



# The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

## Field Notes

*Colin Dobson, CCAS President*

Hello everyone! I hope everyone had a great summer and is ready to see some migrants and some beautiful fall colors! Whether it's joining us in our Sunday Morning Bird Walks, a field trip, or other activities, we hope to see you some time this fall! Our next upcoming field trip is to Havana on Saturday, September 3rd, leaving from Busey Woods at 6:00 am (*see pg. 2 for details*). We'll see plenty of migrants at Sand Ridge State Forest then bird at Chautauqua and Emiquon for thousands of ducks, shorebirds, and pelicans! It should be a great trip!

Some good birds have been found around Champaign this summer and are continuing. Most importantly a juvenile Yellow-Crowned Night Heron has been hanging around with other Night Herons the last few weeks at Kaufman Lake in Champaign! I suspect this should linger into September! Besides other goodies like Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Snowy Egret, the South Waterfowl Impoundment at Middlefork and the Eastern Swine Pond on the South side of campus have been good for shorebirds! Plenty of migrants have also already been found at Busey Woods and surrounding areas!



Left to Right: Yellow-Crowned Night Heron and Green Heron, Juvenile Black-Crowned Night Heron, and Adult Black-Crowned Night Heron. 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](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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## Illinois River Fall Birding Field Trip

*Saturday, September 3rd, 2022*

*Havana, IL*

*Meet at the Anita Purves Parking Lot at 6:00 am*

Join us for a day of birding in Havana. We will look for warblers and other migrants early on, then focus on ducks, shorebirds, and other birds for the rest of the day. At least 100 species of birds are possible! Colin Dobson will be leading this trip and we'll be carpooling or following Colin for the day! No pre-registration required. Hope to see you there!



*Western Sandpiper. Photo by Colin Dobson*

## 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](mailto: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.

The next CCAS board meeting is Monday, **September 19th at 7:00 pm CDT.** All CCAS members are welcome to attend.

### Questions?

For information: [mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org](mailto:mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org)

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

## Welcome, New Members!

*Ashton Bieri, Sarah Carpenter, Jean Ochs and Kathleen Tolson*

## Thank You, Renewing Members!

*Allan Penwell*  
*Bold indicates contribution beyond dues.*



Black Throated Green Warbler. Photo by [Jeff Bryant](#).

Thank you to Grace Marie Novak for a generous donation in memory of Ellen Sue Baranowski, a long time member of CCAS.  
***May she rest in peace.***

## 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.



Barn Swallow. Photo by [Jeff Bryant](#).

## Take Action for Birds

Lawmakers care about your views and opinions. As a Great Lakes constituent, you have the ability to convey your concerns about issues affecting birds, wildlife, and their habitats. The only way we'll be successful in our conservation efforts is with your help!

Sign up for Audubon's Action Network or take action immediately with one of National Audubon Societies current campaigns listed on:

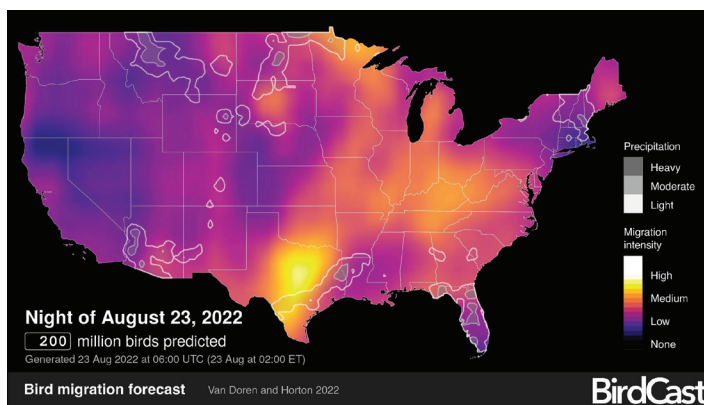
<https://gl.audubon.org/take-action>

## Monitor Migration in Real Time

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology currently produces real-time analysis and forecast maps of nocturnal bird migration intensity during the hours between sunset to sunrise across the United States.

Explore BirdCast at <https://birdcast.info/> to find information about current migration numbers and projected days of movement, past and local trends including what is happening in your neighborhood each night, and learn about the fascinating field of "aeroecology;" the study of ecological activities in the air.

These trends not only help inform conservation along migratory fly-ways, they can also help municipalities and citizens prepare for active times of movement by bird populations and enable safe passage through our neighborhoods by providing food and water resources and establishing Lights Out initiatives.



# 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.*