



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

Cornell Bird Cams

If you are snowed in this winter and run out of bird food, just watch the Cornell feeders on line. There is one feeder at Sapsucker Woods in Ithaca, and the second feeder is at a home in Ontario, Canada. Redpolls, Blue Jays, and even an occasional Ruffed Grouse show up. The Evening Grosbeaks are spectacular when you can catch them.

Other cams are more seasonal such as the two Red-tailed Hawks, Ezra and Big Red, who are very successful parents that always raise two or three fledglings every year. In the past two years, the Hellgate Ospreys have not done so well, but that's nature in the wild. Last summer one of the eggs cracked, and a second turned out to be infertile. However, three years ago there were three kids that fledged so maybe next year will be a terrific time to watch these beautiful birds grow from bobble-heads to fishing beauties.

Find them at: cams.allaboutbirds.org



December Program

Thursday, Dec 1, 7pm

Urbana Free Library Auditorium

Winter Birding

Winter is a great time to get to know our cold-season residents including some unlikely sojourners. Learn about the birds you can encounter and tips on how to bring them to your backyard. Brian Stearns will lead our presentation. We'll also share about the Christmas Bird Count and how to be part of this fun-filled tradition.

This newsletter may be your last paper copy, unless ...

Unless you let us know that you'd like to continue to receive it via snail mail. *Thank you for your understanding as we move to a greener solution!* See page 5 for more info.

In This Issue:

- Board Election Slate* Page 3
- Nature Shop Specials* Page 4
- CCAS Going (Mostly) Paperless*..... Page 5
- Membership Form Changes* Page 5
- NEW! \$250 Mini-grants* Page 6
- Calendar of Events* Page 8

Champaign County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803
ChampaignCountyAudubon.org
mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org

Officers

- President: Brian Stearns (595-5052)
- Vice President: Allan Penwell
- Secretary: Charlene Anchor
- Co-Treasurers: Susan Stearns, John Dunkelberger

Members at Large, 2015-2016

- Jim Hoyt
- Beth Chato
- Carie Nixon

Members at Large, 2016-2017

- Janet Jokela
- Caitlin Lill
- Jeff Peyton

Committee Chairs

- Bylaws: Allan Penwell
- Conservation: Jeff Peyton
- Education: Pam Leiter
- Field Trip: Beth Chato
- Finance: Allan Penwell
- Habitat: Bob Vaiden
- Hospitality: Astrid Berkson
- Membership: Caitlin Lill
- Nature Shop: Beth Chato
- Program: Helen Parker
- Publications: Vacant
- Publicity: Carie Nixon

Newsletter Coordinator: Ruth Walker

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 delivered right to your inbox—in color!

Would you like to go paperless and help our funds go further? Please

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

Holiday Special!

10% off on all Brush Art ornaments and figures. A variety of birds and animals made from natural materials in the Philippines. The shop has a carefully selected variety of feeders, as well as a wide selection of guide books, children's books, puppets, stuffed singing birds, geodes, children's toys, binoculars, coloring books, and much more. A portion of the proceeds support CCAS!



Field Notes

Submitted by: Beth Chato

Early October had a few good warblers going through, including a Connecticut at Kaufman Lake and 2 Black-throated Blues at Crystal Lake. Then the ducks started- Pintail, Gadwall, Ruddy, Shoveller, Lesser Scaup at the Swine Ponds. Weaver Park had a Nelson's Sparrow, Bittern and Sora on October 9. On the 15th a White Pelican flew over Weaver Park. Jim Smith reported Brewer's Blackbirds on November 7 and gave us blackbird identification tips.

Field Trips

An exciting morning at the Middle Fork Preserve for the 2 of us who braved a cold start. Many thanks to Brian and Susan Stearns who drove us around. Highlight of the morning was a flock of about 2 dozen Sandhill Cranes which circled fairly low over our heads for some time before going higher and heading off south. Interesting behavior! We also saw 3 eagles, a Harrier, Purple Finches, Fox, and Savannah Sparrows, a Great Egret, many Killdeer and lots more.

Call for Volunteers

CCAS is looking for volunteers to serve help with committees in 2017. Please contact Caitlin Lill (cklill@gmail.com) if you are interested in more information.

Board 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!

Co-Presidents: Sara Johnson and Cheryl Pettus

Vice President: John Dunkelberger

Secretary: Charlene Anchor

Treasurer: Allan Penwell

Members-at-Large (2 year terms): Beth Chato, Brody Dunn, and Carie Nixon

A Critical Time for Conservation and Climate

Submitted by: Jeff Peyton

Some things are not a matter of opinion. Empirical facts exist. The reality of climate change is one of them. Data demonstrating the gravity of the situation continue to accumulate. The World Meteorological Organization reported on November 14 that 2016 is on track to be the hottest year on record, the third year in a row to set such a record. The years 2001-2016 and 1998 comprise the 17 hottest years in recorded history. The global average temperature this year is 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, exceeding last year's records by 0.2 degrees Celsius. Climate change has already had wide-ranging impact on the world's ecosystems; a November 11 study published in the journal *Science* has found that 82 percent of key ecological processes evaluated by scientists have already been impacted by climate change, from organisms' vulnerability to disease and dissolution of corals and shelled animals to changes in population distributions, spawning times of marine animals and in growing seasons of plants. Vital habitat is being destroyed: ocean acidification and higher water temperatures are destroying coral reef ecosystems, and sea level rise is killing coastal forests like the "hammock island" forests amid the wetlands of the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve in northwestern Florida.

