



President's Message

Hello, fellow birders. Here it is June already, and with that, spring migration is all but over. It was quite a remarkable migration season and here are some of my bird world observations.

We had to cancel field trips for three months but that didn't seem to tamp down our urges to get out and bird many of the local hotspots. As I traversed the county looking for those flashy migrating warblers, I found more than I thought possible. On the right days there certainly were plenty of birds to admire. Along the way there were plenty of birders too. Some familiar and some new to me. I just hope that I recognize everyone when the masks come off.

Judging from the eBird and IBET reports, there were also many birders out and about that I did not run into. It was a great feeling knowing that many were not deterred. When it comes to the shelter-at-home orders, birders are the lucky ones. Birders have a pastime that fits nicely with the sheltering-at-home protocol. We still have our backyards. I had a lot of my neighbors looking at birds for the first time. That was a lot of fun. Beyond our backyards we have our local forest preserves. In the early hours of the day, the preserves were not swarming with folks looking for any form of entertainment. That was fun too.

There are many birding sites in DuPage County that I'm not familiar with. There are even a few that I did not know existed. Thankfully, Diann Bilderback has a solution. Diann has been spearheading an initiative to document many of the local hotspots on our web site. I wish that this information had been available earlier. Spring might have been even more interesting. This is a great example of how the Board has been busy creating items of value for our membership even while we are prevented from meeting. Roll out of these hotspot descriptions is something that everyone should be watching for. If you don't see your favorite birding spot listed in the first release, maybe you can contact Diann and offer to write something up to share.

After a lot of hand wringing, the State went ahead with their plans for the Spring Bird Count. DuPage birders answered the call. Joe Suchecki will fill us in on the details elsewhere in this newsletter. We did not set any records but we did have a lot of birders out participating and a lot of birds were recorded. From what I have heard, the data reflects that we birded quite differently due to distancing requirements. Hours recorded birding on foot were way up and hours recorded driving were way down. We searched almost every corner of the county that was open but in very small teams or solo. We were once again "birding with a purpose."

Next Meeting

July 9, 2020
7:00 p.m. Speaker

In the comfort of your own
home via *Zoom*
see article on page 2

I found a new way to entertain myself and hopefully fellow birders in the process. I opened up my own little “recording studio” and went to work capturing various topics from my class lecture material. I have enough Powerpoints and yet-to-be-developed topics to last well into 2021. Since all of my Morton Arboretum classes were cancelled and the club has not been able to meet, it seemed like the perfect way to share birds, and to introduce ways to deal with identification puzzles. Whether you have taken my classes or not, check out the mini-tutorials that the club has been rolling out every Wednesday for the past couple of months. The topics vary quite a bit and I think that you will find that there is something that can be gained by everyone regardless of how long they have been birding.

Even though we are in the midst of the alternate universe of Covid-19, we managed to get a lot accomplished. Birders still found ways to bird. Your Board found new ways to support the club membership in the absence of meetings and field trips. When this is all over I hope you will look back at this past spring as quite a remarkable migration.

Happy Birding!

Denis

Club Meetings to Resume in July via Zoom

The DuPage Birding Club is meeting again! Join us on the evening of July 9 as club president Denis Kania presents a program on hummingbirds. Instructions for attending the meeting via Zoom videoconferencing will be shared at a later time by email and in the next *Drummings*.

Amazing Hummingbirds of the World

Presented by Denis Kania

Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Venue: Zoom videoconference

Amazing Hummingbirds of the World

Of all the bird families in the world, for Denis Kania none are as interesting as hummingbirds. Sadly, with only one regularly-occurring species here in Illinois, Denis has had to travel to enjoy this unique family of birds. Counting four newly-acquired species he “acquired” on a trip to Jamaica, he has now seen 207 hummingbird species. It has taken many years and many trips to Central and South America to track them all down, and Denis has many first-hand reports of these aerial acrobats to share.

Hummingbirds seem to break all the rules. They fly upside down and backwards. They have adapted to freezing temperatures, alternate migration patterns, and plant evolution. The DBC is delighted to give its own president the floor as Denis explores the anatomical features that allow these birds’ unconventional flight, their role as pollinators, and their fascinating relationships with plants. For such tiny creatures they are simply amazing!

Field Trips Resume—Hooray!

We're pleased to announce that field trips will resume in June with a few guidelines to ensure that our birding is safe and compliant with the Governor's Phase 3 Covid-19 guidelines.

