



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

Northern Shrike, a Rare Sighting

Submitted by: Susan Stearns

Sunday, January 24, Brian and I were following our winter birding routine at the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. While driving to the campground, I spotted a bird in a small tree just off the road near the edge of the prairie. Brian identified it as a Northern Shrike. After multiple attempts to capture an identifiable photograph, we finally succeeded. A few days later, Brian made an unsuccessful attempt to find the bird again. No other sightings of the bird were reported. According to Beth Chato, this may be a new bird for the preserve.

The Northern Shrike summers in northern Canada and Alaska and winters in southern Canada and the northern United States. They are uncommon in central Illinois but can be found as far south as southern Illinois. Just as we experienced, shrikes are likely to be found in the top of an isolated tree in an open field or grassland, and prefers to have some brushy areas nearby.



Photograph by Brian Stearns.

March Program

Wildlife Photography

Thursday, March 3, 7pm

Urbana Free Library Auditorium

Presenter: Brian Stearns

A Photographic Collection of Native Wildlife featuring a variety of reptiles, amphibians, insects, and birds.

Brian Stearns, recognized as a local favorite, is known for his photographic detail as he captures the essence of animals in their natural environment. Join us when he shares his adventures photographing various native animals.

In This Issue:

- Nature Shop Page 2
- Great "Backyard" Bird Count Page 2
- Field Notes Page 2
- March Woodcock Walks Page 3
- Incentives Offered to Farmers Page 3
- Sunday Morning Bird Walks Page 3
- INDR Proposes Bobcat Hunting Rules .. Page 4
- Thank You Donors! Page 4
- Kendeigh Grants: RFP Page 4
- Welcome Members Page 5
- Calendar of Events Page 6

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

Bird bath heaters can help provide water on these freezing days. A variety of bird DVDs and CDs will help you bone up for the coming spring birds. A portion of the proceeds support CCAS!



Great "Backyard" Bird Count

Submitted by: Beth Chato

Eight Audubon members helped with the bird count event at the Anita Purves Nature Center, including two hikes through the very cold woods. The total number of species seen was 25. Highlights were 6 Eastern Bluebirds in the sumac bushes behind the center, 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and dramatic views of two unsuccessful attacks by a juvenile Cooper's Hawk on the feeder birds.



Photo by Brian Stearns

Field Notes

Submitted by: Beth Chato

Things are moving. There have been large flocks of Snow and White-fronted Geese going over and on water bodies in the area as well as a variety of ducks. Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings have both been reported in rural fields. A Common Redpoll and a Pine Siskin were spotted in Homer. A flock of 100 Sandhill Cranes flew over Urbana on January 14. Woodcocks were spotted in several places in mid February.

March Woodcock Walks

Join us in a guided stroll as we search for the elusive wood snipe, a.k.a. the American Woodcock, as the males perform their amazing courtship display at dusk. Discover the secret life of the bird with the upside-down brain. Find out why this bird has so many other intriguing names like Labrador Twister, Pop-eyed Shot Dodger and Mud Snipe. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them. Be prepared to hike through muddy and non-paved surfaces. FREE. Registration required.

Wednesday, Mar. 23, 7-8pm Meadowbrook Interpretive Center off Race Street. Please, no strollers. Call 217-384-4062 by March 21 if you plan on attending.

Fri, Mar. 18, 7-8pm Buffalo Trace Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve. A short presentation will be followed by a hike to look for the sky dancers. Meet at the Buffalo Trace Prairie parking lot on Rt. 47 across the street from the Museum of the Grand Prairie. Registration: (217) 896-2455 or cwalsh@ccfpd.org

Sat, Mar. 19, 7-8pm Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve. A short presentation will be followed by a hike to look for the sky dancers. Registration: (217) 896-2455 or cwalsh@ccfpd.org



Rodney Campbell ©2015 This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>. No modifications.

Incentives Offered to Farmers for Shorebird and Waterfowl Habitat

Submitted by: Jeff Peyton

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is offering to compensate farmers who agree to slow the drainage of wet fields and delay planting in order to provide needed habitat for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. The program would pay to install water control structures in drainage tile systems that can be used to control the rate of drainage. In addition to providing much-needed stopover habitat for migrating birds like the golden plover, the structures can help retain moisture during dry periods and reduce nitrogen runoff. The program would be used to provide wet areas for birds to forage through the month of April, when they need to replenish energy stores to complete their migration. Interested landowners can direct questions about the program to University of Illinois ornithologist Mike Ward at mpward@illinois.edu.

