



# The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

## December Program

### Birds of South Africa

Thursday, December 2nd, 7pm on [Zoom](#)

Our December speaker is our very own Program Chair, **Alida de Flamingh**! Alida will share with us some of her favorite birds from her motherland, South Africa. The diverse ecosystems in South Africa, from deserts and grasslands to dense forests, host many regionally endemic bird species, but South Africa is also well-known among the global birding community for its widespread assemblages of unique and spectacular birds.

Alida is a geneticist and ecologist specializing in wildlife conservation genetics and ancient DNA research. Alida grew up in South Africa but moved to the USA to pursue a Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology, and is

Dr. Alida de Flamingh

**BIRDS OF SOUTH AFRICA:**  
Unique Endemics & Spectacular Diversity

Thursday, December 2nd | 7:00 pm CST  
via Zoom  
champaigncountyaudubon.org

CCAS Program Chair

now a postdoctoral researcher in the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Remember that the December meeting is also the annual CCAS board election (see pg. 3)!**

All seminars are recorded and posted to our [YouTube channel](#) afterward. Access details and more information can be found on our website: [www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/birdwalks-and-programs](http://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/birdwalks-and-programs)

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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
- Jeff Peyton
- Zak Sutton
- Tyler Owens
- Megan Skrip

### Committee Chairs

- Bylaws: (vacant)
- Conservation: Jeff Peyton
- Education: Tyler Owens
- Field Trip: Nathan Powazki
- Finance: Janet Jokela (Interim)
- Membership: Sara Johnson
- Program: Alida de Flamingh
- Communications: Sara Johnson; Megan Skrip (Print Newsletter), Carie Nixon (Community Calendars), Brody Dunn (Board Listserv), Jeff Bryant (Birdnotes Listserv)

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.



### Find us on social media!



Facebook  
[@ChampaignAudubon](#)



Twitter  
[@ccaudubon](#)



Instagram  
[@champaigncountyaudubon](#)

## Thanks for joining us on our field trip!



CCAS members at Kankakee Sands. Photo by Nate Powazki, CCAS Field Trip Chair.

## Welcome, New Members!

*Alaina Kanfer, Sarah Stewart,  
Lydia Cumpston, Robin Schubitz, Rui Zhao*

## Thank You, Renewing Members!

*Colin Dobson, Sara Johnson, Allan Penwell, Zak Sutton*

**Special thanks to renewing members  
who donated above and beyond annual dues:**

*Kay Thompson, Rosemary Buck,  
Miriam Bauers, Denise Green, Ken Mulle*

# December is CCAS' Annual Elections!

*Want to get involved in conservation in our community?*

*Want nonprofit experience?*

*Curious about board leadership?*

**The Champaign County Audubon Society board is a low-pressure gateway to learning about conservation issues we face in Central Illinois and is an opportunity to utilize your skills for good!**

We are currently seeking enthusiastic individuals who can help with:

**Communications** (social media, newsletter, website, etc.)

**Conservation** (Kendeigh Grants and Stewardship Events)

**Education** (Mini-Grants for Educators, children's programming)

**Membership** (maintaining our member database)

To learn more or just to sit in on a meeting,  
email Sara Johnson at [sjohnsonccas@gmail.com](mailto:sjohnsonccas@gmail.com).



## 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.

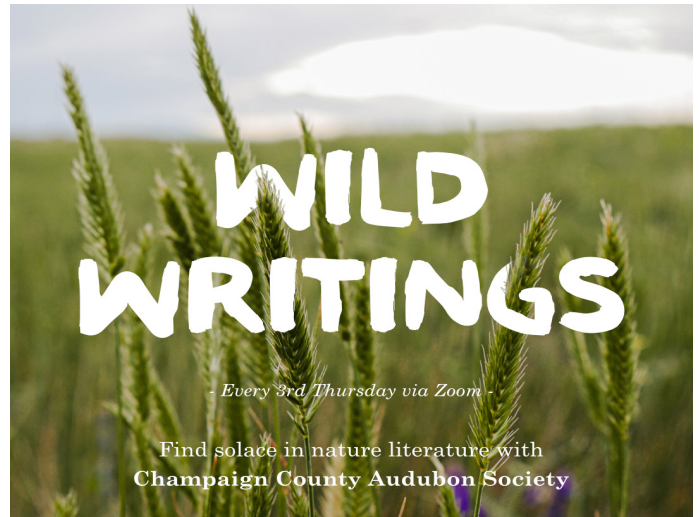
## Upcoming Events

### Wild Writings Reading Group

Thursday, December 16th

CCAS's reading group, Wild Writings, meets on Zoom the third Thursday of the month, and it's not too late to join! December's reading is an essay by Robin Wall Kimmerer: *The Serviceberry*. If you'd prefer to listen rather than read, a free narration by the author is available: <https://emergencemagazine.org/essay/the-serviceberry>

To join or learn more, email our Program Chair, Alida de Flamingh, at [alida.ccas@gmail.com](mailto:alida.ccas@gmail.com).



### Christmas Bird Count 2021

Saturday, December 18th

CCAS has been participating in National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count since 1941! A total of 142 species have been seen since then. The highest year's count was 80 species in 2008; 71 species were seen last year.

Learn more:

<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count>



Northern Saw-whet Owl. Photo by Jeff Bryant.

### Walk with a Naturalist

Saturday, December 18th, 10am

Monday, January 3rd, 1pm

FREE! All ages welcome.

Our friends at the Champaign County Forest Preserve District invite you to join them for a walk on the trails at Homer Lake and discuss the interesting sights and sounds of nature in the wintertime. Meet outside in front of the Interpretive Center. Current public health guidelines will be followed. Register by the day before each event and check out the full program calendar by visiting [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).



## Did You Know?

*Wild Turkeys sleep in trees!*

*There are six subspecies of Wild Turkey, all native to North America. The closely related Ocellated Turkey lives only on the Yucatan peninsula.*

*A turkey can run as fast as 25 mph and fly as fast as 55mph!*

*(Although they typically don't fly very far.)*

*Baby turkeys are called poults, a young male is called a jake, and a young female is called a jenny.*

Learn more:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/14-fun-facts-about-turkeys-665520/>

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wild\\_Turkey/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wild_Turkey/overview)

## Wishing everyone happy holidays!



*Wild Turkeys. Photo by mana5280/Unsplash.*

# 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.*