



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

2016 Elections

The December program meeting is also the annual CCAS meeting when the membership elects officers and members-at-large.

The Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following candidates to fill board positions. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to serve on the board!

The executive committee nominees, each for a one-year term, are:

President: Brian Stearns

Vice President: Allan Penwell

Co-Treasurers: Susan Stearns &
John Dunkelberger

Secretary: Charlene Anchor

Members-at-Large (2016-2017):

Janet Jokela
Caitlin Lill
Jeff Peyton

Member-at-Large (2016):

Carrie Nixon

A Special Thank You

As vice-president, I'd like to thank everyone on the board for their service this year. I'd especially like to extend gratitude to Barbara Schleicher who served as president but resigned earlier this fall due to other obligations. She brought enthusiasm and great leadership. We hope to see her again in the future. Furthermore, we'd like to thank John Dunkelberger for stepping in as president pro-tem while continuing his duties as co-treasurer. In addition, I'd like to extend thanks to Susan Stearns, who has shown great dedication to CCAS by giving the time necessary to put together the newsletter during the last few months in addition to her regular duties as co-treasurer and past-president. Finally, we extend thanks to Beez Gordon and Germaine Light, both members-at-large, who will not be continuing with us next year. We wish both of you the best. ~Brian Stearns, Vice-President

December Program Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 PM

Anita Purves Nature Center

Residents and Migrants of 2015

Presenter: Jeff Bryant

Jeff Bryant grew up in East-central Indiana and moved to Champaign, IL in 1999. His background is in physics and astronomy and obtained his masters degree in 1998 doing research in cataclysmic variable stars. Although his career went in the direction of computer software, working for Wolfram Research, his interest in astronomy grew to include observing most forms of nature, not just the night sky. His interest in birds started about 4 years ago, starting with backyard visitors, and growing to include the larger birding world. His primary interest is observing and photographing the nature and birds in our area.



Photo credit: Northern Parula by Jeff Bryant

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

Officers

President: Vacant
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, 217-714-4171,
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,
astridjb@comcast.net
Allan Penwell, 359-3720,
a.penwell@comcast.net
Habitat: Robert Vaiden, 344-9042,
vaiden@isgs.illinois.edu
Membership: Caitlin Lill, 773-951-4900,
clkll@gmail.com
Nature Shop: Beth Chato, 344-6803,
ejchato@gmail.com
Program: Dorothy Neumann, 344-1427,
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Publications: Jose Galue, 954-675-7266,
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Publicity: Carie Nixon, 867-2290,
parieceet@gmail.com

Members at Large 2014-2015

Beez Gordon, 355-3402
Janet Jokela, 352-3632,
jjokela59@hotmail.com
Germaine Light, 417-5567,
lightport@sbcglobal.net

Members at Large 2015-2016

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 newsletter
or articles for submission are welcome by
the officers.



Anita Purves Nature Center
1515 North Broadway
Urbana, IL

9-4 Monday - Saturday

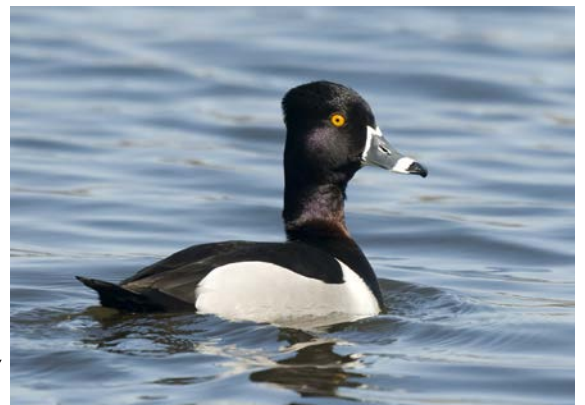
10% discount for Audubon members

The Nature Shop is a great place to find nature related gifts for the holidays for all ages. Great gifts include binoculars, a wide variety of field guides, bird feeders, puppets, singing birds, and fiber ornaments. Proceeds support the Kendeigh Memorial Fund and other efforts of Champaign County Audubon Society.



Field Notes

Homer Lake had a black crowned night heron the first of November. Late Tennessee and orange crowned warblers were spotted at Crystal Lake Park November 5. Furthermore, waterfowl season has arrived with ring-necked, greater scaup, canvas back, redhead, and ruddy ducks as well as hooded and red breasted mergansers spotted around November 10 at River Bend. ~ Beth Chato



Ring necked Duck; Credit: Brian Stearns



**Get Your Meadowlark Messenger
Delivered Right to Your Inbox – in Color!**

Would you like to go paperless and receive your newsletter earlier? How about receiving your newsletter with color photographs? You can receive all the information you depend on from this newsletter in your inbox! Please visit our website home page champaigncountyaudubon.org and look for the link, "Get your Meadowlark Messenger via email." Follow the link to the page where you can enter your email address.

The Christmas Bird Count is Coming Up!

You can add to more than a century of citizen science data by signing up for a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) near you – the 2015-2016 CBC is the 116th annual count!

All Christmas Bird Counts are conducted between December 14 to January 5, inclusive. There are several local counts in our region:

Wednesday, December 16. CBC--Middle Fork River Valley circle. Contact Steven Bailey at sdbailey@illinois.edu.

Saturday, December 19. CBC--Champaign County cricle. Contact Helen Parker at h-parker@illinois.edu.

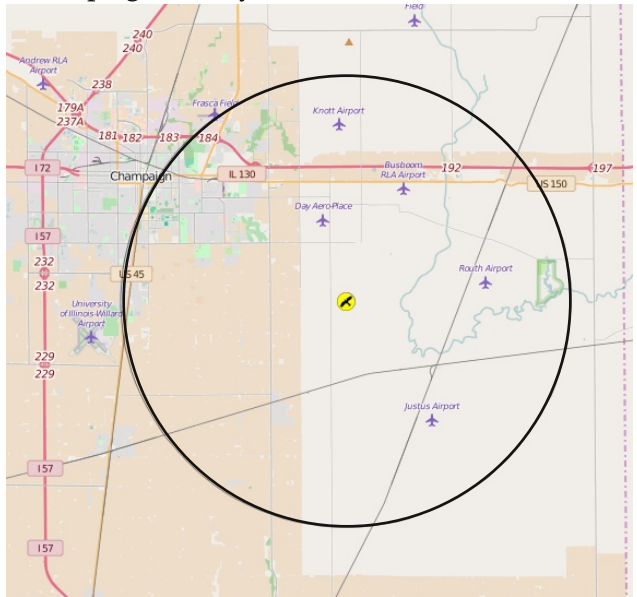
Sunday, December 20. CBC--Clinton Lake. Contact Rhetta Jack at Lotorwin4me@gmail.com.

Wednesday, December 30. CBC--Forest Glen Preserve circle. Contact Jim Smith at smithsje@gmail.com or Marilyn Campbell at owlwatchermc@gmail.com.

Anyone can participate, and you may participate in as many counts as you wish! Just contact the organizer for each count to join their crew. Each team counts every bird they see or hear. Beginning birders are welcome; you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher.

If your home is within the boundaries of a CBC circle, you may stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you have made prior arrangement with that circle's coordinator.

Champaign County CBC Circle



More information about the Christmas Bird Count is available online at ChristmasBirdCount.org.

November Highlights

We had a beautiful day touring around Clinton lake with nine people led by Greg Lambeth. We saw 30 or so common loons, a red-necked grebe, and a variety of waterfowl. ~ Beth Chato, Field Trips

Marilyn Campbell's program featuring photographs from her trip to Newfoundland was well received by 20 attendees. If you were unable to attend, she is presenting the program again Wednesday, December 9, at the Danville Public Library, this time for the Middlefork Audubon Society. Their holiday potluck begins at 6:30pm with the program following around 7:30. ~ Susan Stearns

Stewardship Saturdays with UPD

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES : Lend a hand and learn about local natural areas. 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:

Saturday, December 12

9-11 AM at Busey Woods. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center.

1-3 PM at Weaver Park. Pull off at the intersection of Main Street and Smith Road.



A Parliament of Owls by Fred Delcomyn

The internet is a wonderful invention because you can find all sorts of weird and interesting information there. Some of it is even true!

In the Meadowlark Messenger for November, 2015, was a list of Ten Fun Facts About Owls, taken from www.audubon.org/news/10-fun-facts-about-owls. Number four notes that a group of owls is called a parliament, which is true enough, and that the usage originates from C.S. Lewis' Narnia books. C.S. Lewis did use the phrase in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, but the origin of the phrase is much older.

In a wonderful book entitled, *An Exaltation of Larks, or, The Venereal Game*, by James Lipton (the 2nd edition was published in 1968), the author points out that terms for groups of animals, called terms of ventry, date back to well before the 15th century. The terms were regularly used by hunters and were compiled in the *Book of St. Albans* (1486) and other publications. The phrase a parliament of owls is listed, as is a murder of crows, a rafter of turkeys, a siege of herons, a gaggle of geese, and many others sure to delight anyone interested in birds. Get a copy for yourself, and on your next birding adventure you may be able to astound your friends by saying, "Look! A tidings of magpies!" And you won't even have to give an internet reference.

Education Corner

Bird Communication Lessons!

Have you ever wondered what birds are saying? With these dynamic activities, you and your students will investigate why and how birds communicate and learn to appreciate the songs you hear every day.

Audio recordings of chickadee calls, downloadable lesson plans, and a student journal are available at www.birdsleuth.org/communication.

Your students will:

- increase their awareness of the sounds they hear outside.
- be able to list the functions of bird calls and songs.
- use evidence to evaluate hypotheses about why birds communicate.

