



## President's Message

Hello, fellow birders. Finally, I get to lead the club out of the Covid-19 darkness! I've been waiting a long time for this. So have you! As a club, we have not sat idle. Big things have been happening. You already know about the release of the [Birding Hotspots](#) on our website, and the mini-tutorials available via our [YouTube education channel](#). If you have not taken a peek, you really should. There's lots of information for every birder in our community.

The latest project to come to a close is the update to the DuPage County Checklist. The new edition is packed full with changes to the species list as well as abundance ratings. You will find an article elsewhere in this newsletter highlighting the changes. Capturing the story of the birds of DuPage County did not start here, nor does it end here. It's an ever-moving target.

The checklist came to be by way of an unlikely path. When I first started birding I was happy to see any bird that came into my view. As my exposure increased I started to wonder what birds I SHOULD be seeing. The question changed from what is that to what should I be looking for? Melissa and I have always enjoyed traveling and that fit in nicely with my newfound hobby. It seemed that wherever we went I could always find a checklist for the area we were visiting, whether it was a national park or a county park. Think back to the days when we did not have eBird let alone all of the information that we can find today on the internet. When I would return from a trip I often wondered why I did not have this same information close to home.

I was a novice birder but I decided to come up with a solution. Creating a county checklist was no small task. I had way more questions than answers. The solution was to find all of the experts for each family of birds and piece everything together. This still left some holes in the list so best guesses were applied where necessary. The first attempt was meant to be just that, a first attempt. The first edition of the checklist was published in 1989 and it was immediately announced that the second edition would be produced in 1991. If there were errors they would not be around for long.

This approach worked well and with subsequent editions the list became more accurate. A third edition was released in February of 1996. By now, data was more readily available on the internet and there

### Next Meeting

July 9, 2020  
7:00 p.m. Start  
Via Zoom See page 2

was a continual refinement of the content. The fourth and fifth editions appeared in January of 2003 and January of 2010, respectively.

I had seen quite a variety of checklists in those early years. It seemed the standard was a four column, four season format. I always felt that four columns was not specific enough. Think for a minute about how different March is from May, or how different September is from November. On rare occasions there were graphs charted out in a twelve month format. In the early years, it would have been difficult to come up with enough data to support specific abundance ratings for all twelve months. I hit upon a compromise where spring, summer, and fall were all split on dates that would reflect major shifts in bird populations. The initial definition of these splits was difficult to come up with, but over time I have seen that they have fit very neatly into the ebb and flow of bird movements. This resulted in more work for the compiler, but it turned out to be a very good compromise.

Our latest edition is rolling out in July of 2020. Ten years have passed since the last edition so there are quite a few revisions. Thirty years have passed since the first edition! The main checklist now has 268 species listed in a new taxonomical order. The list is more readable and, hopefully, more informative. Now that we have put “sheltering at home” behind us we can use the latest checklist to help us to plan our bird outings with greater precision and efficiency.

Happy Birding!

Denis

## **Club Meetings Resume July 9—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. There will also be exciting announcements about upcoming speaker programs, an all-new county checklist, and more.

### **Amazing Hummingbirds of the World**

Presented by Denis Kania

Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Venue: Zoom videoconference

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!

## **Zoom Instructions**

Full instructions and meeting ID for attending the meeting via Zoom videoconferencing will be shared by email to all members a few days before the event. However, you can prepare now by downloading the Zoom application to your device, which is a requirement to participate in the meeting. Zoom works on PCs and Macs and is unrelated to your Internet browser. Go here to download Zoom: [Download the Zoom Client for Meetings here.](#)

## **July Field Trips**

July Field Trips will observe a few guidelines to ensure that our birding is safe and comfortable for all.

- Preregistration with the trip leader is required; field trips are now open again to nonmembers.
- Participant limit is set at 15 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 to all for your patience. July Field Trips include the following:

### **Tuesday, July 7, 8:00 am - 10:00 am (Preregistration required)**

#### **Cricket Creek Forest Preserve, Addison**

Join us for a morning walk to check out this small preserve on the eastern side of DuPage County, right next to Salt Creek. Meet at the parking lot north of Fullerton Avenue (west of Rt. 83, east of Villa Ave.).

**Leader:** Andrew Steinmann, register at: [asteinmann@ameritech.net](mailto:asteinmann@ameritech.net)

### **Thursday, July 9, 8:00 am - 10:00 am (Preregistration required)**

#### **Greene Valley, Woodridge**

This morning trip is oriented towards our summer residents. Most of the walk will be on gravel or mulch paths. Wear appropriate shoes and bring bug spray. Don't forget to bring some water to stay hydrated. As always, new birders are welcome as we will take a leisurely pace to provide as much time as desired to look at each bird and to answer questions on equipment or bird identification. Meet at the Thunderbird Youth Camp Parking Lot. Go west on 79th St. about 1/2 mile; the entrance is south of 79th St., west of Greene Rd. in Naperville/Woodridge.

**Leader:** Bonnie Graham, register at: 630 204-8750

**Tuesday, July 14, 7:00 am - 9:00 am (Preregistration required)**

**Danada Forest Preserve, Wheaton**

This morning we will look for grassland birds, and check out the lake and the wooded areas. Meet at the parking lot off Naperville Rd. in Wheaton.

**Leader:** Nancy Allured, register at: [nallured@comcast.net](mailto:nallured@comcast.net)

**Sunday, July 19, 7:00 am - 9:00 am (Preregistration required)**

**Pratts Wayne Woods, Wayne**

Designated as an Audubon Important Bird Area, this is the largest forest preserve in DuPage County. We will be looking for summer residents, including wrens, sparrows and marsh birds.

Meet at the Pickerel Lake parking lot off Powis Rd.

