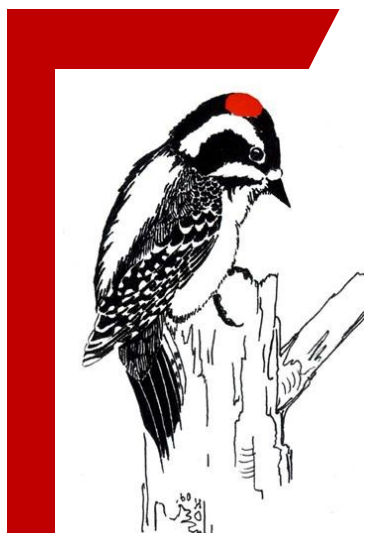


## President's Message



### Next Meeting

September 10, 2020  
Zoom Videoconference

Greene Valley Hawkwatch  
+  
Raptor ID

Vicky Sroczyński  
and  
Bob Fisher

Hello, fellow birders. I'm sure we could all use a "feel-good" story. I wanted to tell you about an exciting event that happened just a few doors down from my house.

We have had a pair of Cooper's Hawks nesting in our neighborhood for several years. The latest tree that they chose to nest in was an ash tree that was showing the effects of the emerald ash borer. One Saturday morning after an overnight storm, one of my neighbors found that the limb, nest and contents had all crashed to the ground. Three of the four chicks survived the fall. I received a call at work, and my advice was to call Willowbrook. How lucky for those little chicks that Willowbrook was not open yet.

The mother Cooper's was attending to the chicks even while they were on the ground, so my Brookdale neighbors quickly swung into action. Someone came up with a chunk of plywood and an old laundry basket. These were quickly fastened together, and remains of the nest were scooped up and added to the bottom of the basket. A friend-of-a-friend had a lift system on a vehicle, and they were called in to hoist the makeshift nest platform up into the tree. A few screws were drilled through the plywood and into a solid limb. Home sweet home!

By this time, the chicks had been gathered up into a much smaller basket which was next in line to be lifted up and placed in the bigger basket.

When I came home from work, I had to go and see for myself what my neighbors had been up to. To my amazement, there was the mom perched on the laundry basket. The chicks remained in the nest until they were big enough to fledge later in the summer.

It amazed me that these non-birders could come up with a viable plan to rescue these birds, and they were so eager to jump in and save the day. I couldn't help but wonder how this all would have gone down if a bunch of knowledgeable birders had been involved. We would probably still be drawing up plans.

People find a way to do the right thing. In this case, it was an unconventional approach to protect some vulnerable birds. Whether we think of it this way or not, all birds are vulnerable. It is well documented that bird populations have been in a severe downward



slide over the past thirty years. We should not be taking them for granted when we are out birding. In the relatively short period of time that I have been birding, I have witnessed an incredible decrease in abundance. Each passing year there are fewer and fewer birds.



I've heard several stories from this past spring migration regarding birders' behavior towards these vulnerable transients. Without realizing it, we are putting immense pressure on birds when we become aggressive in our desire to see or record them. It's easy for us to trivialize our intrusions into their lives. For us birders, we are pretty much assured that we can escape the elements or find a wholesome meal at the end of the day. When we interrupt birds during their migration or on their breeding grounds, we are potentially tipping the balance of their daily activities towards failure.

For example, think for a moment about a species such as Hooded Warbler that is a very desirable bird to see. Perhaps 20 birders will walk down the same trail where a Hooded Warbler was reported and use playback to try to coax the bird out of hiding. Think about that happening day after day. Would we be lucky enough to have that bird set up a territory and possibly breed? What are the chances of that happening if that Hooded Warbler thinks that he has 20 competitors for that same territory day after day? How badly do we need that tick on our list? How badly do we need that photograph to go along with the hundreds that are already posted on the internet?

Regarding the Cooper's Hawks, a bunch of non-birders managed to do the right thing. Surely, we as birders can also do the right things for birds. Elsewhere in this newsletter, we are posting the ABA birding ethics. I encourage everyone to give that posting a serious read. We can do better at protecting birds and minimizing our trespasses on their lives as well as that of private land owners.

Happy and **RESPECTFUL** Birding!

Denis

# **ABA Code of Birding Ethics, v.2.1, Nov 2019**

The DuPage Birding Club strongly supports the ABA Code of Birding Ethics and encourages you to “practice and promote respectful, enjoyable, and thoughtful birding” as defined in the code. Share it widely: [ABA.org/ethics](http://ABA.org/ethics).

