



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 13, 9am-4pm

Guided Hikes at 10am and 3pm

Anita Purves Nature Center

Help with bird conservation by counting birds for as little or as long as you like. Audubon members will be there to help with identification in the Wildlife Observation Room and will lead hikes at 10am and 3pm.

Learn more about this annual 4-day event at gbbc.birdcount.org.

Or Count on Your Own!

February 12 - 15

Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days.

Submit a separate checklist for each new day, each new location, and for the same location if you counted at that location again at a different time of day. Estimate the number of individuals of each species you saw during your count period.

Enter your results on the GBBC website by clicking "Submit Observations" on the home page (gbbc.birdcount.org). Download the free eBird Mobile app to enter data on a mobile device.

February Program

Birding in Senegal

Thursday, Feb 4, 7pm

Urbana Free Library Auditorium

Presenter: Rob Kanter

Enjoy a vicarious escape from the central Illinois winter through this show of bird photos taken by Rob Kanter on a recent family tour of Senegal. We'll "visit" city birds in the capital, Dakar, as well as waders, shorebirds, and more on stops along the Atlantic coast at Cap Saint Louis in the north and Toubacouta in the south.

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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: Vacant
- Membership: Caitlin Lill
- Nature Shop: Beth Chato
- Program: Vacant
- 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

Our annual inventory of stock was completed. Thanks go to Charlene Anchor, Beez Gordon, and Helen Parker who helped count. We will be restocking with new and exciting stuff. Come and shop! A portion of the proceeds support CCAS!



Field Notes: Dec–Jan

Submitted by: Beth Chato

December highlights:

Trumpeter Swans at Homer Lake and Ogden; 40 Sandhill Cranes over Champaign; 32 Wild Turkeys along Rt 47.

January highlights:

Rough-legged Hawk, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, large flock of Lapland Longspurs, a Snow Bunting, and in my yard a Common Redpoll.



Photo credit: Brian Stearns

Tagged Red-tailed Hawk Sighting

Submitted by: Jeff Peyton

In December, a birder spotted a Red-tailed Hawk with reddish wing tags east of Sydney, IL. Wing tags, leg bands, and other markers allow researchers to conduct studies that monitor populations and track data like movement, longevity, causes of mortality, and other important factors.

The bird spotted in December may have been part of a study in which red-tailed hawks were tagged and relocated away from the vicinity of the O'Hare International Airport in Chicago from 2010 to 2012. The goal of the study was to assess the effectiveness of relocating the hawks as a strategy to minimize collisions of the birds with aircraft. Birds were released at different distances from the airport in order to determine whether they returned to where they were captured or found new territories safely away from O'Hare.

One of the birds from this study was spotted and photographed in Champaign in spring of 2011 and returned in fall the same year.

Red-tailed Hawks are long-lived birds, and it is very possible that birds from the group tagged in the study remain in the area. If you spot a marked or banded bird, the sighting can be reported online at www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL. Your effort will help scientists monitor and protect our wildlife.

Kendeigh Grants: Request for Proposals

The Champaign County Audubon Society annually offers grants for research in ornithology in Illinois for a maximum of \$1000. Applications must contain:

1. The applicant's name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address
2. Description of the research to be carried out
3. Proposed budget
4. Evidence of your qualifications to do the research, including a brief CV and at least 2 references

Submit to:

Champaign County Audubon Society
Attn: Kendeigh Grant Committee
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803
mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org

Applications must be received by March 25, 2016. Notification of awards will be made in April.

After the completion of the research, grantees must present the results in writing to CCAS. He/she will also be asked to give a presentation at a CCAS general meeting (typically the first Thursday in May, the year following grant award).

Since its beginning in 1982, the Charles S. Kendeigh Research Grant project has funded over \$30,000 of research on Illinois birds. Many grant recipients have gone on to prestigious careers in the natural history field. Dr. Kendeigh, eminent ornithologist, was a renowned professor of zoology at the University of Illinois. He was a charter member, president, and board member of CCAS, president of the Wilson Ornithological Society, and the Ecological Society of America, vice-president of the American Ornithologists Union, and co-founder of the Nature Conservancy and Animal Behavior Society. Perhaps Dr. Kendeigh's most enduring contribution was a standard method for censusing birds.

Christmas Bird Count Results

Submitted by: Helen Parker

Here are the results of the Champaign County Christmas Bird Count, conducted Dec. 19, 2015.

