



## President's Message

Hello fellow birders. For now, all we can do is dream. That was my first thought as I sat down to write this month's president's message.

I have trips to Australia, New Zealand, the Yucatan, and the Dominican Republic all hanging in the balance as we wait for the covid-19 threat to become a distant memory. I have not given up hope on any of these trips and I look forward to some sort of normalcy. I have continued to focus on making target lists and building itineraries.

It has not been the best experience, being at the helm of the club, and having to inform members that we are cancelling events. Rather than making wholesale cancellations, your board has been continually assessing the local environment and governmental agency rules to help us to navigate through these trying times. We want to provide our membership with opportunities to fulfill their birding dreams by attending club meetings as well as local field trips as soon as possible. Steve Constantelos has a great slate of presenters lined up for us. Rescheduling efforts are underway to make sure we don't miss any of these important topics.

Field trips will resume as soon as we see a return to normal lifestyles which do not include rules on gathering size and social distancing. Although it is likely possible to conduct outdoor field trips without a serious threat of contributing to covid-19 spread we should respect local and state agencies that would like to see us practicing social distancing. I'm all for being a good citizen in these uncertain times.

We should still be able to go out birding and enjoy our time in the field. I think it is important that we continue to make outside activities a part of our daily lives. Many of us bird the same haunts. I'm sure our paths will cross. It will be great fun to share sightings and experiences at these chance encounters.

Lately, I have not focused on my yard list due to my many trips. This spring I will spend much more time surveying my small corner of the world to see what species are taking advantage of my completely re-naturalized landscape. The plant selections and altered maintenance practices should please many more migrants as they pass through my neighborhood. I'm sure this will prove to be a fascinating experience.

### Next Meeting

TBA

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

I normally spend a lot of my free time birding at Fermilab as a bird monitor. With that site now under complete closure to everyone but essential personnel, I will be encouraged to look elsewhere for birding opportunities. There are plenty of small parks and preserves that are not far from my house and exploring them will be a refreshing change.

Every spring I dedicate a lot of my birding time to teaching classes at the Morton Arboretum. Although the Arboretum grounds are still open, their buildings are closed and all of my spring classes have been cancelled. I count many of my students as friends as they have been with me for many years. As I explore the county in search of new birding sites I'm sure to run into birders that I have not met before. This can be a new form of life list for me. I look forward to those new encounters.

So, as they say, as one door closes another door opens. How true, even with birding in these trying times.

Happy Birding!

Denis

## **Programs on Hold as Covid-19 Runs Its Course**

Per President Denis Kania's recent email to the membership, the DBC is canceling the April meeting and all field trips through May 10. In late April, the Board will review the situation and make recommendations for the club's participation in the Spring Bird Count, May field trips, and the May meeting. We want to protect the members and support governmental guidelines and will follow developments closely. Rest assured we will resume programs as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. In the meantime, you can still enjoy our preserves and parks on your own (for now, anyway), and we've provided some other diversions to help you get your "bird fix." Read on for some of this information.

## **Guidelines for Safe Use of our Parks and Preserves**

As you already know, our Field Trip program has been suspended through April as part of the broader effort to contain the Covid-19 virus. This is the prudent course to protect DBC members and comply with statewide guidance to limit gatherings. However, you can still get out and do some birding in our beautiful parks and preserves. Please refer to the guidelines that follow to ensure a safe experience:

<https://www.openlands.org/2020/03/18/covid-19-what-natural-areas-are-open-and-the-guidelines-to-follow/>

## Attention, Armchair Birders! This One's for You!

Now that we are largely confined to our homes, how about some virtual birding? Luckily the internet provides us with many options to watch birds and other wildlife, essentially in real time, at a number of locations around the world. You may remember Urs Geiser's DBC presentation from three years ago, where he introduced us to cameras in Australia, Japan, Brazil, and Botswana, and the birdlife that can be seen on these streams. Thank you, Urs, for providing us the following update on what's available!