## **1. Respect and promote birds and their environment.**

(a) Support the conservation of birds and their habitats. Engage in and promote bird-friendly practices whenever possible, such as keeping cats and other domestic animals indoors or controlled, acting to prevent window strikes, maintaining safe feeding stations, landscaping with native plants, drinking shade-grown coffee, and advocating for conservation policies. Be mindful of any negative environmental impacts of your activities, including contributing to climate change. Reduce or offset such impacts as much as you are able.

(b) Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger. Be particularly cautious around active nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display sites, and feeding sites. Limit the use of recordings and other audio methods of attracting birds, particularly in heavily birded areas, for species that are rare in the area, and for species that are threatened or endangered. Always exercise caution and restraint when photographing, recording, or otherwise approaching birds.

(c) Always minimize habitat disturbance. Consider the benefits of staying on trails, preserving snags, and similar practices.

## **2. Respect and promote the birding community and its individual members.**

(a) Be an exemplary ethical role model by following this Code and leading by example. Always bird and report with honesty and integrity.

(b) Respect the interests, rights, and skill levels of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience and be especially helpful to beginning birders.

(c) Share bird observations freely, provided such reporting would not violate other sections of this Code, as birders, ornithologists, and conservationists derive considerable benefit from publicly available bird sightings.

(d) Approach instances of perceived unethical birding behavior with sensitivity and respect; try to resolve the matter in a positive manner, keeping in mind that perspectives vary. Use the situation as an opportunity to teach by example and to introduce more people to this Code.

(e) In group birding situations, promote knowledge by everyone in the group of the practices in this Code and ensure that the group does not unduly interfere with others using the same area.

## **3. Respect and promote the law and the rights of others.**

(a) Never enter private property without the landowner’s permission. Respect the interests of and interact positively with people living in the area where you are birding

(b) Familiarize yourself with and follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing activities at your birding location. In particular, be aware of regulations related to birds, such as disturbance of protected nesting areas or sensitive habitats, and the use of audio or food lures.

- *Birding should be fun and help build a better future for birds, for birders, and for all people*
- *Birds and birding opportunities are shared resources that should be open and accessible to all*
- *Birders should always give back more than they take*

## **Nominating Committee Wants to Hear from YOU!**

The Nominating Committee for 2021 Board and Committee posts is actively seeking club members who are interested in volunteering some time to support club activities. If you have an interest, we will match you to the right opportunity. Generally, roles do not require special skills, just a readiness to spend a few hours a month supporting club activities.

Among Committee roles, we seek the following:

- Additional Webmaster to work with Nancy Allured, who currently oversees the website. This person would learn how to make updates and enhancements to the website and work with our professional website designer (Eric Secker). Prior website experience is a plus but not required.
- AV Coordinator who would coordinate AV requirements for in-person meetings and potentially Zoom meetings. Again, no special skills are required, just a technical aptitude.
- Outreach volunteers to work with Committee Lead Donna Kubik to respond to requests for presentations at libraries, schools, senior centers, and other organizations. Occasionally the club sponsors events at which we have a table or exhibit.
- Field Trip Coordinator to share responsibility for lining up field trips each month. This is generally a two-year assignment.

Additional opportunities exist at both Board and Committee levels. Is this the year you step up and lend a hand? We'd welcome your participation! If interested, contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

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

Steve Constantelos, [sconstantelos@dupagebirding.org](mailto:sconstantelos@dupagebirding.org)

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

## **Reminder: Dues Deferred to January 1**

Just a reminder that the Board has extended your dues renewal period to January 1. This acknowledges that the Covid-19 pandemic impacted our program delivery in 2020. It also puts us on a calendar year cycle for renewals.

## **YouTube Education Channel Highlights Shorebirds**

Get more from your late summer shorebirding with new tutorials on the DBC Education Channel. You'll find three relevant videos:

- Separating the Peeps
- Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpiper
- The Plovers (rolling out Aug 5)

As fall migration gets into full swing, watch for tutorials on our videos and those confusing fall warblers. The Education Channel features 18 videos on a range of bird identification strategies, skill building tips, and more. New tutorials roll out every Wednesday at [www.youtube.com/dupagebirdingclub](http://www.youtube.com/dupagebirdingclub).

