



# The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

## Swallow Watch

Thursday, June 2, 6:30 pm  
Walnut Hill Shelter  
Homer Lake Forest Preserve

The swallow watch is back! Enjoy an evening with fellow bird enthusiasts. Bring a lawn chair for sitting while observing the birds. And bring snacks, as there will not be a potluck this year. Hope to see you there!

## Kendeigh Grant Awardees

CCAS selected three awardees to receive Kendeigh Grants this year:

**Seunguk Shin, PhD candidate,  
University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign**

*Project Title — A bird in hand: Exploring children’s value development through mist-netting experiences*

**Sarah Stewart, MS student, University  
of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

*Project Title — Almost-Empty Nesters: Investigating the Post-fledging Ecology of Eastern Whip-poor-wills*

**Nicole Suckow, MS student, University  
of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

*Project Title — Grassland bird stopover habitat use and migratory behavior in Illinois*

Learn more about their proposed research projects on page 3.

## Volunteers Needed

CCAS is looking for volunteers to help support and run our organization. Open positions include Membership Chair, Education Chair, and Field Trip Chair. Learn more about roles and opportunities at <https://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/volunteer> or email [mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org](mailto:mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org).

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## Champaign County Audubon Society

## Officers

- President: Colin Dobson
- Vice President: Roger Digges
- Secretary: Jennifer Wick
- Treasurer: Todd Kinney

## Members at Large

- Beth Chato
- Nathan Powazki
- Megan Skrip

## Committee Chairs

- Bylaws: Roger Digges
- Conservation: Zachary Sutton
- Education: (vacant)
- Field Trip: (vacant);  
Beth Chato, Colin Dobson, Brody Dunn
- Finance: (vacant)
- Membership: Sara Johnson
- Program: Alida de Flamingh
- Communications: Sara Johnson (Chair);  
Shoshie Bauer, Jeff Bryant (Birdnotes  
Listserv), Susan Pollock, Megan Skrip,  
Sarah Stewart

Champaign County Audubon publishes *The Meadowlark Messenger* nine times per year. **Comments regarding the newsletter, or articles for submission, are welcome.**

## Contact us!

P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803  
ChampaignCountyAudubon.org  
[mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org](mailto:mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org)

## Get this newsletter in your inbox!



Would you like to go paperless and help our funds go further? Please visit the [Membership](#) page on our website and enter

your name and email address.

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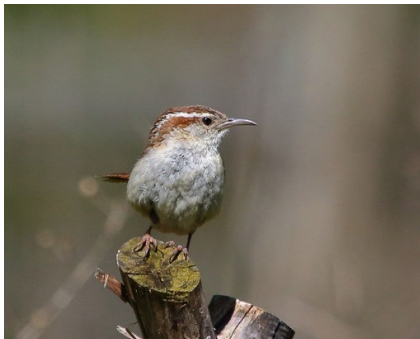
## Field Notes

*Colin Dobson, CCAS President*

Hello Everyone! Happy June, it's summertime!

I hope you were able to go see some of the migrants that came through this spring or were lucky enough to see some orioles, grosbeaks, or tanagers in your own backyard! With all of the warm weather during the second week of May, the migrants moved on very quickly; even I didn't see all of the migrants! I hope I saw most of you at the Sunday Morning Bird Walks, and, if not, the walks will resume on the first Sunday in September. It was a fun spring!

As summer opens up I would like to start adding more field trips. We will work on having more for the fall, but our first mini field trip will be back to our annual swallow watch out at Homer Lake on June 2 at the Walnut Hill Shelter at 6:30 pm. We are not having a potluck this year, so just bring snacks to munch on and a lawn chair (if you have one, or we can stand) to watch all of the swallows and to have great conversations about birds! Will be hoping to add the same trips as last year's Havana shorebirds around August 20 this year and Jasper-Pulaski in mid-November. Stay tuned for more information!