The websites that were featured then have since changed, but many more are available now, and the image quality has become quite amazing. Another cool feature is that many streams use an infrared-sensitive camera to show wildlife at night. Many of these sites also allow you to go back a few hours, and they let you adjust the streaming speed (useful for hummingbirds!).

Here is a small sample:

The website of the Cornell Ornithology Laboratory (<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/all-cams/>) has several streaming web cameras with a mixture of nest and feeder cams. The feeder are located in Ithaca NY (at the Lab itself), western Ontario (where there is still snow), the Davis Mountains of Texas (where they switched from seed to a hummingbird feeder a few days ago), and the Canopy Lodge in El Valle de Anton, Panama. Nest cams include Barred Owl, Bermuda Petrel, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, and Northern Royal Albatross, as well as a few others that are currently out-of-season.

Another good site with numerous wildlife selections (and some other streams) is Explore.org (<https://www.explore.org/livecams/>). The almost 200 streams on this site are organized into overlapping collections, each featuring the top-viewed stream by default. But you can scroll down and select other streams within the collection. For example, the Nebraska Crane festival had to be canceled this year, but you can enjoy the spectacle at <https://explore.org/livecams/birds/crane-camera>. The cameras on many of these streams are operated by remote volunteers with aim and zoom capabilities. Among other collections are: Birders Paradise, African Wildlife, Oceans, and so much more.

While both of these sites are wrapped around YouTube technology, there are numerous other webcams that stream exclusively over YouTube. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/> and search for 'bird webcam live' or similar, and you will get an idea of what is out there.

Stay healthy and enjoy the show!

## And While You're Sitting at Home...

...Why not get acquainted with Cornell Lab's E-bird platform for recording and sharing your bird sightings with the world at large? The DBC encourages all field trip leaders and members to record their sightings after each excursion to help build the knowledge database about birding in DuPage County. At the same time, you can build your own list of seen birds. It's fun and it's easy with a little help from the Lab's tutorial. The club intends to offer an E-bird Tutorial later in the year for some hands-on practice. Now might be a great time to start exploring what it can do.

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/>

## An Invitation for our Young Nature Artists

Do you know a young artist with a budding talent for bird art? Each year, the Massachusetts Audubon's Museum of American Bird Art hosts a juried youth bird art exhibition for children ages 4-18 called Taking Flight. This is the Mass Audubon's fifth year hosting the exhibit, and they invite entries from all over the U.S. and internationally. The exhibition will be on display at the Museum of American Bird Art with the hope that it fosters the next generation of artists who love birds and wildlife.

If you know of any young artists who might be interested in submitting, please pass this information along to them and share it with your contacts. This year's theme is "Your favorite bird, or what birds mean to you," and most non-digital mediums are allowed. They are taking submissions until June 15, 2020. The show will be up in the museum in the fall. Check out their [website](#) and [Facebook event](#) for more information. Let's help spread the word!

## Welcome, new members!

Deborah Lake, Woodridge, IL  
John Obenland and Cynthia Duranceau  
Linda Nash, Downers Grove  
Nancy and James Porte, Westmont  
Patricia Shure, Addison

## 2019 Fermilab-Batavia Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Results

It seems so long ago...On December 14, 2019, 108 birders counted every bird they could see and hear within the 15-mile circle during the 44<sup>th</sup> Fermi-Batavia CBC. The circle's center point is within Fermilab and extends as far west as Dick Young/Nelson Lake Forest Preserve in Kane County to Lincoln Marsh in Wheaton to the east. Eighty species were observed in the count, below our 10-year average of nearly 84 species. We had high counts of Wild Turkey (19) and Carolina Wren (10), while tying the high count for three species: Pileated Woodpecker (2), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (3) and Marsh Wren (1). Thank you to all the area captains and counters in making this year another successful count!

Address any questions to CBC compiler Jeff Chapman at [jchapman@dupagebirding.org](mailto:jchapman@dupagebirding.org).

