



President's Message

Every year at this time, DBC undergoes a transformation of volunteers who keep this organization running smoothly. When I first joined DBC, I thought that there were just a few people “running the show”. When I really got into it, I was amazed at the number of people involved in various aspects of keeping the organization moving forward. This is the time of year to thank all of the volunteers for their efforts and the hard work that they have contributed in the past year, and welcome the new members. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank Davida Kalina our immediate past President for Her many contributions to the club and especially for her advice, and guidance. The Board and I are most grateful. John Baker who is our current Vice President will assume the role as President and we wish him well in his new adventure. Pat Eggleston is our new Vice President and we eagerly await her programs for the 2018 season. Our treasurer for the upcoming year will be Bonnie Graham who is returning to the board after serving as a Director. Also returning is Leslie Hayward who will continue as our Corresponding Secretary. New board members are Steve Constantelos Recording Secretary, Glenn Perricone Director, and Joan Campbell Director. We wish them well in their new positions. At this time, we would like to thank three board members who have served the club this past year and will not be returning next year. We will miss their many contributions and look forward to their additional input as members. Our thanks go out to Jon Granger our Treasurer and past webmaster, Vera Miller our Recording Secretary, and Kathy Mineck Director. Our committee volunteers have also changed and we would like to acknowledge our new and our continuing members. Field trips, Nancy Allured and new member Jessica Grunow will be responsible for continuing our field trip scheduling and I'm sure we will have some great trips planned for 2018. Nancy will also continue as webmaster back up. Returning Committee members: John Cebula will continue our Community Outreach programs while also monitoring our facebook page. Vera Miller our Grants and Donations programs and also monitoring our Twitter page. Sara Boskovich our hospitality chair, Jeff Smith our lending library chair and also our Drummings department editor. Glenn Gabanski, Tom Mulcahy, and Ron Skleney will continue as our Bird Conservation Network Liaisons while John Hebert will take over the liaison position to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County replacing Vicky Sroczynski who will continue to lead field trips throughout the area. Our thanks to Bob Spitzer for his work on the membership directory, Bob Fisher for all of his efforts on the email distribution list and information blasts, Diann Bilderback our Stewardship chair and our new webmaster Katherine Howard. Thanks to Pat Newman who does our Drummings distribution. Thanks to Dale Kalina who held down the A/V post for the past few years. This position is yet to be filled so if you are interested please let one of the board members know. Finally, I would like to thank all of our past Presidents who continue giving their sound advice and insightful wisdom to the current club leadership. As I said, there are many people who give their time, talent, and knowledge to the club. I hope I did not miss anyone because we really appreciate all who volunteer.

One other announcement, the Christmas bird counts are rapidly approaching. This Year as is the case, there will be two count days. The Fermi lab count will take place on December 16th and the Lisle Arboretum count on December 17th. See the field trip schedule for further information. Finally, I enjoyed my time as President of DBC and look forward to contributing as Past President in 2018. Thanks to all.

Stan Zatarski

Next Meeting

January 11, 2018
7:00 p.m. Social Time
7:30 p.m. Speaker

Faith Lutheran Church
41 N. Park Blvd. Glen Ellyn
Basement

6:00 p.m. Pre-meeting dinner
Panera Bread
541 Roosevelt Rd. Glen Ellyn

In Case You Missed It

At the November meeting Dr. Trevor Price of the University of Chicago wowed the club with a presentation on his fascinating research into birds' color vision and possible reasons for bird species' different coloring. He commented that the cause for different plumage coloring among species is one of the biggest unsolved problems in nature. He has been studying possible answers to that question for many years.

One theory is that the coloring is due to sexual selection: For some reason females of that species prefer males that are a certain color or pattern over others (e.g., blue), and over time as those males are more successful in breeding, their traits get passed down to the next generations, and bluer individuals are produced. Another theory is that some aspect of the environment in which that species lives is causing the color differences. With a colleague, Dr. Price studied eight species of drab Old World warblers in the 1980s in Kashmir, India. His findings suggested that there is a relationship between the darkness of the habitat space the species typically occupies and the amount of color patches or wing bars on males of that species. Male warblers that spend their time deep in undergrowth had the brightest plumage, while the dullest-plumaged species sit out in the open in treetops.

This explanation, however, is not borne out by the New World warblers we are familiar with here in the United States; they are much more gaudily colored, with a wide range of colors across the species, and the habitats they use don't vary enough to explain such striking differences. Dr. Price went on to describe some principles of color vision across different animals: Most mammals are dichromats (red-green colorblind), humans and other primates are trichromats (meaning we have three different photoreceptors in our eyes), and birds are tetrachromats. That means birds' eyes have a fourth photoreceptor that allows them to see colors in the UV part of the spectrum that are invisible to humans.

