



The Meadowlark Messenger

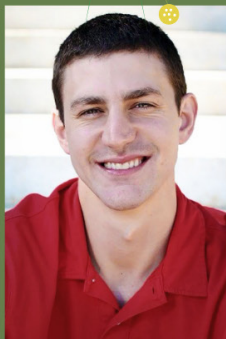
ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

October Program | Thursday, October 7th, 7pm CT, via [Zoom](#)

What the pluck?

The Importance of Natural History and Citizen Science to Illuminate Animal Behavior



Dr. Henry Pollock

**Thursday, October 7th
7:00 PM CST**

via Zoom

www.champaigncountyaudubon.org



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

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!

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Field Notes

Nate Powazki, CCAS Field Trip Chair

We've had an exciting last month of birding here at CCAS. We've begun our Sunday Morning Bird Walks, and though the first week was made difficult by a thick haze, and the birds have been quite skittish, we have still had success in seeing many of our fall migrating warblers. A few highlights were Magnolia Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers, and a Northern Parula.

Our trip to Emiquon was a great success, with over twenty species of shorebirds seen. We saw thousands of American White Pelicans, and while birding the surrounding areas, heard Bobwhite Quails, and saw a Blue Grosbeak. By far the most exciting event of the trip was at Chautauqua, where while watching shorebirds on the mudflats, we suddenly saw all the birds take off, and everything was absolute pandemonium for a few moments. Colin Dobson told us there must be a falcon in the area, and sure enough, when the birds cleared out, a lone Peregrine Falcon remained on the center mudflat, clutching his prize, a yellowlegs. He then proceeded to feed on it for several minutes as we all watched on in excitement.

If you weren't able to join us for the shorebird field trip, don't worry! Our next field trip will be November 6, 2021, to Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Refuge in Indiana. We will meet around 11am on Saturday at Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot, and head out to Jasper-Pulaski, stopping to do some birding at a few spots along the way. The cranes fly in at sunset, so we will leave Jasper Pulaski after dark, so expect to not get home until late evening. Keep an eye out for more details soon. 



Magnolia Warbler seen on the Sept. 12th Morning Bird Walk. Photo by Jeff Bryant.

October CCAS Events

Sunday Morning Bird Walks

September 5th to October 31st, 7:30–9am
Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot
FREE! All skill levels and ages — under 15 with adult

This fall we have decided not to require sign-ups or limit attendees, but **we do require that all attendees wear face masks**. Do not attend if you feel unwell or were potentially exposed to COVID-19.

Please keep an eye on your email and our website for potential changes/sign-ups, in case of changes in CDC COVID-19 guidelines. Learn more on our website:

www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/sunday-morning-birdwalks/



White-eyed Vireo seen on the Sept. 5th Sunday Morning Bird Walk. Photo by Jeff Bryant.

Wild Writings Reading Group

October 21st, 7pm on Zoom

It's not too late to join CCAS's reading group, Wild Writings! For the October discussion, the group is reading two essays from Kathleen Dean Moore's *Holdfast: At Home in the Natural World*:

“The Western Singing Fish” (6 pages)

“The Song of the Canyon Wren” (4pages)

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



Photo by Nino Maghradze/Unsplash.

CCAS Board Meeting

October 18th, 7pm on Zoom

Curious about the CCAS board? Or want to get more involved as a volunteer? All CCAS members are welcome to attend our monthly board meetings!

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

Welcome, New CCAS Members!

Paula Aschim, Matthew Hixson, Robin Kravets

And special thanks to new members who donated above and beyond annual dues:

Kipling Knox

Thank You, Renewing Members!

Colin Dobson

Save the Dates!

November **Point Pleasant: A Paradigm of Ecological Restoration**

November 4th, 7pm on Zoom

Our November speaker is Peter Goodspeed, Director of Natural Resources for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District! Peter and his team are responsible for restoring and maintaining historically referenced, native ecosystems throughout the forest preserves. In this talk, Peter will discuss the history, ecological restoration, and current management of Point Pleasant, a 180-acre section of the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve and a natural gem in Champaign County.

Sandhill Cranes at Jasper-Pulaski

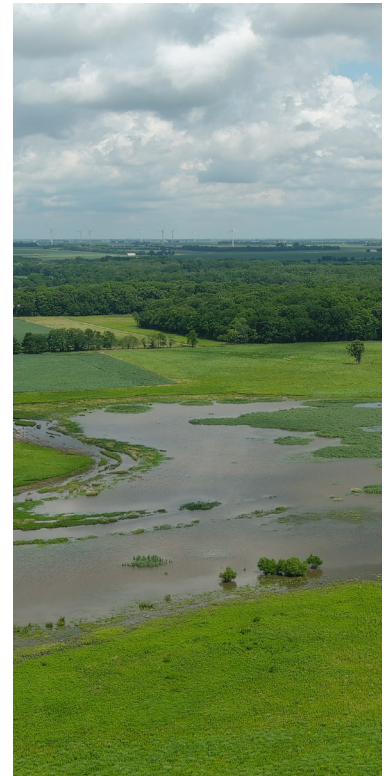
November 6th

Each year we look forward to seeing thousands of cranes at the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area in Indiana during their autumn migration. This year, we will meet around 11am on Saturday at Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot and caravan to Jasper-Pulaski, stopping to do some birding at a few spots along the way. The cranes fly in at sunset, so plan to leave Jasper Pulaski after dark.

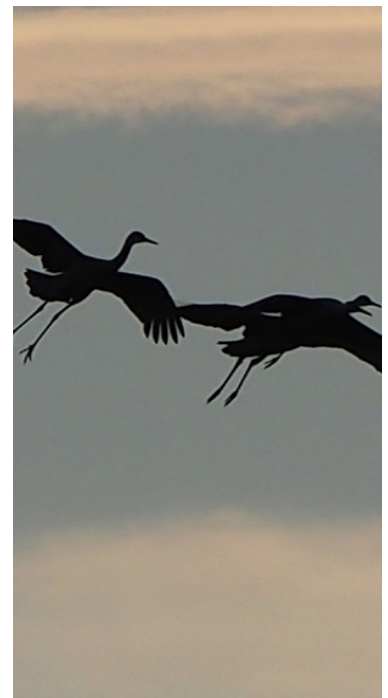
December **My Top Ten South African Birds**

December 2nd, 7pm on Zoom

Our December speaker is our very own Program Chair, Alida de Flamingh! Alida came to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2015 to pursue her Ph.D. and is now a postdoctoral researcher studying ancient DNA and wildlife genetics. In this talk, she will share with us some of her favorite birds from her motherland, South Africa.



Point Pleasant wetland. Photo courtesy of Peter Goodspeed.



Sandhill Cranes coming in for a landing. Photo by Brad Scott.

CCFPD Events

Our friends at the Champaign County Forest Preserve District invite you to check out their upcoming events! To see the full program calendar, visit ccfpd.org. Current public health guidelines will be followed for all events.

STARWATCH

Saturday, October 2

Activity Center, Middle Fork
River Forest Preserve

6:30- 11:00 p.m.



Join the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society for an evening with the stars at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. We'll meet at the Activity Center for a presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m., then proceed outside to view the stars, planets, and more! For more info: 217-896-2455 or jwick@ccfpd.org

Weather permitting. No cloud date.

OWL NIGHT:

AN UP-CLOSE EXPERIENCE WITH OWLS

Tuesday, November 9

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Salt Fork Center,
Homer Lake Forest
Preserve

Free. Space is limited. Register by November 8 at ccfpd.org.

Contact jwick@ccfpd.org or 217-896-2455 for more information



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

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