- 4 White-fronted Geese
- 16 Cackling Geese
- 420 Canada Geese
- 1 Wood Duck
- 457 Mallards
- 1 Ring-necked Duck
- 1 Hooded Merganser
- 8 Ring-necked Pheasants
- 8 Great Blue Herons
- 1 Turkey Vulture
- 3 Bald Eagles (1 adult, 2 immature)
- 7 Cooper's Hawks
- 4 Red-shouldered Hawks
- 52 Red-tailed Hawks
- 1 Rough-legged Hawk
- 60 Mourning Doves
- 7 Ring-billed Gulls
- 443 Rock Pigeons
- 1 Barn Owl!
- 2 E. Screech Owls
- 3 Great horned Owls
- 3 Barred Owls
- 2 Belted Kingfishers
- 61 Red-bellied Woodpeckers
- 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers
- 57 Downy Woodpeckers
- 10 Kestrels
- 1 Peregrine Falcon
- 117 Blue Jays
- 101 Am. Crows
- 10 Hairy Woodpeckers
- 20 N. Flickers
- 10 Pileated Woodpeckers
- 49 Carolina Chickadees
- 3 Black-capped Chickadees
- 62 Tufted Titmouse
- 88 White-breasted Nuthatches
- 25 Brown Creepers
- 26 Carolina Wrens
- 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet
- 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 20 E. Bluebirds
- 291 Am. Robins
- 1106 European Starlings
- 64 Am. Tree Sparrows
- 3 Fox Sparrows
- 40 Song Sparrows
- 6 Swamp Sparrows
- 24 White-throated Sparrows
- 67 White-crowned Sparrows
- 253 Dark-eyed Juncos
- 182 N. Cardinals
- 21 Red-winged Blackbirds
- 2 Rusty Blackbirds
- 8 Brown-headed Cowbirds
- 97 House Finch
- 105 Am. Goldfinch
- 234 House Sparrows
- 1 Orange-crowned Warbler
- 1 Marsh Wren

Eagle Count Results

Submitted by: Helen Parker

On Saturday, Jan 16, three of us checked for eagles along the Illinois River from Havana to Beardstown as part of the last annual Eagle Count.

The river was WAY out of its banks—lots of water everywhere. In Havana, the access roads were gated off and we could not get as close to the river as we would have liked. So we did what we could, including one long side road that proved interesting. Beth was keeping track of the birds; here is her list:

- Eagles: adult: 9, immature: 4, unknown: 1
- Trumpeter Swans: 135
- Snow Geese: 300
- Wild Turkey: 6
- Harriers: 2
- Kestrels: 15
- Red-tailed Hawks: 9

Thank You Donors!

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

- John & Julie Wilcox
- Kelly Myers, in honor of Gordon & Barb Petersen
- Gary & Dixie Jackson
- Elizabeth Chato
- R. McElmurry



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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Email: _____

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

Office Use:
C6ZG500Z
7XCH

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.	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 .	

<p>Welcome New Members!</p> <p><i>Dean Cole, Virginia Brubaker, David Buchner, Adriaan De Witte, Lynne Dearborn Louise Dreher, Lucille Finn, Shelly Hartig, Sue Hedrick, Dr. Chris Hendricksen, Marilee Hoffswell, Braj B. Jain, Karen B. Kane, Lucy Mcauley, Kyle McCafferty, Karen McCusker, Richard & Linda McPhee, Frederick C Newport, George Ordal, Mary Piwoni, Laurel Preece, Paul Riegel, Zachary Sutton, Eldon F. Tufte, Sandra Volk, Melinda Wiegel</i></p>	<p>Thank You Renewing Members!</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Chato, Jack Davis, Beverly Foote, Douglas Jackson, Gary & Dixie Jackson, Todd Kinney, R. McElmurry, Steven Ogle, Dawn Schultz, Karen Silver, Margaret Smith, John & Julie Wilcox, Martha & Charles Weller, Edward Conrad, Norman Denzin, Mary Ann Donze, Lucinda Duffy, Robert Espeseth, Susan Harber, Jean Holley, Janet Jokela, John Jordan, Todd Kinney, Andrea R Klein, Michael Todd McCulley, Leon R. McCulloh, B C McDonnell, W J Nelson, Dennis Prinn, Karen Sue Pruiett, Carlene Roberts, Greg & Lynne Sancken, Marilyn & Larry Silkwood, Carole Sinow, Barbara Slanker, Meagan Smith, Margaret Smith, Michael J. Surgeon, Marci Uihlein, Jackie Wagner, Janet Whitlock, Patty Williams, Ann Wiseman</i></p>
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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

Thursday, Feb 4, 7pm

February Program

Urbana Free Library Auditorium

Rob Kanter presents *Birding in Senegal* a vicarious escape from the central Illinois winter through this show of bird photos taken on a recent family tour of Senegal.

Saturday, Feb 13, 9am-4pm, Guided hikes at 10am and 3pm

Great Backyard Bird Count

Anita Purves Nature Center

Help with bird conservation by counting birds. Free activity stations will also be available. For all ages (under 15 with adult).

Saturday, Feb 13, 9-11am Busey Woods, 1-3pm Weaver Park

Saturday, Feb 27, 9-11am Meadowbrook Park, 1-3pm Weaver Park

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

Thursday, Feb 18, 7:15pm

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

Visit our website for more upcoming events!