



The Meadowlark Messenger

May 2010 • Volume 27, No. 4

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

Pitch In Cleo and Steve D'Arcy Co-Presidents of Champaign County Audubon Society (CCAS)

Spring arrived suddenly in central Illinois, bringing flocks of migrants through our area as they make their way to summer habitats. Local birders have been busy observing and reporting their sightings, as FOY (first of year) observations are noteworthy for seasoned birders. We are enjoying participating in these activities and reading about others' sightings, and hope you are sharing in this enthusiasm.

In this column we would like to focus on the Nominating Committee of the CCAS. This committee, chaired by Janet Jokela, is charged with proposing a slate of candidates for office. Even though their report is not due until this fall, the election will not occur until our December meeting and the new officers won't assume their duties until January, 2011, this committee is now working on its assignment. The specific positions which will be filled are the officer positions of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, plus three board positions. In brief, the responsibilities of the president are to prepare the agenda and chair the monthly board meetings, write this column, submit the annual reports on our chapter activities and represent the chapter at regional and other meetings. The vice president serves in the absence of the president and, for us, provided valuable guidance and institutional knowledge of CCAS activities. The secretary prepares the minutes of each board meeting. The treasurer is responsible for managing CCAS funds and providing monthly

budget reports to the board. The term for each officer's position is one year. The board member duties are to participate in the monthly board meetings and thus provide direction for CCAS. The board meets the third Thursday of each month, except June, July and December. The term for board members is two years.

The reason we provided this overview is to encourage you to consider serving in one of these capacities next year. It is important for the leadership of any organization to combine people with experience with new recruits. There is no experience requirement for these positions and bird identification skills are not a criterion. An interest in birds and nature, a desire to preserve our resources and a willingness to devote a little time each month to attend our meetings would certainly be sufficient to qualify for a position. Please consider volunteering or recommending someone you think would be a good candidate. To do so, contact Janet Jokela (jjokela59@hotmail.com). See page 3.

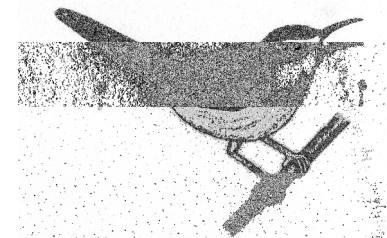
A good friend once observed that the more time he gave to an organization to which we both belonged, the more benefits he received. Friendships, a feeling of accomplishment and camaraderie, were some of those benefits he mentioned. We feel the same way about the Champaign County Audubon Society. A few years ago our only involvement was to attend bird walks. We certainly enjoyed these and would look forward to our early Sunday morning outings. When we joined the Board, we met some wonderful people and began to feel a part of a valuable organization. During our term as co-presidents, we got to know other people

working with CCAS even better, and had the opportunity to attend several regional conferences to meet even more dedicated individuals. It has been a rewarding experience. Now that our term is ending, we would like to encourage others to get involved and have the opportunity to receive the benefits that come from giving time to an active organization. We expect you, too, will find that the more you pitch in, the more you receive.

MAY MEETING Thursday May 6, 7 PM Urbana Free Library Auditorium

The two 2009 Recipients of Kendeigh Grants from CCAS will present their research on birds and bird feeding.

How Diet Influences the Health of Nestling House Wrens Jen Sutherland, Illinois State University



To Feed or Not To Feed? People Who Feed Birds and What Bird Feeding Means for Urban Birds Jason Fischer, University of Illinois

Champaign County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803
217-367-6766
www.champaigncountyaudubon.org

Officers

Co-Presidents: Cleo D'Arcy, 344-3639
cdarcy@illinois.edu
Steve D'Arcy, 344-3639
s-darcy@illinois.edu
Vice President: Beth Chato, 344-6803
jbchato@illinois.edu
Secretary: John Dunkelberger
344-4973, jdunkel@hotmail.com
Co-Treasurers: Caroline Mallory & Darin
Eastburn 344-2297
mallory.caroline@gmail.com
eastburn@illinois.edu

