.com](mailto:clkill@gmail.com)

Nature Shop: Beth Chato, 344-6803  
[ejchato@gmail.com](mailto:ejchato@gmail.com)

Program: Dorothy Neumann, 344-1427  
[djneumann07@gmail.com](mailto:djneumann07@gmail.com)

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Publicity: Barbara Schleicher, 377-8586  
[bschleic@life.illinois.edu](mailto:bschleic@life.illinois.edu)

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Beez Gordon, 355-3402  
Janet Jokela, 352-3632

[jjokela59@hotmail.com](mailto:jjokela59@hotmail.com)  
Germaine Light, 417-5567

[lightport@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lightport@sbcglobal.net)

**Members at Large 2013-2015**

Jim Hoyt, 352-6733  
Beth Chato, 344-6803

[ejchato@gmail.com](mailto:ejchato@gmail.com)  
Barbara Schleicher, 377-8586

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**Newsletter Coordinator:** Ruth Walker,  
328-1530

**Webmaster:** Pam Leiter, 344-9163,  
[leiterp@msn.com](mailto:leiterp@msn.com)

**BirdNotes Listserv Manager:**

Dan Olson, 586-4389, [dolson@ccfpd.org](mailto:dolson@ccfpd.org)

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

**Recent Bird Sightings: FIELD NOTES from Beth Chato**

Winter is on its way with the arrival of Slate-colored Juncos, Pine Siskins, Red Crossbills, a Snow Bunting in Coles County, and even two reports of Snowy Owls (southeast of Decatur and north of Dalton City). Later migrants included two Whooping Cranes at Middle Fork Preserve. These were a banded pair, and we were able to get their history. There were also Trumpeter Swans in Savoy and Riverbend. Waterfowl are arriving in number, and our Clinton Lake field trip found a good variety including large flocks of Ruddy Duck and Bufflehead, and half a dozen Common Loons. Also seen were a late Osprey and a flock of hundreds of Rusty Blackbirds. Bald Eagles continue to be reported over town. Area Christmas bird counts are coming up, so don't put away your binoculars.



Slate-colored Junco  
(Snowbird) and  
Winter Stoneflies

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**

**Champaign County Christmas Bird Count**

**SAVE THE DATE! Saturday December 20**

As we have for the past 50 years or so, The CCAS Christmas Count will be the first Saturday of the count period, which makes it December 20th this year. As a reminder, the idea is to count all the birds in a 15-mile diameter circle in one day. At the end of the day we meet at Beth Chato's, 714 West Vermont, Urbana to eat chili, share experiences, and learn what was seen. Our count circle is centered at Deers and basically runs from Busey Woods to Homer Lake. **Please let me know ASAP if you plan to participate: [h-parker@illinois.edu](mailto:h-parker@illinois.edu)** You can also try phoning me, although my answering machine is a bit flaky these days--it tends not to record more than a couple of minutes. 367-3130.

**Other Counts in this general area:** The one at **Middlefork** is the first day of the count period, **December 14**; contact is Steve Bailey. The one at **Clinton Lake** is probably the day after ours, **December 21**. **Forest Glen is Wednesday December 17**. Contact is Marilyn Campbell, who will be the speaker at our December meeting.

AUDUBON NATURE SHOP for Unique Nature-Related Gifts  
ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER, 1515 NORTH BROADWAY, URBANA, IL  
9-4 MONDAY-SATURDAY

SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Remember us for our carefully selected variety of nature related items as you do holiday shopping. Bird feeders, insulated bird waterer and bird bath heater. binoculars, DVDs, books, puppets, singing birds and much more. New at the shop are charming assorted bird and animal ornaments. Also new is Mike Jefford's and Susan Post's book, *Exploring Illinois*. 10% discount for all Audubon members.