*Clockwise from top left: Baltimore Oriole, Prairie Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Carolina Wren. Photos by Jeff Bryant.*

## Kendeigh Grant Projects

Each year, CCAS offers grants in honor of S. Charles Kendeigh for ornithology research in Illinois. Thanks to the generosity of our donors who make these grants possible, this year we were able to raise the amount of each award from \$1,000 to \$2,000! Congratulations to this year's awardees:

### **Sarah Stewart, MS student, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

*Project Title — Almost-Empty Nesters: Investigating the Post-fledging Ecology of Eastern Whip-poor-wills*

The period of time between when a young songbird leaves its nest (fledges) and leaves the territory where it was hatched (disperses) is very risky. “Mortality rates are greatest directly after leaving the nest,” Sarah explains, and so “fledglings often need to use different habitats than those used by adults [to benefit from] greater physical cover from predators and the elements.” Little is known about the post-fledging ecology of the Eastern Whip-poor-will, a species that lays its eggs directly on the ground and cares for its young for up to three weeks after they fledge. The species is declining, and so Sarah will radio-tag whip-poor-will fledglings to better understand their survival rates and habitat use to inform habitat conservation efforts.



*Common Yellowthroat. Photo by Jeff Bryant.*

### **Seunguk Shin, PhD candidate, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

*Project Title — A bird in hand: Exploring children's value development through mist-netting experiences*

Seunguk's research will investigate “how a hands-on mist-netting experience with birds affects children's environmental values.” This project will teach children aged 6 to 12 about birds and provide them opportunities to handle and release wild-caught songbirds during Nature Day Camps at the Anita Purves Nature Center, Urbana. Seunguk will conduct surveys with the children and expects that “children who participate in the mist-netting sessions [will] show greater increases in their environmental values and connection to nature compared with the control group who are not involved in the sessions.”

### **Nicole Suckow, MS student, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

*Project Title — Grassland bird stopover habitat use and migratory behavior in Illinois*

“The vast majority of Illinois' grassland birds are migratory,” Nicole explains, “and this project aims to better our understanding of what constitutes... quality habitat [during migration] for these species throughout the state.” Nicole will investigate grassland birds' habitat preferences, use automated radio telemetry to estimate how long migrating birds linger on stopover sites, and analyze poop samples to determine what birds are eating while fueling up for their migratory flights. The project spans 24 grassland sites across Illinois and will focus on the habitat preferences and stopover behavior of 12 species, 11 of which are listed as Species in Greatest Conservation Need.

## Thank You, Renewing Members!

*Nancy Dietrich, **Derek Liebert**, Jackie Meyer, Mary Ellen Wuellner*

*Bold indicates contribution beyond dues.*

## Spring Bird Count

The Spring Bird Count was Saturday, May 7.  
Here are some of the data recorded for the day:

Bird species seen 142

People participating 28

Most unusual birds: White-fronted Goose and Harris' Sparrow (The well-photographed sparrow was in a backyard).



*Yellow-rumped Warbler. Photo by Jeff Bryant.*

## Mini-Grants Awarded

Each year, CCAS offers mini-grants (up to \$250 each) to provide support to Champaign County educators who want to bring environmental education to their students through creative projects and learning materials.

Since 2006, our mini-grants have funded around \$20,000 in educational projects at Champaign County schools. We have sponsored the purchase of classroom equipment and books, funded guest speakers, and underwritten the creation of outdoor learning areas and gardens, field trips, professional development, and more.

Congratulations to this year's awardees:

### **Dr. Williams Elementary, Urbana**

*Contact:* Bryan Lake

*Project:* Migracion de las Monarcas

### **Academy High, Champaign**

*Contact:* Jordan Conerty

*Project:* Excursion on the Sagamon River

## Membership Chair Vacancy

We are seeking an individual who is organized and attentive to detail who is willing to share their experience and join our board as Membership Chair.

The main duties of the Membership Chair include maintaining an up-to-date list of CCAS members, monitoring the membership email account, and mailing out appeals and reminders to members. Other responsibilities include recruiting new members and assisting with the distribution of the CCAS newsletter.

This board position is a voting position that lasts for a one-year term and requires attendance at our board meetings, which occur during the evening on the third Monday of each month (Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov).

Not sure you want to commit? Consider joining as a non-voting committee member or join an upcoming meeting to see what it is all about.

Questions? E-mail [mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org](mailto:mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org) for more information and meeting details.

The next CCAS board meeting is Monday, August 15 at 7 pm CDT.

All CCAS members are welcome to attend. For information: [mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org](mailto:mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org).

