



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

March Program

What birds can tell us: Conservation successes and insights into remarkable bird behavior

Thursday, March 3, 7 pm on [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 867 6973 9650

Password: CCAS

Dr. Jeff Hoover will talk about his research over the past three decades and how that research has expanded our understanding of bird conservation, behavioral ecology, host-parasite interactions, natural history, and habitat management designed to benefit bird populations.

Dr. Hoover received a BS in wildlife management from the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point and an MS from Penn State, where he studied the effects of forest fragmentation on the nesting success of forest birds, specifically Wood Thrush and Ovenbirds. Dr. Hoover received a PhD under the direction of Dr. Scott Robinson from the University of Illinois, where he studied factors affecting lifetime reproductive success in Prothonotary Warblers. He currently



holds the position of Avian Ecologist at the Illinois Natural History Survey of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Hoover has been studying the ecology, behavior and conservation of birds for three decades, focusing primarily on bird communities in upland and bottomland forests. He conducts a blend of basic and applied research, with an emphasis on studying behavioral ecology in birds and the response of bird communities to restoration and conservation efforts. Some specific areas of interest include brood parasite and host interactions, natal dispersal, and decision rules associated with breeding dispersal in adult birds.

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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: (vacant)
- Education: (vacant)
- Field Trip: Nathan Powazki (Chair); 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

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Field Notes

Nate Powazki, CCAS Field Trip Chair

Happy new year, everyone! We hope that you had a great holiday. We are almost there! Another long winter, but spring is on the horizon now, and I am sure many are excited to get back to Sunday Morning Bird Walks and do some warbling! I'm sad to say this will be my last field notes, as I am leaving the state for a new job, but I was excited to get one last birding field trip in before moving away.

Our trip to Clinton lake was bitterly cold and interspersed with pop-up white-out snowstorms, but we persevered and were rewarded for it. In the woods we saw a Hermit Thrush, almost 10 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a Rough-legged Hawk over the prairie. We visited several stops along the lake and saw many notable birds among the hundreds of Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted Geese.

We saw a Snow Goose/ White-fronted Goose hybrid, flocks of Common Goldeneyes, Common and Hooded Mergansers, and many Bald Eagles. A ruddy duck even made several brief appearances between long dives under the water. We searched for Eurasian Tree Sparrows and Common Redpolls, which have been frequent to the area this winter, but with no luck. No field trips are planned yet, but Sunday Morning Bird Walks will be back before we know it! 🐦



Northern Mockingbird. Photo by Nate Powazki.

Kendeigh Grants

Deadline: March 25

Each year we offer grants of \$2000 each to three researchers conducting work in the field of ornithology in Illinois. Thanks to our members, we have been able to raise individual grants from \$1000 to \$2000 this year.

Proposals must contain:

1. The applicant's name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address
2. Description of the research to be carried out
3. Proposed budget
4. Evidence of your qualifications to do the research, including a brief CV and at least two references.

Submit to:

Champaign County Audubon Society
Attn: Kendeigh Grant Committee
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61820

champaigncountyaudubon@gmail.com or rogerdigges49@gmail.com

Proposals must be received by March 25, 2022. Notification of awards will be made in April.

After the completion of the research, grantees 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 April or May, the year following grant award).



WHAT BIRDS CAN TELL US

Conservation successes &
insights into remarkable
bird behaviors

March 3rd | 7:00 pm CST



Dr. Jeff Hoover

Upcoming Events

Wild Writings Reading Group

CCAS's reading group, Wild Writings, plans to resume meeting in April during the third Thursday of the month. Check our next newsletter for details.

To join or learn more, email our Program Chair, Alida de Flamingh, at alida.ccas@gmail.com.

4th Annual Mudpuppy Festival

Sunday, April 3, 1–4 pm

The Land Conservation Foundation is holding this event at the Monarch Events Center, Monticello, IL, to celebrate the Mudpuppy Salamander. Learn more at <https://www.landconservationfoundation.org/mudpuppy-festival>.

CCAS Board Meeting

Interested in learning more about what CCAS is involved with? Join us for our next board meeting on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7 pm via Zoom. E-mail champaigncountyaudubon@gmail.com for meeting information.

Saturday Morning Birdwalks

Sundays, starting March 6, 7:30–9:00 am

Meet in the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot at 7:30 am. Walks officially last about 1 1/2 hours (although some folks stay later if the birding is good).



JOIN THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD



SERVING ON OUR BOARD IS A GREAT WAY TO



Share your passion
for nature



Gain hands-on
experience in non-profits



Volunteer your skills
and expertise



Our Mission is to promote interest, enjoyment and understanding about all aspects of our natural environment. Also, to actively encourage the protection of wildlife and the preservation and restoration of native habitat.

To learn more about CCAS and what we do visit:

www.champaigncountyaudubon.org

To learn more about our board, contact
mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org



Welcome, New Members!

Anthony Gawienowski

Miranda Hamilton

Wanda Hoover

Thank you, Renewing Members!

Jenny Applequist

Ellen Baranowski

Michael Barnhardt

Van and Kathy Bowersox*

Irene and Clark Bullard*

Nancy Coombs

Cindy Duffy

Joyce Eisold

Catherine Capel and Ken Smith

Robin Hall*

Elaine Hershbarger

Jennifer Hines

Joyce Hoffmann

Philip Hult

Patricia Knowles

Elaine Lutz

Mike and Jane McCulley

Linda McPhee

Bruce and Theresa Michelson

Judy Miller

Nancy Morse

Lucy Moynihan

Steven Ogle

Susan H. Orban

Susan Post and Michael Jeffords

Melissa Records

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Edward & Nancy Scheider

Marilyn Silkwood*

Megan Skrip

Jean Hadfield and Edmund Sutton

Charitable Fund*

Clyde Sweet

Joel and Brenda Tucker

Shirley Walker

Albert Willms

MaryEllen Wuellner

Laura Zick-Bottorff

Bold indicates contribution beyond dues;

** and bold indicate VIP donor.*



Parasitized warbler nest. Photo by Jeff Hoover.



Warbler in hand. Photo by Jeff Hoover.

Conservation Chair Vacancy

  **Do any of these statements apply to you?**  

We are seeking an individual who is passionate about preserving our natural areas in central Illinois and sharing their love for the outdoors to join our board as a Conservation Chair.

The main duties of the Conservation Chair include overseeing applications and awardee selection of our annual Kendeigh Grants for Ornithological Research,

seeking advocacy and policy action in our region, and working with local affiliates such as the forest preserves and park districts to facilitate outreach activities to promote conservation and education.

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 are ready 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 champaigncountyaudubon@gmail.com for more information and meeting details. 

