



## President's Message

Hello, fellow birders. I hope you attended our January meeting. Wow! What a great program and we had 113 people in attendance! Laura Keene did not disappoint. Her presentation on her photographic ABA Big Year was very inspiring both in her end result and the events that inspired her to do it. Way to go, Laura! Home Run!

I did an informal big year of my own in 2018, more like a bunt single. I wasn't chasing a particular number or trying to put a new stake in the ground. I just wanted my own personal benchmark on what might be possible for a guy that was finally retired. It turned out to be an amazing year and a frustrating year. Retirement came at the end of April that year. That still left a lot of year to play with, and by that time, I had already spent a week in the Amazon in Ecuador and nearly three weeks in Ghana. I already had a trip to Ecuador planned for October. The January trip was a gift. My wife, Melissa and I went on a 40-day camping swing out west through seven states and four Canadian provinces. Our travels for the year ended with a short trip to Panama.

It was amazing to me that you can go out west and miss birds like Steller's Jay. I'm still trying to figure that one out. I worked so hard for Yellow-breasted Chat here at home making countless trips to Springbrook every time Joe Suchecki told me he had just seen one. In the summer I discovered that you can't go hiking in North Dakota without running into a dozen of them on each hike! Late in the year I repeated the countless trips to Springbrook, first for American Bittern and then again for Rough-legged Hawk. This was the source of my frustration. I don't have the mindset for that kind of chasing and it did wear on me considerably. There were other birds that I thought I had missed out on for the year like Cerulean Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush. The former showed up in Ecuador and the latter was seen in Panama.

The lesson learned was that when birding, do what you enjoy, stay within yourself. There are many ways that birding brings enjoyment to my life. Certainly, travel is huge. If I can do it with friends it is even better! I do love teaching at the Morton Arboretum and I enjoy sharing my artwork. When it comes to chasing, I like to say that I chase destinations rather than birds. There is always a reward even though it might not be the set of birds that you were hoping for. By the end of my quest for American Bittern in 2018, I was talking to myself and it wasn't pretty

### Next Meeting

March 12, 2020  
7:00 p.m. Social Time  
7:30 p.m. Speaker

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

5:15 p.m. Pre-meeting dinner  
Ellyn's Tap and Grill  
940 Roosevelt Rd. Glen Ellyn

Another thing that I enjoy regarding birding is number crunching. Amid the frustration there was a lot of fun too. With the bonus trip to Ecuador I was able to achieve a personal goal of exceeding 1000 birds in one country. I've been to Ecuador ten times now, but the October trip was amazing. For the year that trip alone gave me 525 species; 64 of them were hummingbirds. I ended up with 87 hummingbirds for the year! My Ecuador list is now at 1017. Happy, happy! Where does that put me in the Ecuador birding hall of fame? Who knows and I don't care.

By the time it was all over I had learned way more than how many birds I could see in a year. I'll stick to my style of birding. Everyone should probably try a big year at some point in their birding life. You might just love it! Keep the joy of birding in your sights!

Happy Birding!

Denis

## **SPECIAL FIELD TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Experience the Birding Mecca of the Midwest**

This spring the DuPage Birding Club is going where the birds are—Magee Marsh in Ohio! Magee Marsh is the birding Mecca of the Midwest and we will be visiting during the "Biggest Week in Birding" spring migration festival.



The field trip activities will begin on Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 am and end on Saturday, May 16 at noon. We will spend each day birding many of the iconic locations such as the Magee boardwalk, the Estuary Trail, Metzger Marsh, Howard Marsh, and the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. If the timing is right the birds will be too many to count! Your guide for this trip will be Denis Kania, who has been birding this area every spring for the past 15 years.

To sign up for this trip you will need to contact Denis directly at [DJKAN36@gmail.com](mailto:DJKAN36@gmail.com). Space will be limited to 10 participants. Sign-up will begin on Tuesday, February 4. You will receive further instructions once you are signed up and this will confirm that you have made it onto the participant list.

# 2020 Members' Night Call for Presenters: Show Us What You've Seen!

The DuPage Birding Club's annual Members' Night is Thursday, March 12, 2020, and all DuPage Birding Club photographers are invited to share your favorite bird photos and stories with your fellow members. The photos can be from any birding location—and all levels of photographic expertise will be enjoyed by club members.

