



The Meadowlark Messenger

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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)

The mission of Champaign County Audubon Society centers on education: education that helps individuals and communities understand the importance of conservation and environmental protection. CCAS is committed to ensuring that all individuals and communities will have access to opportunities for expanding their awareness and understanding of the natural world.

While the CCAS does not own lands, we do support organizations that do, such as the Urbana Park District (UPD) and the Champaign County Forest Preserve (CCFP). Recently, Champaign County Audubon Society made substantial donations to the UPD and CCFP to promote access to natural areas for people with limited mobility and for children. In the first case, the Urbana Park District has completed a new concrete path that improves accessibility from the Anita Purves Nature Center to the wooden boardwalks in Busey Woods. Busey Woods is a unique environment providing an important stopover for migrating birds, and habitat for breeding woodland birds. The new path along the south and west sides of the nature center will help people, who may not have been able to negotiate the steep steps that

constituted the previous path, access the bird-feeding area and the woods. The Urbana Park District will be adding new native landscaping and interpretation to the path over the next 12-18 months, enhancing the experience for all.

The natural playscape at Homer Lake in the Champaign County Forest Preserve District is now under construction and will soon offer children and their families an opportunity to be more deeply engaged with nature. The playscape offers water, logs, rocks, and other natural features that will entice children to use their imaginations and develop stronger connections to the natural world. Paths surrounding the playscape have been graded and paved to adhere to accessibility codes. We expect the playscape will be a conduit to the wider natural environment at Homer Lake and complement the excellent resources for environmental education at the Homer Lake Interpretive Center.

It is very gratifying to live in a community where the importance of conservation and environmental education are recognized and supported. The values of access and engagement are important for improving the quality of life for all the citizens of Champaign County. We hope that you will visit Busey Woods or Homer Lake soon and will encourage others to do the same. The Champaign County Audubon Society is thankful for the work of our colleagues, and we salute our

partners, the Urbana Park District and the Champaign County Forest Preserve, for their dedication to environmental education for the whole community.

OCTOBER MEETING

at the Urbana Free Library
Auditorium

**Thursday, October 6
7 PM**

MARILYN CAMPBELL

Educator & Naturalist
Editor of *Illinois
Audubon*

will present

“BIRDING TRIP TO BELIZE”



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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 is well underway. Flocks of Nighthawks have been seen over town. Twenty-five (25) hummingbirds were at Meadowbrook. Our second Sunday bird walk had 15 warbler species, including a Black-throated Blue Warbler, and many came close enough for a good look. Bluebirds were migrating overhead. A Merlin hawk was seen during the week.

The annual Breeding Bird report for 2010 was turned in to the Forest Preserve District. Ninety-six (96) species of birds were recorded with some evidence of breeding in Champaign County during last year. Highlight was the successful Bald Eagle nest on the Middle Fork Preserve. The total historic list of birds with some evidence of breeding over the past recorded years is 141.

SUNDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

The Champaign County Audubon Society will be leading Sunday morning bird walks through Crystal Lake Park and Busey Woods starting on Sept. 4th and continuing through Oct. 30th searching for fall migratory birds. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot in Urbana. Time will be 7:30 - 9:00 am. Bring binoculars if you have them.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, October 29. 10 AM. Field trip to Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area in Indiana to see **Sandhill Cranes**. This is an all day trip with a lunch stop at Willow Slough. Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center, Urbana at 10 AM. Bring lunch. Dinner will be at a restaurant on return trip. We should arrive home about 10 PM.



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

We can special order your needs. Carefully selected feeders for your birds. Wide selection of bird, and wildflower guides as well as nature books for children. A great place for unusual nature related gifts. Cross stitch kits, books, puppets, jigsaw puzzles and much more.

CONSERVATION CORNER -- Helen Parker, Conservation Chair

Protection for the Arctic Refuge?

The US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is revising its Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. They have issued a draft plan that contains six possible alternatives, of which they will eventually recommend one. The most interesting of the alternatives would designate three areas, one of which is the coastal plain that has been the subject of so much controversy, as wilderness. This is only the first step in a long and convoluted process, with Congress having the final authority. I trust that more information will be forthcoming as the legal proceedings wend their way.

Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge

Another proposed National Wildlife Refuge is in Florida--the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge. The U.S. Department of the Interior has proposed a 150,000 acre refuge that would be of great value to wildlife. The proposal is for acquisition via a combination of purchase and conservation easements. Some canals and ditches would be blocked to store additional (and badly needed) water in the Kississimee watershed, Again--agencies propose, Congress disposes.