His research found that females of highly dimorphic species (the sexes look different) produce more opsin (light-sensitive proteins) in the photoreceptor cells of their eyes—perhaps to better tell males apart.

Dr. Price did not present any clear-cut answers to the questions he raised, pointing out that we still don't know why males of one warbler species are bright orange and males of another species are blue. However, he theorized that all North American songbirds may have descended from a single ancestor species that crossed the Bering Strait, likely a finch that had colorful plumage. He is continuing to investigate color vision differences between the females of different bird species. Attendees definitely left his talk with some interesting ideas to think about—helping us to see our common, colorful birds in a new light!

Vera Miller

Forest Preserve District News

Tax Decrease

The Board of Commissioners approved the 2017 Tax Levy, which cuts the tax rate by 9 percent, saving each household about \$20. 2 cents out of every tax dollar we spend goes to the Forest Preserve District.

Master Plan input

A new 5-year Master Plan is being developed—even if you weren't able to attend any of the public or volunteer input meetings in October and November, you can still send in your suggestions to: master_plan@dupageforest.org. At a volunteer input meeting attended by 3 club members, members praised the staff, but requested more monies be allocated to Natural Resources Management department, and for a county-wide integrated plan to cope with exotic, invasive species.

Report a Concern

The District's website has been redesigned for easier use, and has an added feature, the ability to report a concern. If you open the district's website on your PC, you will see a green button at the top of the page to "report a concern." This includes trail issues, like a downed tree or standing water, but can include security or safety concerns. If you open the website on your phone, you can scroll down to the bottom to report a concern. On either your phone or PC, you can submit a concern via Facebook, Twitter or Google-plus, but you can skip the social media platforms and "proceed as guest." You submit your e-mail address and phone number and will get a response back. Please note—if you see a true emergency, call 911. If you see someone doing something illegal in a preserve (for example, people picking mushrooms or ramps, ATVs on trails, etc.) call the Ranger number 630-933-7240—this is a good number to program into your phone contacts.

Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly

See the November 7 Board meeting, Informational Agenda, for a fascinating talk about the Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly, its local breeding area, and a tag/recapture program to assess the health of the population. (The board room's mic works intermittently so turn up the volume on your PC.) Plant Turtlehead if you would like to help this species, as this is the plant the butterfly uses during its first year of life—eggs are held in the butterfly-made community web until the caterpillars leave in October to overwinter in the ground underneath the turtleheads.

Vicky Sroczynski

Greene Valley Hawk Watch

We wrapped up our 12th season of hawk watching on November 30th atop the hill at Greene Valley Forest Preserve. We had anticipated a good flight with winds out of the west to northwest for our final day, but for reasons unknown it did not materialize. The chart below shows our totals for the year and the 12 year average for each species (those without a number are all less than 1). The crew provided 498 hours of coverage. RPH is the number of raptors per hour of observation and varies greatly due to the Broad-winged Hawk numbers. Our RPH without the Broad-wings was 4.48 compared to the 12 year average of 5.45. November didn't bring any rarities this year but we had several big flight days for cranes. We had Whooping Cranes on two occasions for a total of 8 birds. Speaking of cranes, you may have seen a recent article on the front page of the Sunday Chicago Tribune in which the reporter mentions his visit to the hill with Bob Fisher and the gang.

	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	Go	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PF	UR	FH	MK	PR	SE	SW	NS	GY	Total	Hour s	RP H
2017	841	36	69	32	301	91	3	23	56	656	17	3	8	38	45	63	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	2286	498	4.59
12 yr avg.	594	36	46	53	474	110	4	21	1224	725	15	6	14	43	36	48								3451		8.44

You can find all our data from 2006 to present by visiting hawkcount.org

News from the Wacky World of the Web

Unique Species Are Going Extinct While Boring Species Multiply

Slate

Get ready for a sky full of turkey vultures. [Read the full story](#)

Jeff Reiter's Column 'Duck Stamp Story'

<http://www.dailyherald.com/submitted/20171113/birders-owe-much-to-duck-stamps>

Tribune Crane Story

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-sandhill-cranes-20171115-story.html>

December 2017 Field Trips

NOTE: Check DuPageBirding.org for any trip changes, additions or cancellations.

This month is the time to see late fall and early winter birds. Some species are only seen this time of year. The Christmas Bird Count is a major event for DBC Birders; participants of all skills are invited. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season.

Situations sometimes change. Check our DBC website ([DuPage Birding Club](http://DuPageBirdingClub)) for the latest status information. Participants are welcome to contact the trip leader if they have questions. Our field trip leaders can help you find the trip's starting location if you need additional directions.