Each presentation is limited to 10 minutes, so please be very selective and limit yourself to 10 to 15 images to share. We will only have time to show approximately 10 presentations. To make sure the evening goes smoothly, we ask that presenters adhere to these steps:

## STEP 1

**Submissions will be accepted starting on February 15.** Coordinate submission with Steve Constantelos by email, [SConstantelos@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:SConstantelos@DuPageBirding.org). Please include Presenter's Name, Presentation Title, Number of pictures or slides (not including titles and separators), and a few words describing your presentation. Remember, you are limited to 10 minutes.

## STEP 2

After approval from Steve, **upload submissions** to the Membership/Upload Files webpage on the club website: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/UXDq4odBkykwbAAjwLrc> by **March 1**

The dropbox will accept files up to 100 MB, which should work for everyone. If you encounter any problems, please email [SConstantelos@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:SConstantelos@DuPageBirding.org). He will help with alternative submission possibilities.

All accepted presentations will be loaded onto a Dell PC laptop. The club projector is a NEC with standard VGA cable. Please note, also, that the church meeting room does not provide a Wi-Fi connection.

## **Submission Requirements:**

There are two acceptable formats for photo submission:

- Windows Photo Viewer with sequenced photos
- PowerPoint

If you are submitting image files for use with Photo Viewer, name the files so that the numeric or alphabetical order of the file names corresponds to the order that you want to display the images.

### Note to Mac Users

- All JPEG files must have the .jpg extension.
- All PowerPoint presentations must have .ppt or .pptx extensions.
- Be aware that the PC will substitute some fonts; stay away from exotic fonts and don't rely on exact placement of text.

Bringing a back-up copy of your presentation on a flash drive wouldn't hurt, and if you need to include sound or movies as part of your presentation, please email Steve and bring your own equipment to ensure that the external files are all in the correct locations.

# February 2020 Field Trips

**Saturday, February 1, 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. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd. (Mack is south of Roosevelt and north of Butterfield), located between Winfield Rd. and Rte. 59 in Warrenville. Be sure to dress for the weather.

**Leader: Kyle Wiktor, (C) 708-506-5186, [kylewiktors@msn.com](mailto:kylewiktors@msn.com)**

**Saturday, February 15, 7:30 am**

## **Elsen's Hill - West DuPage Woods, Winfield**

One of our best-known warbler locations can be a productive winter site as well. We will be targeting a few winter specialties including finches, sparrows and wrens. 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. Depending on conditions the trails can be icy or muddy.

**Leader: Mark Bavetz, [mbavetz@dupagebirding.org](mailto:mbavetz@dupagebirding.org)**

**Saturday, February 22, 7:00 am**

## **Mississippi River Eagles & More**

**Advanced Registration Required** This will be an all-day trip to visit several sites along the Mississippi River to see eagles, other raptors, gulls, and waterfowl. Meet at 7am in the parking lot west of the main building of Yorktown Mall (facing Highland, near the Carson Pirie Scott store) in Lombard. Bring walkie-talkies, scopes, if available, and dress for the cold.

NOTE: This trip is limited to 20 people (6 cars). Please register with the leader after Feb. 2.

**Leader: Urs Geiser, 630-310-9443, [ugeiser@dupagebirding.org](mailto:ugeiser@dupagebirding.org)**

**Saturday, February 22, 9:00 am**

## **Fox River Preserves, Batavia & North**

Enjoy leisurely walks looking for winter residents and early migrants starting at Red Oak Nature Center, 2343 S River St., Batavia, IL. Directions: Take Hwy 56 (Butterfield Rd.) west to Hwy 25 (east side of Fox River), drive north on Hwy 25 approx. 1 mile to the Red Oak Nature Center. Meet at the Visitor Center Building. We will visit a few sites further north. A lunch stop completes the trip.

**Leaders: Bob and Jean Spitzer, 630-222-3307, [bspitzer@dupagebirding.org](mailto:bspitzer@dupagebirding.org)**

**Saturday, February 29, 8:00 am**

## **Lyman Woods, Downers Grove**

This is a morning trip over gravel and earthen trails. This site has multiple habitats that attract lots of birds. Some areas may be muddy; we strongly recommend wearing boots and suitable clothing.

