



The Meadowlark Messenger

November 2014 • Volume 31, No. 8

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

Presidents' Column

Susan Stearns

Co-President of Champaign County
Audubon Society (CCAS)

My how time flies. While pondering what to write, I realized I have only two months remaining in my second term as Co-President of this chapter. Our bylaws limit presidents to a maximum of two consecutive one-year terms which means Brian and I cannot serve in this capacity next year. That being said, the Nominating Committee has been working hard on recommendations for board positions next year. Actually, thanks to the work of our Bylaws Committee, the Nominating Committee has had to do more work than in years past.

Let me explain. You may recall from last year that we are taking the bylaws through a series of changes. As members of CCAS, you need to be aware of the changes taking place, so please read on.

The first round of changes was approved by CCAS members last December. Those changes addressed minor corrections, placed limits on the power of the President when appointing committee chairs, and brought the bylaws in line with Nation Audubon Society requirements.

The second round of changes is being considered by the Board of Directors and might be ready for membership approval in December. This round of changes affects the formation of the Board of Directors.

Currently, officers and members-at-large are elected by the membership; and all other board members (i.e. committee chairpersons) are appointed by the president with board approval. The proposed changes require ALL members of the board to be elected by the CCAS membership and limit the number of people serving on the board. Please make a point to read through the proposed amendments once they are posted on our website.

Furthermore, we want you to know what to expect at the December meeting. After our usual announcements, we will first discuss and possibly vote on the proposed amendments to the bylaws. Next, we will elect Directors of the Board as presented by the Nominating Committee. Third, Antonio Celis-Murillo will present a wonderful program following the business portion of the evening.

We must have a minimum number of 20 CCAS members in attendance for voting to take place – and yes, you must be present to vote. Please be aware of the changes being proposed and be a part of the process. The list of those nominated to serve on the board next year will be published in the December newsletter.

If you should ever decide you would like to be more involved in CCAS, we have committee chairpersons who would welcome the help. We encourage you to volunteer by serving on a committee.

Committee members are invited, but not expected, to attend board meetings, as are all CCAS members.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Champaign County Audubon Society.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Urbana Free Library

Thursday November 6

7 PM

Antonio Celis-Murillo

Is Everyone Cheating?

Secret Lives of the

Field Sparrows



Antonio's scientific research is focused in avian behavioral ecology. His research is diverse, including research on bird migration across the Gulf of Mexico, bird song in the Yucatan Peninsula, and mating behavior in Illinois sparrows. He also produces educational materials such as CDs, CD-ROMs, mobile device applications of sounds and soundscapes. His latest audio guide is titled "Bird Songs of Mexico", with volumes for Veracruz and Yucatan Peninsula.

Officers

Co-Presidents: Brian Stearns, 595-5052
brian@sbstearns.us

Susan Stearns, 595-5052

susan@sbstearns.us

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

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

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

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

Finance: Astrid Berkson

356-4647, astrid@insightbb.com

Allen Penwell

359-3720, a.penwell@comcast.net

Habitat: Robert Vaiden, 344-9042

vaiden@isgs.illinois.edu

Membership: Caitlin Lill, 773-951-4900

clkill@gmail.com

Nature Shop: Beth Chato, 344-6803

ejchato@gmail.com

Program: Dorothy Neumann, 344-1427

djneumann07@gmail.com

Publications: James Nardi, 333-6590

j-nardi@illinois.edu

Publicity: Barbara Schleicher, 377-8586

bschleic@life.illinois.edu

Members at Large 2014-2016

Beez Gordon, 355-3402

Janet Jokela, 352-3632

jjokela59@hotmail.com

Germaine Light, 417-5567

lightport@sbcglobal.net

Members at Large 2013-2015

Jim Hoyt, 352-6733

Beth Chato, 344-6803

ejchato@gmail.com

Barbara Schleicher, 377-8586

bschleic@life.illinois.edu

Newsletter Coordinator: Ruth Walker,

328-1530

Webmaster: Pam Leiter, 344-9163,

leiterp@msn.com

BirdNotes Listserv Manager:

Dan Olson, 586-4389, dolson@ccfpd.org

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

The Busey/Crystal Lake Sunday morning walks end October 26. 101 species have been recorded to date, including 25 different warblers, an Osprey and a Peregrine Falcon. The complete report can be seen on our website. Perhaps the most unusual local sighting was a Varied Thrush chased into a Champaign garage by a Cooper's Hawk! It escaped. Other birds of note were Buff-breasted Sandpiper, two Avocets, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows and LeConte's Sparrows.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Saturday November 8, 10:00 AM. Field trip to Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Refuge.

