Drummings May 2018

Presidents Message

Spring Bird Count is May 5th

The first Spring Bird Count, SBC, was organized by Chandler Robbins, organizer of the North American Breeding Bird Survey, in 1959. A decade later the Illinois Department of Natural Resources asked Vernon Kleen to organize the first Illinois statewide SBC in the early 1970s. With the help of the Illinois Audubon Society, the first count was conducted on Saturday, May 6, 1972 and included 650 observers in 62 counties. Vern continued organizing the count for over 30 years, before transitioning the count to the Illinois Natural History Survey. Today the survey has electronic SBC data dating back to 1975. Each year SBC reports are published in the *Meadowlark*, a journal of the Illinois Ornithological Society.

Spring Bird Count is a yearly bird count that consists of volunteers conducting a bird census on the Saturday that falls between May 4th and May 10th. These counts are conducted in all 102 counties in Illinois; however, in any given year a few counties are not included. Each county has a compiler responsible for recruiting volunteers and assigning them areas to count within their county. These assignments are especially important to avoid double coverage of an area. Compilers also tabulate all data collected within their county and send it to the state compiler. Volunteers record all birds seen or heard, along with the number of hours they spend "owling" (pre-dawn hours), the number of hours spent looking for birds during the day, the number of miles driven in a car, and the number of miles walked.

The data generated from the Spring Bird Count are used to estimate changes in populations of species throughout the state. But because the data are only collected on one day each year and not on the same date, year-to-year changes in certain species’ populations may not accurately reflect the true trends and statistical tests and multi-year analyses are required to spot trends accurately. Tara Beveroth, who spoke to our club last year (beveroth@illinois.edu), is the keeper of the data. Researchers look to her to help with these important analyses.

But for us volunteers, the Spring Bird Count is a fun way to help understand bird population shifts in our area, including the effects of land-use changes and global climate change. If you’ve participated before, you know how much fun it can be. If you haven't participated yet, please think about joining us. If you want to join a team, just e-mail RSKleney@DuPageBirding.org. Send him your first and last name, e-mail, phone number, and what town you live in, and he will put you in contact with an area captain near you.

John Baker
President, DuPage Birding Club
Hal Cohen is a founding member of DuPage Birding Club. The club had its origin in Hal's classroom at College of DuPage in 1985 where most of the early members were his students. As treasurer of the club in 1985 Hal initiated the first auction. In 1998 Hal retired as a full professor from College of DuPage after receiving the prestigious award of Professor of the Year for North America presented by the Carnegie Foundation, Washington DC. Today, Hal resides half a year in the desert town of Borrego Springs, CA where he has established a world renowned hawkwatch soon to be featured in Audubon Magazine. His acting career in Borrego Springs has led him here today as an Audubon impersonator.

In Case You Missed It – April 12, 2018

Just in time for spring migration and the Spring Bird Count, DBC’s own Vicky Sroczynski helped us brush up on warbler ID skills for the 30+ species we hope to see in DuPage each year. Most species in this large group of small birds only pass through our area, and when they’re here they are often flitting around while foraging or high up in the leafy trees, so learning each species’ distinctive song and field marks is very helpful. The ideal format for study when not out in the field—video, since seeing the birds in action while singing helps imprint the memory.

Accompanied by excellent photos, quizzes, and videos, Vicky took us through the most representative warblers, arranged in the successive waves they pass through our area in spring. She pointed out each bird’s preferred habitat, usual foraging height, and song structure, and also asked the audience to note the location of each species’ color contrasts—a yellow-rumped warbler, for example, has its yellow rump, but also a white throat, white eye arcs, and white spots on the tail. Here are the species we focused on, according to the warbler timeline:

1st wave
Yellow-rumped, Palm, Hooded, Black and White, Louisiana Waterthrush

2nd wave
Nashville, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Northern Waterthrush

