DuPage Birding Club

Drummings November 2019

President’s Message

Hello, DuPage Birding Club members,

I’m delighted to tell you that we totally CRUSHED IT at the auction on October 10! We raised more than $7,000, which is 50 percent higher than historic levels of around $4,500. What I love about this success is that it was truly a team effort.

We had a stellar lineup of 60+ items, including two scopes, a pair of bins, fantastic artwork, beautiful handmade bird boxes, cool gift baskets, exciting field adventures, and so much more. The local businesses, publications, and birding community donors came through this year again, and a great many items were donated by our members, which makes them even more special. A big shoutout to VP Denis Kania, the mastermind behind the work plan that led to our success.

Denis and Jeff Chapman, our expert auctioneers, kept things upbeat and did a great job helping us get in the spirit of the cause. The Birding Bazaar and Raffle tables continue to be popular and let everyone go home with something in tow. Our volunteers—all 21 of them—kept things running smoothly and efficiently. And WOW—our bidders were very generous and lively. And of course, we had the beautiful venue of Cantigny Park to host our function.

It doesn’t get much better than this! If you were part of our evening October 10—volunteer, donor, bidder, attendee—I thank you. Together, we delivered for the club and for the birds! If you missed it, I encourage you to make a note to make the date next time. It’s really a grand, don’t-miss night out.

The auction proceeds and your dues fund out business operations, including speakers, grants and donations, outreach, and other programs. Part of our commitment is to put some of these proceeds to work in bird-worthy projects. Your Board and the Grants and Donations Committee is presently considering worthy recipients for donations in 2020. You will have an opportunity to weigh in on options, a benefit of your membership. If you have thoughts on this topic, contact Vera Miller to submit candidates for consideration.

Speaking of membership, if you have yet to ante up on your dues, the window is closing for renewals. If we don’t hear from you by November 30, we will not be including you in the Membership Directory for 2020. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to vote on our donation recipients, stay up-to-date on DuPage birding activities, and be part of one of Chicagoland’s most active birding organizations. Stay with us and join the fun!

Cheers,

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November Program

Wintering Raptors of Illinois & Surrounding Areas

Vic Berardi

Vic Berardi, founder of the all-volunteer Illinois Beach State Park Hawkwatch and well-known raptor photographer, will discuss wintering raptors of Illinois and surrounding states. Emphasis will be raptor descriptions and possible locations to find these birds in the winter months. Vic spends a great deal of time in winter searching for raptors and photographing them. His photographs have been used by several conservation organizations and in raptor field guides.

Come out and join us for this informative presentation which is based on many years of extensive field study by Vic Berardi

Mini-Tutorial Series

The popular mini-tutorial presentations which have preceded our main speaker presentations this year will take a slight detour this month. Instead, we will be hearing from one of the researchers working on a project that DBC has supported through a grant.

Determining Species Abundance and Habitat Preferences of Breeding Birds in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. Presented by Leah Bieniak

A widespread decrease in preferred habitat is forcing many bird species to rely upon alternative breeding habitats that may be less suited to their needs. Urban areas in North America are alternative breeding habitats for both resident and Neotropical migrant species. The long-term goal of the study is to find ways to make urban areas of Bloomington-Normal more suitable for breeding birds, and to provide recommendations to the parks departments for increasing the habitat of breeding birds within city limits.

Note:

The November 14th meeting returns to Faith Lutheran Church. Doors open at 7 pm. Business meeting begins 7:30 followed by the speakers.
The slate of officers for DBC’s 2020 Board has been finalized and will be presented to members for voting at the November 14 meeting. Here’s a preview for your consideration:

President—Denis Kania moves up from his role as Vice-President
Vice-President—Steve Constantelos moves from his current role as Recording Secretary
Treasurer—John Hebert moves from his current role as Director
Recording Secretary—Andi Duffy joins the Board
Corresponding Secretary—Diann Bilderback moves from her current role as President
Kate Hopkins—continues as a Director
Natalie McFaul—continues as a Director
Donna Kubik—joins the Board as a Director

We’d like to thank current Board members Glenn Perricone and Bonnie Graham for their service as they retire their roles as Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. We are happy to report that both will continue in active club leadership roles. Glenn will continue as one of our BCN reps, Facebook liaison, and leader of the popular “Know Your Neighborhood” field trip series and other field trips; Bonnie will join Kathy Mineck as Field Trip Coordinator, replacing Jessica Becker, who is retiring after her two-year term in this role. Thank you, Jessica, for your service in this important job!

