President’s Message

I hope the Spring Bird Count May 4 provides many of you with a fun day of rediscovery and camaraderie. It’s usually one of my first intense spring birding days, and I love hearing the old familiar songs of the warblers, the orioles, and the thrushes. I also like that our efforts are part of a larger citizen science project and that the data collected are useful barometers of species abundance, migratory change, and other trends. A big thank you to our area compiler, Joe Suchecki, and to all of you who participated.

Spring Bird Count makes me ponder the subject of listing, the practice of documenting when and where species have been seen. I am deeply conflicted on this subject. I keep lists, but they are only of first sightings by country, they are not integrated or even organized, and they are partially automated on two platforms—in other words, my lists are a mess. Now I’d like to be an avid E-Bird lister like my friends Jenny Vogt and Jeff Chapman and make my contribution to citizen science, and I’d really like to know how many birds I’ve seen in totality, like many of my birding friends do. Ask Denis Kania when and where he saw a Crimson-breasted Gonolek, and he’ll tell you tout suite. Ask Ann Haverstock what bird was #728 on her North America list, and she’ll tell you or pull it up on her iPhone. These people are on top of it! I sadly am not.

I can fix that, of course, if I want to sit in front of my computer and log in thousands of sightings from my various trips and excursions. The thought of doing that fills me with unfathomable ennui and a serious sense of hopelessness. Now and then I try, but somehow the desire to track and to know the specifics of my sightings is overwhelmed by the tedium of the data entry task.

Then the argument with myself begins. I’ve had to do tedious things lots of times so what is my problem? C’mon, this is not that hard! I postulate if I can hire someone to do this for me. I wonder if my trip friends will just share their E-Bird lists with me; I mean, didn’t we pretty much see the same birds? I consider torching all my notebooks and conceding defeat. This is then followed by bouts of self-abnegation as I abandon list entry chores one more time.

I have only the greatest admiration for my birding friends who are listers. They have the focus and self-discipline to manage the data entry, they are meticulous record keepers, and they are contributing to citizen science. Do you have to be a lister to be a real birder? I’ve decided the answer is no, and here’s why. I think listers innately enjoy the cataloging process, they like having a goal and the challenge of achieving it, and they’re analytical and detail oriented. Listing satisfies all those drivers. Those of us who are not listers perhaps have different drivers. I love seeing the birds, watching their behavior, hearing them, reading about them—it’s the sensory experience that makes me happy. Birding is the most enduring interest I have had in my lifetime. But I don’t really care about the list. Well, I do, but not enough.

In the end, it’s a good thing for birds and your fellow birders to enter your sightings in E-Bird. However, whether you list or don’t list is really a personal choice, and either way works as long as the experience of birding is a good one. My advice? Don’t get caught in the netherworld between the two, like me. Save yourself some aggravation and decide one way or the other—accept it and then just enjoy the birds!
May Program
Birding Haunts you Should Know

It’s Spring and birding will be reaching a fever pitch. It’s sometimes hard to decide where to spend your precious birding hours. This meeting we will have some of our local birding experts share their experience with their favorite birding sites in DuPage County. The sites featured will include Fermilab, presented by Dave Spleha, Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve presented by Joe Suchecki and Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve presented by Vicky Sroczynski. Come find out what these birding sites have to offer you. Our experts will share where some of your target species can be found, best trails for exploring and, best time of year to visit. If you have never visited any of these sites this will be a great opportunity to find out what awaits you and where to begin your birding adventure.

Mini Tutorial – The Thrushes: Continuing our mini-tutorial series, Denis Kania will provide an identification overview of the thrushes we will see this spring including Veery, Gray-cheeked, Swainson’s, Hermit and Wood Thrush.

Additional Birders Needed for the Spring Bird Count
Saturday May 4

The 2019 Spring Bird Count(SBC) will be held on Saturday, May 4, and many members of the Club have already signed up to participate. DuPage County traditionally has one of the highest participation rates in the state. However, Joe Suchecki, the DuPage SBC Compiler, has received several requests from Area captains for additional birders to help cover key birding spots throughout the county. Birders are needed in several areas including both the northeast and southeast parts of DuPage as well as the northwest part of the County.

If you are available for even part of the day on May 4 and would like to have some fun birding with fellow DBC birders, please consider signing up for the SBC this year. We want to assure that we have good coverage for the entire county.