Committee Chairs

Conservation: Helen Parker, 367-3130
h-parker@illinois.edu
Education: Stacey Clementz, 896-2455,
sclementz@ccfpd.org
Field Trip: Elaine Regehr, 367-5787
Regehr5@aol.com
Finance: Astrid Berkson
356-4647, astrid@insightbb.com
Habitat: Robert Vaiden, 344-9042
vaiden@isgs.illinois.edu
Membership: Janet Jokela, 352-3632
jjokela59@hotmail.com
John Chato, 344-6803
jbchato@illinois.edu
Nature Shop: Beth Chato, 344-6803
jbchato@illinois.edu
Program: Dorothy Neumann, 344-1427
neumando3530@yahoo.com
Publications: James Nardi, 333-6590
j-nardi@illinois.edu
Publicity: Colleen Brodie
352-0805, wcbrodie@sbcglobal.net

Members at Large 2010-11

Beez Gordon, 355-3402
Brian Threlkeld, 384-5164
abt5@columbia.edu
Pam Leiter, 344-6507,
leiterp@msn.com

Members at Large 2009-10

Charlene Anchor, 359-8214,
charleneanchor@msn.com
Ansel Anderson, 356-2433
acanders@uiuc.edu
Caroline Mallory & Darin
Eastburn 344-2297
mallory.caroline@gmail.com
eastburn@illinois.edu

Newsletter Coordinator: Ruth Walker,
328-1530

Phone Coordinator: Kyra Shair, 356-1265
kshair@ameritech.net

Webmaster: Pam Leiter, 344-6507,
leiterp@msn.com

BirdNotes Listserve Manager:
Dan Olson, 586-4389, forest@net66.com

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.

FIELD NOTES: March and April 2010

Darin Eastburn

Recent Bird Sightings

Spring migration is definitely underway with Chimney Swifts arriving and Juncos on their way out. Some of the most notable sightings were both Whooping and Sandhill Cranes at Heron Pond. Other sightings at Heron Pond included White Pelican, Snipe, Solitary Sandpiper, Bald Eagle, Cormorant, Greater Yellowlegs, and Palm Warbler. The Sunday bird walks in Busey Woods and Crystal Lake Park have allowed local birders to see Northern Parula, Pine, Orange-crowned, and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrushes, Chimney Swifts, American Coots, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Summer Tanager, Winter Wren, and Swamp Sparrows. Reports from Meadowbrook Park have included Blue-winged Teal, Mallards, American Robin, lots of Red-winged Blackbirds, Song Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, American Goldfinch, and Tree Swallows.

Waterfowl have been showing up at local wetland areas over the past few weeks. At the Curtis Road wetlands area birders have reported seeing Golden Plovers, Killdeer, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Smith's Longspurs (OK, not waterfowl, but interesting). At the U of I swine ponds Pied-billed Grebes, Coots, Canada Geese, Mallards, Northern Shovelers, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Ducks have been observed. At Weaver Pond and woods there are reports of Blue-winged Teal, Mallards, Canadian Geese, American Coot, White-throated Sparrows, Eastern Towhee, and Sora. And at Homer Lake Eastern Bluebirds, Osprey, Cormorants, Hooded Warbler, Mute Swans, and Pied-billed Grebe have been reported. Other birds of note reported recently from the local area include Chimney Swifts, Carolina Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler, Common Loon, Pectoral Sandpipers, Turkey Vultures, Purple Martins, and Cooper's Hawks.

**38th ANNUAL SPRING BIRD COUNT, Saturday MAY 8
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BIRDERS NEEDED**

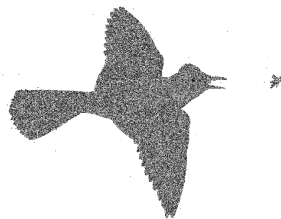
Contact BETH CHATO 344-6803

Birders will work in teams to count the numbers of each bird species seen in their assigned part of the county. Last year 158 species of birds were tallied in Champaign County by 41 observers. You can take part for as much of the day as you are available. Early morning of course is best. Let me know if you can help.