Delisting Wolves in Wyoming

The USFWS has reached an agreement with the state of Wyoming on delisting wolves from the endangered species list in that state. The agreement establishes an area in the northwestern part of the state that will be a "Trophy Game Management Area", with seasonal hunting rules. Elsewhere in the state, wolves would be classified as predatory animals; this classification allows public "take" (translation, killing") without a license, although skulls and pelts must be turned in for monitoring. It's a sad commentary on our society when classification as a predator is a death sentence. Predators are a vital component of a functioning ecosystem, not an enemy to be exterminated.



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The wood thrush is the handsomest species of the thrush family. In grace and elegance of manner he has no equal. Such a gentle, high-bred air, and such inimitable ease and composure in his flight and movement! He is a poet in very word and deed. His carriage is music to the eye. His performance of the commonest act, as catching a beetle, or picking a worm from the mud, pleases like a stroke of wit or eloquence. Was he a prince in the olden time, and do the regal grace and mien still adhere to him in his transformation? What a finely proportioned form! How plain, yet rich, his color -the bright russet of his back, the clear white of his breast, with the distinct heart-shaped spots! It may be objected to Robin that he is noisy and demonstrative; he hurries away or rises to a branch with an angry note, and flirts his wings in ill-bred suspicion. The thrasher, or red thrush, sneaks and skulks like a culprit, hiding in the densest alders; the catbird is a coquette and a flirt, as well as a sort of female Paul Pry; and the chewink shows his inhospitality by spying your movements like a detective. The wood thrush has none of these underbred traits. He regards me unsuspectingly, or avoids me with a noble reserve--or, if I am quiet and incurious, graciously hops toward me, as if to pay his respects, or to make my acquaintance. I have passed under his nest within a few feet of his mate and brood, when he sat near by on a branch eyeing me sharply, but without opening his beak; but the moment I raised my hand toward his defenseless household his anger and indignation were beautiful to behold. -- John Burroughs

UPCOMING AUDUBON BIRDSEED SALE

NOVEMBER 12-13 Prairieland Feeds

Rt. 45, Savoy

Saturday 8:30 - 6:30 & Sunday 10:30 - 5



No need to preorder.

Pick up an Audubon coupon at the store on seed sale date. Present it at the sales desk as you purchase and Audubon will receive a share. You can buy all you need for the season and Prairieland will keep it for future pickup.



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.)*



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:**

October 8th: 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 Road

October 22th: 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 2011

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

new renewal

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: _____

C1ZG500Z

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!

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

Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is an educational kit for use in the classroom. It is a professionally developed nature program, sponsored by the National Audubon Society. It introduces, educates and connects children to the natural environment around them. The program, geared to children in grades 3-6, can be used by classroom teachers, after school program coordinators, special education teachers, language arts teachers and home educators. This year, an all-new edition of Audubon Adventures is being released entitled **Feathers, Fur, Fins, Wings and Water**. This kit will contain four new editions of "Audubon Adventures" and will cover the following themes:

1. Pollinators, including hummingbirds and bees;
2. Wild Alaska: Feathers, Fur, and Fins;
3. Rivers of Life;
4. Action for Planet Earth focusing on ways that young people can make valuable contributions to conservation in their community.

Sponsors Needed

Generous donations from our members allow CCAS to sponsor Audubon Adventure kits for local classrooms. If you would like to sponsor a kit for one or more classrooms, please send a check made out to CCAS to PO Box 882, Urbana, IL. 61803. Each kit costs \$38.50.





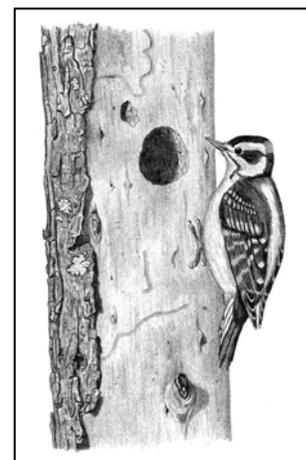
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Calendar of Events, October 2011

- Sundays** **October 2 – October 30, 7:30 AM. Sunday morning bird walks** at Busey Woods and Crystal Lake Park. Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot. Most walks end around 9:00 AM.
- Thursday** **October 6, 7 PM. General meeting** at Urbana Free Library Auditorium. **BIRDING TRIP TO BELIZE** presented by Marilyn Campbell, Editor of *Illinois Audubon Magazine* and former Executive Director of Illinois Audubon Society.
- Thursday** **October 20, 7:15 PM. Champaign County Audubon Society Board Meeting** at Anita Purves Nature Center.
- Saturday** **October 29, 10 AM. Field trip to Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area** in Indiana to see **Sandhill Cranes**. This is an all day trip with a lunch stop at Willow Slough. Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center, Urbana at 10 AM. Bring lunch. Dinner will be at a restaurant on return trip. Should arrive home about 10 PM.