4	Snow Goose	21	Northern Flicker
22	Cackling Goose	2	Pileated Woodpecker
14,496	Canada Goose	6	American Kestrel
1	Trumpeter Swan	1	Merlin
1	Wood Duck	1	Peregrine Falcon
11	American Black Duck	1	Eastern Phoebe
2,302	Mallard	3	Northern Shrike
7	Northern Shoveler	188	Blue Jay
6	Green-winged Teal	127	American Crow
2	Redhead	1	Horned Lark
2	Bufflehead	456	Black-capped Chickadee
199	Common Goldeneye	3	Tufted Titmouse
4	Hooded Merganser	230	White-breasted Nuthatch
124	Common Merganser	24	Brown Creeper
3	Ruddy Duck	11	Winter Wren
19	Wild Turkey	1	Marsh Wren
2	Double-crested Cormorant	10	Carolina Wren
26	Great Blue Heron	9	Golden-crowned Kinglet
14	Bald Eagle	3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
2	Northern Harrier	17	Eastern Bluebird
2	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Hermit Thrush
15	Cooper's Hawk	155	American Robin
95	Red-tailed Hawk	1,887	European Starling
85	Sandhill Crane	474	Cedar Waxwing
1	Wilson's Snipe	1	Lapland Longspur
93	Ring-billed Gull	1	Snow Bunting
27	Herring Gull	7	Yellow-rumped Warbler
292	Rock Pigeon	471	American Tree Sparrow
703	Mourning Dove	13	Fox Sparrow
4	Eastern Screech-owl	1,000	Dark-eyed Junco
13	Great Horned Owl	7	White-crowned Sparrow
2	Barred Owl	53	White-throated Sparrow
1	Long-eared Owl	45	Song Sparrow
1	Short-eared Owl	28	Swamp Sparrow
15	Belted Kingfisher	520	Northern Cardinal
1	Red-headed Woodpecker	4	Red-winged Blackbird
210	Red-bellied Woodpecker	368	House Finch
1	Yellow-bellied Woodpecker	1	Pine Siskin
247	Downy Woodpecker	244	American Goldfinch
68	Hairy Woodpecker	593	House Sparrow

## Annual Spring Bird Count, Saturday May 9th

Hold the date and plan to participate in the 2020 Spring Bird Count in DuPage County on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Spring Bird Count is held annually throughout Illinois around the first weekend in May and is intended to provide some information and data on early spring bird migration throughout Illinois. The DuPage Birding Club coordinates the spring count efforts in DuPage County, and last year we recorded 165 species throughout DuPage County on spring count day. Results from past counts can be found on the DBC website.

It is not too early to start getting ready for this year's spring count. If you have participated in the past, look for an email in early April from Joe Suchecki with information about the count, your area captain and your count area. If you have not participated previously and would like to join the fun this year, contact Joe Suchecki at [jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org](mailto:jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org) and he will put you in touch with an area captain for the count.

Last year we had just over 90 participants counting birds on the spring count. We would like even more people to participate this year. So, don't miss out on the fun and excitement of the great Spring Bird Count on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Any questions? Contact Joe Suchecki who is coordinating this year's count at [Jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org](mailto:Jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org)

***Note this may also be cancelled due to Covid-19.***



### 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)
- Director, Kate Hopkins, [khopkins@dupagebirding.org](mailto:khopkins@dupagebirding.org)
- Director, Natalie McFaul, [nmcfaul@dupagebirding.org](mailto:nmcfaul@dupagebirding.org)
- Director 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
- Stewardship: Diann Bilderback
- Webmaster: Nancy Allured
- Newsletter: Jeff Smith
- Twitter: Vera Miller
- Flickr: Urs Geiser
- Audio-Visual Coordinator: Kate Hopkins
- Lending Library: Jeff Smith

### 2020 Meetings

- January 9
- March 12
- April **Cancelled**
- May 14
- July 9
- September 10
- October 15
- November 12

- Christmas Count Coordinator: Jeff Chapman
- Field Trips: Kathy Mineck and Bonnie Graham
- Membership Directory: Bob Spitzer Drumblings
- Email Distribution: Bob Fisher
- Facebook: Glenn Perricone and John Cebula
- Hospitality: Geralyn Hoffman
- DBC Apparel: Steve Constantelos