If you are interested or have any questions, email Joe Suchecki at DuPageSBC@gmail.com. Joe will put you in touch with an Area Captain who has requested more help to cover their area.
In Case You Missed It: April 11, 2019 DBC Meeting

Remembering Karen Fisher
The evening began remembering longtime DBC member, and previous president, Karen Fisher, who passed away recently. Bob Fisher invited the club over to “the yard in Downers Grove” sometime in June (the May 11 date is cancelled) for a celebration of Karen and her love of birds. The Fishers’ yard list has yielded every regular Illinois warbler species, except Yellow-throated Warbler, so all eyes will be on the lookout for a representative of that species that day.

Mini-Tutorial: Waterthrushes
Adding a bird to your list doesn’t mean much until you show it to someone else, says Denis Kania, and he delighted in sharing his knowledge of visually identifying a couple of species for us. Two waterthrushes can be found in DuPage as they pass through in spring and late summer. Some things to consider when you’ve spotted a waterthrush: the Northern often has a yellowish wash on its belly, contrasting with its white undertail coverts, a narrowing yellowish supercilium behind the eye, and a more speckled throat. The much less common Louisiana tends to be whiter, with buff undertail coverts, pinker legs, a widening supercilium behind the eye, and a purer white throat.

A Little Bird Told Me
Denis shared what “A Little Bird Told Me,” briefly relating his 30+ years of experience as a citizen scientist at Fermi. Then it was on to his times in Ghana, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, Ecuador, Brazil, Peru, Indonesia, and Guyana (just to name a few). These trips have enriched his life through the people and creatures he has met; at the same time, they’ve made him aware of the perils we will face in the future.

I recommend buttonholing Denis next time you see him and asking him to tell you one of his stories. Or try to catch him at Ellyn’s Tap & Grill before a club meeting. A couple of highlights: a red hardcover book resting in his lap that attracted hummingbirds galore at a feeding station in Ecuador. Building El Oro Parakeet nest boxes with local volunteers, also in Ecuador. Informal teaching moments, where he and a friend shared a scope and field guide with Costa Rican kids who knew all the birds’ songs, but had never seen the birds that sang them. An early-morning trek the see the Giant Ibis that helped sustain local tourism in Cambodia. Seeing four of these magnificent birds silhouetted in a tree at sunrise reminded him what life and birding are all about.

In some reserves, if the signature species go extinct (a species of rhino or elephant or ape, for example), the protected habitat as a whole may go too, leaving lesser-known species, many of them birds, bereft of precious habitat and consideration. We should ask ourselves, as consumers, as stewards, as lovers of wildlife, do we want teak, gold, ivory, and faux-medicinal pangolin scales—or forests with layers of trees and shrubs, clean streams and rivers, thriving elephants, pangolins and birds of all feathers?

One thing we can easily improve is our own backyards, potentially great spots for breeding, wintering, and migrating birds in need of a meal and rest on their oft-perilous journey through Chicagoland. Denis outlined his own hard work in improving his yard with layers of native plants and club members added news about local plant sales at Mayslake and in Wheaton, and a nonprofit friend of pollinators, the Xerces Society.

—Steve Constantelos, DBC Recording Secretary
May 2019 Field Trips

May is peak time for migratory birds. These field trips are designed to cover areas where we hope to see migrating waterfowl, raptors, passerines, returning species and shore birds. Migration gives way to grassland birding. We are offering a variety of field trips, including mid-week trips. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season. There is special support for new birders on some trips.

Participants, please remember that the weather can be variable and trails can be muddy, so dress accordingly, and bring protection for biting insects, including ticks. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent. Participants are welcome to contact the leader if they have any questions. Our field trip leaders can help you find the trip’s starting location if you need additional directions. Situations can sometimes change, please check our DBC website www.dupagebirding.org for the latest status information.

Saturday, May 4, 2019
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 Joe Suchecki at DuPageSBC@gmail.com to volunteer or find out more information.

Sunday, May 5, 7:30 am
Elsen’s Hill/West DuPage Woods, Winfield
This location has the designation of “Important Bird Area.” Elsen’s Hill is known for spring migrating birds and is a traditionally excellent spot for warblers. Take Winfield Rd. to Gary’s Mill Rd. Go west on Gary’s Mill Rd. to the Preserve parking lot entrance on the north side of the road. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing and boots for muddy trails.