This is our annual field trip to see the Sandhill Cranes at Jasper-Pulaski in Indiana. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center at 10 AM. Bring a lunch to eat at Willow Slough on the way over. Crane watching will continue till dark. Supper will be at a restaurant on the way back. Bring binoculars, scope (if you have one), lunch, money and warm clothes. The viewing platform can feel chilly. Daylight savings time ends on November 1st. Consequently we will be on standard time, and Indiana will be an hour ahead.

Saturday November 15, 7:30 AM. Field trip to Clinton Lake. Greg Lambeth is

leading this field trip. Meet at the Anita Purves Center at 7:30 AM. Bring a lunch to eat at Clinton around noon, warm clothes and boots. The trip should end around 3 PM. Target species will include loons, grebes, geese, ducks, raptors (including Bald Eagle) and sparrows. If you have any questions contact Greg Lambeth at [<gregorylambeth@mac.com>](mailto:gregorylambeth@mac.com)

AUDUBON NATURE SHOP for Unique Nature-Related Gifts
ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER, 1515 NORTH BROADWAY, URBANA, IL
9-4 MONDAY-SATURDAY

SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

New at the shop are charming assorted bird and animal ornaments and figures from the Philippines made of renewable fibers. Also new is Michael Jefford's and Susan Post's book, *Exploring Illinois*. Our stock of Wild Republic Singing Birds has been replenished. Come hear them all. 10% discount for all Audubon members.

A warm welcome to our new CCAS members! We hope to see you soon at one of our events.

Allan Penwell, Sue Ellen Finkenbiner, M. Joan Dawson, Nancy Rader, Roger Digges, Dawn Schultz, Sheila Sullivan, Larry Thurow, Chris Bird, John & Julie Wilcox, Vera Hanoka, Jason Mazzone

Thank you to our renewing members as well! Your continued support helps sustain programs and community outreach.

Elaine Hershberger, Antje Kolodziej, Edward Schneider, Burt & Iris Swanson, Kathleen Weibel, Don A. Fischer, Lorelea Liss, Derek Liebert, Ann Bentley, Chris Johns, Noline Ambrose, Margitta Clegg, Marcia Olsen, Marilyn Cochran, Margaret Balbach, James Talley, Alice Hadley, Mr. Daniel B. Blake, Gertrude Holzer, J. Broadbent, Karen S. McKenzie, Bernadine Stake, John Dunkelberger, Jane Rothert, Cheryl Pettus, Harold Knoll, Lou Shepherd, Peter Fagan, Rebecca J. Ziska

Don't see your name and think you should? E-mail Membership Chair Caitlin Lill at clkill@gmail.com to check on the status of your membership.

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) 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.)

CONSERVATION CORNER - Helen Parker, Conservation Chair

GOOD NEWS

For once, this column is largely good news. I'll mostly just list items, not much discussion needed.

The interior population of least terns on the lower Mississippi has recovered well. They may be able to be removed from the endangered species list.

In Colorado, wind energy legislation is actually taking birds into account.

A gibbon that had been in captivity & released into the wild had a baby!

The migrating Monarch butterflies on their way to their wintering site have entered northern Mexico in large concentrations. There is hope for a rebound in the population, which has been dangerously low for a couple of years.

BAD NEWS

Of course, there is also some of the usual bad news. In the Arctic, there is less pack ice, forcing the animals that use it to be concentrated in small areas. In one location, 35,000 walrus haul out --and guess where Shell Oil wants to drill. Yeah, it figures.