- Pre-registration required and participant must be a DBC club member.
- Participant limit is set at 10 including the leader. Absolutely, no stretching the limit.
- Face masks are required which should cover both nose and mouth.
- Participants should spread out and keep in mind the six-foot distancing recommendations.
- Anyone not feeling well should not attend.
- There should be no sharing of field guides, binoculars, etc.
- No carpooling from site to site if the trip is moving around except for members from the same household.

Thanks, everyone, for your patience. We look forward to resuming our active program of field trips through the summer.

June Field Trips

In June, migration gives way to the breeding season when many birds will be singing. 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. Also, don't forget about those pesky bugs and have some bug spray with you. 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. Please note: Last-minute changes are posted on dupagebirding.org/field-trips.

Saturday, June 20, 7:30 am

Elsen's Hill/West DuPage Woods, Winfield

This location has the designation of "Important Bird Area." 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. We will look and listen for local breeding birds and focus on recognizing songs and calls of some of our local nesting species.

Leader: Mark Bavetz, mbavetz@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, June 20, 7:00 am

Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve

This trip will focus on finding the grassland birds that nest at Springbrook Prairie including such species as Henslow's, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows, Bobolinks, Sedge Wren and Dickcissel. Some shrubland birds such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Bell's Vireo and marsh-nesting birds are also possible. Meet the leader at the main parking lot for Springbrook Prairie on 83rd St. west of Book Rd. across from the Springbrook Golf Course. The trip will go off-trail and the vegetation may be wet, so please wear appropriate footwear and use insect repellent.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-369-5570, jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, June, 21, 7:00 am-9:30 am

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Join us for another morning walk to the marsh where we hope to see nesting 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 limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

Leaders: Steve and Kathy Mineck, cell day of: 630-254-4077, kmineck@dupagebirding.org

Sunday, June 28, 7:00 am

Bemis Woods South, Western Springs

Join us at Bemis Woods South for a morning of birding. This will be a walk for new birders. We will walk slowly and allow time for all to look at the birds. We will check out resident and nesting birds. Meet by the "Go Ape" course. The entrance is off Ogden Ave. between I 294 and Wolf Rd. The trails can be muddy so wear appropriate shoes and use insect repellent.

Leader: Lesa Hipes, 630-689-7463, lhipes@dupagebirding.org

For additional birding opportunities go to the Illinois Birding Calendar at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/illinois-birding-calendar/>. 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 and there are no fees for birding trips. Field trip information is also found at: www.dupagebirding.org.

Field Trip Coordinators

Kathy Mineck

Bonnie Graham

DBCfieldtrips@gmail.com

Hotspots Go Live

The first seven DuPage County birding hotspots are now live on the website at [www.dupagebirding.org/resources/Birding DuPage](http://www.dupagebirding.org/resources/Birding_DuPage).

Birding Hotspots give you a deep dive into some of the county's best birding haunts led by the people who know them best. We've tapped the expertise of club members who know key sites really well, as site stewards or dedicated birders with a passion for the location. When to go, how to work the trails, what birds are there and when, and what conditions we might encounter—it's all there in Birding Hotspots.

Two of our first seven are closed at the moment but we hope to see them opening soon. A big shoutout to site contributors. Our first Hotspots are here:

- Cantigny Park, Jeff Reiter (currently closed to visitors)
- Fermilab, Dave Spleha (currently closed to visitors)
- Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Jeff Smith and Mike Madsen
- Mc Dowell Grove, Denis Kania
- Springbrook Prairie, Joe Suchecki
- West DuPage Woods/Elsen's Hill, Eric Secker
- Waterfall Glen, Vicky Sroczynski and Bob Fisher

NOTE to members: if you have a favorite birding site and would like to add a Birding Hotspot, we are all for it! It can be a forest preserve, park district, or other interesting "patch" anywhere in DuPage County. Please contact dbilderback@dupagebirding.org for template and guidelines. Let's build a great library of insider information on the great sites in our county.

Hotspots are another way the Board is trying to help enrich your birding experience in the absence of meetings and field trips during the pandemic. The first initiative was the DuPage Birding Club Education Channel on YouTube, which launched April 9. Watch for more Hotspots and more educational videos to go live in the next few months as we develop these important new communication channels.

The 2020 Spring Bird Count* Results

Joe Suchecki

DuPage County Spring Bird Count Compiler

The 2020 Spring Bird Count (SBC) was held on Saturday, May 9th, and always will be noted with an asterisk. Asterisks indicate that something was unusual or different. This year's spring bird count certainly was not normal in several ways, but primarily because a new virus changed the world in 2020, how we function as a society changed, and how we conducted the SBC necessarily changed as well. Perhaps the most important impact was that several key sites in DuPage County were off limits this year - including Fermi Lab and The Morton Arboretum.

Despite Covid-19 halting many business, dining, and social activities, the SBC moved forward with restrictions on birding group size, availability of bathrooms, and maintaining social distancing. In addition, below freezing temperatures made the morning of May 9th one for the record books at 27 degrees. On the positive side, DuPage Birders would not be deterred. Not only was there a significant uptick in the number of participants to 120 from 96 last year, we set a new all-time record for level of effort – 309 party hours of observation and over 280 miles walked. Way to go DuPage Birders!

Now for the results. All of that effort resulted in finding 155 species of birds in DuPage County on May 9th and tallying 22,443 birds. The species total is at the long-term average of 155 species but below the record high 188 species seen in 2018 and the 165 species last year. Similarly, the number of birds found was near the long-term average but fell short of last year's count. No far out-of-range rarities or highly unusual species were recorded on the count.

The complete list of species observed on the 2020 SBC in DuPage County is included in the following table and will be on the Club's website along with some historical data. Some highlights of the 2020 SBC include:

- One new species was added to the Spring Bird Count List- Black-necked Stilt recorded by Jodi and Jerry Zamirowski in Area 11. The Zamirowski's added a new bird to the SBC list in style, with not one stilt but 10 stilts at McKee Marsh.
- There were only a few new high counts in 2020 – Caspian Tern (96), Bald Eagle (13), Red-bellied Woodpecker (351), Eastern Phoebe (86), Purple Martin (35), and Song Sparrow (731).
- Participants found only two Scarlet Tanagers in the County on count day.
- We recorded only 10 species of shorebirds this year. Lots of rain kept ponds and wetlands high, and the County has very few good shorebird spots anymore. Shorebirds were low last year as well.
- Twenty-eight species of warblers were seen including a few of the most sought-after ones: Hooded, Cerulean, Yellow-throated, and Prothonotary. Yellow-rumped, Palm, and Yellow warblers were the most abundant warblers found.
- The five most abundant species in DuPage County: Red-winged Blackbird, American Robin, Canada Goose, Mallard, and American Goldfinch. Same top-four as last year.

There was a time when I was doubtful that we would have an SBC this year. Despite all the issues caused by Covid -19, we managed to pull-off another one – the 49th straight year of spring birds counts in the County. DuPage Birders came through, and we once again had a wonderful count. Let's hope that next spring things are back to "normal" whatever that may be.

Thanks to all participants for your great efforts and long hours in the field. And a special thanks to our Area Captains who really do all the hard work and coordination: Liza Gray, Kyle Wyktor, Margie and Al Busic, Dave Yeager, Herman Jensen, Urs Geiser, Eric and Sally Secker, Jeff Reiter, Glenn Perricone, Jim Huebler, Jerry and Jody Zamirowski, Susan Kaley, Joe Suchecki, Mike Madsen, and Jim Green.

Same time and place next year?



One of the 13 Bald Eagles recorded on the SBC near its Greene Valley nest.