## **E-Bird App for Beginners: A New Tutorial**

For everyone who missed the free workshop on using the eBird app put on by the Harris Center and an expert from Antioch University in New Hampshire, you can now view the video of the workshop on YouTube. Here is the link for anyone who is still interested in learning about some of the basics of the eBird app versus the eBird website, and how to do everything from record your sightings to look up birds in a particular area or regional hotspots. For those who are new to eBird, this is an informative workshop. <https://youtu.be/2wCJrkdDpfk>

## **Welcome to New Members**

The club welcomes the following eight new members:

Lori Connell, South Elgin

Mary Carol Custer, Western Springs

Joe Gage, North Aurora

Louis Garbe, Downers Grove

Gary Newell, Mundelein

Thomas Percy, Oswego

Thomas and Natalie Roever, Aurora

# Addendum to the Birds of DuPage County Checklist

The Sixth Edition of the DuPage County Bird Checklist contains the 268 regularly occurring species. In order to keep track of all species seen in the county we plan to keep a list of accidentals which can be viewed on the website. The Fifth Edition of the checklist contained 48 species of accidentals. That number is now at 63 with the recent addition of Black-bellied Whistling Duck. In addition, five hypothetical or probable species are listed. Included in the '63' are 3 species recently dropped from the regular's list, 18 new species, and one Historical record from eBird (Greater Prairie Chicken). Seven species previously listed as accidental were moved to the regular checklist. Not all of the below species have been accepted by IOS. This list is meant as a record of sightings reported to DBC, eBird, and from Fermilab records.

## ACCIDENTALS

\* New to the list. \*\* Historical eBird record

- |                                |                            |                               |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| * Black-bellied Whistling Duck | Red Phalarope              | * Ash-throated Flycatcher     |
| * Barnacle Goose               | * Laughing Gull            | Scissor-tailed Flycatcher     |
| Garganey                       | Great Black-backed Gull    | Bewick's Wren                 |
| Cinnamon Teal                  | Common Tern                | * Mountain Bluebird           |
| Eurasian Wigeon                | * Red-throated Loon        | Townsend's Solitaire          |
| Long-tailed Duck               | Wood Stork                 | * Varied Thrush               |
| Northern Bobwhite              | * Magnificent Frigatebird  | Bohemian Waxwing              |
| **Greater Prairie Chicken      | Anhinga                    | * Sprague's Pipit             |
| Red-necked Grebe               | Neotropic Cormorant        | Evening Grosbeak              |
| * Rufous Hummingbird           | Yellow-crowned Night Heron | Pine Grosbeak                 |
| Black Rail                     | Glossy Ibis                | Hoary Redpoll                 |
| * Black-necked Stilt           | White-faced Ibis           | * Smith's Longspur            |
| Piping Plover                  | Mississippi Kite           | Brewer's Sparrow              |
| Upland Sandpiper               | * Swainson's Hawk          | Black-throated Sparrow        |
| Hudsonian Godwit               | * Ferruginous Hawk         | Spotted Towhee                |
| Marbled Godwit                 | * Barn Owl                 | MacGillivray's Warbler        |
| Ruddy Turnstone                | Snowy Owl                  | * Black-throated Gray Warbler |
| Red Knot                       | * Gyrfalcon                | Hermit Warbler                |
| Ruff                           | * Prairie Falcon           | Western Tanager               |
| Curlew Sandpiper               | Say's Phoebe               | Black-headed Grosbeak         |
| Red-necked Phalarope           | Vermilion Flycatcher       |                               |

## HYPOTHETICAL/PROBABLE

- Sooty Tern
- Rivoli's Hummingbird
- Cave Swallow
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow
- Virginia's Warbler

Most of the above species have been recorded several times. The hope is to keep a record of each sighting on the website for future status consideration. We are missing information on Wood Stork, Vermilion Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren, Black-throated Sparrow, and Black-headed Grosbeak. If anyone recalls seeing these birds please send me a note with date and location.

## **In Case You Missed it...**

On July 9 DuPage Birding Club held its first general meeting on Zoom with 58 folks attending. This meeting format was an experiment that ran smoothly. Steve Constantelos introduced the speaker and served as moderator, fielding emailed questions from the audience during the presentation.

Denis Kania presented a program on *Amazing Hummingbirds of the World*. Having traveled to Central and South America numerous times, he has seen 207 species of hummingbirds. Denis shared information about hummingbird distribution, size, diet, courtship, torpidity, and much more, documented with photos and videos. His first-hand encounters with the birds were sometimes amusing!

