



# The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

## March Program

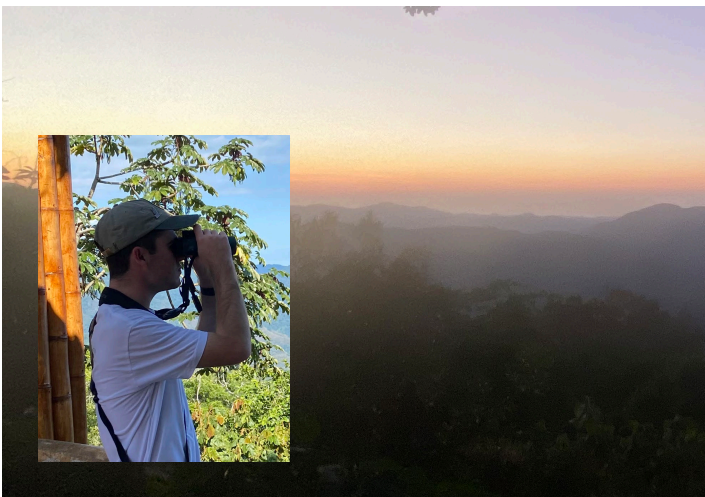
### Birding in Southern Mexico in March 2022

Presented by Colin Dobson, CCAS President  
Thursday, May 5, 7–8 pm on [Zoom](#)  
Meeting ID: 865 2313 0140  
Password: CCAS

During my 2022 Spring Break, my grandfather and I embarked on a 6-day birding trip with a

private guide in Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico. We saw 313 species of birds in only 6 days along with amazing scenery and food on this trip!

I am a junior at the University of Illinois studying Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. I am the president of Champaign County Audubon Society, run various projects including the bird strike program on the UIUC campus, and have birded all throughout Illinois and beyond over the last 15 years!



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

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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: 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  
[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.



### Find us on social media!



**Facebook**  
[@ChampaignAudubon](#)



**Twitter**  
[@ccaudubon](#)



**Instagram**  
[@champaigncountyaudubon](#)

## Field Notes

*Colin Dobson, CCAS President*

We are finally out of the cold April weather we had this year and it is May! Warblers are starting to come through in large numbers and will peak around mid-May! Whether it is on one of our Sunday morning bird walks, an event we are hosting, a field trip, or just birding around locally, I hope you have the chance to see some of the beautiful warblers and other migrants that pass through our area during this month!

Our Sunday Morning bird walks have continued through April, and we have seen around 40 species on each walk. Come out and join us anytime in May on Sundays at 7:30 am at Busey Woods!



*Indigo Bunting and Orange-crowned Warbler. Photos by Jeff Bryant.*

## Thank You, Renewing Members!

*James Smith, Charlene Anchor\*, Doug Jackson, Astrid Berkson, John Wilcox, Iris Swanson, Nancy Morse, Mark Remi Koster*

### Memorial

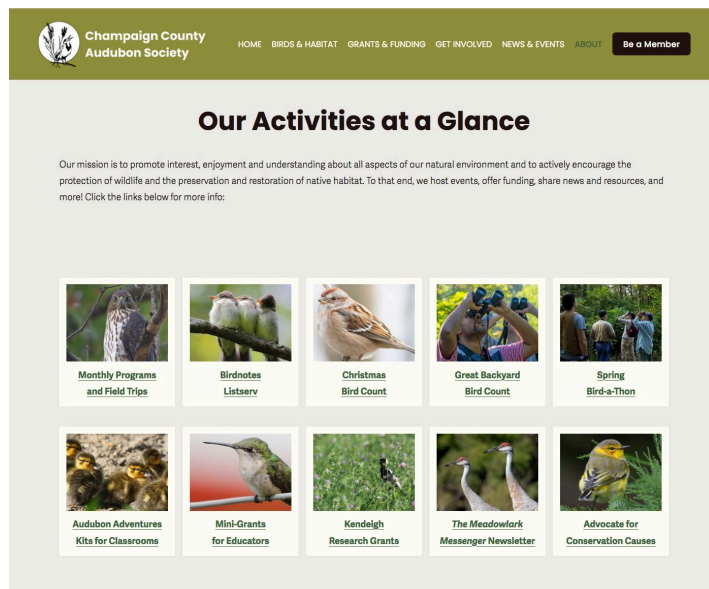
*Special thanks to a generous donation from the estate of Winifred Hlavna.*

*Bold indicates contribution beyond dues;  
\* and bold indicate VIP donor.*

## We've Redesigned our Website!

Same web address, whole new look:

<https://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org>



Screenshot of a portion of the “Who We Are” page on the redesigned CCAS website.

