



# *The Meadowlark Messenger*

November 2012 ♦ Volume 29, No. 8

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

## **President's Column**

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

As the end of the year approaches, and particularly the holiday season, many of us will be thinking of contributing to a charity, and there are many choices. Darin and I often split our contributions between organizations that support environmental conservation and aid to humans. Making the decision to give is not hard for us, as we are privileged enough to have good jobs and steady incomes. We also don't have a difficult time deciding what sectors to give to. If you read our columns, you know that conservation, environmental preservation, and habitat restoration are important to us, and we give to organizations that have those as their mission.

There are certainly many kinds of choices when it comes to charitable giving. Many people give based on their personal experiences, those of their family, or close friends. The key to making the initial decision about what sector to give to is to determine where your values lie. By the way, no charitable gift is too small. When you decide to give based on your belief about the importance of the work done by an organization, then your money represents a commitment to that belief. That is no small thing, no matter the size of the gift.

In our experience, the more difficult decision is figuring out what organization can best make use of our money. This is where it gets complicated. We ask ourselves questions like, "Should we give to a local, regional, national or international organization?" "How will this particular organization use our money?" "Does this organization have a good reputation?" For example, what if an organization uses 90% of charitable donations for its primary mission, but does not treat their employees equitably? For us, this would be a deal breaker, and we would take our money elsewhere. Fortunately, finding this kind of information has become easier.

The Better Business Bureau, <http://www.bbb.org> is my first stop when examining the business practices of any charitable organization. The BBB has developed a set of 20 standards for evaluating charitable organizations. These include how the organization is governed, how effectiveness is measured, how finances are handled, and how funds are raised. You can search the web site for any charitable organization, and, if it has been reviewed, you can view the report on each standard. Many charitable organizations will address some or all of these standards on their web site or donor information materials. Using sources like the Better Business Bureau help us make informed decisions, but there are no guarantees, and charitable giving

involves some risk that your money may be misused or mishandled.

Charitable giving is just one way to make a difference in our local and global community. Volunteering time and services are also valuable contributions. At CCAS we encourage you to think about how you can improve the quality of life for this and generations to come.

## **NOVEMBER MEETING**

at

Urbana Free Library  
Auditorium

Thursday, November 1  
7 PM

## **JIM SMITH**

of Vermilion County Audubon  
has been a passionate observer  
of birds for decades. He will  
talk about the  
**BLUEBIRD TRAIL**  
spanning Vermilion and  
Champaign Counties that he has  
created and maintained for  
more than 30 years.



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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.

### Recent Bird Sightings: FIELD NOTES from Beth Chato

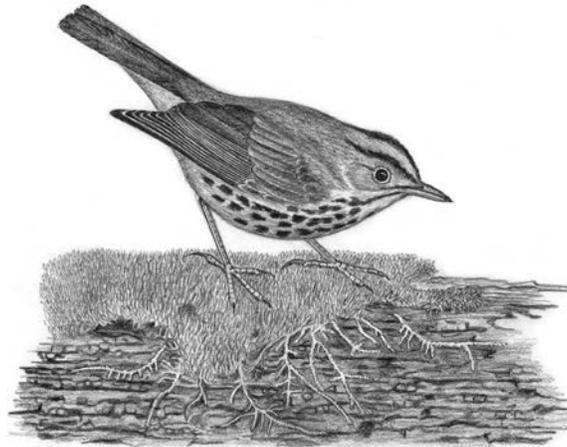
Urbana's Weaver Park is becoming a birding hot spot with its marsh and abundant foxtail grass: 9/22 American Bittern, 9/23 Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, 9/29 Snipe, Marsh and Sedge Wrens, 10/9 Pied-billed Grebe. Other local sightings include an unusual number of Black-throated Blue Warblers, 10/6, 650 White Pelicans at Clinton Lake as well as Avocet, Red-necked Phalarope, Golden and Black-bellied Plovers. As I write, warblers are mostly gone except for Yellow-rumped, and Dark-eyed Juncos were back on 9/29.

