



# The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

## March Program

### Birding Allerton Park and the Allerton Park Bird Club & Podcast

Thursday, March. 4th, 7pm CT

Join us for another virtual monthly meeting and seminar, presented on [Zoom!](#) This month, Nate Beccue, Natural Areas Manager at Allerton Park and Retreat, will talk about birding Allerton Park, the Allerton Park Bird Club, and the Allerton Park Bird Club Podcast.

Allerton Park, located in Piatt County, is less than 30 minutes from Champaign-Urbana, but it is very underbirded. Along with land owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Land Conservation Foundation, the park forms a contiguous stretch of high-quality natural areas totaling approximately 3,000 acres and 5 miles of the Sangamon River.



Nate’s talk will highlight the most common species at Allerton (Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Barred Owls) as well as some breeding species that might surprise you (Henslow’s Sparrow, Prairie Warbler, Bell’s Vireo, Willow Flycatcher).

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: John Dunkelberger (Interim)

**Members at Large**

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

**Committee Chairs**

- Bylaws: (vacant)
- Conservation: Jeff Peyton
- Education: Tyler Owens
- Field Trip: Beth Chato (Interim)
- Finance: Janet Jokela (Interim)
- Membership: Sara Johnson
- Program: Alida de Flamingh
- Communications: Sara Johnson, Chair. 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

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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**

*Submitted by Beth Chato*

There were no field trips this past month; however, on February 13 the Nature Center held a virtual trip through Busey Woods led by Colin Dobson, CCAS president, and Savannah Donovan from the Nature Center. Savannah recorded the video. I enjoyed watching, from my warm home, this brave pair trudging through the cold and snow. It was also very informative, with tips on hawk identification and winter bird feeders. We heard a Northern Cardinal singing and saw most of the usual winter residents: Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, American Goldfinch, and Carolina Wren, particularly around the feeders. A Red-tailed Hawk and crows flew over. I don't have a complete list. Thanks, Colin and Savannah!

This has been a good year for winter visitors. Owls have been a feature: A Snowy Owl hung around in the southeast part of the county; two, or maybe three, Northern Saw-whet Owls were at Homer Lake in exactly the same cedar trees as last year. The Great Horned Owls are beginning to nest. Red-breasted Nuthatches are visiting feeders. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins have been reported. This is a sign that the food crop is scarce up north. Cackling Geese have also been spotted among the large flocks of Canada Geese. 🦉



*A Snowy Owl was sighted in and around Sidney, IL, this winter, causing much excitement among Champaign County birders. Photo by Jeff Bryant on Jan. 24, 2021.*



# Upcoming Events

## Sunday Morning Bird Walks

Sundays, March 28th – May 30th, 7:30–9am

Frequency TBD

Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot  
FREE! All skill levels and ages — under 15 with adult

Things will be a bit different this year, but we are excited to announce the return of our Sunday Morning Bird Walks! These walks started in the 1940s and are held during the spring and fall migration seasons: March–May and September–October. We begin at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot, then decide whether to walk into Crystal Lake Park or Busey Woods. These parks play host to 36 species of warblers every spring as well as large numbers of vireos, thrushes, orioles and tanagers. This spring, we:

- **Require sign-ups** — Please use this form if you fully intend to participate: <https://tinyurl.com/1eohcpsx>
- **Are limiting walks to 10 participants** — If you decide you are unable to attend, please remove your name from the sign-up so someone else can attend!

## Wild Writings Reading Group

Begins Monday, March 15th

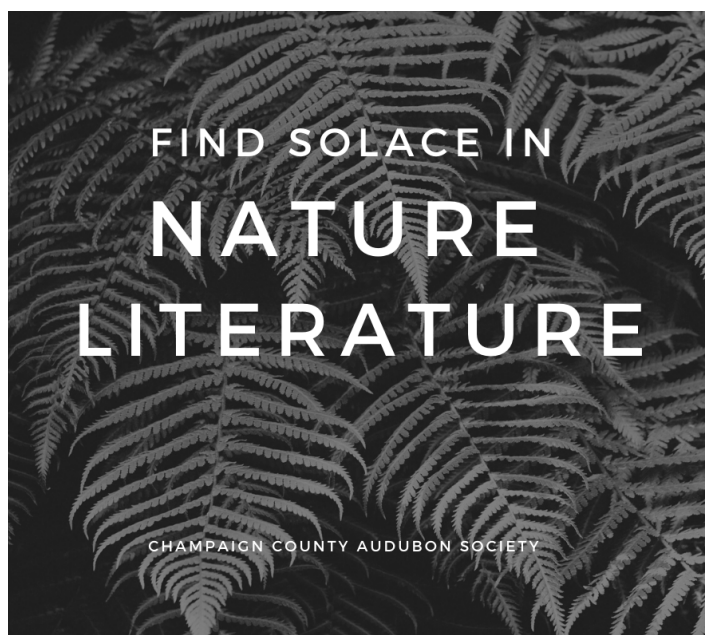
Virtual

CCAS is proud to present a new initiative that aims to unite and connect people that enjoy nature-related literature. Our new reading group – Wild Writings – will officially kick off on March 15th! Each month, participants will read a short segment of nature-related literature and have an informal meeting (via Zoom) to discuss the reading.

If you'd like to know more about Wild Writings, or if you are interested in joining our reading group, please email our Program Chair, Alida de Flamingh, at [alida.ccas@gmail.com](mailto:alida.ccas@gmail.com) before March 15th.



Do not attend if you feel unwell or were potentially exposed to COVID-19. Face masks worn over the mouth and nose, as well as strict adherence to social distancing and COVID-19 guidelines, are required. On alternate weeks, stay tuned for virtual bird hikes via Facebook Live!



## Kendeigh Grant for Research: Request for Proposals

*Deadline: March 25th*

Every year we offer grants (up to \$1,000 each) for research in ornithology in Illinois.

Applications must contain:

1. The applicant's name, mailing address, phone number, and email 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 61803

-OR-

Jeff Peyton, [jbpeyton2@gmail.com](mailto:jbpeyton2@gmail.com)

Applications must be received by March 25th. Notification of awards will be made in April. After research is complete, grantees must present the results in writing to CCAS. They will also be asked to give a presentation at a CCAS general meeting (typically the first Thursday in May, the year following grant award).

Since 1982, S. Charles Kendeigh Research Grants have funded over \$30,000 in research on Illinois birds. Many grant recipients have gone on to prestigious careers in the field of natural history.

### Who was Dr. Kendeigh?

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

## Seeking Our Next Treasurer!

Do you have experience in financial management or bookkeeping? CCAS is seeking self-nominations for our next treasurer—a position that involves about one or two hours of effort per week and is a vital role on the CCAS board.

Main duties include:

- Checking the CCAS P.O box weekly
- Writing checks for CCAS expenses and grants
- Keeping a record of monies received, making deposits to CCAS accounts, and reporting membership renewals and donations to the Membership Chair
- Attending monthly CCAS board meetings

If interested, please email the CCAS President, Colin Dobson, at [cdobsonbirds@gmail.com](mailto:cdobsonbirds@gmail.com).



*Nest with eggs. Photo by Landon Martin/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.*





Champaign County Audubon Society  
PO Box 882  
Urbana, IL 61803-0882



## Birdnotes Listserve

Join our Birdnotes Listserve  
to get the latest local bird  
sightings in your inbox!

Visit  
[ChampaignCountyAudubon.org](http://ChampaignCountyAudubon.org).

Click “Go Birding”  
at the top of the page.

Click the “Join Birdnotes”  
button.

## Got a birding question?

Ask the board and your  
Q & A could be in our  
next Meadowlark  
Newsletter!

Email us at:  
**mail@champaigncounty  
audubon.org** with your  
question or  
send via snail mail to:  
**P.O. Box 882,  
Urbana IL 61801**