This Northern Parula was also one of 13 seen on the count.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|------------------------|-------|--------------------------|------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| | Snow Goose | | Semipalmated Plover | | Loggerhead Shrike | 1 | Hooded Warbler |
| 1198 | Canada Goose | 115 | Killdeer | 1 | White-eyed Vireo | 12 | American Redstart |
| 6 | Mute Swan | | Upland Sandpiper | | Bell's Vireo | 1 | Cape May Warbler |
| | Trumpeter Swan** | | Dunlin | 13 | Yellow-throated Vireo | 1 | Cerulean Warbler |
| 149 | Wood Duck | 12 | Least Sandpiper | 33 | Blue-headed Vireo | 13 | Northern Parula |
| 40 | Blue-winged Teal | | White-rumped Sandpiper | | Philadelphia Vireo | 11 | Magnolia Warbler |
| | Northern Shoveler | 6 | Pectoral Sandpiper | 52 | Warbling Vireo | 1 | Bay-breasted Warbler |
| 2 | Gadwall | | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 13 | Red-eyed Vireo | 6 | Blackburnian Warbler |
| 2 | American Wigeon | | Western Sandpiper | 599 | Blue Jay | 151 | Yellow Warbler |
| 975 | Mallard | | Short-billed Dowitcher | 72 | American Crow | 11 | Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| | Northern Pintail | 5 | American Woodcock | | Fish Crow | 1 | Blackpoll Warbler |
| 3 | Green-winged Teal | 10 | Wilson's Snipe | | Horned Lark | | Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| | Canvasback | | Wilson's Phalarope | 245 | N. Rough-winged Swallow | 343 | Palm Warbler |
| 1 | Redhead | 38 | Spotted Sandpiper | 35 | Purple Martin | 7 | Pine Warbler |
| | Ring-necked Duck | 25 | Solitary Sandpiper | 651 | Tree Swallow | 481 | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| | Lesser Scaup | 7 | Greater Yellowlegs | 16 | Bank Swallow | 1 | Yellow-throated Warbler |
| | Hooded Merganser | 46 | Lesser Yellowlegs | 391 | Barn Swallow | | Prairie Warbler |
| | Common Merganser | | Bonaparte's Gull | 14 | Cliff Swallow | 83 | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| 1 | Red-breasted Merganser | 90 | Ring-billed Gull | | Carolina Chickadee | 1 | Canada Warbler |
| | Ruddy Duck | 9 | Herring Gull | 325 | Black-capped Chickadee | 5 | Wilson's Warbler |
| | Northern Bobwhite | 94 | Caspian Tern | 3 | Tufted Titmouse | | Grasshopper Sparrow |
| | Ring-necked Pheasant | | Black Tern | | Red-breasted Nuthatch | 2 | Henslow's Sparrow |
| 8 | Wild Turkey | | Common Tern | 196 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 69 | Chipping Sparrow |
| | Common Loon | | Forster's Tern | 4 | Brown Creeper | 4 | Clay-colored Sparrow |
| | Pied-billed Grebe | 42 | Rock Pigeon | 244 | House Wren | 126 | Field Sparrow |
| 247 | Double-crstd Cormorant | | Eurasian Collared-Dove | 8 | Sedge Wren | 1 | Lark Sparrow |
| | American White Pelican | 273 | Mourning Dove | 17 | Marsh Wren | 100 | White-crowned Sparrow |
| | American Bittern | | Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 8 | Carolina Wren | 189 | White-throated Sparrow |
| | Least Bittern | | Black-billed Cuckoo | 334 | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | Vesper Sparrow |
| 269 | Great Blue Heron | | Barn Owl** | 160 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 53 | Savannah Sparrow |
| 91 | Great Egret | 3 | Eastern Screech-Owl | 102 | Eastern Bluebird | 731 | Song Sparrow |
| | Snowy Egret | 15 | Great Horned Owl | 8 | Veery | 32 | Lincoln's Sparrow |
| | Little Blue Heron | 2 | Barred Owl | 3 | Gray-cheeked Thrush | 119 | Swamp Sparrow |
| | Cattle Egret | | Common Nighthawk | 19 | Swainson's Thrush | 97 | Eastern Towhee |
| 16 | Green Heron | | Chuck-will's-widow | 8 | Hermit Thrush | | Yellow-breasted Chat |
| 6 | Black-crwnd Nt-Heron | | Eastern Whip-poor-will | 21 | Wood Thrush | | Summer Tanager |
| | Yellow-crwnd Nt-Heron | 345 | Chimney Swift | 2625 | American Robin | 2 | Scarlet Tanager |
| | Black Vulture** | 8 | Ruby-thrtd Hummingbird | 271 | Gray Catbird | 696 | Northern Cardinal |
| 91 | Turkey Vulture | 12 | Belted Kingfisher | 29 | Brown Thrasher | 106 | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| 9 | Osprey | 19 | Red-headed Woodpecker | 1 | Northern Mockingbird | | Blue Grosbeak |
| | Mississippi Kite | 351 | Red-bellied Woodpecker | 331 | European Starling | 40 | Indigo Bunting |
| | Northern Harrier | 2 | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | American Pipit | | Dickcissel |
| 8 | Sharp-shinned Hawk | 229 | Downy Woodpecker | 42 | Cedar Waxwing | | Yellow-headed Blackbird |
| 52 | Cooper's Hawk | 46 | Hairy Woodpecker | 22 | Ovenbird | 45 | Bobolink |
| 13 | Bald Eagle | 177 | Northern Flicker | | Worm-eating Warbler | | Western Meadowlark |
| | Red-shouldered Hawk | 4 | Pileated Woodpecker | | Louisiana Waterthrush | 58 | Eastern Meadowlark |
| 3 | Broad-winged Hawk | 6 | American Kestrel | 72 | Northern Waterthrush | 21 | Orchard Oriole |
| 114 | Red-tailed Hawk | | Peregrine Falcon | 6 | Golden-winged Warbler | 260 | Baltimore Oriole |
| | King Rail** | | Olive-sided Flycatcher | 9 | Blue-winged Warbler | 3351 | Red-winged Blackbird |
| 16 | Virginia Rail | 3 | Eastern Wood-Pewee | 53 | Black-and-white Warbler | 528 | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 26 | Sora | | Acadian Flycatcher | 4 | Prothonotary Warbler | | Brewer's Blackbird |
| 1 | Common Gallinule | 3 | Willow Flycatcher | 15 | Tennessee Warbler | 470 | Common Grackle |
| 1 | American Coot | 34 | Least Flycatcher | 8 | Orange-crowned Warbler | 183 | House Finch |
| 15 | Sandhill Crane | 86 | Eastern Phoebe | 121 | Nashville Warbler | | Purple Finch |
| 10 | Black-necked Stilt | 13 | Great Crested Flycatcher | | Mourning Warbler | 789 | American Goldfinch |
| | Black-bellied Plover | | Western Kingbird | | Kentucky Warbler | 344 | House Sparrow |
| | American Golden-Plover | 14 | Eastern Kingbird | 149 | Common Yellowthroat | | Eurasian Tree Sparrow |
| | | | | | | | Other Species: |
| | | | | | | 18 | Monk Paraket |
| | | | | | | 2 | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| | | | | | | 1 | Winter Wren |
| | | | | | | 1 | Accipiter sp |
| | | | | | | 5 | Empidonax sp |
| | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Species Count | 34 | Species Count | 45 | Species Count | 47 | Species Count |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 3373 | Number of Birds | 2144 | Number of Birds | 7353 | Number of Birds | 9573 | Number of Birds |
| | | | | | | | |
| 313.75 | Party hours foot | 282.5 | Party Miles (Foot) | | | 155 | TOTAL SPECIES COUNT |
| 15.25 | Party Hours car | 279.5 | Party Miles (Car) | | | 22443 | TOTAL BIRDS COUNT |
| 12.8 | Hours Home | 6.6 | Miles Home | | | | |