**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](http://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.)

## CONSERVATION CORNER - Helen Parker, Conservation Chair

**Keystone XL pipeline**--approval failed in the Senate by only 1 vote. That's WAY too close for comfort, especially since the incoming Congress is weighted in favor of ANYTHING that promises the magic word "jobs", no matter what the consequences. What will happen when they actually start building the thing remains to be seen.

**Speaking of oil**--remember the big spill in the Gulf a couple of years ago? Where did the spilled oil go? They have finally found a big, ugly ring of it on the gulf floor, where it will probably gradually seep toxins into the water for a long time. And some idiots STILL want to drill in the Arctic, where there is no known way of cleaning up a spill.

**OK, how about a bit of better news.** **Loggerhead turtles** scored a big win, as the largest "Critical Habitat" designation ever will protect 300,000 square miles of ocean and 685 miles of beach (needed for nesting). This is in the Atlantic & along the east coast beaches. Western turtles are still on their own.

**China is one of the world's major contributors to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.** As part of an agreement reached during President Obama's visit, China has agreed to start limiting their emissions in 2030 - which is little and late, but is at least a start. It's the first time the Chinese have ever admitted that they are part of a problem. Now if we could get certain members of Congress to the same realization, we might begin to make some progress!

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### THE CROW

by John Burroughs

My friend and neighbor through the year,  
Self-appointed overseer

Of my crops of fruit and grain,  
Of my woods and furrowed plain,

Claim thy tithings right and left,  
I shall never call it theft.

Nature wisely made the law,  
And I fail to find a flaw

In thy title to the earth,  
And all it holds of any worth.

I like thy self-complacent air,  
I like thy ways so free from care,

Thy landlord stroll about my fields,  
Quickly noting what each yields;

Thy courtly mien and bearing bold,  
As if thy claim were bought with gold;

Thy floating shape against the sky,  
When days are calm and clouds are high;

Thy thrifty flight ere rise of sun,  
Thy homing clans when day is done.

Hues protective are not thine,  
So sleek thy coat each quill doth shine.

Diamond black to end of toe,  
Thy counterpoint the crystal snow.



Never plaintive nor appealing,  
Quite at home when thou art stealing,

Always groomed to tip of feather,  
Calm and trim in every weather,

Morn till night my woods policing,  
Every sound thy watch increasing.

Hawk and owl in tree-top hiding  
Feel the shame of thy deriding.

Naught escapes thy observation,  
None but dread thy accusation.

Hunters, prowlers, woodland lovers  
Vainly seek the leafy covers.

Noisy, scheming, and predacious,  
With demeanor almost gracious,

Dowered with leisure, void of hurry,  
Void of fuss and void of worry,

Friendly bandit, Robin Hood,  
Judge and jury of the wood,

Or Captain Kidd of sable quill,  
Hiding treasures in the hill,

Nature made thee for each season,  
Gave thee wit for ample reason,

Good crow wit that's always burnished  
Like the coat her care has furnished.

May thy numbers ne'er diminish!  
I'll befriend thee till life's finish.

May I never cease to meet thee!  
May I never have to eat thee!

And mayest thou never have to fare so  
That thou playest the part of scarecrow!

## Slate of Board Members for December Vote:

Members will vote at the December 4th meeting on the following slate of board candidates:

**President** (1-yr term): Barb Schleicher

**Vice President** (1-yr term): Brian Stearns

**Co-Treasurers** (1-yr term): John Dunkelberger & Susan Stearns

**Secretary** (1-yr term): Charlene Anchor

**Member-at-large** (2-yr term): Beth Chato

**Member-at-large** (2-yr term): Allan Penwell

**Member-at-large** (2-yr term): Jim Hoyt

Many thanks to the Nominating Committee (Caitlin Lill, Janet Jokela, Pam Leiter, Charlene Anchor) and everyone willing to serve on the board!