### November Field Trips

**Saturday, November 3.** The annual Clinton Lake field trip will be led by Greg Lambeth. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center in Urbana at 7:30. Target species will include loons, grebes, scoters, ducks, eagles and late migrant passerines. Other possible species may include wintering sparrows, finches, redpolls and crossbills. Warm clothes and boots are recommended as Clinton Lake can get windy. Return will be late afternoon. (Greg will be posting another detailed email on Birdnotes before the trip).



**Saturday, November 17.** Helen Parker will lead a trip to Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Refuge to observe Sandhill Cranes. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center at 10:00 A.M. Bring lunch to be eaten at Jasper. Crane watching will continue until dusk. A restaurant stop for dinner will be made on the return trip home. Arrival home should be about 10:00 P.M. plus or minus an hour. Binoculars are a necessity and spotting scopes very useful.



## AUDUBON NATURE SHOP

### Unique Nature-Related Gifts

ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER, 1515 NORTH BROADWAY, URBANA, IL  
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### SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Get ready for winter with one of our carefully selected birdfeeders. Suet cakes also available. Audubon's colorful Engagement Calendar makes a great gift for \$13.99.

## A Different Perspective

I have just returned from a trip to Turkey. It was very interesting to see the similarities and differences between our society and theirs. Turkey is a fairly large country, and we did not see all of it, but we were in many different places (none of which had any evidence of armed conflict, fortunately!) We started in Istanbul, the largest city: it was dominated by what they regarded as high-rise buildings, although since the country is VERY seismically active, this meant up to about 10 stories. On top of each building were solar panels and water tanks--the sun provided the hot water for the entire city. (There may be single-family houses in Istanbul, but we saw none.) They are not an oil-rich country, although they do have coal, which is primarily used to power industry. They did not seem to have much pollution abatement on coal-fired factories--smoke billowed from chimneys--although it is possible that there was some abatement. In a country where everyone smokes, maybe they don't feel the need. Another use of solar energy--in some areas there were acres and acres (I should probably say "hectares" instead of acres--like any sensible country, Turkey uses the metric system) of crops growing under giant plastic row covers -- mostly vegetables and flowers. There were a few glass greenhouses, but given the fragility of glass, plastic is more practical. One area that we were in was known as the country's greengrocer.

Turkey's population is almost entirely Muslim; we visited many mosques. A couple of them had an unusual water-storage system: a giant pit in the floor that was filled with snow in the winter and provided water through the summer. They do seem to make the most of their resources!

On the subject of water: The tap water was not regarded as safe for us to drink. There is nothing to make one appreciate having clean water flowing out of a tap than to be in a place where you don't have it! I never before had such an appreciation of public drinking fountains.

Everywhere that we were there were cats and dogs and more cats. I'm sure there are more cats than people. And while dogs are regarded as near vermin in most of the Middle East, this was not true in Turkey. Yet I never once saw a pile of poop--somebody must pick up!

On the whole, it was a very interesting trip.

## Meanwhile, back here

The environmental problems here in the USA have not gone away. They still want to put PCBs in a landfill over our water supply. They want to shoot wolves from planes in Wyoming. None of the things I have written about in previous editions of this column have changed, as far as I am aware.

There is an election coming up--not just for President, but also for Congress, state representatives, county officials. These are the people who have much to do with the quality of our lives. So inform yourself on the positions of the candidates and, come November 6, **VOTE!**

**Mark the Calendar: National Audubon Convention** next year. July 12-15 at Skamani Lodge near Portland, OR.

“ I once had a sparrow alight upon my shoulder for a moment, while I was hoeing in a village garden, and I felt that I was more distinguished by that circumstance that I should have been by any epaulet I could have worn.”