DBC Education Channel Finds its Audience

The DuPage Birding Club Education Channel on YouTube is finding its audience and we hope that includes you! If you haven't yet tapped into this resource, well, there's no time like the present. The first eight videos have been viewed more than 2,500 times and have covered some of our most problematic identification challenges—Mourning vs. Connecticut Warbler, Early Flycatchers, our Spotted Thrushes, and more. In the next month, we'll feature the following:

- Grassland Sparrows
- House Finch vs. Purple Finch
- Tanagers—Scarlet, Summer and Western
- The Wrens

DBC President Denis Kania plans to release a new video every Wednesday for the next several months, with a few guest presenters joining him on special topics. Join the fun here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEilyuewO86Cds5CoA7-GcQ>

Outreach Plans Take Shape

According to Aristotle, “In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous.”

The DBC Outreach team has been doing a bit of brainstorming to find ways to share the marvels of nature with the DuPage community. Outreach requires “reaching out.” We noticed that the reaching out occurs in two directions: we, the DBC, want to reach out to the community to share and make known our love and knowledge of the local birding scene. In the opposite direction, members of the community have reached out to the DBC, asking for birding advice.

We are creating an online source of local birding information to address both needs. We envision four sections, one for each season. Each season will feature the Top Ten Birds commonly seen during that time of year in DuPage County, with information about each bird: ID information, its song, where it lives, and what it eats. For spring, we'll also include information about nesting and migration. For summer, we'll feature information about the newly hatched birds. For fall, there will be Information about fall migration. And, for winter, we'll discuss how the birds we see in DuPage County survive the Midwestern winter.

To complement the online information, we'd like to create a DBC Mentor Program, offering one-on-one dialog between a DBC mentor and a community member who'd like help getting started in birding or using DBC resources. The communication could take any or many forms: email “penpals,” in person meetings, phone, etc.

Other outreach projects in the works are educational games, like BIRDO, an “I spy” form of Bingo with the “I spy” topics having a local bent.