Since October, we’ve been working hard to completely redesign the CCAS website—to make finding information easier, faster, and more enjoyable. And now we’re excited to announce that

the new design has officially launched! Whether you’re on a laptop, desktop computer, phone, or tablet, we hope you enjoy exploring the site!

The redesigned website features

- A monthly, at-a-glance event calendar with links to event details (We’re soo excited about this!),
- A “Go Birding” page with details about local birding spots in and around Champaign County,
- A “Bird Emergencies” page to get you the help you need if you find wildlife in trouble,
- A freshly organized newsletter archive going back to 2017,
- A blog reporting the latest news and announcements,
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

We’ve also made it easier to find info about joining local bird counts, applying for a grant, renewing your membership, and volunteering with CCAS and our conservation partners. We’d love you hear your thoughts as you explore the new site! Feel free to drop us a note at

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

**FOREST PRESERVES**  
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

**INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATORY BIRD DAY**

**INTERPRETIVE CENTER  
HOMER LAKE FOREST PRESERVE  
SATURDAY, MAY 14 10:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.**

**PRESENTATIONS AT 10:30 A.M. AND 1:30 P.M.  
FOLLOWED BY BIRD WALKS**

**KIDS CRAFT STATIONS OPEN 10 A.M.- 4 P.M.  
(WEATHER PERMITTING)**

**FREE!**

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT  
JWICK@CCFPD.ORG

# Upcoming Events

## Sunday Morning Birdwalks

*Sundays, through May 29, 7:30–9:00 am*

By far our most popular events, CCAS's Sunday Morning Walks have been delighting our members and friends since the 1940s. Birders of all skill levels are welcome!

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

Find checklists and other information at <https://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/sunday-morning-bird-walks>.



*Orange-crowned Warbler. Photo by Jeff Bryant.*

## Spring Bird Count

*Saturday, May 7*

The Spring Bird Count is a yearly bird count on the Saturday between May 4th and 10th. Each Illinois county has a compiler responsible for recruiting volunteers and assigning them to survey areas.

Volunteers record all birds seen or heard, along with the number of hours they spend “owling” (pre-dawn hours) and looking for birds during the day, as well as the number of miles driven and walked.

If you are interested in participating, please email Beth Chato at [ejchato@gmail.com](mailto:ejchato@gmail.com).

Learn more: <https://spring-bird-count.inhs.illinois.edu/>.



The next CCAS board meeting is Monday, May 16 at 7 pm CDT on Zoom!

All CCAS members are welcome to attend. For information: [mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org](mailto:mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org).

## Spring Bird-a-Thon

May 8–14, 2022

The Bird-a-Thon is CCAS’s annual fundraiser where teams eagerly search for as many bird species as they can find. Pledge donations are based on the number of species seen or a flat amount. Please participate or choose a team and pledge your support! For more information, contact Beth Chato ([ejchato@gmail.com](mailto:ejchato@gmail.com)).

Your contributions go toward the CCAS Kendeigh Memorial Fund, which supports ornithological research in Illinois. Learn more: <https://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/research-grants>.

## Illinois Audubon Society’s 2022 Big Day

May 14

Who will see the most birds in Illinois on May 14? The Chapter Big Day is a competition between participating Chapters and Affiliates of the Illinois Audubon Society for the most species observed between midnight and 11:59 p.m. on May 14, 2022. Register by May 12, 5:00 pm.

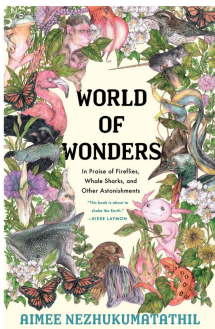
Learn more: <https://illinoisaudubon.org/programs/2022-chapter-big-day/>.

## Wild Writings Reading Group

Thursday, May 19, 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! Our May Wild Writings program will feature two readings out of the book *World of Wonders* by Aimee Nezhukumatathil. For more information, please contact

Program Chair Alida de Flamingh ([alida.ccas@gmail.com](mailto:alida.ccas@gmail.com)).



## Birdnotes Listserve

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

Visit our [Stay Connected](#) page and click the “Join Birdnotes” button.



# 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.*