



The Meadowlark Messenger

June 2012 • Volume 29, No. 5

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

President's Column

Darin Eastburn & Caroline Mallory
Co-Presidents of Champaign County
Audubon Society (CCAS)

Every once in a while exceptional individuals come into the world and make extraordinary contributions to our understanding of how the natural world works. Such leaps forward as the result of the tireless work of a few scientists are invaluable and worthy of praise and remembrance. Occasionally those individuals also understand the importance of making a difference in their local communities. Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh (1904-1986) was such a person.

Writing for *The Auk* in 1987, Roger D. Applegate said of Kendeigh, "His deep concern for preservation of natural areas led him to action on a local level as a charter member, president, and board member of the Champaign County Audubon Society. He was instrumental in efforts to protect several significant natural areas ... efforts to restore a tract of native prairie... [and] supported establishment of a community nature center in Urbana". Kendeigh, a professor of zoology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, specialized in the ecology of birds and while he certainly thought big as co-founder of the Nature Conservancy (<http://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/chronob/KEND1904.htm>), it is the

local influence of his work that formed the foundation for conservation efforts in Champaign-Urbana.

Kendeigh's local conservation efforts are sustained through a memorial research grant fund in his name that is administered by CCAS. Each spring we distribute a request for proposals and make small grants to scientists studying some aspect of the natural world that has relevance to the study of birds and their habitats in Illinois. We ask that recipients report on their efforts at the May program meeting. This year we heard from Sarah Cleeton, who is studying the responses of woodland songbirds to exotic shrub invasions in the Chicago area, and Kelly VanBeek, who is investigating the effects of alternative tillage practices on bird populations in Illinois. We maintain the Kendeigh grant fund through donations and the annual spring birding competition - The CCAS Birdathon.

The impact of local conservation and habitat restoration efforts, research, and education efforts should not be underestimated. We often wonder whether the efforts of just a few people can really make a difference, but in Champaign County we have seen that it does. Certainly, Charles Kendeigh's efforts have literally changed the landscape - leading to the development of Meadowbrook Park and the Anita Purvis Nature Center. Within each of us is the capacity to make or influence change. Whether through volunteer efforts, charitable giving

or the collection of research data as a citizen scientist, we can make a difference locally and globally.

The photograph of Dr. Charles Kendeigh published in *The Auk* memorial places him, clad in heavy gloves and jacket and holding binoculars, in a wintery Midwestern landscape with a broad smile in a cheerful face. The Champaign County Audubon Society is privileged to have had him as a founding member and president; and with such hope that was in his face, we continue to pursue our mission of education and conservation.

JUNE POTLUCK & SWALLOW WATCHING

Thursday June 7
At Homer Lake
Walnut Hill Shelter
(next to dam)

Please bring your own table service,
your own beverage and a dish to
share.

Watching begins at 6 pm
Potluck at 6:30 pm



"The Swallow "
Wood engraving by Thomas Bewick
from
A History of British Birds (1797)

Champaign County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803
217-367-6766
www.champaigncountyaudubon.org

Officers

Co-Presidents: Caroline Mallory & Darin
Eastburn 344-2297

mallory.caroline@gmail.com
darin.eastburn@gmail.com

Vice President: Susan Stearns, 215-4226
susan@sbstearns.us

Secretary: Charlene Anchor, 359-8214,
charleneanchor@msn.com

Treasurer: John Dunkelberger
344-4973, jdunkel@hotmail.com

Committee Chairs

Conservation: Helen Parker, 367-3130
h-parker@illinois.edu

Constitution: Steve D'Arcy, 344-3639
s-darcy@illinois.edu

David B. Wilcoxon, 898-8623
dbw@hotmail.com

Education: Stacey Clementz, 896-2455,
sclementz@ccfpd.org

Field Trip: Charlene Anchor, 359-8214,
charleneanchor@msn.com

Mary Stech, 621-3492
mkstech@mchsi.com

Finance: Astrid Berkson
356-4647, astrid@insightbb.com

Habitat: Robert Vaiden, 344-9042
vaiden@isgs.illinois.edu

Membership: Janet Jokela, 352-3632
jjokela59@hotmail.com

Nature Shop: Beth Chato, 344-6803
jbchato@illinois.edu

Program: Dorothy Neumann, 344-1427
neumando3530@yahoo.com

Publications: James Nardi, 333-6590
j-nardi@illinois.edu

Publicity: Colleen Brodie
352-0805, wcbrodie@sbcglobal.net

Members at Large 2010-2011

Beez Gordon, 355-3402
Brian Threlkeld, 384-5164

abt5@columbia.edu
Albert Willms, 367-2432

agwillms@yahoo.com

Members at Large 2011-2012

Nancy Schroer, 720-0076
nschroer@frontier.com

Mary Stech, 621-3492
mkstech@mchsi.com

Brian Stearns, 215-4226
brian@sbstearns.us

Newsletter Coordinator: Ruth Walker,
328-1530

Webmaster: Pam Leiter, 344-9163,
leiterp@msn.com

BirdNotes Listserve Manager:

Dan Olson, 586-4389, forest@net66.com

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

Spring Bird Count. Saturday May 5

On Saturday May 5 about 30 people scouted Champaign County to tally birds for the statewide Spring Bird Count. The numbers of each are still being tallied, but we saw 159 different species. Most unusual were Tundra Swan, Bufflehead, Connecticut Warbler, LeConte's Sparrow and late lingering Pine Siskins.