Champaign County, along with the other 101 Illinois counties will participate in this annual Statewide Spring Bird Count. The count is sponsored by the Illinois Audubon Society, the Illinois Ornithological Society, the Illinois Natural History Survey, and other birding groups. Birders are grouped into parties and each party is challenged to identify and count numbers of all the birds found in their designated area. Apart from its attraction as a social, sporting and competitive event, the annual Spring Bird Count sheds some light on the early spring distribution of Illinois native birds.

AUDUBON BIRDATHON

This is the annual fundraiser for our Kendeigh Scholarship fund. See the enclosed flyer and plan to contribute. All proceeds go to fund research on birds here in Illinois.



Audubon Nature Shop

Charlie Harper puzzles are in, as well as a series of knowledge cards on subjects from dinosaurs to trees.

For the gardener- *The Teeth of the Lion*, a new book tells all you want to know about our friendly foe, the dandelion.

Membership Corner Janet Jokela, Membership Chair

Welcome to our new members! We look forward to meeting you and seeing you at CCAS events. Thank you for your support. Please welcome Daniel Babcock, Peggy Brand, Paul Dumontelle, Margaret Giebel, Katherine Hatch, James Jesso, Helen Lindsey, Gerald Pijanowski, Karen Pruiett, and Stanley Shinall.

2010 NOMINATING COMMITTEE Chair, Janet Jokela (jjokela59@hotmail.com)

Other members: Charlene Anchor, Pam Leiter, Jim Nardi

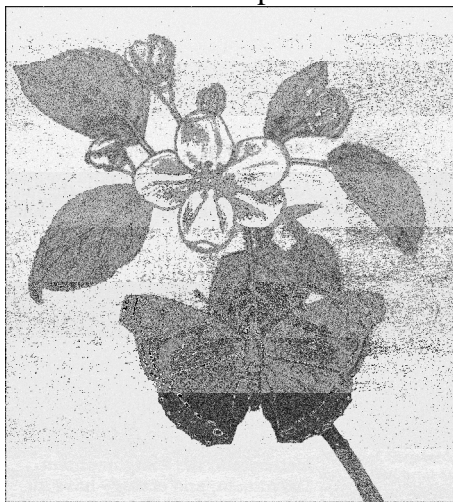
Please consider volunteering or recommending someone to serve on the CCAS Board.

Conservation Corner Helen Parker, Conservation Chair

EARTH DAY - A 40-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

I am writing this on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. By now you may be tired of hearing about it--there has been a lot of attention on this anniversary year, although most of it has had about the same depth and consideration as ads for Valentine's Day. Probably most of you reading this will not remember that first Earth Day, with programs and events all over the country, including Champaign-Urbana. However, we can now look back and consider what has happened and where we should go from here.

Much has been accomplished in the past 40 years. We now have the National Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act--even though the enforcement of these is sometimes not all we could hope. We have saved the bald eagle and the brown pelican from extinction due to the effects of DDT. More important is the fact that the environment is a part of mainstream consciousness--every politician must pretend to be an "environmentalist" no matter how he actually votes. People not only want but expect to have clean air and water and adequate open space and a safe food supply produced without destroying the soil and protection for the other species with which we share this planet. However, there are still major efforts ahead of us. Foremost is, of course, the specter of climate change--and the life-style changes we must make to deal with it. The average person is all in favor of protecting the planet--as long as it does not cause him any inconvenience. Fewer are willing to make serious life-style changes to prevent damage. Yet we must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels or face drastic consequences. What we need now is to rededicate ourselves to understanding and preserving that which we have--and improving that which need to be improved. What will things be like in 10 years when the 50th anniversary of Earth Day rolls around? Let us hope we will have a clean, green, and biodiverse crust on this planet we call Earth!



Coastal Louisiana--some news just in from National Audubon:

Audubon and its partners have received funding to undertake a marsh restoration project near Audubon's Rainey Sanctuary. Called the Christian Marsh Terracing Project, it will install 20,850 linear feet of terraces to protect and restore over 300 acres of marsh.

