



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

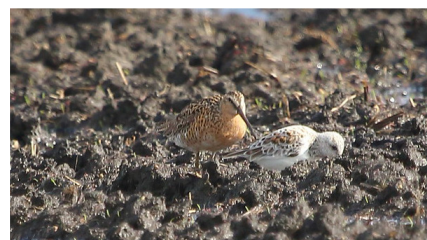
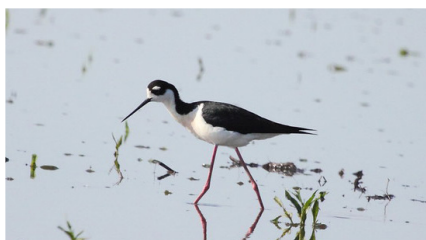
Champaign County Audubon Society • A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Field Notes

Colin Dobson, CCAS President

Colin and several other CCAS birders birded for most of the day Saturday around Havana seeing over 115 species throughout the day, including 21 species of shorebirds! The group started at Sand Ridge State Forest and had a great start to the day, seeing Red-breasted Nuthatches, 10 species of warbler, Baltimore Orioles, a Summer Tanager, and many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks! We then made it to the Crossdike at Chautauqua NWR and were greeted with thousands of ducks and shorebirds, along with many gulls, Black Terns, Pelicans, and egrets! We saw plenty of Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, Semipalmated Plovers, Wilson’s Phalaropes, a couple Golden-Plovers and Western Sandpipers! We also saw our first Northern Shovelers, Herring Gulls, Little Blue Herons, and Bobolinks!

At Chautauqua and the next stop, Colin quickly picked out 3 Hudsonian Godwits! There were many more Stilt Sandpipers and Dowitchers, and our first Sanderling for the day as well! The group grabbed lunch in Havana and had a beautiful picnic lunch at Dickson Mounds! Then it was onto Emiquon! We first stopped at the Globe Tracts which we saw many new species for the day, including Snow Geese, Northern Pintail, American Coot, Baird’s Sandpiper, and Snowy Egrets. Also, we saw more Black-necked Stilts, American Golden-Plovers, and Dowitchers as well along with some great views studying the shorebirds! (cont'd on page 4)



Left to Right: American Avocet (Photo by Colin Dobson), Black-necked Stilt, and Dowitcher and Sanderling (Photos by [Jeff Bryant](#)).

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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: (vacant)
- 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

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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October Field Trip

TBA

Stay tuned to our e-news and social media for details regarding our upcoming October field trip or email President Colin Dobson (cdobsonbirds@gmail.com).



Wilson's Warbler. Photo by [Jeff Bryant](#).

Save the Date

Annual Sandhill Crane Migration

Saturday, November 5th, 1:00 pm

Jasper Pulaski

Join us for our annual trip to Jasper Pulaski to witness one of nature's greatest spectacles; the Sandhill Crane Migration! Every fall, tens of thousands of Sandhill Cranes descend on the fields of Jasper Pulaski for their evening roost. We often carpool from the Anita Purves Nature Center to head out for a day of birding followed by a sunset visit to the preserve to watch the sandhill cranes fly in. You don't want to miss it!

A couple of local half-day field trips will likely be offered in October or November but the dates for those are unclear at this time, see the next newsletter for more details.

Volunteers Needed

CCAS is looking for volunteers to help support and run our organization.

Open positions include:

Communications Chair
Education Chair
Field Trip Chair
Program Chair

Learn more about roles and opportunities at <https://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/volunteer> or email mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org.

Program Chair Vacancy

We are seeking an individual who is engaging and enthusiastic who is willing to facilitate partnerships and join our board as Program Chair.

The main duties of the Program Chair include coordinating monthly programs such as webinars or seminar speakers, outings, and other related events. Other responsibilities include promoting events in collaboration with the Communications Committee.

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 for more information and meeting details.

The next CCAS board meeting is Monday,
October 17th at 7:00 pm CDT.
All CCAS members are welcome to attend.

For information: mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org

Welcome, New Members!

Marsha Clark, Kathleen Toalson

Thank You, Renewing Members!

Charlene Anchor, Rui Zhao

Bold indicates contribution beyond dues.



Eastern Wood Peewee. Photo by [Jeff Bryant](#).

Thank you to Kay Brabow for her generous donation to honor the 50th wedding anniversary of Jane and Steve Amundsen. ***Congratulations on 50 years together!***

Thank you to Nancy Dietrich for her generous donation.

Upcoming Programs

Our monthly programs are *currently on a pause* until we can find a new Program Chair to take over.

Congratulations to our past Program Chair Alida de Flamingh who has begun an exciting post-doc at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. We are grateful to you for your service on the CCAS Board and wish you all the best in your future work.



Cedar Waxwing. Photo by [Jeff Bryant](#).

Field Notes (cont'd)

We made a quick stop at the observation flat form and saw our first Forster's Terns of the day, along with many more gulls, pelicans, and cormorants!

Our last stop was at Sanganois just south of Havana and got our last shorebird full of the day. A crowd favorite was the 9 Red-necked Phalaropes spinning around and feeding in a small puddle of water! Also of note we're more Western Sandpipers, Snowy Egrets, Eurasian Tree Sparrows, and plenty of more gulls and ducks! We also saw a Green Heron and a few Bald Eagles as we were leaving!

It was a fun day and we look forward to seeing people on the next field trip! Stay tuned for more!

2022 Owl Night: An Up-Close Experience with our Round-eyed, Feathered Friends

Tuesday, November 8th, 5:30-8:30pm
(Rain date of November 15th)

Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve

The University of Illinois will be hosting the 2022 Owl Night at Homer Lake Forest Preserve. Students will be presenting data from an ongoing research project on the migration and behavior of owls in central Illinois. This research project, which also includes a field experience course, involves capturing and tracking Northern Saw-whet Owls. We invite you to join us on November 8 to learn about owl life history, ecology, and behavior, and to see some owls up-close!

Learn what you can do to help conserve these unique species. Recommended for ages 5 and up. FREE. Current public health guidelines will be followed. Program may be canceled due to weather or COVID-19 related concerns. For more info: (217) 896-2455 or jwick@ccfpd.org.



Long-eared Owl Photo by [Jeff Bryant](#).

*Sunday Morning
Bird Walks*

Sundays
September 4th
to October 30th
7:30 AM

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.