Leader: Diann Bilderback, 630-272-5746, dbilderback@dupagebirding.org

Monday, May 6, 2019, 5:00 pm & 10:00 pm
Know Your Neighborhood + Birding By Ear, Nocturnal Flight Calls: West Chicago
In this, the third of twelve 'Know Your Neighborhood' trips, exploring hidden gems, odd and under-birded hot spots in DuPage County, we will be visiting Reed Kepler Park. An oak savannah and wetlands make this site an attractive spot to search for migrants. At 7:00 pm, the group will head out to dinner (location to be chosen day of, based on consensus) and will return by 10:00 pm for a nocturnal flight call session. During migration, we observe only a fraction of the migrants that pass through an area during the daylight hours. After dark, 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! This will be the only NFC count this spring. Leader: Glenn Perricone, 630-687-2921, gperricone@dupagebirding.org
Tuesday, May 7, 7:30 am  
**Danada Forest Preserve - East side, Wheaton**  
Meet at the parking lot east of Naperville Rd. between Butterfield Rd. and Warreneville Rd. We will be searching for resident and migrant species, through a variety of habitats including woodlands, prairie and Rice Lake. A scope would be helpful.  
**Leader:** Nancy Allured, nallured@dupagebirding.org

Thursday, May 9, 8:00 am - 10:00 am  
**Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, Wheaton**  
We will meet off the Butterfield Road parking lot at the Boat Rental building. Here is the official DuPage County Forest Preserve link for driving directions: [http://www.dupageforest.org/Herrick_Lake_Map.aspx](http://www.dupageforest.org/Herrick_Lake_Map.aspx).  
There are restrooms and water available at the start of the walk. We will walk on marked trails and bird various ecosystems: woodland, aquatic, wetland and prairie, looking for migrants and residents.  
**Leader:** Laurel Salvador, 630-344-9803, lsalvador@dupagebirding.org

Friday, May 10, 7:30 am  
**Morton Arboretum, Lisle**  
We will be looking for warblers and other migrants on this morning trip. Meet at parking lot #13 on the east side across the main road from Big Rock. Maps are available at the gates. The Arboretum is located just north of I-88 off Rte. 53. There is a per-person charge for nonmembers. Admission is $15.00 per adult and $13.00 for 65+. Note the Arboretum does not open its gates until 7:00 am. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes.  
**Leaders:** Marcia and Lee Nye, 630-605-6374, mnye@dupagebirding.org

Friday, May 10, 7:30am  
**Waterfall Glen, Lemont**  
This trip is to accompany Vicky’s presentation at the May DBC meeting. Please park in the south parking lot at the ranger’s house at Cass and Bluff. The parking lot fills quickly, so please arrive a bit early. If the parking lot is full, you can park at the gravel pull-off at Cass/Bluff. Expect rocky, hilly trails and a 3-mile walk. Please contact the trip leader if you are running late. **Leader:** Vicky Sroczynski, 630-297-9512, vsroczynski@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, May 11 - 7:30am  
**Wooddale-Itasca Reservoir, Wooddale**  
Although this area is not very scenic, birds seem to like it. There are 3 bodies of water as well as a creek. Both land and water birds can be expected. Killdeer can be seen if the water level is low. The entire trail is paved. Directions: School St. is off of Wooddale Rd. between Irving Park Rd. and Thorndale. From the intersection of Wooddale Rd. and School St. (Wooddale Library), head West on School St. to the parking lot at the end. If the parking lot is full, park on one side of street.  
**Leader:** Nancy Huck, 630-595-4874, nancyh43356@att.net

Sunday, May 12, 3:00 pm  
**Whalon Lake and Peacock Marsh, Will County**  
We are going to start this trip in the afternoon to get the sun at our back. Waterfowl, shorebirds, and grassland species are targets. Drive down to meet at the picnic shelter next to the parking lot near the dog play lot on the south side of Royce Rd., which is west of Route 53 and south of 75th Street in Naperville. From Whalon Lake, we will drive south to visit Peacock Marsh to look for waterfowl again.  
**Leaders:** Bob and Jean Spitzer, 630-790-4842, (birding day cell: 630-222-3307), bspitzer@dupagebirding.org
**Monday, May 13, 7:30am**
**Warbler Migration at McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville**
McDowell Grove can be a great migrant trap in spring and fall. Just about every eastern warbler species has shown up here at one time or another. McDowell Grove is off of Raymond Dr. at the McDowell Rd. stoplight in Naperville. Meet in the parking area closest to the information kiosk. If further directions are needed contact the trip leader.