**Leader:** Diann Bilderback, register at: [diann.bilderback@yahoo.com](mailto:diann.bilderback@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, July 25, 7:00 am – 9:00 am (Preregistration required)**

**McKee Marsh, Warrenville**

Join another morning walk to the marsh for residents and possibly early migrating shorebirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Most of our walk will be on preserve limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd., located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville.

**Leaders:** Kathy and Steve Mineck, register at: [kmineck@yahoo.com](mailto:kmineck@yahoo.com),  
cell, day of: 630-254-4077

Field Trip Coordinators

Kathy Mineck 630 279-4077

Bonnie Graham 630 204-8750

## **The DuPage County Checklist is Here. It's New, and it's Improved!**

There is nothing like a little self-quarantine and social distancing to bring a time-consuming project to its completion. This is not an easy task so it has sat on President Denis Kania's back burner since late 2018. For all, it will be worth the wait.

This latest version is the sixth edition of a document that initially debuted in 1989. Each edition tries to capture the latest bird population trends. There have been considerable changes in populations as well as a fine-tuning of data analysis which led to this new and improved edition.

We have dropped four species from the list. Three of them, Upland Sandpiper, Common Tern and Evening Grosbeak do not have enough sightings to warrant their inclusion. Thayer's Gull is no longer recognized as a species and so all of your Thayer's Gull records are now lumped in with Iceland Gull.

Several species are hanging on by the skin of their egg-tooth. If you want to see them included in the next edition I suggest you record some sightings of Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Loggerhead Shrike and Yellow-headed Blackbird. These are all species that are disappearing from our DuPage birding landscape.

There are nine species that were elevated from the accidental list to the list of regularly occurring species as sightings of these species have increased in the last several years. These include Trumpeter Swan, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Whooping Crane, Willet, Pileated Woodpecker, Lark Sparrow, and Blue Grosbeak. We'll take another look at trends in 2028 and see if all of these species stick around.

In addition to swapping species in and out of the list, there is also a review of abundance ratings for each species found in the list. This task has been made much easier with the availability of eBird records for many hotspots throughout the county. Around 280 abundance levels have changed in this edition as a result of the latest review.

The sixth edition will no longer list accidental species for the county. The list has grown considerably over the last 10 years and there simply is not enough space on the checklist to include it. Many birders might be disappointed by this decision. It might be possible to retain this information on the DuPage Birding Club web site where an electronic version of the checklist will reside. This would require someone stepping up to maintain the list going forward. Please let the DBC Board know if you have an interest in managing the accidental species list.

Hard copies of the list will be available at future club meetings. An online version is available now at [www.dupagebirding.org](http://www.dupagebirding.org) under BirdingDuPage. In addition, a mini-tutorial will launch on July 8 at [www.youtube.com/dupagebirdingclub](http://www.youtube.com/dupagebirdingclub).

Now that we have an updated list, we're sure to be more eager to get out and do some birding. It will be fun to take the new edition out for a spin! Thanks to Denis for his diligence and hard work!

## **Outreach Activities**

John Cebula will represent DuPage Birding Club at two upcoming Zoom events sponsored by public libraries:

- Addison Public Library is sponsoring a panel discussion July 23 7:00-8:00 p.m. The “Zoom Bird Call” will focus on our summer birds and how to attract them, among other topics. <https://addisonlibrary.libcal.com/event/6782274>
- Woodridge Public Library will host a presentation on our backyard birds, date in development.

These events educate the public and promote an interest in birds and birding, core to our mission as a club. If you'd be available for future events, contact Donna Kubik at [dkubik@dupagebirding.org](mailto:dkubik@dupagebirding.org)

## **New Videos Roll Out on DBC YouTube Education Channel**

In June, the club rolled out four mini-tutorials covering those troublesome grassland sparrows (Henslow's, Grasshopper, and Savannah), House Finch and Purple Finch, the Tanagers, and the Wrens. Featured in July are the following:

- Return of Ospreys to DuPage
- County Checklist - New Edition
- Separating the Peeps
- Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpiper
- Pitfalls of Birding

These short tutorials are a fantastic way to sharpen your birding identification skills and learn about specific species. This month's tutorial on the checklist is full of insight into changes that have occurred in the county over the last decade.

New tutorials are posted every Wednesday at: [www.Youtube.com/dupagebirdingclub](http://www.Youtube.com/dupagebirdingclub).

## More Hotspots Roll Out in July

We continue to build out our repository of DuPage County birding hotspots, and new descriptions will post in early July. A BIG shoutout to the site contributors!

- Churchill Park, John Cebula
- Churchill Woods, John Cebula
- Cricket Creek, Andrew and Rebecca Steinmann
- Hawk Hollow, Scott Latimer
- Hidden Lake, John Cebula
- Lyman Woods, Joan Campbell and Bonnie Graham
- Morton Arboretum, Jody and Jerry Zamirowski
- Salt Creek, Ron Skleney

NOTE to members: if you have a favorite birding site and would like to add a Birding hotspot, we enthusiastically invite your contribution. It can be a forest preserve, park, or other interesting “patch” anywhere in DuPage County. Please contact [dbilderback@dupagebirding.org](mailto:dbilderback@dupagebirding.org) for template and guidelines. Let’s build a fantastic library of insider information on the great sites in our county.

## Welcome to New Members!

We welcomed six new members in June, including—drum roll, please!—our 300<sup>th</sup> active member, a milestone. Number 300 is a family membership for Ashutosh and Charu Jain. Welcome, all!

Ashutosh and Charu Jain, Lombard

Barbara and Kerry Dougan, Naperville

Beth Fleming, Roselle

Laura Harvat, Downers Grove

Dian Rosoi, Elmhurst





## 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 Meetings

January 9

March 12

April 16

May 14

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