Anyone interested in being a mentor or participating in any other outreach activities or planning would be very welcome to join the team! Please contact Donna Kubik at dkubik@dupagebirding.org.

eBird Challenge at the O'Hara Woods Nature Preserve

Our friends at Will County Audubon have extended an invitation to DBC members to join them and other birders in the O'Hara Woods eBird Challenge running from May 25 through June 30. Here's your chance to explore an interesting new site in the region.

The Conservation Foundation and the Village of Romeoville are collaborating to collect more data on birds that use the O'Hara Woods Nature Preserve and surrounding areas as input to future site management plans. In an effort to capture migrant and breeding bird data for the site, they have initiated the O'Hara Woods eBird Challenge running June 30. To participate, you simply bird within the O'Hara Woods complex and log your observations online at <https://ebird.org>. To ensure they know you are participating in the challenge, include the text "2020 O'Hara Woods eBird Challenge" in your eBird checklist comments. Bird-related prizes will be given to the participant(s) that submits the most checklists, observes the highest number of species, and includes the best bird photo (as voted by TCF Staff) with their checklist.

O'Hara Woods Nature Preserve is 1034 W 135th St, Romeoville, IL 60446. Parking lots are available near the tennis courts on Arsenal Rd and off of Beverly J Griffin Dr.

Stories from the Web

Birdsong has risen like a tide of hope from our silenced cities. Is it here to stay?

Lockdown has allowed us a glimpse of how different our cities could be in a carbon-neutral world

Read in The Guardian: <https://apple.news/AGaTHUheBRbCELGWDPZmmag>

How the world's most dangerous bird got its unique feathers

It's been called the world's most dangerous bird. The cassowary's long dagger-like middle toes were responsible for the death of a man in Florida last year, and new research now shows that its glossy feathers are unlike those of other iridescent birds.

Read in CNN: <https://apple.news/Ai0qb3n3mQf6C6pGZpTzKGQ>

This Guy Found Something Very Unexpected Staring Through His 3rd-Floor Windows

A man in the Netherlands has some pretty unusual new neighbors and they spend most of the day staring at each other.

Read in HuffPost: <https://apple.news/ANXkLlr9FQqe163mAyGQIfQ>

How an Eye Surgeon Got a Picture of This Rare Pastel Bird

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/03/science/south-philippine-kingfisher-photo.html?referringSource=articleShare>

DBC to Fund New IOS Grant

DuPage Birding Club will fund \$500 for an IOS Grant to examine predation risk at marsh bird nests as a result of wetland management practices at Emiquon Preserve (Havana, IL).

Wetlands managed as moist soil sites deploy moist soil management for the benefit of migrating waterfowl. This practice preserves the dynamism of a wetland through seasonal drawdowns; however, there is little information on how this management technique affects non-game wetland birds, such as marsh birds, during the breeding season. The researcher will test whether hydrological drawdowns increase predator access to marsh bird nests. The researcher will locate nests in the hemi-marsh in Emiquon Preserve along the Illinois River and deploy cameras and site visits to determine nest success of several species: American Coot, Common Gallinule, Least Bittern, and Pied-billed Grebe.

Welcome to New Members

The DBC welcomes three new club members this past month:

Andrew Chase, Carol Stream

Patricia Lundman, Oak Lawn

Jen Ryjewski, Lombard

In Memoriam: John Banaczak

We regret to report that long-time DBC member John Banaczak passed away May 21. “John B” was active in the preservation of the 80-acre Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve. He was also an early and enthusiastic champion of planting milkweed to help Monarch butterflies. We extend condolences to his friends and family and will miss his friendly face at club meetings.



2020 DBC Executive Committee Members

President, Denis Kania, dkania@dupagebirding.org

Vice President, Stephen Constantelos, sconstantelos@dupagebirding.org

Treasurer, John Hebert, jhebert@dupagebirding.org

Recording Secretary, Andrea Duffy, aduffy@dupagebirding.org

Corresponding Secretary, Diann Bilderback, dbilderback@dupagebirding.org

Kate Hopkins, Director, khopkins@dupagebirding.org

Natalie McFaul, Director, nmcfaul@dupagebirding.org

Donna Kubik, dkubik@dupagebirding.org

2020 Meetings

January 9

Cancelled

Cancelled

Cancelled

July 9

September 10

October 15

November 12

2020 DBC Committee Chairs

Outreach/Youth Education: Donna Kubik

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