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**A warm welcome to our new CCAS members! We hope to see you soon at one of our events.**

Sue Hedrick, Paul Spangler, Hector Mandel, Nancy Rader, Beans Clementz,  
Pat Chapel

**Thank you to our renewing members as well! Your continued support helps sustain programs and community outreach.**

Ellen Willcox, Jackie Harden, Kyra Shair, Bryan Ericson, Roger Digges, M. Joan Dawson, Chris Johns, Terry Wilmarth, John & Julie Wilcox, Douglass Maddox, Sandra Cusack, Doris Shaw, Kirk Stodola, Mary Burries, David & Carol Thomas, Marv Piwoni, Bernadine Stake, Maynard & Jane Brichford, Phyllis Johnston, Kenneth Mulle, Elaine Hershberger, Ann Bentley, Nicoline Ambrose, Derek Liebert, Don A. Fischer, Lorelea Liss, Michelle Hartig, R. L. Bishop, Marian & David Stone, Charlene Anchor, Bill Peterman, Astrid Berkson, Curtis Krock, Leonard J. Wirges, David J. Bodnar, Rantoul P. Lib, Tod & Beth Satterthwaite, Julie Hengst, Clare Barkley, Ms. Joellen Francis, Paul Nornholm, Mrs. D. Krummel

Don't see your name and think you should? E-mail Membership Chair Caitlin Lill at [cklill@gmail.com](mailto:cklill@gmail.com) to check on the status of your membership.

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**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:**

<b>December 13</b>	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.

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**Friends of Champaign County Audubon, a reminder:** All local Friends membership fees were due as of January 1. Your contribution of \$15 supports the local Chapter. Please renew or consider signing up on page 5 of this newsletter or send dues and membership information to our membership chair, Caitlin Lill, P.O.Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882.

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



## Membership for 2014

		new	renewal
Friend of Champaign County Audubon Society <i>(includes CCAS newsletter only)</i>	\$15.00.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friend of CCAS and National Audubon Society <i>(includes "Audubon" magazine &amp; CCAS newsletter)</i>	\$20.00.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation to Champaign County Audubon Society	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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: \_\_\_\_\_ C4ZG500Z  
 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, Stacey Clementz

Education Program Specialist,

Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Homer Lake, [sclementz@ccfpd.org](mailto:sclementz@ccfpd.org)

## Bird Adaptations Loan Kit



Birds have different types of beaks, eggs and feet to adapt to their unique lifestyles. Our loan kit can enhance your lessons on bird adaptations. Included are replicas of bird skulls, eggs, and tracks, as well as hands-on activities. This kit is appropriate for grades K-12. \$25 refundable deposit required. This loan kit is housed at the Homer Lake Interpretive Center at the Homer Lake Forest Preserve. For more information or to reserve loan materials contact Stacey at 217-896-2455 or [sclementz@ccfpd.org](mailto:sclementz@ccfpd.org).



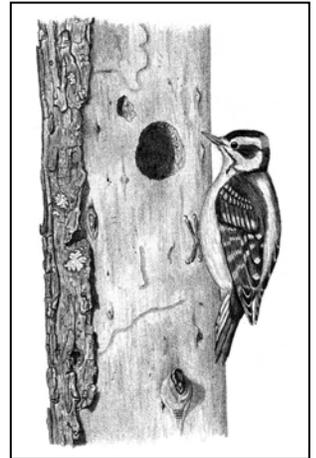
# *The Meadowlark Messenger*

Dec. 2014, Vol.30: No.9

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

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Urbana, Illinois 61803-0882

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## Calendar of Events, December 2014

**Thursday December 4, 7 PM. Monthly meeting at Urbana Free Library:** A program on the *Owls of North America* presented by Marilyn Campbell - former Executive Director of Illinois Audubon Society, former Editor of *Illinois Audubon* magazine, and long-time birder with a life list of 1263 species and an ABA list of 637 species.

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

**Sunday December 14, Middlefork**  
**Wednesday December 17, Forest Glen**  
**Saturday December 20, Champaign County**  
**Sunday December 21. Clinton Lake**

**Sunday December 21, 5:03 PM. Winter Solstice.**

