



The Meadowlark Messenger

March 2015 • Volume 32, No. 2

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

A New Generation of Birders

Barbara Schleicher, President of
Champaign County Audubon Society
(CCAS)

Greetings to you all and hope you are surviving this bitter cold weather...but, spring is on the way. The first snowdrops flowers have been sighted and the witch-hazel shrubs have buds ready to burst forth. March is a month for wild swings of weather, birds beginning to migrate, and early flowers and shrubs pushing out their buds and blooms.

This past fall, the University's Primary School classes began a study on "Birds and Flight". The intent of the study was to foster an understanding of birds' lifecycles, adaptations in their environment, and migration. The students were to notice birds as an important part of an interconnected ecosystem that humans steward and inhabit. The children explored how mechanical flight grew out of human observation of bird flight.

I attended an open house and exhibition in January at which the children displayed the observations, impressions and 3D representations of their studies.

I contacted one of the teachers, Ami Lewis, about their study and she explained that over the course of the fall semester the children explored how different kinds of birds live, observed both live and stuffed birds, dissected owl pellets, and learned about the migration patterns of butterflies and whooping cranes. Our

own Beth Chato and several naturalists talked with the children about habitat, nest building, and characteristics for observing/tracking birds in Champaign-Urbana. Beth said it was a fun day, and she was impressed with children's thoughtful questions. Many children sketched and painted birds with water colors after the naturalists talked about details of specific species including texture, silhouette and size.

One of the study groups investigated what kinds of seeds prompted different birds to gather at the feeders. Some children viewed Audubon originals at the Rare Book Library on campus. Children in one class were very interested in the monarch migration; this interest led to their study of Whooping Crane migration as well. The exhibit at the College of Education building on campus highlighted the various grades and their specific studies: Preschool—birds, nests and predators; Kindergarten and First Grade—migration, maps and bird sizes; and Second-Fifth Grades—habitat, flight, environmental challenges/opportunities.

The University Primary School's spring project is "patterns" and aspects of "birds and flight". The culminating event for this project will be held at the Krannert Art Museum's East Gallery on May 21st from 6 -7:30 and during Krannert's regular daily hours on May 22-23. I believe you will be pleasantly surprised to see the hard work of the new generation of birders!!

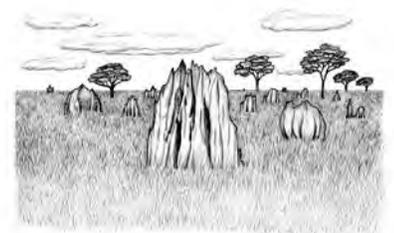
MARCH MEETING
Urbana Free Library
Auditorium

Thursday March 5
7 PM

***KENYA WILDLIFE
and HABITAT***



presented by
James O. Smith,
Audubon member since
the late 1960s, local
semi-retired farmer but
not retired bird watcher



Officers

President: Barbara Schleicher, 377-8586
bschleic@life.illinois.edu

Vice President: Brian Stearns, 595-5052
brian@sbstearns.us

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

Co-Treasurers: John Dunkelberger
344-4973, jdunkel@hotmail.com

Susan Stearns, 595-5052
susan@sbstearns.us

Committee Chairs

Conservation: Jeff Peyton, 714-4171
jbpeyton2@gmail.com

217-714-4171

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

Field Trip: Beth Chato, 344-6803
ejchato@gmail.com

Finance: Astrid Berkson
356-4647, astrid@insightbb.com

Allan Penwell
359-3720, a.penwell@comcast.net

Habitat: Robert Vaiden, 344-9042
vaiden@isgs.illinois.edu

Membership: Caitlin Lill, 773-951-4900
clkll@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: Carie Nixon, 867-2290
dragonfly@illcom.net

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 2015-2017

Jim Hoyt, 352-6733
Beth Chato, 344-6803
ejchato@gmail.com
Allan Penwell
359-3720, a.penwell@comcast.net

Newsletter Coordinator: Ruth Walker,
328-1530

Webmaster & BirdNotes Listserve

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

Champaign County Audubon publishes
The Meadowlark Messenger nine times
per year. Comments regarding the news-
letter or articles for submission are
welcome by the President.

Recent Bird Sightings: FIELD NOTES from Beth Chato

Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were seen on country roads. Pine Siskins and a Redpoll have visited feeders, as has an unexpected Brown Thrasher. The campus Peregrine Falcon was on Sherman Hall January 3. White-fronted and Snow Geese are on their way north, and a variety of ducks have been seen. A group of Red winged Blackbirds flew over Meadowbrook Park. Keep reports of unusual sightings coming to Bird Notes, my source, for the New Year.