3rd wave
Blackburnian, American Redstart, Tennessee

4th wave
Connecticut, Mourning, Canada

Vicky’s presentation made us eager to catch each wave, hopefully in some temperate spring weather. She also provided stellar handouts, including a chart of all the area's warblers by season, a robust list of warbler resources, and song mnemonics arranged into categories, from buzzy to teezy to pleasedtameetcha. If you’d like copies, contact her at: vsroczynski@comcast.net.
After Vicky’s warbler warmup, Bonnie Graham presented photos (and a video of a swimming American dipper) that she didn’t get a chance to show us at the Members’ Night meeting on March 8, capping her photos off with a great horned owl on a low branch at Fermi from April 2017. For those who missed it, Members’ Night featured photos from:

- Kristine Hlava (First Year in Birding)
- Elizabeth Pector (Colorful Candid)
- John Cebula (For the Birds Is for the Birds)
- Chuck Berman (Madera Canyon Birding)
- John Baker (Japan, Spain, and Bolivia Trips)
- Urs Geiser (Lower Rio Grand Valley)
- Denis Kania (Birds of Colombia and Ecuador)
- Mike Warner (Birds of Costa Rica)

Some of these presenters later shared links to their photos and personal nature sites with me:

- Elizabeth Pector: [https://www.facebook.com/elizabeth.pector](https://www.facebook.com/elizabeth.pector)
  - Older photos: [www.flickr.com/photos/epector](www.flickr.com/photos/epector)
- John Cebula: [https://www.facebook.com/naturaldupage/](https://www.facebook.com/naturaldupage/)
- Urs Geiser: [www.flickr.com/photos/ugeiser](www.flickr.com/photos/ugeiser)
- Mike Warner: [www.flickr.com/photos/m_and_k_warner/collections](www.flickr.com/photos/m_and_k_warner/collections)
- Bonnie Graham: [www.flickr.com/photos/the_cracker_box](www.flickr.com/photos/the_cracker_box)

This gives me an idea that the DBC might have a list of members’ personal photo and nature pages either as an appendix to the directory or on the website. If anyone else thinks this might be a good idea and would like to help make it happen, email me at sconstantelos@bcnbirds.org.

—Steve Constantelos, DBC Recording Secretary
News from the Wacky World of the Web

**New publication—Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Cuba ...**

**New Bird of Paradise Species Has Smooth Dance Moves**
National Geographic
To woo a female, this bird flips up his cape, puffs out his chest, and shimmies his little feet. Read the full story

**Inside the Black Market Hummingbird Love Charm Trade**
National Geographic
Catch a hummingbird. Kill it. Wrap it in underwear, cover it with honey—and sell it to arouse passion in a lover. Who does this? Read the full story

**Black Market Demand for 'Red Ivory' Is Dooming This Rare Bird**
National Geographic
The rare and beautiful helmeted hornbill is vanishing at an alarming rate from the tropical forests of Southeast Asia. Read the full story

**Kids can be citizen scientists, too—here's how**
Popular Science
Set up your citizen science laboratory. All it takes is a smartphone and some curiosity. Read the full story

**Surprising Origin of American Flamingos Discovered**
National Geographic
Scientists have long wondered whether the bright pink birds are native to Florida. Read the full story

**The World's Best Destinations for Bird-Watching**
National Geographic
Slow down for epic spectacles of nature in these world wonders for birding. Read the full story
May 2018 Field Trips

More May field trips will be posted on the website as they become confirmed. Check your email toward the end of April for a complete list.

Saturday, May 5

Spring Bird Count, DuPage County

100 or more birders will fan out across DuPage County to identify all the bird species they can find. A group of birders will be in the field somewhere near your home. Come join us; we need more birders to make it possible to cover as many locations within the county as we can. You don't have to be an expert birder to participate; all skill levels are welcome. Even if you can only bird for part of the day, we can use you. And if that’s your preference, you’ll probably be able to look for birds close to home, since we divide the county into 17 areas, with teams scouring each area.