TREES

Urbana has begun what they are calling a "legacy tree" program. The first tree to be so designated is on the property of our program chair, Dorothy Neumann--many of you probably saw the picture in the News-Gazette taken at the dedication ceremony. (I don't want to say that the tree "belongs" to Dorothy--it's much older than she is, and will [we trust] be there longer than she will, so it's more as though she belongs to it!) We hope that this program will result in a greater appreciation of and respect for our green heritage.

It's October, and I'd be remiss if I didn't mention one more benefit we get from trees: fall colors. Open your eyes and LOOK! The reds and maroons and yellows are a once-a year spectacle that people would travel thousands of miles to see if they were not in your own backyard. (Actually, people DO travel many miles--ask any New Englander about "leaf peepers"). If there is a more glorious sight than an October sugar maple against a blue sky, I don't know what it is. So if you're not color-blind, look up and give thanks.

And FISH

The first-ever gar has been spotted in the Chicago River. Since this fish needs clean water, its presence means that the river is in good shape despite all the human use made of it.

"We have marked the Fox Sparrow as being a great scratcher among dead leaves."

- from *The Log of the Sun* by William Beebe

"The song of the Fox Sparrow: It is a strong, richly modulated whistle,--the finest sparrow note I have ever heard."

- John Burroughs



"The Song Sparrow and the transient Fox-colored Sparrow --have they brought me no message this year? ...They are so small, I think their destinies must be large. Have I heard what this tiny passenger has to say, while it flits thus from tree to tree? Is not the coming of the Fox-colored Sparrow something more earnest and significant than I have dreamed of?.....God did not make this world in jest; no nor in indifference. These migrating sparrows all bear messages that concern my life....I see that the sparrow cheeps and flits and sings adequately to the great design of the universe; that man does not communicate with it, understand its language, because he is not one with nature. I reproach myself because I have regarded with indifference the passage of the birds; I have thought them no better
" " "

Friends of Champaign County Audubon, a reminder: All local Friends membership fees were due as of January 1. Your contribution of \$15 supports the local Chapter. Please renew or consider signing up on page 5 of this newsletter or send dues and membership information to our membership chair, Caitlin Lill, P.O.Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882.

The Role of Ethics, Religion and Discourse in Environmental Decision Making

*A five-week public seminar series sponsored by
First Presbyterian Church of Urbana and Faith in Place*

This seminar explores how ethics, religion, and discourse contribute to environmental decision making and considers how to build consensus given differing world views.

November 2 & 9: Sacred writings and religious teachings on environmental sustainability

“Throughout history, the world’s religions have understood the Earth to have some kind of religious significance, or religious value, and that humans have some religious obligations to care for its creatures.” (Santa Clara University Environmental Ethics website) In these sessions, representatives of four faiths will provide a brief overview of their religious tradition and discuss the sacred writings and teachings that provide guidance to their religious communities on environmental sustainability.

November 2: Sacred writings and teachings: Christianity, Bahá’í

Michael Crosby, Associate Pastor, First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana

Amy Felty, Member, The Bahá’í Community

November 9: Sacred writings and teachings: Judaism, Islam

Alan Cook, Rabbi, Sinai Temple, Champaign-Urbana

Dana Al-Qadi, Outreach Committee, Central Illinois Mosque & Islamic Center & Environ. Engr., AECOM

November 16: Building consensus in the midst of differing world views

Dr. Sara A. Mehlretter Drury, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Director of Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana

Using the non-partisan National Issues Forum "Sustaining Ourselves" materials, participants will identify three common approaches on how to achieve environmental sustainability, identify the benefits and tradeoffs of each approach, and consider how people with diverse views can work together to promote environmental sustainability. The seminar series will end with supper at 5:45 p.m. during which participants will have the opportunity for continued discussion and networking.