Sunday, December 3, 9:00 am

Tri-County Area Ramble (Pre-registration required)

The DuPage/Cook/Will Counties confluence offers a plethora of birding opportunities. From woodland to waterfowl we will base the trip on weather conditions. **Please register in advance. Meeting place will be determined at a later date.**

Leader: Jeff Smith cell 331-481-3362 mrqmagoo13@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 6, 8:00 - 9:00 am (optional nearby stops 9-11 am)

Heritage Quarries Recreational Area, Lemont (Pre-registration required)

We are looking for waterfowl, raptors and gulls at "Lemont Quarries," with additional optional stops at Sag Quarries, Saganashkee Slough, Bergman Slough, Long John Slough and Maple Lake, depending on what has been seen and on ice conditions. Take Lemont Road South past Bluff Road over Des Plaines River and I and M Canal; turn left onto Illinois Street, two very short blocks to a left at stop sign (Stephens), one block to a right at light (Main) and drive three blocks east to TurnAbout Pizza—take driveway on your left (becomes Dan Fielding Drive) over train tracks, bear right in front of Singer Landing condos—and drive to parking lot on your right just before canal and after crossing a second, ungated train crossing.

Please register with leader by Tuesday 12/5 at vsroczynski@comcast.net to make sure trip is a "go," as it will be canceled if weather is poor or waterfowl scarce.

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, cell 630-297-9512, vsroczynski@comcast.net

Friday, December 15, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Blackwell Forest Preserve, McKee Marsh; West DuPage Woods, Fermilab

Our target birds are waterfowl, and others. Meet at McKee Marsh parking lot off Mack Road for a short walk to the West Branch and then we will drive to other places depending on what has been seen, and on ice conditions.

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, cell 630-297-9512, vsroczynski@comcast.net

Two Christmas Bird Count Opportunities

Saturday, December 16, All Day Event

Fermilab Circle Christmas Bird Count

Sub-teams assigned to various locations

The DuPage Birding Club sponsors this Christmas Bird Count. Thousands of birds and over 100 species have been logged in previous Bird Counts. This opportunity to join almost 100 other birders is open to those of all skill levels. If you did not count last year, please contact the compiler to be assigned to a location and area captain.

Contact compiler: Jeff Chapman for details or to volunteer, jeffchapman1@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, December 17, All Day Event

Lisle-Arboretum Circle Christmas Bird Count

Sub-teams assigned to various locations

Birders of all skill levels are welcome on the Lisle-Arboretum CBC. The Chicago Ornithological Society (www.chicagobirder.org) sponsors this count. Complete information is at the count web site <http://geoffwilliamson.info/lislecbc/>. There is no cost to participate in the count, but there is a charge to attend the post-count dinner. Even if you cannot go out in the field, there is another way to contribute; DBC members who live in the count circle can participate as a "feeder watcher." For details and signup:

Contact: Carl Giometti, chicagiometti@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 27, 7:30 am

McKee Marsh, Winfield

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us to check out winter birds, as well as possible late migrants. Northern Shrike and Northern Harriers have been fairly reliable the last few years. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Road (Mack is south of Roosevelt and north of Butterfield), located between [Winfield Road and Rte. 59](#) in Warrenville. Be sure to dress for the weather!

Leader: Kyle Wiktor, 708-506-5186, kylewiktormsn.com

Other Birding Opportunities

For additional birding opportunities check out the Illinois Birding Calendar at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/illinois-birding-calendar/>

Email us if you have questions about the trips or if you would like to lead a trip. Leaders do not have to be birding experts, just familiar with the location. There is no need to register for trips *unless otherwise indicated*. Visitors are always welcome. We do not charge fees for birding trips. Field trip information is also found at: www.dupagebirding.org

DuPage Birding Club

Field Trip Coordinators

Joan Campbell

peachjmc@gmail.com

Nancy Allured

DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com

DuPage Birding Club

The club exists to provide fun and camaraderie between birders of all skill levels and ages while enjoying some serious birding experiences.

Member Benefits include:

- Meetings featuring regional and national speakers
- Field Trips throughout the year
- Informative Club Website
- Illinois Spring Bird Count
- Christmas Bird Count
- DuPage County Checklist
- Lending Library of bird-related videos & books
- Biennial Auction of birding items

Contact Us at dbcboard@gmail.com

President : Stan Zatarski

Vice President, Programs :John Baker

Send your articles and photos to chipnotes2013@gmail.com for inclusion in **DRUMMINGS**.

DuPage Birding Club
P.O. Box 3381
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

First Class



DuPage
Birding
Club

2017 Meetings

January 12

March 9

April 6

May 11

July 13

September 14

October 12

November 9

The photocopying of this newsletter is done through the generosity of the Birches Assisted Living Facility in Clarendon Hills. DuPage Birding Club sincerely appreciates the Birches' continued support.