AUDUBON BIRDATHON WEEK:

MAY 6-13

Audubon Birdathon fund raiser for our Kendeigh Scholarships.

The results are in from our teams:

Old Timers 119, Maggie and Me 39, Big Sit 44, Ghost Busters 49, Executive Team 30. In the continuing rivalry between the Urbana Park District (UPD) and the Champaign County Forest Preserve, this year's winner was the UPD with 99 species. The Forest Preserve had 93, so it was a close race. If you have made a pledge, now is the time to send your contribution in. Additional contributions are most welcome for our scholarship fund.

ALL BIRDATHON CONTRIBUTIONS FUND BIRD RESEARCH IN ILLINOIS.

The Last Sunday Morning Bird Walk

May 27, 7:30 - 9 AM.

For the last Sunday morning bird walk through Crystal Lake Park and Busey Woods, meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot. Bring binoculars if you have them. Audubon members will be present to help beginners.



AUDUBON NATURE SHOP

Unique Nature-Related Gifts

ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER, 1515 NORTH BROADWAY, URBANA, IL
9-4 MONDAY-SATURDAY

SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Sales for the year were \$5,704 with a net gain of just under \$2,000 that will be put to use for conservation and conservation education. At the shop is a new stock of puppets, including a snake and fluffy cottontail rabbit. Also continued choice of binoculars, field guides, puzzles, children's books, feeders and much more.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Bob Vaiden, Habitat Chair

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:**

June 9 & July 14: Busey Woods 9-11 am. Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center

Weaver Park 1-3 pm. Turn right into park at entrance on East Main near Smith Rd.

June 23 & July 28: Meadowbrook 9-11 am. Meet at Race Street parking lot

Perkins Road 1-3 pm. Meet at Dog Park parking lot on Perkins Road

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



Membership for 2012

Friend of Champaign County Audubon Society \$15.00 _____ new renewal
(includes CCAS newsletter only)

Friend of CCAS and National Audubon Society \$35.00 _____
(includes "Audubon" magazine & CCAS newsletter)

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: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ C2ZG500Z 7XCH

(Please provide 9-digit zip code)

Send this application and your check to: Champaign Co. Audubon Society, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 882, Urbana.

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

CONSERVATION CORNER Helen Parker, Conservation Chair THEY'RE PUTTING WHAT OVER MY AQUIFER?

*The proposal is to establish a dump for PCBs at the Clinton landfill, which would sit directly over the Mahomet Aquifer, which is the source of our drinking water. Now PCBs are a class of chemicals that has many useful properties and has been used extensively. Unfortunately, some of them are directly toxic, some are carcinogenic, and their use is being phased out--but the ones that are being cleaned up have to go somewhere. The proposed dump at Clinton would, of course be "safe"--there would be liners, and a fairly thick layer of "impervious" clay. So nothing could get into our water supply. Yeah, sure. Both the Illinois and US EPAs must sign off on this--permits must be issued. However, IL EPA has apparently already agreed & US EPA is expected to rubber-stamp--unless citizens can persuade them otherwise.

Contact: **US EPA**--Rafael P. Gonzales, public affairs specialist

EPA Land & Chemicals Division, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, gonzalez@epa.gov

IL EPA --Stan Black, Office of Pollution Prevention, Bureau of Land, 1021 N Grand Ave E.

PO Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, Stan.Black@illinois.gov

Remind them that this aquifer is our **ONLY** source of drinking water here in Champaign-Urbana and is important in many other communities.

*Another item regarding water--but this time it is good news. The Department of Interior has released water into the Lower Klamath Wildlife refuge, which will enable the many birds, especially migratory waterfowl, that depend on this refuge as a stopover on their way north.

*In Congress, a bill (the 'Restore' act) to make available as much as \$20 billion to restore the Gulf coast--with no cost to taxpayers--has passed both chambers and is in conference committee.

"The Scarlet Tanager flies through the green foliage as if it would ignite the leaves."

Thoreau reported seeing and hearing a scarlet tanager on May 23, 1853: "That contrast of a red bird with the green trees and the blue sky! Even when I have heard his note and look for him and find the bloody fellow, sitting on a dead twig of a pine, I am always startled. [...] That incredible red, with the green and blue, as if these were the trinity we wanted. [...] I am transported; these are not the woods I ordinarily walk in. How he enhances the wildness and wealth of the woods!"





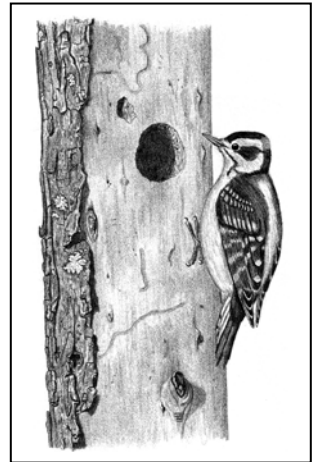
The Meadowlark Messenger

June 2012, Vol.29: No.5

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

Champaign County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 882
Urbana, Illinois 61803-0882
(217) 367-6766

Return service requested



Calendar of Events, June 2012

- Thursday June 7, 6:30 PM. Annual potluck and swallow watching** at Homer Lake, Walnut Hill shelter.
- Saturday June 16, 4 PM to dusk.** Urbana Park District's annual **Strawberry Jam** at Meadowbrook Park.
- Wednesday June 20, 6:09 PM. Summer begins.**

The next issue of *Meadowlark Messenger* will appear in late August.

