



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

February Program

Cryptic Birds of the Night: A look into the natural history of some of Illinois' nocturnal birds and the importance and challenges of population trend monitoring.

by *Tara Beveroth*

Thursday, February 6, 7pm

Urbana Free Library Auditorium

Open to the public; for all ages; FREE

Most current bird surveys can help determine population trends for many species, but they do not effectively monitor nocturnal species, such as nightjars and owls. In addition, though data is sparse, the data we do have in conjunction with anecdotal reports suggests nightjars, especially, are experiencing a dramatic population decline. Come learn about these elusive nocturnal species and project MOON (Monitoring of Owls and Nightjars).

Tara Beveroth joined the Illinois Natural History Survey in 2004 as an Avian Ecologist and has since been part of many different research projects. Currently she works for the Critical Trends Assessment Program as an Ornithologist and, in addition, coordinates the annual statewide Spring Bird Count (SBC) and Monitoring of Owls and Nightjars (MOON) program. Tara is passionate about bird conservation and bird friendly habitat as well as many other conservation issues facing the world, which is why she enjoys engaging all who will listen through public outreach.



Barred Owl. Photo by Jeff Bryant.

We Need a Treasurer!

CCAS is in need of a treasurer! The treasurer is a vital part of our board and helps us distribute funds to educators and scientists. This is an officer position on our board.

If you're interested please contact Brody Dunn at Brody.CCAS@gmail.com

In This Issue:

<i>Field Notes</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Thank You Donors!</i>	<i>Page 4</i>

Champaign County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803
ChampaignCountyAudubon.org
mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org

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Champaign County Audubon publishes *The Meadowlark Messenger* nine times per year. Comments regarding the newsletter, or articles for submission, are welcome.

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Field Notes

Submitted by: Beth Chato

2019 BIRD SUMMARY: A total of 216 different species of birds were recorded for the county. Busey/Crystal Lake had the highest number of species seen during the year at 127, undoubtedly because it was the most birded area with Spring and Fall weekly walks. Homer Lake was highest among the Forest Preserves with 116 species. As for breeding bird species, Champaign County had records of 97 species. The Middle Fork Preserve was highest with 62 species. Homer Lake was close with 59 species. These records are based on what was reported and some sightings were undoubtedly missed.

December & January Sightings: Homer Lake had an apparent Mallard/Gadwall hybrid duck on 8/12, and Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers, and 5 Goldeneye ducks on December 12. The Campus Perigrine Falcon was seen on December 12, and a Merlin on December 25.

A Northern Shrike has been sighted from late December until at least mid-Januray at the north end of Dodds Park and Parkland campus.

Christmas Bird Count findings have not been compiled yet.

Sunday Morning Bird Walk Busey Woods & Anita Purves Nature Center

**Sundays, March 1–May 31,
7:30–9am**

Birding is an adventure for any age. Walk with Champaign County Audubon Society leaders and search for birds in Busey Woods and Crystal Lake Park. Learn and practice basic bird watching and identification techniques. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them or you may borrow one from the Anita Purves Nature Center with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15 (pick up Monday–Saturday 9 am - 4pm)



Calendar of Events

Great Backyard Bird Count

Anita Purves Nature Center

Saturday, February 15th, 2020

9 am - 4 pm

Become a citizen scientist by helping to count birds. Anyone can participate--count for as little or as long as you wish! Record the birds you see through the windowed Wildlife Observation Room and during guided hikes (at 10am & 3pm), and take home a Citizen Scientist button! Champaign County Audubon Society members will provide instruction in bird identification. Dress for the weather, and bring binoculars if you have them or borrow a pair at the nature center. Free activity stations will also be available, and the Nature Store will have it's Grand Re-Opening event on this day!

To learn more about this annual four-day-long nationwide event, visit gbbc.birdcount.org/.

CCAS Ceramics Workshop : Bird House

Champaign Park District Springer Cultural Center

Wednesday, February 12th & 19th, 2020

1 - 3 PM

This is a two-part class, registration is for BOTH dates:

Session 1: Wednesday, February 12th
from 1 - 3 pm

Session 2: Wednesday, February 19th
from 1 - 3 pm

Adults 18+. This workshop is great for beginners. Join CCAS for a night of crafting and leave with a gift for yourself or a loved one. Make a simple bird house with an instructor at the Champaign Parks District's Springer Center. No experience is necessary. Please register if you are able to attend both sessions!

Cost : \$41 for residents of Champaign Park District, \$67.50 for non-residents / participant.

Fee includes all materials and firing costs)

Requirements : Sign and Return Waiver to Springer Center

Limit : 8 participants

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED and limited. Registration is now available at <https://champaignparks.com/pottery/> or in person at the Springer Cultural Center. Sign up using ID #:

Make Your Own Clay Birdhouse ID #420127-01



Local Owl Prowls

Saturday, February 1

Owl Prowl

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

5:30 - 7 pm

registration at ccfpd.org is required (there is a fee)

Friday, February 7

Owl Prowl

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

5:30 - 7 pm

registration at ccfpd.org is required (there is a fee)

Wednesday, February 19

Owl Prowl: Adults

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve

5:30 - 7 pm

registration at ccfpd.org is required (there is a fee)

Saturday, February 22

Adults Only Owl Prowl

Anita Purves Nature Center

5 - 7 pm

Friday, February 28

Anita Purves Nature Center

5 - 7 pm

Friday, February 28

Owl Prowl: Adults

Picnic Shelter, River Bend Forest Preserve

5:30 - 7 pm

registration at ccfpd.org is required (there is a fee)

Friday, February 28

Anita Purves Nature Center

5 - 7 pm

School's Out: Great Backyard Bird Count

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve

1-4 p.m.

Enjoy making bird-themed crafts and help count the birds at our feeders for this citizen science event. From 2-4 p.m., see birds up close with UI researchers as they demonstrate mist netting at the bird feeders. All ages. FREE.

For more info: (217) 896-2455 or jwick@ccfpd.org.

Continued on Page 6

Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who donated beyond membership dues:

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Welcome New Members!

Virginia Brubaker and Carolyn Witter



Thank You Renewing Members!

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Questions? Please contact our Membership Chair, Rachel Vinsel (ccas.membership -at- gmail.com)

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 e-mail; 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!

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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

Events Continued

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP: Clinton Lake, Saturday February 15. Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center Parking lot at 8:00 am. Bring lunch. The Power Plant keeps the lake open so we hope to see waterfowl.



Hooded Merganser. Photo by Jeff Bryant.

See our website for more info about these events!

Champaign County Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting: Monday, February 17, at 7:00 pm, in the Champaign Public Library, Second Floor Meeting Room 215. All members are welcome to attend.

Birdnotes Listserve

Join our Birdnotes listserv to get the latest local bird sightings in your inbox! Here's how: go to ChampaignCountyAudubon.org and click on "Go Birding" then click the "Join Birdnotes" button.

