



# The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

## No March Member Meeting!

*We are running low on board members! If you're bummed we don't have March meeting and want to do something about it, please join the board and become our programs chair! Please contact us at [mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org](mailto:mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org). We are currently looking for a Programs chair, a Treasurer, and a webmaster.*

**This is your opportunity to be more active in the Champaign County Audubon Society!**



*Chickadee. Photo by Jeff Bryant.*

## Mini Grants for Educators

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

Application Deadline: April 10, 2020

Info & Application Form:  
[ChampaignCountyAudubon.org](http://ChampaignCountyAudubon.org)

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

Officers

- President: Brody Dunn
- Vice President: Sara Johnson
- Secretary: Ted Veselsky
- Treasurer: John Dunkelberger (Interim)

Members at Large

- Charlene Anchor
- Carie Nixon
- Jeff Peyton
- Zak Sutton

Committee Chairs

- Bylaws: Roger Diggles
- Conservation: Jennifer Wick
- Education: Tyler Owens
- Field Trip: Beth Chato
- Finance: Janet Jokela (Interim)
- Membership: Rachel Vinsel
- Program: (vacant)
- Communicaitons: Sara Johnson, Chair. Carie Nixon, Committee Member (Newsletter & Publicity) Brody Dunn, Committee Member (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.

**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 Facebook!**



[/ChampaignAudubon](#)

## Field Notes

*Submitted by: Beth Chato*

**BIRD SIGHTINGS:** A Northern Shrike hung out on the Parkland College campus in January and one was seen later in the month at Riverbend. Waterfowl seen include Black Duck, Wood Duck, Pintail, Ruddy Duck, Goldeneye, and Hooded Merganser. Most interesting was a Long-Tailed Duck at the Corporate Park Pond. Lots of White-fronted Geese have been seen as well as a Cackling Goose, and Snow Geese.

A group of Sandhill Cranes flew over on January 16. Several Merlins have been reported, as well as Bald Eagles. A Red-shouldered Hawk was at Homer Lake. Four Short-eared Owls were seen in a field near Homer Lake on January 14. On February 5 a Killdeer flew over campus, and on the 6th a Phoebe was seen at Forest Glen. A Dickcissel has been visiting a local feeder. In the Fairmont Quarry area a flock of 100 Lapland Longspurs were seen.



*Long-tailed Duck. Photo by Jeff Bryant.*

### 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

## Champaign County Audubon Society

### Members Bird Walk

Meadowbrook Park  
Saturday, March 7, 2020  
7:30 am

Meet at the Meadowbrook Park Race Street parking lot.

## Champaign County Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting

Urbana Free Library  
Monday, March 16  
7:00 pm

Members are welcome to attend.

## FREE! Woodcock Walk

Meadowbrook Interpretive Center  
Wednesday, March 25, 2020  
6:45 PM - 8:15 PM

Learn more about the American woodcock! Treat yourself to an evening performance in the prairie as we witness the “sky dance” of the American woodcock, visible only during the first few weeks of spring. Discover why this strange bird is so remarkable. We will begin with a short presentation inside the barn, then head down the accessible path to the prairie. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them. Call 217-384-4062 by March 23 if you plan on attending. Pending weather conditions, this program may be rescheduled.



American Woodcock. Photo by Mark Nenadov.

## MARCH FIELD TRIP: Middle Fork Preserve Saturday, March 21, 2020

Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot at 8 am. This is our largest preserve, and we may see waterfowl, winter birds and perhaps an early spring arrival.



Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, and Mallards. Photo by Jeff Bryant.

## Birding For Beginners with CCAS

Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods  
Saturday, March 28th, 2020  
9 AM - 11 AM

This workshop is for people with little or no birding experience. Learn how to use binoculars, spot and identify common local birds, and discover a bit about each bird’s natural history. We will spend time indoors getting acquainted with bird watching and then try out new skills during a hike in the woods. All equipment will be provided, including a trail snack.

Ages 8 and up; under 15 with registered adult  
Early Bird Cost: \$10 Urbana resident/\$15 non-Urbana resident by March 14th  
Cost: \$13 R/\$18 NR by March 21st

Pre-registration is required: [https://apm.activecommunities.com/urbanaparks/Activity\\_Search/8435](https://apm.activecommunities.com/urbanaparks/Activity_Search/8435) or call 217-367-1544

See our website for more info about these events!

## Kendeigh Grants

Deadline: March 25

Each year we offer grants for research in ornithology in Illinois for a maximum of \$1000.

Applications must contain:

1. The applicant's name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address
2. Description of the research to be carried out
3. Proposed budget
4. Evidence of your qualifications to do the research, including a brief CV and at least two references.

Submit to:

Champaign County Audubon Society  
Attn: Kendeigh Grant Committee  
P.O. Box 882, Urbana, IL 61803  
-OR-  
Jeff Peyton  
jbpeyton2@gmail.com

Applications must be received by March 25, 2020.  
Notification of awards will be made in April.

After the completion of the research, grantees must present the results in writing to CCAS. They will also be asked to give a presentation at a CCAS general meeting (typically the first Thursday in May, the year following grant award).



*Carolina Wren*



*Blue Jay*

*Photos by Jeff Bryant.*



*American Tree Sparrow. Photo by Rob Kanter*

## Looking Ahead

### First Annual Champaign County Dark Sky Week

**in Collaboration with the Champaign County Forest Preserve District  
April 18th - 25th, 2020**

Join us for a full week of programming with local organizations that highlight the night sky, migration, and initiatives to help mitigate light pollution in our community and the Midwest. Check out [www.champaigncountydarkskyweek.org](http://www.champaigncountydarkskyweek.org) or <https://www.ccfpd.org/> 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 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!

### *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

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## Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who donated beyond membership dues:

*Martin Camargo, Carol Elliott, Melinda Febus, Jennifer Hines, Linda McPhee, Jane & Walter Myers, Brock Price, Melissa Records, Richard Schicht, Edmund Sutton, Iris Swanson & Shirley Walker*



## Thank You Renewing Members!

*Martin Camargo, Carla Cravens Mansini, Kirk Deen, Carol Elliott, Melinda Febus, Charles and Patricia Ann Helm, Jennifer Hines, Joyce Hofman, Philip Hult, Melanie Loots, Linda McPhee, Jane & Walter Myers, Michele Neill, Barbara Opal, Brock Price, Melissa Records, Richard Schicht, Edmund Sutton, Iris Swanson & Shirley Walker*

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

## Birdnotes Listserve

Join our Birdnotes listserve to get the latest local bird sightings in your inbox! Here's how: go to [ChampaignCountyAudubon.org](http://ChampaignCountyAudubon.org) and click on "Go Birding" then click the "Join Birdnotes" button.