## 2022 Bird-a-Thon Results

During the Bird-a-Thon teams eagerly search for as many bird species they can find. Our annual fundraiser was held May 8-15 this year. Bird-a-Thon contributions go toward the CCAS **Kendeigh Memorial Fund**. If you would like to support our fundraiser, go to <https://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/spring-birdathon> to donate. The Forest Preserve effort included a public event, the Migratory Bird Date.

### Team results:

- **Urbana Park District & CCFPD:**  
*106 species*
- **Old Timers:**  
Jim Smith and Beth Chato  
*36 species* spotted, all on Jim's farm
- **Bird Nerds:**  
Melissa Ricketts and Brock Price  
*138 species*. Most unusual were a Common Tern and Eurasian Collared Dove.
- **Homer Hikers:**  
Peter & Betsy Kuchinke  
*63 species*.



Eurasian Collared Dove (top), American Redstart (lower left), Blackpoll Warbler. Photos by Jeff Bryant.

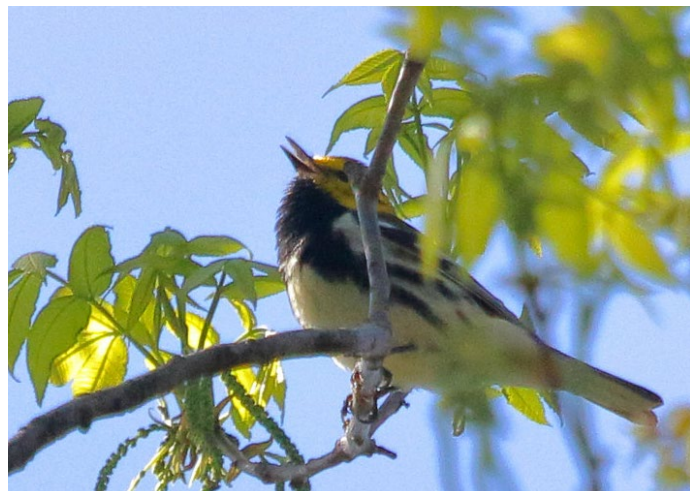
## Bird-A-Thon Fundraiser Supports Kendeigh Grants

Since 1982, the Kendeigh fund has supported over \$40,000 in research projects on Illinois birds. Topics have ranged from the impact of cowbird nest predation to the varied problems of declining grassland birds. Many grant recipients have gone on to prestigious careers in the field of natural history.

### About Dr. Kendeigh

Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh, eminent ornithologist, was a renowned professor of zoology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Before retiring in 1973, he had advised a total of 51 doctoral students and 65 masters students.

He was a charter member, president, and board member of CCAS, president of the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Ecological Society of America, vice president of the American Ornithologists Union (now known as the American Ornithological Society), and co-founder of The Nature Conservancy and Animal Behavior Society.



Black-throated Green Warbler. Photo by Jeff Bryant.

# Join Champaign County Audubon Society!

*Yes, I'd like to become a member!*

When you join the Champaign County Audubon Society, 100% of your dues and donations support our efforts (and they're tax deductible!).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ CCAS Membership (\$15 due each January).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation to CCAS

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL**

### ***Or Join Online!***

Save time by contributing via your mobile device or computer! [Visit our website to join or donate online.](#)

I am a new member     I am renewing my membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

CCAS members will be automatically enrolled to receive our newsletter by email; check this box if you would prefer to receive a **paper** copy.

Checks should be made payable to CCAS. Send this form and your payment to: CCAS Membership Chair, P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803-0882. Thank you!

### ***Our Mission:***

*Promote interest, enjoyment, and understanding of all aspects of our natural environment, and actively encourage the protection of wildlife and native habitats.*

## Join National Audubon Society

When you join National Audubon Society you receive one year of Audubon magazine. You also have the option to receive local birding and community events delivered to your inbox from CCAS.

- **New members:** Go online to <http://bit.ly/nas-g50> or call 1-844-428-3826. Please tell them Champaign County Audubon Society sent you using our chapter code "G50."
- **Renewing members:** Go online to <http://bit.ly/renew-nas> or call 1-844-428-3826.



## Audubon

*The Champaign County Audubon Society is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.*