



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

CCAS Kendeigh Grant Research Presentations

Thursday, April 7, 7–9 pm on [Zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 819 6729 4472
Password: CCAS

Join us on Zoom to learn about the exciting and important conservation research conducted by our Kendeigh Grant Recipients from 2021!

Two of our 2021 awardees will each give a short talk about their research and how they used their grants from the generous donations of our CCAS members to this education fund.

To learn more about the Kendeigh Grants and how you can contribute, visit www.champaigncountyaudubon.org.

For program details, see page 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

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Champaign County Audubon Society

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- Secretary: Jennifer Wick
- Treasurer: Todd Kinney

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- Nathan Powazki
- Megan Skrip

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- Conservation: Zachary Sutton
- Education: (vacant)
- Field Trip: (vacant);
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- Finance: (vacant)
- Membership: Sara Johnson
- Program: Alida de Flamingh
- 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
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Field Notes

Colin Dobson, CCAS President

We are finally out of the winter, spring is here, and beautiful birds and weather are on the way! I hope to see some of you at upcoming bird walks this month to enjoy some of the stunning spring birds that will start appearing soon!

Our Sunday morning bird walks have been great so far! Around 30 species have been seen on each walk so far, including Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, and Fox Sparrow, among many others.

The first warblers and shorebirds will be showing up here soon as well as the flycatchers, vireos, and more warblers later this month. We do not have any CCAS field trips planned currently, so come join us on Sunday mornings at Busey Woods at 7:30 am! 🕒



White-throated Sparrow. Photo by Jeff Bryant.



Fox Sparrow. Photo by Jeff Bryant.

Kendeigh Grant Speakers

Factors Contributing to the Widespread Decline of Eastern Meadowlarks

Presentation: Julie Bozzo will be presenting data on how Illinois landcover has changed over the last 20 years and whether there is a relationship between those changes and Eastern Meadowlark abundance. Julie will also provide an overview of the migration portion of this project where her team captured and attached transmitters to breeding meadowlarks.

Biography: Julie Bozzo is a master's student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is in the second year of her research project studying Eastern Meadowlark migration and land use in Illinois. Julie earned a bachelor's in wildlife and conservation biology from the University of Rhode Island in 2017 and began working as a field technician after graduating. She has worked on a variety of projects studying pheasants, Bobwhite Quail, Clapper Rails, and Piping Plovers. Julie is currently awaiting the start of her second field season and looks forward to learning about Eastern Meadowlarks.



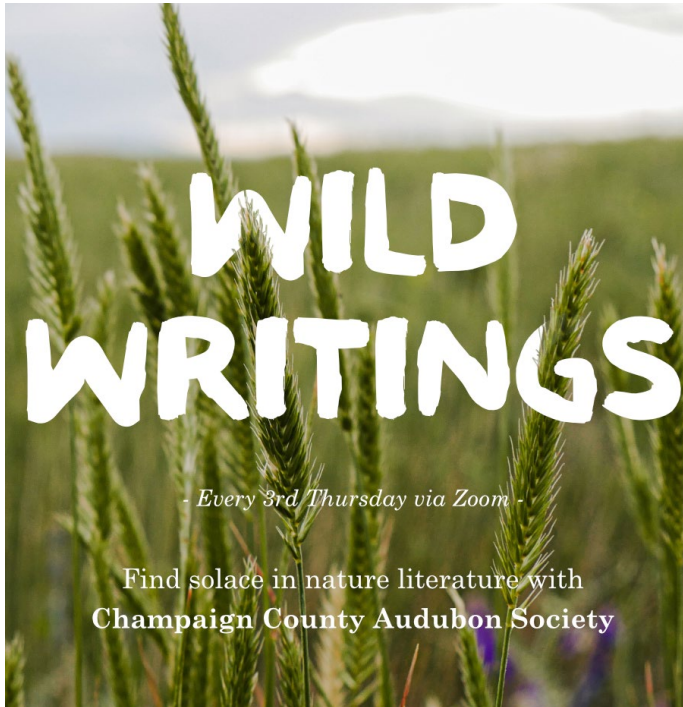
Post-Fledging Survival and Habitat Use of the Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) in Illinois



Presentation: Post-fledging survival and habitat use is largely understudied and underutilized to inform habitat management decisions despite this critical stage posing the greatest mortality risk in many open-nesting species. The Least Bittern is a state-threatened and largely understudied marsh bird, and this study aimed to understand their post-fledging habitat use following wetland management and how these decisions impact their mortality.

Biography: Stephanie Schmidt is a master's student in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in zoology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 2018 and is currently employed as the Whooping Crane Outreach Coordinator for the International Crane Foundation.

Upcoming Events



Wild Writings Reading Group

Thursday, April 21, 7 pm on [Zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 820 5866 1487
Password: WW

CCAS's reading group, Wild Writings, meets on Zoom the third Thursday of the month, and it's not too late to join! April will have three readings.

