



The Meadowlark Messenger

October 2014 • Volume 31, No. 7

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

Presidents' Column

Susan Stearns

Co-President of Champaign County
Audubon Society (CCAS)"

Are you enjoying the beginning of the fall season? We've had some beautiful days the past few weeks. Brian and I took advantage of one of them and spent an afternoon out at Middle Fork Forest Preserve just north of Penfield. One of my favorite things about that day was looking out over Point Pleasant. It was gorgeous - full of yellow wildflowers embedded among the brown and burgundy grasses with a few white puffy clouds against the blue sky above. I almost wish I had taken my camera - but I had gone with the intention of taking a break from working at home over the weekend to relax while enjoying the view and spotting the various animals.

Going to my nearest forest preserve makes me take a moment and appreciate how fortunate we are. Thanks to organizations such as the Urbana Park District and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, we have plenty of places where we can relax while enjoying nature. We can stay close to home and still go on adventures by going into the environment and observing the animals that rely on it for survival.

If you enjoy getting out and taking strolls in the park or want to know more about the living things you see, be sure to attend a Sunday morning boardwalk through Busey Woods and Crystal Lake Park. Champaign County Audubon Society has partnered with the Urbana Park District to lead these bird walks. You can always count on a few experienced bird watchers to be there to help you spot and identify various

animals and plants. We meet in the parking lot of the Anita Purves Nature Center at 7:30am. Walks usually last about an hour and a half, though some stay longer.

Another way to meet fellow birders or find someone to join you on an impromptu bird walk is to attend the CCAS monthly program meetings. We always have snacks to enjoy while you engage in a little socializing after the program. It's a great way to meet some of our board members and learn from various presenters.

In fact, I am excited about our October program. Jeff Bryant plans to present some highlights of his bird photography endeavors over the last two years. While I've not seen any of his photographs, I have heard good things. So please come to the Urbana Free Library, Thursday, October 2 at 7:00 pm to enjoy Jeff's program.

I hope all of you take advantage of the beautiful weather we've been having to enjoy and appreciate our natural environment. If nothing else, spend some time with others who enjoy doing the same.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Champaign County Audubon Society. It is your support that enables us to partner with other local organizations and individuals to promote interest, enjoyment and understanding through education about all aspects of our natural environment, and to actively encourage the protection of wildlife and the preservation and restoration of native habitat.

OCTOBER MEETING
Urbana Free Library
Thursday October 2, 7 PM



Jeff Bryant
will present
**Bryant's Birds: A Pictorial
Journey**

Jeff works at Wolfram Alpha, LLC, where he develops various astronomy and other science-related content, as well as new astronomy related features for *Mathematica*. His hobby in photography started with basic astrophotography in the late '80s and led to macrophotography of insects and flowers; and over the last two years bird and wildlife photography. He will show highlights of his bird photography endeavors over the last two years as seen by a budding amateur in both birding and wildlife-based digital photography. All photos are from the Midwest, primarily from the immediate east-central Illinois area, with a few pictures from Indiana and Ohio.

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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

Fall Migration began with the arrival of shorebirds in mid-August. Highlights were a Baird's Sandpiper and two Buff-breasted Sandpipers in different locations at the end of the month. The Middle Fork Preserve had an American Bittern on August 28. The pond off 4th Street (the old Swine Pond) had a lingering Red-necked Phalarope, and one-day wonder pair of Avocets. Audubon's insect hike on September 13 by the Pollinatarium was treated to a flyover of some 100 Killdeer with a Peregrine Falcon in hot pursuit. 22 warbler species have been seen so far. Identifying them in fall plumage and dense foliage is a real challenge. Join the Sunday morning Busey/Crystal Lake walks for pointers.

FALL BIRD WALKS at BUSEY WOODS and CRYSTAL LAKE PARK

October Bird Walks: October 5, 12, 19, 26

The Sunday morning Bird Walks officially began on September 7. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot at 7:30 AM. Audubon members will be present.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

Saturday October 18, 8:00 - 10:00 AM. Field trip to Weaver Park in east Urbana. Weaver Park has several habitat areas -wetland, prairie and woodland. We will be searching them all looking for late migrants and anything else that may be around. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center's parking lot at 8:00 AM.



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 and an excellent help with those confusing fall warblers is the Stokes Field Guide to Warblers. Get the young birder started with the National Geographic Kids Bird Guide of NA. Binoculars, feeders and much more. Wide variety of puppets, children's story and activity books. 10% discount for all Audubon members.

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.*)

Water, Water

One of the best-known lines from Coleridge's "Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner" is "Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink". We as a society seem to be headed in that direction. We act as though the supply of fresh water is infinite even though we know it is not. All life on this planet is water-based--not only people but all living organisms must have water. It's not just our aquifer, folks; it's all water everywhere that we must treat with care and respect. The water of the Platte River that enables the bulk of North America's crane population to rest and feed to complete their migration.....The water of the Mississippi that carries nutrients into the Gulf of Mexico.....The water of the Gulf itself which deserves better than promises from oil drillers.... Therefore, let us all resolve to use water wisely -- and to refrain from contaminating it!