In the face of this looming ecological disaster, our country's president-elect has said that climate change is a "hoax" and has announced his intention to withdraw from the Paris climate

agreement. He has stated a commitment to expanded fossil fuel production and to scrap regulations that would limit their extraction (along with other environmental regulations). He has called for opening federal public lands and waters to drilling and mining leases, which would destroy important habitat while adding to carbon emissions. At the same time, public lands face a rising threat from those who call for federal land to be sold off or transferred to state control, where increasing costs of wildland fire control and land management would strain state budgets and likely lead to privatization of land or leases for resource extraction.

Amid these unprecedented threats to ecosystems in the United States and worldwide it is more important than ever to support efforts to conserve wildlife habitat. Organizations like the Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy work at the local, national, and even global level for conservation, and numerous smaller regional organizations like Prairie Rivers Network and Grand Prairie Friends direct their effort toward ecological preservation and restoration locally. You can help by contributing to these and other efforts in however you can, whether through donations or volunteer work. Beginning with our next newsletter, we will feature a series of profiles of local conservation groups that need your help in this critical time. It is vital that we act to protect these important natural communities.



AUDUBON NATURE SHOP

UNUSUAL NATURE RELATED GIFTS
ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER
1505 NORTH BROADWAY, URBANA
Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5 pm, Sat 9-4 pm



BINOCULARS- Selected models in stock, others can be ordered. **BINOCULAR STRAPS**

WIDELY ACCLAIMED BOOK- Last Child in the Woods \$14.95

Birdwatcher, a biography of R.T.Peterson \$29.95

CHILDREN'S BOOKS- Wide selection including coloring and activity.

FEEDERS, SQUIRREL BAFFLES Garden Misters.
Solar Sipper, a unique insulated bird waterer.



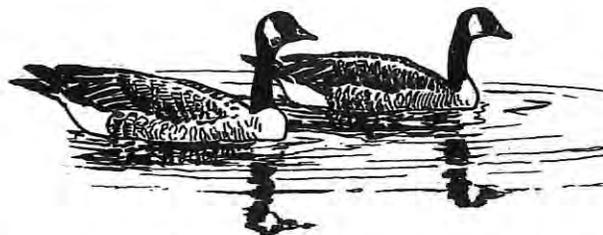
SPECIAL 10% off. Brush Art ornaments and figures made in the Phillipines of all natural materials

PUPPETS- All creatures great and small.

SINGING BIRDS- Many varieties from Cardinal to Ivory-billed Woodpecker

LITTLE THINGS- Magnifiers, bug boxes, dinosaurs, etc.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
& WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



CCAS Members receive 10% off their purchase!

CCAS Newsletter to go (Mostly) Paperless in 2017!

Our biggest expense at CCAS is paper newsletters. Right now all new members (through NAS and CCAS) automatically receive a paper newsletter. We send approximately 450 newsletters out for nine months of the year, which has a high cost with printing and bulk mail. We're also concerned about the environment; being good stewards probably doesn't include printing almost 10,000 sheets of paper a year!

Instead, starting February 2017 we're switching our "default" enrollment. All members who provide an e-mail address will be sent the e-newsletter.

But fear not! If you strongly prefer the paper copy we will send it upon request to those who have paid the \$15 annual membership dues for CCAS. This is in addition to any dues paid to NAS and directly funds our local programs, research and conservation efforts. We will be sending out CCAS renewal notices beginning in November and you can let us know then that you would like to continue receiving the paper copy.

Thank you for your understanding as we move to a greener solution!

Membership Form Changes

National Audubon Society has recently changed their process for how local chapters forward membership dues to them. It is much more time intensive for our treasurers to manage this system, and in researching the issue we've found that NAS encourages all members to join and renew online. They also offer an extensive renewal program for all NAS members and ask chapters to refrain from offering renewal services to any member in order to avoid confusion and the creation of multiple memberships.

Because of the switches at NAS, CCAS has decided that we will no longer accept membership dues on behalf of the National Audubon Society for 2017 memberships. Instead, we encourage you to follow the links to online membership forms and the phone number for NAS Member Services department on both our forms and website. NAS will also continue to mail renewal forms to members.

CCAS will continue to accept dues and donations intended for Champaign County Audubon Society. We are available to answer any questions you may have about your memberships with Champaign County Audubon Society and National Audubon Society.

Thank You Donors!

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

- Doris Andrecheck
- Joyce Eisold
- Dorey Panno
- Loretta Dessen
- Laura Zick-Bottorff
- Laura Hartman



Please Remember CCAS in Your Charitable Donations

Your support is an important investment in local bird advocacy and education about birds and their habitats. Please consider supporting us 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.

New After-school Activity Guide

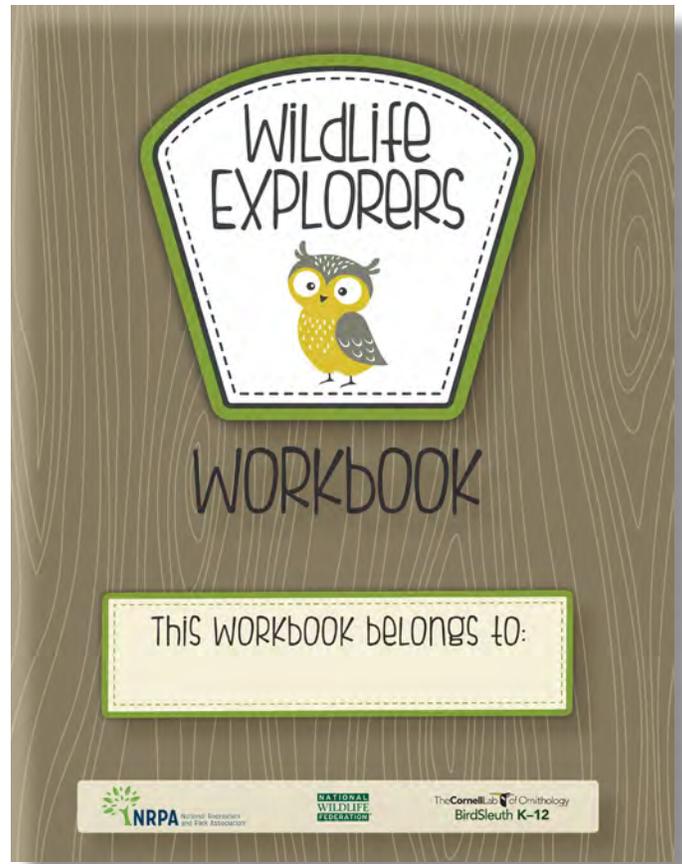
It's no secret that America's children are increasingly disconnected to the natural world. If the next generation is to become one of informed environmental advocates, we need to get kids outside and exploring.

Wildlife Explorers, a turnkey "environmental likability" program, was designed to do just that by leveraging existing out-of-school programming and accessible outdoor space within local parks and neighborhoods.

Wildlife Explorers was created to be implemented in any outdoor space, by anyone – no matter their prior experience or training in nature.

Download the free workbook at NRPA.org/WildlifeExplorers.

Developed by the National Park & Recreation Association, the National Wildlife Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



NEW! \$250 Mini-Grants for Educators

Deadline: February 3

Our mini-grants provide help to Champaign County educators with bringing environmental education to students. Some suggestions are: classroom equipment, books, guest speakers, outdoor learning areas, field trip costs, professional development, etc. Be creative!

Grants are available to educators within Champaign County only. Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by members of the CCAS Education Committee. The final choices will be made by the our Board of Directors. Only one grant will be awarded to any educator.

If you would like to apply, please fill out the application found on our website.

Sponsor a Mini-Grant!

Your donation of \$250 will provide one mini-grant to a local classroom. Checks can be made out to CCAS and mailed to PO Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for supporting these valuable education opportunities!

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 'Join Birdnotes.' Enter your info, then click 'Subscribe.'

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**

I am a new member I am renewing my membership

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone # (_____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Beginning in 2017, 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!

Welcome New Members!

Hueih Laih, Susan Farmer, Linda Kwon, Paul K McPowell, Audrey Bishop, Sarah Graham, Mc Dowell, Amy Staphenkoach, Anne Burkus-Chasson, Carol Mahoney, Joanne Wheeler, Edie Adams

Thank You Renewing Members!

Laura Hartman, Joellen Francis and Eric Schaffer, Julia Kellman and Phil Miller, Lucinda Duffy, Richard-Jenny Harvey, Shirley Walker, Carolyn Baxley, Martha Markward, James Griffith



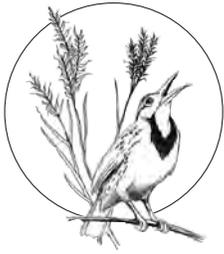
The Champaign County Audubon Society is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

Have questions? Contact Caitlin Lill, our Membership Chair, at cklill@gmail.com.

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.



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

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Calendar of Events

Thursday, Dec 1, 7pm

December Program: Winter Birding

Urbana Free Library Auditorium

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Saturday, Dec 10

9-11am Busey Woods; 1-3pm Weaver Park

Urbana Park District's Stewardship Days

Call Anita Purves Nature Center (384-4062) for more info and to register.

Saturday, December 17

Christmas Bird Count: Champaign County

Contact Helen Parker for more information (h-parker@illinois.edu).

Visit our website for more information!