FIELD TRIPS

Elaine Regehr, Field Trip Chair

SUNDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

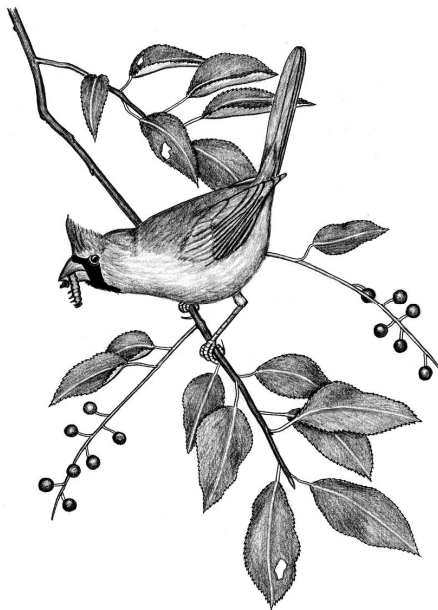
Sundays, May 2 – May 30, 7:30 – 9 AM. Sunday Morning Bird Walks. Join Champaign County Audubon Society leaders on their weekly search for birds in Busey Woods and Crystal Lake Park. Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot.

Saturday, May 1. Lodge Park. The Sangamon River winds through this Piatt County Park that is located near Monticello. There is a variety of habitat that makes this park attractive to returning migrants as well as to resident species. Meet Elaine Regehr at the Anita Purves Nature Center at 7:00 A M or meet Janet Jokela at Lodge Park at 7:30. Janet Jokela will lead.

Directions to Lodge Park. Take I-72 to Monticello, turning off at the first Monticello exit: #166. Pass Rick Ridings car dealership, turn right, go about 1/2 mile to the entrance to the park, which is on the left. Janet will be there at about 7:00 A.M., waiting near the entrance.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS AT MEADOWBROOK PARK

On four Wednesdays in May (**May 5, 12, 19, 26**), we'll have **Mornings at Meadowbrook**. We'll meet at 7:00 AM at the Race St. parking lot (south of Windsor Road) to look for birds at Meadowbrook Park, winding up at about 9:00 AM.



KENDEIGH GRANT RECIPIENTS for 2010 and the topics of their research projects

Emerson Keith Bowers, School of Biological Sciences, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
Asynchrony of Hatching and Sex Allocation in House Wrens

Travis E. Wilcoxon, Assistant Professor of Biology, Millikin University, Decatur, IL
Immune Function in Cardinals

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 2010

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

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: _____ C0ZG500Z

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ 7XCH

(Please provide 9-digit zip code)

Send this application and your check to:

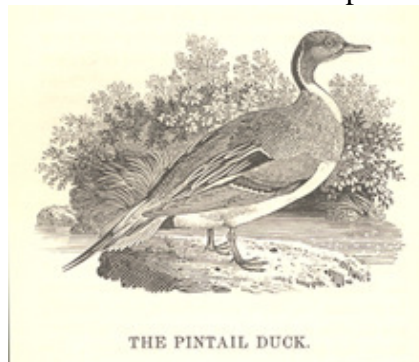
Champaign Co. Audubon Society, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882. Thank you!

Education Corner

Stacey Clementz, Education Chair (sclementz@ccfpd.org)

Champaign County Audubon Society is now on Facebook! To become a fan and get updates, please visit the "Champaign County Audubon Society" Facebook page.

Parents & educators check out the education section of the National Audubon Society webpage for information on teaching in nature, great craft ideas and so much more. Go to <http://www.audubon.org/educate/educators/>.



**Wood engraving by Thomas Bewick
from *A History of British Birds* (1797)**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bob Vaiden

Help rebuild our shattered environment! Join other volunteers and the Urbana Park District for **Stewardship Saturdays**. Help remove invasive weeds, plant natives, improve trails and restore the native landscape. Please dress accordingly; gloves, tools and refreshments are provided.

Stewardship work days:

May 8th: Busey Woods 9 -11 am. Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center
Weaver Park 1 - 3 pm. Pull off Main Street at Smith Road.

May 22th: Meadowbrook 9 -11 am. Meet at Race street parking lot.
Webber Park 1 - 3 pm. Meet at Dog Park parking lot on Perkins Road.