Reading 1: Drawing a Tree: Uncommon Vintage Italian Meditation on the Existential Poetics of Diversity and Resilience Through the Art and Science of Trees <https://www.themarginalian.org/2021/11/05/drawing-a-tree-bruno-munari/>

Reading 2: The Fascinating Science of How Trees Communicate, Animated: <https://www.themarginalian.org/2019/07/10/trees-ted-ed/>

Reading 3: When I Am Among the Trees: <https://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/poetry/poem-a-day/when-i-am-among-trees>

To join or learn more, email our Program Chair, Alida de Flamingh, at alida.ccas@gmail.com.

Sunday Morning Birdwalks

Sundays, through May 22, 7:30–9:00 am

Meet in the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot at 7:30 am. All skill levels welcome. Walks officially last about 1 1/2 hours (although some folks stay later if the birding is good).

4th Annual Mudpuppy Festival

Sunday, April 3, 1–4 pm

The Land Conservation Foundation is holding this event at the Monarch Events Center, Monticello, IL, to celebrate the Mudpuppy Salamander. Learn more at <https://www.landconservationfoundation.org/mudpuppy-festival>.

CCAS Board Meeting

Monday, April 18, 7 pm, on [Zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 827 5694 7149
Password: CCAS

Interested in learning more about what CCAS is involved with? Join us for our next board meeting on Zoom. E-mail mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org for more information or with questions about how you can become a volunteer with CCAS.



International Dark Sky Week

April 22–30

Visit www.ccfpd.org to see upcoming programs and events pertaining to International Dark Sky Week, International Migratory Bird Day, and more!

Illinois Audubon Society 2022 Spring Gathering

April 22–24

Allerton Park, Monticello, IL

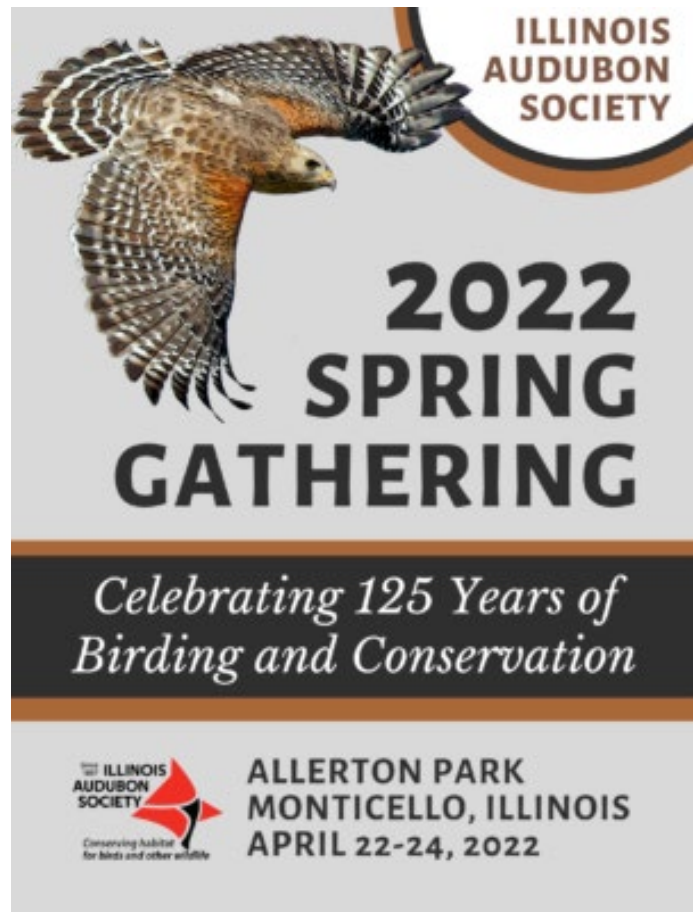
Registration deadline is April 8. For more information, see: <https://illinoisaudubon.org/annual-spring-gathering-2022/>.

Earth Day for Everyone

Saturday, April 23, 1–4 pm

Meadowbrook Park, Urbana, IL

Discover how you can make a positive impact on planet Earth as you enjoy a springtime stroll through Meadowbrook Park. There will be live music and art displays, activities and demonstrations by local community groups, a bicycle check-up station, and more! Rain date: Sunday, April 24. For more information: <https://fb.me/e/1If9faKHq>.



Mini-Grants for Educators

The Champaign County Audubon Society is offering \$250 mini-grants to educators in Champaign County to support environmental education.

Apply by April 15, 2022

Application details at

<https://champaigncountyaudubon.org/education/>



Education Chair Vacancy

We are seeking an individual who is passionate about education in central Illinois and sharing their love for conservation to join our board as Education Chair.

The main duties of the Education Chair include overseeing applications and awardee selection of our annual Mini-Grants for Educators, facilitating Audubon Adventure and loan kits, and working with local affiliates such as the forest preserves and park districts to facilitate outreach activities to promote conservation and education.

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 champaigncountyaudubon@gmail.com for more information and meeting details.



Welcome, New Members!

*Eileen Gebbie
Carla Barnwell
Elizabeth Doellman*

Thank You, Renewing Members!

*Jackie Wilen
Tru Reeves*

Memorial

*In memory of Ellen Baranowski.
May Ellen Rest In Peace.
—Gil & Betty Fergus*

Our Mission:

*Promote interest, enjoyment,
and understanding of all aspects
of our natural environment, and
actively encourage the protection
of wildlife and native habitats.*