**Henry David Thoreau**



**The Nominating Committee is putting forward the following slate for our annual meeting and election of officers in December 2012.**

Co-Presidents: Susan Stearns & Brian Stearns  
Vice Presidents: Cleo D'Arcy & Steve D'Arcy  
Secretary: Charlene Anchor  
Treasurer: John Dunkelberger  
Members-at-Large (2-year terms):  
Mike Iorio, Jim Hoyt, Barb Schleicher

Submitted by: Janet Jokela, Charlene Anchor, Pam Leiter,  
Jim Nardi (members of the Nominating Committee)

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Bob Vaiden, Habitat Chair**

Help rebuild our shattered environment! 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:**

November 10	Busey Woods	9-11 am.	Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center
	Weaver Park	1 -3 pm.	Turn right into park at entrance on East Main near Smith Road.



**Get Your Meadowlark Messenger Delivered Right to Your Inbox!**

Would you like to go paperless and receive your newsletter earlier? You can receive all the information you depend on from this newsletter in your inbox! Please visit our website ([www.champaigncountyaudubon.org](http://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org)) and look under "What's New" for a link to a page where you can enter your email address. *(Please be patient with us as we work out the kinks of this system; you may still receive a printed newsletter for a limited time after signing up.)*



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

## CCAS Member Activities & Benefits:

14 Audubon Adventures  
Classrooms  
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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

### Membership for 2012

		new	renewal
Friend of Champaign County Audubon Society (includes CCAS newsletter only)	\$15.00 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friend of CCAS and National Audubon Society (includes "Audubon" magazine & CCAS newsletter)	\$35.00 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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: \_\_\_\_\_ C2ZG500Z

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ 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, IL 61803-0882. Thank you!

## Education Corner, Stacey Clementz

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Certified Interpretive Guide, NAI

Public Relations Co-Chair, EEAI



### Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is the National Audubon Society's flagship environmental education classroom program that engages the next generation of Americans who will be the stewards of America's natural treasures-our streams and wetlands, forests and prairies, rivers and oceans. Generous donations from our members allow Champaign County Audubon Society to sponsor Audubon Adventure kits for local classrooms. This year, 8 area teachers were able to receive this valuable educational tool.

Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored an Audubon Adventures kit. Your support helps us get these valuable materials into the hands of students. A big thanks goes out to these individuals: Beez and Ed Gordon, Ansel Anderson, Charlene Anchor, Beth Clayton and Bruce Brown.



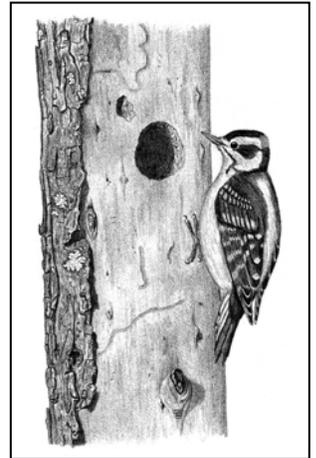
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Nov. 2012, Vol.29: No.8

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Permit No. 58

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## Calendar of Events, November 2012

- Thursday November 1, 7 PM. General meeting** at Urbana Free Library Auditorium. **Jim Smith**, of Vermilion County Audubon has been a passionate observer of birds for decades. He will talk about the **Bluebird Trail spanning Vermilion and Champaign Counties** that he has created and maintained for more than 30 years.
- Tuesday November 6, Election Day. Be sure to vote.**
- Saturday November 3, 7:30 AM. Annual field trip to Clinton Lake.** Meet at The Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot for carpooling
- Thursday November 15, 7:15 PM. Champaign County Audubon Society Board Meeting** at Anita Purves Nature Center.
- Saturday November 17, Annual Sandhill Crane trip to Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Refuge.** Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center at 10:00 A.M. Bring lunch to be eaten at Jasper. Crane watching will continue until dusk. A restaurant stop for dinner will be made on the return trip home. Arrival home should be about 10:00 P.M. plus or minus an hour. Binoculars are a necessity and spotting scopes very useful.
- Thursday November 22, Thanksgiving Day.**