Great "Backyard" Bird Count: Friday February 13-16

The Great "Backyard" Birdcount (GBBC) is an annual event that engages bird watchers in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations nation wide . CCAS birders counted the birds at Anita Purves Nature Center on Saturday, Feb 14 from 9am-3pm. You may remember that the 14th had a high temperature of 17 and a wind chill of -3 degrees. We feared that we would have a record low number of species until Caitlin and Marg braved the cold wind to check out Busey Woods and added Carolina Wren and Brown Creeper to give us a total of 18 for the day. We have been doing this annual count since 2002. The highest number of species was 28 in 2011 and the lowest 16 in 2002 and 2012. Species seen this year were: Eastern Bluebird 3, Cardinal 9, Brown Creeper 1, Crow 3, Mourning Dove 10, House Finch 5, Goldfinch 8, Canada Goose 2, Blue Jay 4, Junco 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 4, Robin 5, Pine Siskin 5, House Sparrow 130, Tufted Titmouse 2, Downy Woodpecker 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker 3, Carolina Wren 1. Thanks to all the Audubon observers.



MARCH FIELD TRIPS

Wednesday, March 11, 7-8 pm. WOODCOCK WALK. Meadowbrook Park. Meet at the Interpretive Center off Race Street for an evening stroll through the park, looking and listening for courting woodcocks doing their sky dance.

Saturday, March 14, 8 am. FUNK'S GROVE. Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center at 8 am to car pool for about an hour drive to Funk's Grove with its extensive maple sugar operation, Nature Center and hiking trails. Bring a lunch.

Saturday March 28, 9 am. HERON PARK: Meet at the Nature Center at 9 am to check out the birds from the Heron Park boardwalk and tower. An eagle family lives nearby. Bring lunch and return in early afternoon. We will also check Lake Vermilion for waterfowl.

AUDUBON NATURE SHOP for Unique Nature-Related Gifts

ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER, 1515 NORTH BROADWAY, URBANA, IL
9-4 MONDAY-SATURDAY

This past year we sold \$5565 in merchandise, down a bit from last year. As a not-for-profit operation, all proceeds go to support conservation and environmental education. Our share given to the Urbana Park District was \$721. Audubon will have \$500 each for our Kendeigh Scholarship fund and our general conservation/education funding. Think of the shop when looking for nature-related products ..

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.)*

SPRING BIRD WALKS BEGIN SUNDAY MARCH 1, 7:30-9:am.

Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Walks continue each Sunday until the end of May. Get a start on spring.

Bird Walks for March: March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29

A March Glee

By John Burroughs

I hear the wild geese honking
From out the misty night –
A sound of moving armies
On-sweeping in the night;
The river ice is drifting
Beneath their northward flight.



I hear the bluebird plaintive
From out the morning sky,
Or see his wings a-twinkle
That with the azure vie;
No other bird more welcome,
No more prophetic cry.



I hear the sparrow's ditty
A near my study door;
A simple song of gladness
That winter days are o'er;
My heart is singing with him,
I love him more and more.



I hear the starling fluting
His liquid "O-ka-lee;"
I hear the downy drumming,
His vernal reveillé;
From out the maple orchard
The nuthatch calls to me.



Oh, spring is surely coming,
Her couriers fill the air;
Each morn are new arrivals,
Each night her ways prepare;
I scent her fragrant garments,
Her foot is on the stair.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANELS – DEMOCRACY IN ACTION.

Newly elected State Representative of the 103rd House District Carol Ammons, is reaching out to Champaign-Urbana community members to bring their passion and expertise to her Community Advisory Panels. Each panel is responsible for following the bills moving through corresponding committees in the state legislature, analyzing them for their impact on the 103rd district and the state overall, providing feedback to Representative Ammons on the bills, and proposing and drafting legislation that is needed. For example, at the first Environment & Energy meeting this past week several proposed House bills were discussed, including one that proposed to close the ban on Bobcat hunting. The panel recommended that Representative Ammons oppose that bill. Each Panel has its own dedicated and competent University of Illinois intern to assist with research, writing, and coordination of meetings.

The Community Advisory Panels are:

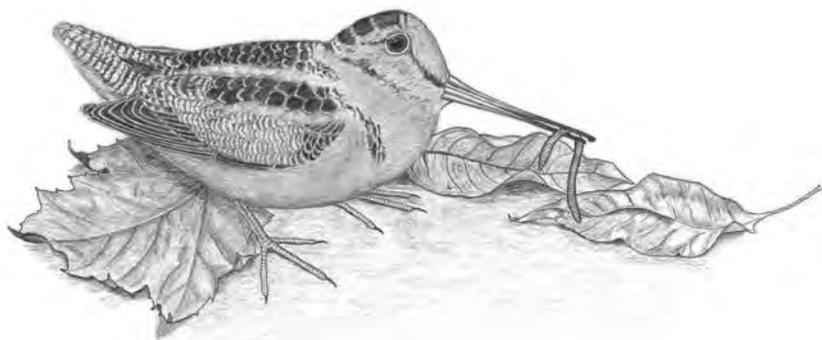
- *Education Panel meets every Sunday at 3:00 pm.*
- *Environment & Energy Panel meets every Monday at 6:00 pm.*
- *Business & Labor Relations Panel meets every Tuesday at 5:30 pm.*
- *Judicial & Criminal Justice Panel meets every Thursday at 3:00 pm.*
- *Health Care & Human Services Panel meets every Thursday at 4:00 pm.*

All Panel meetings are held at Representative Ammon's office at 407 E. University Ave., Champaign The office is accessible and parking is available behind the office building. For more information, go to staterepcarolammons.com and call the local office at (217)531-1660 to sign up for a Panel so you will receive relevant materials before the meeting and be updated on any changes. Please grab this chance to make a difference for our community and state! This is what democracy looks like!