## **News from the Wacky World of the Web**

### **Canada's Sparrows Are Singing a New Song. You'll Hear It Soon.**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/02/science/sparrow-bird-song.html?referringSource=articleShare>

### **Hummingbirds Can See Colors We Humans Can't**

Could these little birds get any better?

Read in Popular Mechanics: <https://apple.news/ATPhLHUJBTIitZFAqhtWeuA>

### **World's largest falcon faces a threat it can't flee: climate change**

Scientists are working to better understand gyrfalcons, the only raptors that stay year-round in the Arctic, the fastest-warming region on Earth.

Read in National Geographic: [https://apple.news/AI-rXjHH4RcGTY-Ryow4w\\_A](https://apple.news/AI-rXjHH4RcGTY-Ryow4w_A)

### **Swifts and the Fantasy of Escape**

Read in The New Yorker: <https://apple.news/AFI7h87g0Rz2TOUBioxCbJg>

### **The Mysterious Life of Birds Who Never Come Down**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/29/magazine/vesper-flights.html?referringSource=articleShare>

### **Australia's rare, elusive night parrot may not see that well in the dark**

Australia's night parrot is nocturnal, but the critically endangered bird may not be able to see very well in the dark, according to a new study. Its vision is likely similar to daytime parrots and could be contributing to its critical status.

Read in CNN: <https://apple.news/AubTpYXqdS8m6qbniqDdgoA>

## August 2020 Field Trips

Please note the following 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. August field trips include the following:

**Saturday, August 1, 7:00 am – 9:00 am Salt Creek Woods Nature Preserve, Westchester** This can be a birdy site for the summer! Uncommon target birds include: Pileated Woodpecker, Orchard Oriole and Wood Thrush. The walk is mainly on dirt and grass trails and there will also be paved portions. Wear protective clothing and boots for weather. We will meet at the corner of Brainard Ave and Jackson, south of 31st Street. Leader: Alan Seelye-James, 954-708-4804, [alan\\_seelyejames@yahoo.com](mailto:alan_seelyejames@yahoo.com) [Note the underscore between the first and last name in the email]

**Saturday, August 8, 7:30 am – 8:30 am St. James Farm Forest Preserve, Warrenville** The monthly Cantigny walk is migrating to adjacent St. James Farm due to park construction. Like Cantigny, St. James was once a McCormick family property. Meet in the main parking lot of St. James. Enter off Winfield Rd., just north of Butterfield. Leader: Jeff Reiter, [jreiter@wordsonbirds.com](mailto:jreiter@wordsonbirds.com)

**Thursday, August 13, 7:00 am – 9:00 am York Woods, Oak Brook**

York Woods, part of the Salt Creek Greenway Trail, is a small preserve on the east side of DuPage County. It is mostly wooded with an old oak stand and has some open and wet areas as well, which draw a variety of birds. New birders are very welcome. Meet at the east side parking lot off of Harger Rd. Directions: traveling south on York Rd., just past Roosevelt Rd., take the I-88 exit on the right (Harger Rd.) and turn right into the York Woods lot just before the interstate ramp. Leaders: Steve and Kathy Mineck, [kmineck@yahoo.com](mailto:kmineck@yahoo.com)

**August 20, 8:00 am – 10:00 am Greene Valley, Woodridge** This morning trip, oriented toward late summer birds, is especially designed for new birders and will be at 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 on south side of 79th St., west of Greene Rd. in Naperville/Woodridge. Leader: Bonnie Graham, 630-204-8750, [coye72112@gmail.com](mailto:coye72112@gmail.com)

Field Trip Coordinators

Kathy Mineck  
630 279-4077

Bonnie Graham  
630 204-8750





### 2020 DBC Executive Committee Members

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

Vice President, Steve 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)

Jane Barnett Director, [jbarnett@dupagebirding.org](mailto:jbarnett@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

Cancelled

Cancelled

Cancelled

July 9

September 10

October 15

### 2020 DBC Committee Chairs

Outreach/Youth Education: Donna Kubik

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

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: Susan Kaley

Drummings Newsletter: Jeff Smith

Email Distribution: Bob Fisher

Twitter: Vera Miller

Facebook: Glenn Perricone and John Cebula

Flickr: Urs Geiser

Hospitality: Geralynn Hoffman

Audio-Visual Coordinator: Could this be YOU?

DBC Apparel: Steve Constantelos

Lending Library: Jeff Smith