



The Meadowlark Messenger

ChampaignCountyAudubon.org

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

An Introduction to Kankakee Sands: 8,000 acres you need to visit

*Trevor Edmonson, Site Manager
for Kankakee Sands*

Thursday, October 1st, 2020 at 7PM

As part of our new *virtual* monthly meeting and seminar, we will be presenting via ZOOM and FB Live. All seminars will be recorded and posted to our YouTube channel afterward. We are excited to “see” you again!

Access details and more information can be found on our website: www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/birdwalks-and-programs/

Trevor works for The Nature Conservancy where he started as the Site Manager for Kankakee Sands in Newton County, Indiana in March of this year. Previously he acted as project manager for The Wetlands Initiative based out of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. He lives with his wife



Colleen and son William in Kankakee County, Illinois. In addition, he serves on the Limestone Township Park District Board and has been writing weekly nature articles for The Daily Journal for over 4 years now. He enjoys restoration at scale and macro photography.

You can stay up to date and see Trevor’s incredible photography by following him on Twitter and Instagram:

@KSandsman



White-throated Sparrow. Photo by Jeff Bryant.

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Champaign County Audubon Society
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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.

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.



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Field Notes

Submitted by: Beth Chato

Audubon has cancelled our public annual Sunday morning bird walks. To keep our historical records going, several individuals will be keeping track of the Sunday birds. Sunday morning, September 6, was a frustrating one for bird identification. The sky was gray, and there were several flocks of warblers high in the trees. A total of 48 bird species were identified. Included were Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Blackburnian and Black & White warblers, many Redstarts, and 4 Ovenbirds. A Great Blue Heron flew over, and a Nighthawk was sleeping on a dead branch.



Ovenbird. Photo by Jeff Bryant.

Got a birding question?

Ask the board and your Q & A could be in our next Meadowlark Newsletter!

Email us at mail@champaigncountyaudubon.org with your question or send via snail mail to P.O. Box 882, Urbana IL 61801

Virtual Eyes on the Skies

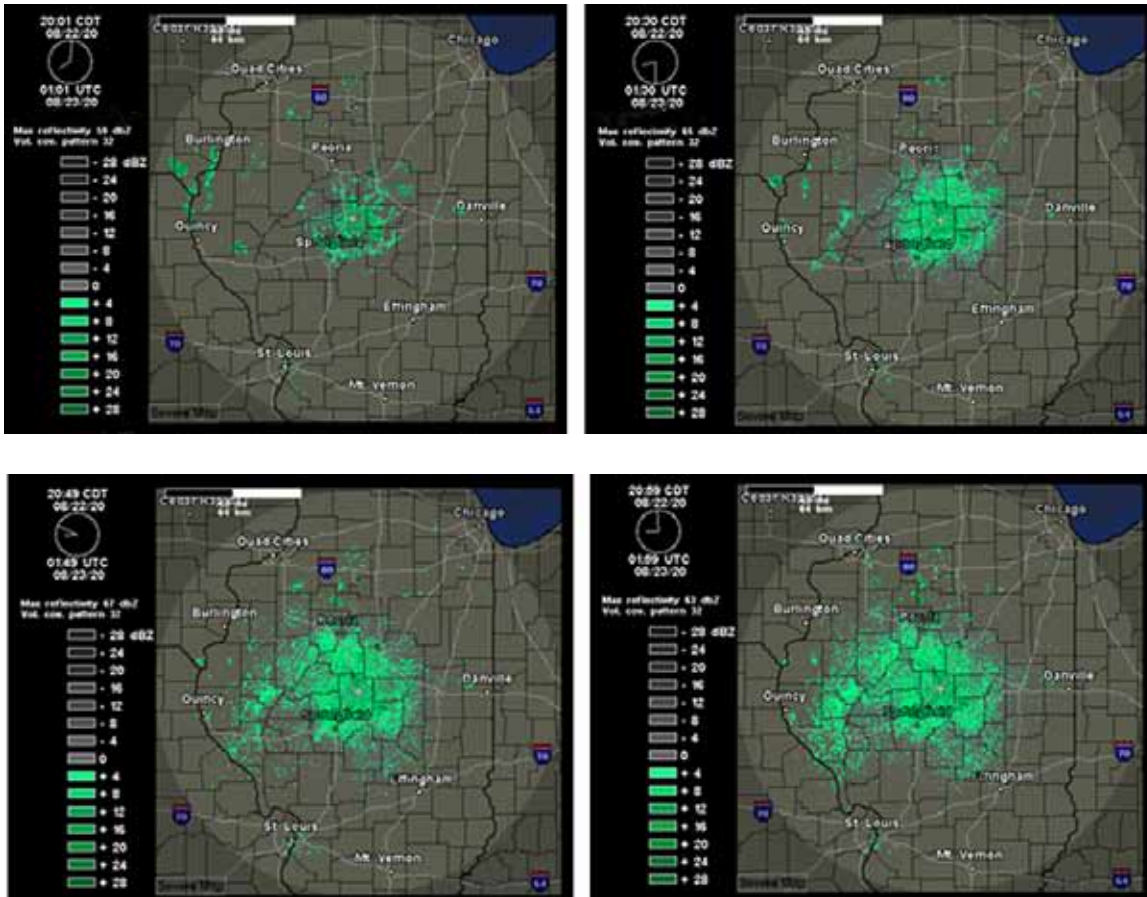
Megan Skrip (@Birdology101)