**Leader: Joan Campbell, 630-337-2605, [jcampbell@dupagebirding.org](mailto:jcampbell@dupagebirding.org)**

## **Other Birding Opportunities**

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

**The Great Backyard Bird Count** (February 14-17) is an opportunity to contribute from the comfort of your own home. Check out their website at: [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org)

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

## **Field Trip Coordinators**

Bonnie Graham

Kathy Mineck

[DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com](mailto:DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com)

## **In case you missed it:**

Our January 9, 2020 meeting hosted a total of 113 members and guests. The featured speaker, Laura Keene, shared memories of her 2016 Big Year journey during which she saw 815 species of birds, physically documenting 802 species. We learned what is a Big Year and the distances involved in the process. She communicated her joy and sense of fulfillment, sending the message of how important it is to pursue one's dreams.

Denis Kania presented a mini-tutorial titled *Wintering or Late Migrating Ducks in DuPage County: A Few Simple Tips for Identification*, where he helped the audience take a closer look at differences among 3 mergansers, 2 scaup, and ring-necked duck

## **DBC Volunteer Opportunity: Outreach Coordinator**

The club is seeking a new coordinator for its community Outreach program. This post has been held by John Hebert over the last year with help from his wife Kathy. Since John has assumed duties as our new Treasurer, we need to find a new leader here.

The Outreach program responds to requests from the community to share our birding knowledge with special groups who want to learn more about birds. For example, you might:

- Represent the club at an event like Wild Things, Gull Frolic, Forest Preserve events, or International Migratory Bird Day, among others. We usually sponsor a table, share information, and answer questions. You don't have to attend all events, just find folks to staff them.
- Lead a field trip for a group, which has included primary school children with their parents, a library-sponsored event, a senior citizens group, and others.

In the last year, we participated in an average of one activity a month, so figure about a dozen activities a year, with requests concentrated in the spring and fall.

This is a great chance to share your love of birds with the community and help our club fulfill its mission of helping DuPage County residents.

## **New DBC website is LIVE!**

Drum roll, please! The new DBC website rolled out in late January and has already earned a few accolades. It features updated design, navigation, content, and features that will make it easier to maintain by our nontechnical webmasters. Watch for future enhancements in the coming months. Check it out at [www.dupagebirding.org](http://www.dupagebirding.org).



# DuPage Birding Club

## 2020 DBC Executive Committee Members

President, Denis Kania, [dkania@dupagebirding.org](mailto:dkania@dupagebirding.org)

Vice President, Stephen Constantelos,  
[sconstantelos@dupagebirding.org](mailto:sconstantelos@dupagebirding.org)

Treasurer, John Hebert, [jhebert@dupagebirding.org](mailto:jhebert@dupagebirding.org)

Recording Secretary, Andrea Duffy,  
[aduffy@dupagebirding.org](mailto:aduffy@dupagebirding.org)

Corresponding Secretary, Diann Bilderback,  
[dbilderback@dupagebirding.org](mailto:dbilderback@dupagebirding.org)

Kate Hopkins, Director, [khopkins@dupagebirding.org](mailto:khopkins@dupagebirding.org)

Natalie McFaul, Director, [nmcfaul@dupagebirding.org](mailto:nmcfaul@dupagebirding.org)

Donna Kubik, [dkubik@dupagebirding.org](mailto:dkubik@dupagebirding.org)

## 2020 DBC Committee Chairs

Outreach/Youth Education: John Hebert, Kathy Hebert

Bird Conservation Network Reps: Glenn Gabanski,  
Tom Mulcahy, Glenn Perricone

Forest Preserve Liaison: Pat Eggleston

Grants and Donations: Vera Miller

Spring Count Coordinator: Joe Suchecki

Christmas Count Coordinator: Jeff Chapman

Stewardship: Diann Bilderback

Field Trips: Kathy Mineck and Bonnie Graham

Webmaster: Nancy Allured

Membership Directory: Bob Spitzer

Drummings Newsletter: Jeff Smith

Email Distribution: Bob Fisher

Twitter: Vera Miller

Facebook: Glenn Perricone and John Cebula

Flickr: Urs Geiser

Hospitality: Geralyn Hoffman

Audio-Visual Coordinator: Kate Hopkins

DBC Apparel: Steve Constantelos

Lending Library: Jeff Smith

## 2020 Meetings

January 9

**March 12**

April 9

May 14

July 9

September 10

October 8

November 12