**Leader:** Denis Kania, [dikan36@gmail.com](mailto:dikan36@gmail.com)

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**Saturday, May 18, 8:00 am**
**McKee Marsh, Warrenville**
Join us for another morning walk to the marsh where we hope to see residents and migrant waterfowl. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd., located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville. Most of our walk will be on limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

**Leader:** Kathy Mineck, cell day of: 630-254-4077, [kmineck@dupagebirding.org](mailto:kmineck@dupagebirding.org)

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**Sunday, May 19, 7:00 am**
**Glacial Park, McHenry County (Pre-registration required)**
We will meet at the SE part of the shopping area parking lot on the NW corner of Finley and Butterfield Rd., Downers Grove (in front of the Duluth Trading Company). From there we will carpool together to the McHenry County location. The driving time is over one hour. Four hundred acres of state-designated nature preserve form the central core of the 3,412-acre Glacial Park. In recent years, the district has protected additional acres of wetland and prairie in the south and west of the park and more of the Nippersink corridor on the east. See [http://www.mccdistrict.org/rccms/index.php/glacialpark/](http://www.mccdistrict.org/rccms/index.php/glacialpark/) for a map. We will look for birds across a variety of habitats. We will walk almost two miles with some “up’s and down’s”. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes. We plan to have lunch at a nearby location. Please register for the trip by sending an email or calling us about your participation, and any alternate arrangements.

**Leaders:** Bob and Jean Spitzer, 630-790-4842, (birding day cell: 630-222-3307), [bspitzer@dupagebirding.org](mailto:bspitzer@dupagebirding.org), and John Cebula, 630-858-3767, (birding day cell 630-640-2721), [jcebula@dupagebirding.org](mailto:jcebula@dupagebirding.org)

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**Thursday, May 23, 8:00 am - 10:00 am**
**Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, Wheaton**
We will meet off the Butterfield Rd. parking lot at the Boat Rental building. Here is the official DuPage County Forest Preserve link for driving directions: [http://www.dupageforest.org/Herrick_Lake_Map.aspx](http://www.dupageforest.org/Herrick_Lake_Map.aspx). There are restrooms and water available at the start of the walk. We will walk on marked trails and bird various ecosystems: woodland, aquatic, wetland and prairie, looking for migrants and residents.

**Leader:** Laurel Salvador, 630-344-9803, [lsalvador@dupagebirding.org](mailto:lsalvador@dupagebirding.org)

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**Friday, May 24, 2019 5:00 pm**
**Know Your Neighborhood: Glendale Heights**
This is the fourth of twelve 'Know Your Neighborhood' trips, exploring hidden gems, odd and under-birded hot spots in DuPage County; we will be visiting the Black-crowned Night-Heron colony at Glendale Lakes Golf Course and Glendale Lakes Business Park. This walk will be very easy-going, however, it will be a round-trip of 2 miles. Meet at the Glendale Lakes Golf Club House on President St.

**Leader:** Glenn Perricone, 630-687-2921, [gperricone@dupagebirding.org](mailto:gperricone@dupagebirding.org)
Saturday, May 25, 7:00 am
Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville
Joe Suchecki, the Forest Preserve's District's volunteer Steward and Bird Monitor for Springbrook gave a presentation on Springbrook Prairie at the May club meeting. As a follow-up, Joe is leading a trip to Springbrook Prairie for club members on Saturday, May 25th. Participants will cover several of the key birding areas Joe discussed. The trip will focus on grassland and shrubland specialties as well as late spring migrants. Please park at the Model Aircraft Fidel Parking Lot on the west side of Plainfield-Naperville Rd. about 0.5 miles south of 75th St. Be prepared for wet grass and trails, ticks, and mosquitos.
**Leader:** Joe Suchecki, 630-369-5570, jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org

Sunday, May 26, 2019, 8:30 AM
Fermilab, Batavia
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

For additional birding opportunities check out the Illinois Birding Calendar at http://www.illinoisbirds.org/illinois-birding-calendar/, www.dupageforest.org/calendar-of-events or www.fpdcc.com/events. 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.

Field Trip Coordinators Jessica Becker
Kathy Mineck DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com
2019 Meetings

January 10
March 14
April 11
May 9
July 11
September 12
October 10
November 14