Thanks to all of our current and future Board members and committee members for their willingness to give of their time and talents to the club. You are what makes the club the successful organization it is.
Last Call to Renew Your DBC Membership

Time’s up, gang. If we do not receive your annual dues of $20 ($30 family, $10 student) by November 30, we will not include you in our 2020 Membership Directory. This will be your last issue of the Drummings as well. As you know, dues are a major source of annual funding for our speaker program, grants and donations, and operating expenses. They ensure that the club continues to serve your interests and to support the birding community.

You can renew one of three ways:

1. Online using PayPal or credit card—visit www.dupagebirdingclub.org/membership and click on the PayPal button. Easy!

2. Via mail—fill out the form online at the above url, print it, and mail it and a check for your dues to the address on the form. Please do not mail cash. Your canceled check is your receipt.

3. In person November 14—fill out the form online, print it and bring it to a club meeting with cash or check. Treasurer Bonnie Graham will collect your dues and give you a receipt.

Please note that DBC does not rent, sell, or share your personal information, and the personal information you share with DBC is not stored on the DBC website or the host server.

Call for Photos

A big thank you to members who have sent in photos for our use in marketing materials and the website. We are building a nice library of images for future use. If you would like to contribute photos of birds you’ve photographed in the Chicagoland area, people on field trips or enjoying meetings, or other images of relevance, please send to diann.bilderback@yahoo.com. Be sure to name your photo with your last name so we can properly credit them. For those of you who have already submitted images, no need to resubmit. Thanks, all!
November 2019 Field Trips

NOTE: Check DuPageBirding.org for any trip changes, additions or cancellations.
The coming months are the time to see late fall and early winter birds. Some species are only seen this time of year. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season. Please dress for the weather and trail conditions. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent.

Situations sometimes change. Check our DBC website (DuPage Birding Club) for the latest status information. Participants are welcome to contact the trip leader if they have questions including additional driving directions.

Saturday, November 9, 8:30 am
St. James Farm Forest Preserve, Warrenville
The monthly Cantigny walk will be at the adjacent St. James Farm. Like Cantigny, St. James was once a McCormick family property. Please bear in mind that Cantigny walks are often attended by 25 or more birders! Meet in the main parking lot of St. James. Enter off Winfield Rd., just north of Butterfield.

Leader: Jeff Reiter, jreiter@wordsonbirds.com

Saturday, November 9, 8:00 am
Channahon Area, Will County - Advance registration required!
There are birds for viewing at the formation area of the Illinois River, where the Kankakee, Des Plaines and DuPage Rivers converge. We will check the birding at several places in the vicinity of Channahon. Let’s carpool together on this trip.* We may do some trail walking. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes. This trip will go at least until noon. We plan to stop for lunch before driving back to the carpool site. Please contact the trip leaders if you plan to participate, as we may cancel the trip for seriously inclement weather.

Leaders: Bob & Jean Spitzer, 630-790-4842, bspitzer@dupagebirding.org
(birding day Cell: 630-222-3307)

*Note: To carpool, meet at Bolingbrook Park &amp; Ride, just south of I-55, off of Route 53 (Left at Old Chicago Drive) at 7:00 a.m.)

Sunday November 17, 8:00 am
McKee Marsh, Warrenville
Join another morning walk to the marsh to look for late migrants and winter residents. 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 Preserve limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

Leaders: Steve and Kathy Mineck, day of: 630-254-4077, kmineck@dupagebirding.org
Sunday, November 24, 7:30 am
Elsen's Hill - West DuPage Woods, Winfield
This is a morning trip of an hour or two followed by coffee, tea, pastries, and feeder watching at Mark
and Pam's. We will target late fall migrants and winter residents. We'll meet at Elsen's Hill parking lot.
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. Dress for the weather, the trails are often muddy.
Leader: Mark Bavetz, mbavetz@dupagebirding.org

Hawkwatch Update

After a big September things slowed down a little in October. We had over 1500 raptors fly by led by
Turkey Vultures (844) and Red-tailed Hawks (211). On the 14th we registered our 50,000th bird since
our beginning in 2006. Some of our October Highlights include a Swainson’s Hawk, 4 Golden Eagles,
and a Northern Goshawk. Among non-raptors we have started seeing Lapland Longspurs, Horned Larks,
and Snow Buntings, but the highlight would be a group of flyby Hudsonian Godwits. This year we have
had a unique problem trying to discern between migrant and local Bald Eagles as several of our nation’s
symbol have lingered in the area. We have had as many as 7 Bald Eagles over the hill at one time.
Weekend visitors to the hill have had some close up views as they fly eye-level along the slopes.
We had a visit from the Executive Director of Hawk Migration Association of America, Jane Ferreya, as
she toured some of the Great Lakes Hawkwatches. The Hill is no longer open to the public on weekends
but the Greene Valley team will be counting through the end of November. You can follow our daily
reports at hawkcount.org
2019 Meetings

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

November 14