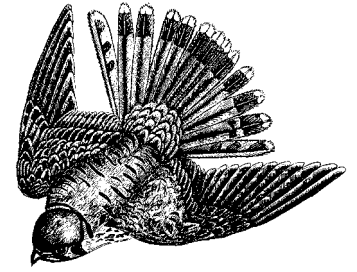
Sunday Morning Spring Bird Walks Begin March 6, 7:30 – 9:00am

Birding is an adventure for the whole family. Walk along with a Champaign County Audubon Society leader early on Sunday mornings to search for birds in Busey Woods and Crystal Lake Park. Learn basic bird watching and identification techniques. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them or borrow one from the Anita Purves Nature Center with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15 (pick up M-Sa 9am-4pm). Spring bird walks begin Sunday March 6 and will continue each Sunday through the end of May. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot at 7:30 am. Walks officially end at 9am, but if things are exciting some folks stay longer.

IDNR Proposes Bobcat Hunting Rules

Submitted by: Jeff Peyton

Following last year's passage of legislation allowing the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to administer a hunting season for bobcats, the IDNR plans to begin allowing the hunting and trapping in November 2016. The proposed new rules would restrict bobcat hunting and trapping to the southern and western areas of the state and allow permit holders to take one bobcat per season, with the season beginning on November 10 and ending January 31. The IDNR and supporters of the policy say that the animals' population has risen to the point that they are no longer in peril, and that their rising numbers threaten game birds like turkeys, quail, and pheasants as well as domestic livestock, and may be damaging to white-tailed deer numbers. Opponents like the Illinois Environmental Council argue that the legislation allowing for a bobcat hunting season requires that the harvest of bobcats be "non-detrimental", and that sufficient research has not been done to show that this is the case.



**Thank you,
Donors!**

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

- Maggie Daugherty-Roberts
- John & Winifred Hlavna
- Jennifer Hines
- Susan Kiddoo
- Richard & Elaine Lutz
- Iris Swanson
- Mary Ellen Wuellner

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
jbpeyton2@gmail.com

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.

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 .	

Welcome new members!

Matthew Ando, James Appleby, Jacquelyn Baker, Janis Chadsey, Nikita Dutta, Pamela Hohn, Kathleen Lehr, Linda Lorenz, Barbara McDonnell, Rick McElmurry, Kimberly McFarland, Martha Palit, Brian Rainer, Sara Schmidt, Donald Walden, Jackie Wilen, Kate Winkler

Thank you renewing members!

Jennifer Hines, Joyce Hofmann, Roger and Cathy Inman, Sue and Ron Kiddoo, Richard and Elaine Lutz, Maggie Dougherty-Roberts, Iris Swanson, Mary Ellen Wuellner, J. Andrews, Mildred Barnett, Steve Bennett, Martha Brown, Sydney Cameron, Norman Denzin, L Brody Dunn, Don Fischer, Margaret Geibel, Anita Glaze, Susan Haney, Kerry Helms, Margaret Hoffman, Jessie Houston, Ann Lowry, Jane Myers, Aiko Perry, Carlene Roberts, Jane Rothert, Robin Sahrer, Lester Savage, Annette Schoenberg, Lou Shepherd, Patricia Simpson, Bernadine Stake, Thomas Sutton, Elizabeth Tyler, Sherrill Vliet

Don't see your name and think you should? Contact Caitlin Lill.



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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS

Saturday, Feb. 27, 9:30am—Field Trip. *Natural History Survey, 1816 S. Oak St., Champaign, IL.* Tour the bird collections at the Natural History Survey. Contact Beth Chato (344-6803 or ejchato@gmail.com) for more information. Meet in parking lot south of bldg.

Thursday, Mar. 3, 7pm —March Program
Urbana Free Library Auditorium Brian Stearns presents *A Photographic Collection of Native Wildlife* featuring a variety of reptiles, amphibians, insects, and birds.

Thursday, Mar. 17, 7:15pm—March CCAS Board Meeting. Anita Purves Nature Center. Members are welcome.

BIRD WALKS

Sunday Morning Bird Walks
Sundays, Mar 6-May 29, 7:30-9am
Meet in Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot.

Saturday, March 19—Field Trip to Heron Park
Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center at 8am to share

rides to the park located just north of Danville. There is a board walk and observation tower. We will look for waterfowl and observe the Great Blue Heron rookery.

Woodcock Walks

Friday, March 18, 7-8pm Buffalo Trace Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve (CCFPD)

Saturday, March 19, 7-8pm Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve (CCFPD)

Wednesday, March 23, 7-8pm

Meadowbrook Interpretive Center (UPD)
Contact CCFPD (896-2455) / UPD (384-4062) for more info and to register.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, Mar. 12, 9-11am Busey Woods,
1-3pm Weaver Park

Saturday, Mar. 26, 9-11am Meadowbrook Park,
1-3pm Perkins Road Wet Prairie

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

Visit our website for more upcoming events!