WHEN and WHERE? Seminars will be held from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall at First Presbyterian Church of Urbana – 602 West Green Street, Urbana, (217) 367-8357. Enter on Orchard Street, across from the parking lot. *The public is invited to attend all sessions and the concluding supper.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES : 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 8 | 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. |
| November 22 | 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 2014

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

Friend of CCAS and National Audubon Society \$20.00..... new renewal
(includes "Audubon" magazine & CCAS newsletter)

Donation to Champaign County Audubon Society

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: _____ C4ZG500Z

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ 7XCH

(Please provide 9-digit zip code)

To receive newsletter electronically, please provide e-mail address:

Send this application and your check to: Champaign County Audubon Society, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882. Thank you!

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

Education Corner, Stacey Clementz

Education Program Specialist, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Homer Lake, sclementz@ccfpd.org

Congratulations Mini-Grant Recipients!

We received so many great mini-grant applications this year and were able to fund three. Contributions from CCAS members aided us in this effort, including funds from the Edna Arend Memorial Fund (set up in honor of Iris Swanson's mother).

This year's recipients are:

- **Jennifer Heider** from **Unity East Elementary** for a field trip program, Hatchet, at the Champaign County Forest Preserve District.
- **Jane Stubblefield** at **First School in Mahomet** for a field trip to Lake of the Woods and program materials to teach students about Monarchs.
- **Adam Kriska** with the **Urbana School District** to provide warm clothing for students during their Walking School Bus program.

It is always a privilege to support environmental education projects in this county, and it is exciting to see how many teachers are including it in their classrooms. Thanks again to everyone who helped with mini-grants this year, and to all the educators who applied for funds.

Walking School Bus in need of volunteers

From coast to coast, and in Urbana, Illinois schools and communities are implementing Walking School Bus (WSB) Programs. These are a lot like regular school buses, they have a "driver" and pick kids at home. However they use no fuel, have no wheels, and are way more fun! WSB is looking for "drivers" for this spring to walk students to school. Along the route to school the volunteer will point out various plant and animal life. The time commitment is between 7am and 8am and can be from one to five days a week. If you are interested or would like more information, email: WalkingSchoolBusUSD116@gmail.com>WalkingSchoolBusUSD116@gmail.com.





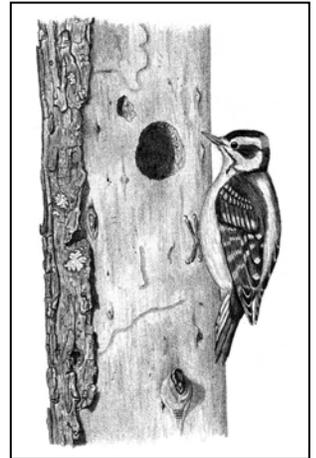
The Meadowlark Messenger

Nov. 2014, Vol.30: No.8

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

Champaign County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 882
Urbana, Illinois 61803-0882

Return service requested



Calendar of Events, November 2014

- Thursday November 6, 7 PM. Monthly meeting at Urbana Free Library:** A program on the sex lives of sparrows presented by *Antonio Celis-Murillo* "Is Everyone Cheating? Secret Lives of the Field Sparrows"
- Saturday November 8, 10:00 AM. Field trip to Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Refuge.** This is our annual field trip to see the Sandhill Cranes at Jasper-Pulaski in Indiana Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center at 10 AM. Bring a lunch to eat at Willow Slough on the way over. Crane watching will continue till dark. Supper will be at a restaurant on the way back. Bring binoculars, scope (if you have one), lunch, money and warm clothes. The viewing platform can feel chilly. Daylight savings time ends on November 1st. Consequently, we will be on standard time; and Indiana will be an hour ahead.
- Saturday November 15, 7:30 AM. Field trip to Clinton Lake.** Greg Lambeth is leading this field trip. Meet at the Anita Purves Center at 7:30 AM. Bring a lunch to eat at Clinton around noon, warm clothes and boots. The trip should end around 3 PM. Target species will include loons, grebes, geese, ducks, raptors (including Bald Eagle) and sparrows.
- Thursday November 20, 7:15 PM. Champaign County Audubon Society Board Meeting** at Anita Purves Nature Center.
- Thursday November 27. Thanksgiving Day.**