Email Ron Skleney at dupagespringbc@aol.com to volunteer or find out more information.

Monday, May 7, 10:00 pm

Birding By Ear: Nocturnal Flight Calls: Reed Kepler Park, West Chicago

Leave your binoculars at home and bring a lawn chair instead for this unique birding experience! During migration, we observe only a fraction of the migrants that pass through an area during the daylight hours. After dark fall, many species of neotropical migrants follow the stars and move through the night sky. This evening we will conduct a flight call count. Meet at the farthest west parking lot (near the dog park) where we will sit under the night sky and listen for birds!

Leader: Glenn Perricone; 630-687-2921, gperriconne@dupagebirding.org

Friday, May 11, 4:00 pm

Know Your Neighborhood: Glen Ellyn

The fifth of twelve ‘Know Your Neighborhood’ trips, exploring hidden gems, odd and under-birded hot spots in DuPage County, we will be exploring the College of DuPage campus natural areas. Meet at the staff parking lot on the west side of Prairie Drive. We will first walk the loop around the Russel R. Kirt Prairie, then move over to explore the East Prairie Ecological Area. There will be a little bit of walking on earthen/unpaved trails, so wear proper footwear and prevent against biting insects.

Leader: Glenn Perricone; 630-687-2921, gperriconne@dupagebirding.org

Monday, May 14, 10:00 PM

Birding By Ear: Nocturnal Flight Calls

Reed Kepler Park, West Chicago

Leave your binoculars at home and bring a lawn chair instead for this unique birding experience! During migration, we observe only a fraction of the migrants that pass through an area during the daylight hours. After dark fall, many species of neotropical migrants follow the stars and move through the night sky. This evening we will conduct a flight call count. Meet at the farthest west parking lot (near the dog park) where we will sit under the night sky and listen for birds!

Leader: Glenn Perricone; 630-687-2921, gperriconne@dupagebirding.org
Saturday, May 19, 8:30 am
Fermilab
Join a site monitor as we search for late migrants and breeding birds in the sparrow hedge and prairie. Annually this field trip averages 60+ species of bird! An option to check a wetland or woodlands may arise based on bird migration. Meet at the Red (Anderson) Barn in the Village on Sauk Circle. This is the first stop sign after the east side gate, or the next stop sign after the Eola Rd. stop sign if coming from Pine St. Be advised, there will be a substantial amount of walking on earthen trails on this excursion, so be sure to bring water and wear proper footwear and clothes to prevent against biting insects, including ticks. **Leader:** Glenn Perricone; 630-687-2921, gperricone@dupagebirding.org

Monday, May 21, 10:00 pm
**Birding By Ear: Nocturnal Flight Calls: Reed Kepler Park, West Chicago**
Leave your binoculars at home and bring a lawn chair instead for this unique birding experience! During migration, we observe only a fraction of the migrants that pass through an area during the daylight hours. After dark fall, many species of neotropic migrants follow the stars and move through the night sky. This evening we will conduct a flight call count. Meet at the farthest west parking lot (near the dog park) where we will sit under the night sky and listen for birds!
**Leader:** Glenn Perricone; 630-687-2921, gperricone@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, May 26, 7:00am
**Springbrook Prairie, Naperville**
This trip will focus on grassland birds and late spring migrants. Please park at the model aircraft field on Plainfield-Naperville Road, South of 75th Street in Naperville.
**Leader:** Joe Suchecki, 630-386-5570, JSuchecki@dupagebirding.org

**Other Birding Opportunities:** For additional birding opportunities check out the [Illinois Birding Calendar](http://www.illinoisbirds.org/calendar-2/)

Call 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](http://www.dupagebirding.org)

**Field Trip Coordinators:**
Nancy Allured and Jessica Becker
[DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com](mailto:DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com)
2018 Meetings

January 11
March 8
April 12
May 10
July 12
September 13
October 11
November 8