Few people get the chance to personally witness the spectacle of migratory songbirds streaming in their millions across the night sky. Most birds migrate while we're asleep, or at least, when it's far too dark for us to see them. But thanks to modern technology, we can still observe their astonishing movements and feel a part of the yearly phenomenon.

Birds migrate in such impressive numbers that they are detectable by weather radar, and scientists have used this tech to study them for years. All you need is an internet connection: A little after dusk, starting in mid-August, fire up your preferred weather forecasting website (my favorite is www.wunderground.com) and

click that "NEXRAD Doppler radar" button. Birds embarking on an overnight migratory flight typically take off within one hour of sunset. If you've timed your website visit right, and the weather is suitable, a surge of green dots will blossom onto your screen, tracking in real time the collective groundswell of local birds launching in nearly incomprehensible numbers to wing their way south.

Watching your local birds take flight is certainly fun, but there's another way to vicariously experience migration in even greater detail: BirdCast (<https://birdcast.info>). BirdCast is an impressive forecasting system developed by several partnering universities



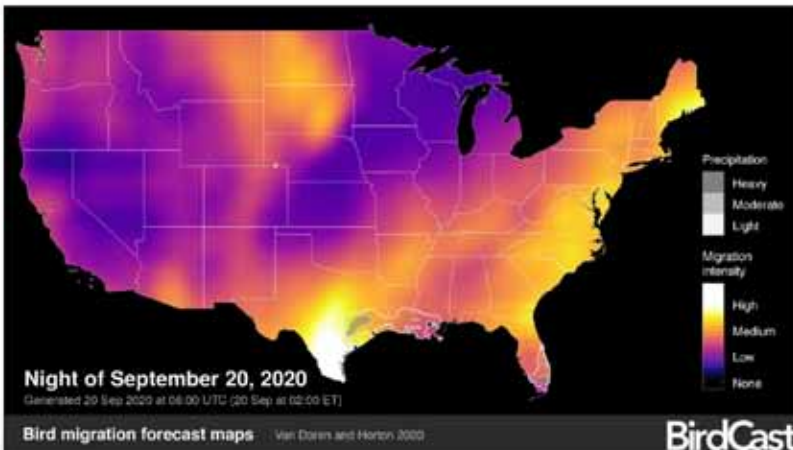
and uses nationwide weather radar data and computer algorithms to predict both the timing and intensity of migration across the United States. Visit the BirdCast website to explore migration forecasts, view maps of migration in real time, and read current migration news about which species are on the move and the effects of developing weather systems on large-scale movements.

Banders will find BirdCast helpful for predicting good days to open their nets (I certainly wish BirdCast had been around when I was banding birds as a grad student!), and birders will find it useful for deciding

when they might want to explore nearby stopover habitats for new arrivals. The technology's creators also view BirdCast as a valuable research and conservation tool, to help scientists better understand migration and local officials take action to prevent collisions between migrating birds and tall buildings or other obstacles.

Whether you nightly check your own local radar, or bookmark BirdCast in your browser, I hope you enjoy, as I do, watching the otherwise invisible flights of migratory birds.

MIGRATION TOOLS **ACTIVE** Forecasting ends Nov 15, 2020



Bird migration forecast maps

Bird migration forecast maps show predicted nocturnal migration 3 hours after local sunset and are updated every 6 hours. Colorado State University and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology currently produce these forecasts. [Learn more](#)

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: _____

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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

Calendar of Events

Due to COVID-19, there will be no in-person walks, field trips or programs for the foreseeable future.

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.



Cedar Waxwing. Photo by Rob Kanter.