~ Pam Leiter, Education Chair



Credit: Seabamirum (Flickr user)

Remember CCAS in Your End-of-Year Giving

Each year CCAS reaches hundreds of people of all ages through bird walks, programs, field trips, bird counts, mini-grants, research grants and more! It is with great excitement that we get to see people introduced to the many joys of bird watching . . . to see their enthusiasm and know that they will share it with others in their lives!

Your support is an important investment in local bird advocacy and education about birds and their habitats. Please consider supporting the Champaign County Audubon Society in your end-of-year charitable giving. Checks can be made out to CCAS and sent to PO Box 882, Urbana IL 61803. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you!
CCAS Board of Directors

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

Membership for 2016

		new	renew
Friend of Champaign County Audubon Society (includes CCAS newsletter only)	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of National Audubon Society & CCAS (includes "Audubon" magazine & CCAS newsletter)	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation to Champaign County Audubon Society	\$_____		

My check for \$_____ is enclosed, made **payable to Champaign County Audubon Society (CCAS)**.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I'd like to go paperless and receive the newsletter electronically.

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

Thank you, donors!

We'd like to extend a warm thank you to all of you who have donated above and beyond membership dues during 2015. Membership dues cover only a portion of our annual expenses required for all that Champaign County Audubon Society does including educational programs, field trips, grant programs, newsletters, and efforts to support habitat and conservation. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Astrid Berkson, Bruce Brown, Clark & Irene Bullard, Cynthia Cahill, Beth Chato, Chris Chato, Rogger Digges, John Dunkelberger, Brody Dunn, C. Sam Fay, Sue Ellen Finkenbiner, Don Fischer, Beverly Foote, Jacquetta Hill, Jennifer Hines, John W. Hlavna, Inga Hoffman, Jim Hoyt, Gary & Dixie Jackson, Lynn Kelly, Susan & Ronald Kiddoo, Peter & Betsy Kuchinke, Pam Leiter, Derek Liebert, Germaine Light, Caitlin Lill, Randi G. Lundstedt, Jana Mason, Susan K Miller, Ken & Brenda Mulle, Dorothy Neumann, Helen Parker, Carole Rebeiz, Jayne A Robinson, Deborah Rugg, Barbara Schleicher, Theresa Scott, Marilyn Silkwood, Susan Silver, Jean E. Smith, Brian and Susan Stearns, Marilyn Sullivan, Iris Swanson, Jacqueline Worden, Randy Ziffren, and others who made cash donations.

Please let me know if your name was overlooked.
~Susan Stearns, co-treasurer

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

Steven Sparenberg, Mary Anderson, Edward Scoggin, Diane Henning, Pamela Moore, Vicki Hadler, Angela Estes, Rosann Noel, Russ Houglan, Richard Schicht, Marilyn Lindholm, Sherry Schildt, Doris Newman, Timothy Swartz, Vivienne Mackie, Peter Bodnar

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

James Zivic

Don't see your name and think you should? E-mail Membership Chair Caitlin Lill at clkll@gmail.com.

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CCAS Activities

- Sunday Morning Bird Walks
- Programs and field trips
- Birdnotes listserv
- Annual Bird Counts
- Annual Birdathon
- Audubon Adventures Classroom Kits
- Mini grants for educators
- Kendeigh grants for scientific studies
- Weaver Park habitat restoration
- Advocate for conservation

Member Benefits

- Lifelong learning opportunities
- Supports local conservation and education
- Great social activities
- Discount at Nature Shop
- Meadowlark Messenger newsletter



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PO Box 882,
Urbana, IL 61803

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 PM. Jeff Bryant presents Residents and Migrants of 2015 for our Annual Program meeting to be held at the Anita Purves Nature Center, 1505 N. Broadway Urbana. A map and directions are available online at www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/anita-purves-nature-center. The membership will elect officers and members-at-large prior to the program.

Wednesday, December 16. CBC--Middle Fork River Valley circle. Contact Steven Bailey at sdbailey@illinois.edu.

Saturday, December 19. CBC--Champaign County cricle. Contact Helen Parker at h-parker@illinois.edu.

Sunday, December 20. CBC--Clinton Lake. Contact Rhetta Jack at Lotorwin4me@gmail.com.

Tuesday, December 22. Winter Solstice

Wednesday, December 30. CBC--Forest Glen Preserve circle. Contact Jim Smith at smithsje@gmail.com or Marilyn Campbell at owlwatchermc@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 9. January Board Meeting and planning session. Contact Brian Stearns for more information.

Saturday, January 30. Eagle Nature Foundation 56th Annual Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count. CCAS counts along the Illinois River between Havana and Bearstown. Contact Helen Parker at h-parker@illinois.edu.

Thursday, February 4, 7:00 PM. February program with presenter Rob Kanter at The Urbana Free Library.