MARCH WOODCOCK WALKS

Wednesday, March 11, 7-8 pm. Meadowbrook Park. Meet at the Interpretive Center off Race Street for an evening stroll through the park, looking and listening for courting woodcocks doing their sky dance.

Friday, March 13. Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 7 – 8 p.m. Join us in a search for the elusive wood snipe, AKA the American woodcock, as the males perform their amazing courtship display at dusk. A short presentation will be followed by a hike to look for the sky dancers. Free. Registration required; (217) 896-2455 or ccwalsh@ccfpd.org.



Friday, March 20. Buffalo Trace Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 7 – 8 p. 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 / N. Lombard across the street from the Museum of the Grand Prairie. Free. Registration required; (217) 896-2455 or cwalsh@ccfpd.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – KENDEIGH GRANTS

The Champaign County Audubon Society (CCAS) annually offers grants for research in ornithology in Illinois for a maximum of \$1000. We invite submissions for this year's grants. These must contain:

1. A description of the research to be carried out.
2. A proposed budget.
3. Evidence of your qualifications to do the research, including a brief C.V. and at least 2 references.
4. The applicant's name, mailing address, local phone number, and e-mail address.
5. After the completion of the research, the grantee 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). Four copies should be submitted to

Helen Parker
103 W. Delaware
Urbana, IL 61801

OR

Champaign County Audubon Society
Attn: Kendeigh Grant Committee
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803

Applications must be received before March 27, 2015. Notification of awards will be made in April. 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.

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:**

March 14	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.
March 28	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 2015

		new	renewal
Friend of Champaign County Audubon Society <i>(includes CCAS newsletter only)</i>	\$15.00.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friend of CCAS and National Audubon Society <i>(includes "Audubon" magazine & CCAS newsletter)</i>	\$20.00.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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: _____ C5ZG500Z

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, Pam Leiter

Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Homer Lake, leiterp@msn.com

For the Bilingual Classroom: **Kaufman's Spanish Field Guide**

A great addition to any bilingual classroom studying birds, *Guía de Campo a las Aves Norteamérica* by Kenn Kaufman is a creative Spanish-language translation of his "Focus" guide to North American birds.



Resources from the Illinois DNR

The Illinois DNR also offers Spanish and English versions of activity books. See the order form at: <https://dnr.state.il.us/teachkids/> (click on **Just show me what's available** at the bottom to see the available resources).





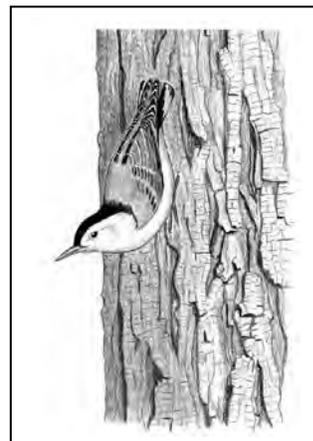
The Meadowlark Messenger

March 2015, Vol.32: No.2

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, March 2015

- Sundays** **March 1- March 29, 7:30 - 9 AM.** Sunday morning bird walks through Crystal Lake Park and Busey Woods begin on March 1 and will continue every Sunday through May 31. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot. Bring binoculars if you have them. Audubon members will be present to help beginners.
- Thursday** **March 5, 7 PM.** Monthly meeting at Urbana Free Library Auditorium. *Kenya Wildlife and Habitat* presented by **James O. Smith**, Audubon member since the late 1960s, local semi-retired farmer but not retired bird watcher.
- Wednesday** **March 11, 7- 8:00 PM.** The annual Woodcock walk will be at Meadowbrook Park. Meet at the Interpretive Center off Race Street.
- Fridays** **March 13 & 20, 7- 8:00 PM.** Woodcock walks at Homer Lake and Lake of the Woods, respectively.
- Saturday** **March 14, 8 AM.** Funk's Grove. Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center at 8 am to car pool for about an hour's drive to Funk's Grove with its extensive maple sugar operation, Nature Center and hiking trails. Bring a lunch.
- Thursday** **March 19, 7:15 PM.** Champaign County Audubon Society Board Meeting at Anita Purves Nature Center.
- Friday** **March 20, 5:45 PM.** First day of Spring.
- Saturday** **March 28, 9 AM.** Heron Park. Meet at the Nature Center at 9 am to check out the birds from the Heron Park boardwalk and tower. An eagle family lives nearby. Bring lunch and return in early afternoon. We will also check Lake Vermilion for waterfowl.