The Watch List

We are all familiar with lists of threatened and endangered species. Recently, however, a team of scientists from the North American Bird Conservation Initiative identified 233 US bird species most in need of conservation action. While many of these receive protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the non-ESA species need attention to keep them from BECOMING threatened or endangered. The list is in four main sections: Hawai'i and Pacific Islands, Oceanic species, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands, and US Continental. It is that last group which includes the birds we commonly see. It contains some really surprising birds--that is, birds I would never have thought of as being of any special concern. Many are shorebirds--even Pectoral and Semipalmated Sandpipers and Dunlin are included. Wood Thrush and our little friend from Sunday morning's bird walk--the Olive-sided Flycatcher--make the list, as well as Red-headed Woodpecker, and a number of warblers. Most of these are in the "yellow" or "the less immediately in trouble" section, but it is still troubling to see so many of our avian friends in possible need of future help.

I have a copy of the complete list, which is much too long to be included in this newsletter. Anybody who would like to see it, contact me (h-parker@Illinois.edu), and I'll try to get you a copy.

THE BIRD OF OCTOBER

"The jay is the bird of October. I have seen it repeatedly flitting amid the bright leaves, of a different color from them all and equally bright, and taking its flight from grove to grove. It, too, with its bright color, stands for some ripeness in the bird harvest. And its scream! It is as if it blowed on the edge of an October leaf. It is never more in its element and at home than when flitting amid these brilliant colors. No doubt it delights in bright color, and so has begged for itself a brilliant coat."

Henry David Thoreau, *Journal* 1858



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.

October 12: Introduction to ethics and ethical reflection

Dr. Robert McKim, Professor of Religion and of Philosophy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The field of ethics provides one way to evaluate environmental actions. This session will provide an introduction to some major ethical perspectives and concepts, and will promote reflection about their relevance to the challenge of living in an environmentally sustainable way.

October 19: Ethics & environmental decision making; and some reflections on the role of religion

Dr. Robert McKim, Professor of Religion and of Philosophy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Building on the previous session, the process of ethical reflection will be applied to selected environmental issues. Participants also will consider how religions might provide guidance as human beings respond to the challenge of living in an environmentally sustainable way. (*Note: there is no session on October 26*)

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:**

October 11	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.
October 25	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

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

Membership for 2014

		new	renewal
Friend of Champaign County Audubon Society	\$15.00.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(includes CCAS newsletter only)			
Friend of CCAS and National Audubon Society	\$20.00.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(includes "Audubon" magazine & CCAS newsletter)			
Donation to Champaign County Audubon Society	<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: _____ 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!

Education Corner, Stacey Clementz

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

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 CCAS to sponsor Audubon Adventure kits for local classrooms.

This year, 7 area teachers are 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: Charlene Anchor, Susan Kiddoo, Jim Hoyt and Beth Chato.



REPORT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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

Mary D. Wheeler, Harry Hoffman, Jeffrey Peyton

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

Judith A. Montgomery, Kay Lindsay, Judy Bantz, Robert Kanter, Tom Koslosky, William J. Hall, Nancy Courvoisier, Fredrick Schooley, Maggie D. Flowers, Clare Gropp, Derek S. Robinson, Stanley Summers, Sydney Cameron, Beverly Rodriguez, Nancy Rader, Beans Clementz



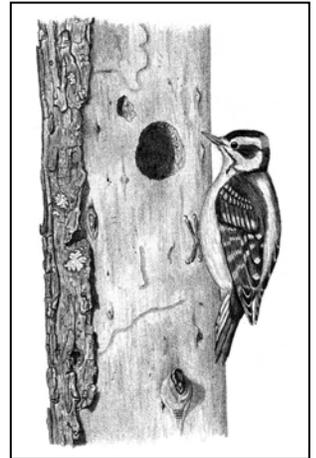
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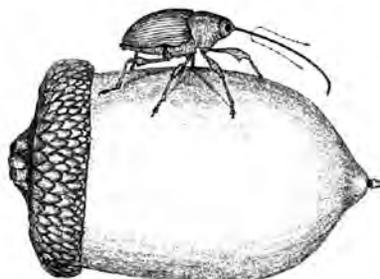
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Calendar of Events, October 2014

- Thursday October 2, 7 PM. Monthly meeting at Urbana Free Library. *Bryant's Birds: A Pictorial Journey.*** Jeff Bryant will present highlights of his bird photography in the Midwest.
- Sundays October 7- October 26, 7:30 - 9 AM.** Sunday morning bird walks through Crystal Lake Park and Busey Woods begin on September 7 and will continue every Sunday through October 26. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot.
- Thursday October 16, 7:15 PM. Champaign County Audubon Society Board Meeting** at Anita Purves Nature Center.
- Saturday October 18, 8:00- 10:00 AM. Field trip to Weaver Park.** Weaver Park has several habitat areas -wetland, prairie and woodland. We will be searching them all looking for late migrants and anything else that may be around. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center's parking lot at 8 AM.



*The creation of a thousand
forests is in one acorn.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson