



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

November Program

Point Pleasant: A Paradigm of Ecological Restoration

Thursday, November 4th, 7pm CT

Join us on [Zoom](#) for a seminar with **Peter Goodspeed**, Director of Natural Resources for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District.

Point Pleasant, a 180-acre section of the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, is a natural gem in Champaign County. Within a relatively small area, the site includes marsh, riparian, forest, savanna, and prairie habitats. This talk will discuss the history, ecological restoration, and current management of Point Pleasant.

Peter and his team are responsible for restoring and maintaining historically referenced, native ecosystems throughout the forest preserves.



Peter holds degrees in Biology and Conservation Ecology. Although Michigan is his home state, Peter has gained a deep appreciation for the native ecosystems of east-central Illinois.

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

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Champaign County Audubon Society

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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
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Field Notes

Nate Powazki, CCAS Field Trip Chair

Happy fall, everyone! As we get more into fall, migrating birds are all around, and many of our favorites are leaving us. My hummingbird feeder was very popular just a couple weeks ago, and now it hangs lonely and deserted. Our Sunday Morning Bird Walks have been going well, with many opportunities for lighthearted debate and education, given the complicated fall colors of migrating warblers. One bird of note was a Black-throated Blue Warbler that our very own CCAS president, Colin Dobson, spent many hours tailing while on campus the other day.

I'm also very excited to announce the details for our Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area trip in November! We will be heading out to Medaryville, Indiana, to watch the great Sandhill Crane migration, where we are likely to see over 10,000 cranes as they fly into their evening roosting area! We will also stop on the way to visit Kankakee Sands, owned and managed by the Indiana chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and view their bison herd. All ages are welcome to join for all or part of the trip. 🌿



Black-throated Blue Warbler. Photo by Colin Dobson.

November Events

Sandhill Crane Field Trip

Each year we look forward to seeing thousands of cranes at the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area in Indiana during their autumn migration. And this year we are delighted to once again organize a field trip! All ages are welcome to join for all or part of the trip.

When: November 6, 2021

Where: Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area
and Kankakee Sands nature preserve

Schedule (Central Time):

- 1:00 pm: depart Anita Purves parking lot
- 2:30 pm: arrive at Kankakee Sands for bison viewing and birding
- 4:30 pm: birding at Jasper-Pulaski until dark
- 7:00 pm: dinner at The Irish Pub near J-P
- 11:00 pm: arrive back at Anita Purves

Questions? Email Field Trip Chair Nate Powazki at nathanpowazki@gmail.com



Sandhill Cranes at Jasper-Pulaski in 2018. Photo by Brad Scott.

Wild Writings Reading Group

It's not too late to join CCAS's reading group, Wild Writings! To join or learn more, email our Program Chair, Alida de Flamingh, at alida.ccas@gmail.com.



Photo by Mysticartdesign/Pixabay.

Owl Night

Register by Nov. 8th at ccfpd.org to join the Champaign County Forest Preserve District at the Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, on Tuesday, Nov. 9th from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm for their Up-Close Experience with Owls event!



Save the Dates!

My Top Ten South African Birds

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

Join us at our December program to hear more!



Ground Hornbill



Knysna Turaco



Lilac-breasted Roller

Christmas Bird Count 2021

Saturday, December 18th

CCAS has been participating in National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count for over 50 years! This year, we will be collecting data for our area on Dec. 18th.

Learn more:

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



Song Sparrow and Northern Cardinals. Photo by Jeff Bryant.



JOIN THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD



*Do you enjoy...using your skills to help serve your community?
...collaborating with a fun, welcoming group of people?
...supporting the preservation and enjoyment of nature?*

**Our annual board elections are coming up in December,
and we'd love to have you join us
in a leadership role or on one (or more) of our committees!**

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.

**Curious about the CCAS board and what we do? Or want to find out
how you can volunteer on our committees?
Feel free to join us at our next board meeting:**

November 15th, 7pm on Zoom

Email Membership Chair, Sara Johnson, at sjohnsonccas@gmail.com
for connection details.



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.



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