



President's Message

Hello, fellow birders. Normally, my birding life just seems to dive into one adventure after another. There never seems to be time to take a breath. This year is so different! I've recently taken a little time out for some reflection. Where did my birding life begin and how the heck did I get to where I am today? I'm sure that, if given the chance, I would not have charted out the course that got me here.

No one in my family was particularly interested in birds unless you count my dad who raised award winning canaries in our south Chicago basement. In spite of that, I do have some very vivid recollections of birds. I remember seeing a Snowy Owl perched on a utility pole behind our garage. I remember being so impressed with some Great Blue Herons taking flight from a pond that I attempted to step out of a moving car to get a better look. I guess I was hooked early but didn't realize it.

It wasn't until I was married for several years to Melissa, my understanding and supportive partner, that birding took flight. It started with photography trips out west and seeing conspicuous birds while we were camping and hiking. One year I thought it might be fun to put names to some of these birds. I recall saying that it was a pity that we didn't have such pretty birds at home. The next spring, Melissa signed us up for a beginner's bird class at Waubensee Community College, and I discovered spring migration. What an eye opener!

The next eye opener came from my mentor, Muriel Smith. Muriel was a teacher and a friend. I learned so much from her while visiting mudflats for shorebirds, tramping the trails and Elsen's Hill for warblers, and scanning the remaining vast open spaces for grassland sparrows. Many a lifer came my way thanks to Muriel. Muriel introduced me to a little pamphlet called The New Approach to Identification by Peter Grant and Killian Mullarney. I learned that there was so much detail in the structure and plumage of a bird that had never occurred to me.

Muriel took the time to share her knowledge with many birders. I didn't realize it at the time, but I fell into a gold mine of information. We shared an intense desire for detail on every bird. We would spend hours talking about difficult identifications, trends in birding, and even music. Not many quiet and thoughtful women in their mid-sixties would quote the Rolling Stones, but Muriel did. That doesn't sound odd

Next Meeting

October 15, 2020

Zoom Meeting

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in today's world where everyone in their sixties can quote Mick Jagger, but this was over 30 years ago! One of her favorite country songs was "Friends in Low Places" by Garth Brooks. We would laugh so much about the lyrics of country songs. We just clicked on so many levels.

I digested every word Muriel said and tried to build on it. One of the biggest lessons that I learned from Muriel was that it is important to share the knowledge with the next generation. That includes everything bird related and beyond. I've done my best to carry on in that regard. I find that it is one of the more rewarding aspects of my birding life. Teaching at the Morton Arboretum, leading field trips, and organizing international bird trips are all ways to share the knowledge. Now I'm presenting in webinars and YouTube videos on anything and everything bird related. Like most of my birding, I didn't plan on that avenue of birding enjoyment. I regret that I didn't record the thoughtful words of Muriel. I hope I got it all correctly in my head!

Each generation of birder stands that much taller when propped up on the shoulders of those that came before them. Think about all of the advancements in technology that have influenced birding and the sharing of information. Muriel and I only had the spoken word either in person or on the phone. Rare bird alerts existed but were not updated nearly often enough. We've come a long way.

I owe a lot to Muriel and in turn so do all of you. I guess the take-away here should be to find a mentor or be a mentor. Keep paying it forward.

Denis

In Case You Missed It: Hawkwatch and Raptor Identification Presentations on DBC Education Channel

In case you missed the excellent presentations on the Greene Valley Hawkwatch and Raptor Identification Tips, they're now live on the DBC Education Channel on You Tube at www.youtube.com/dupagebirdingclub or via www.dupagebirding.org/meetings. Many thanks to presenters Vicky Sroczynski and Bob Fisher for preparing their excellent tutorials. If you want to practice your new identification skills, visit the Greene Valley Hawkwatch weekends through October, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the overlook in Greene Valley.

More from the Education Channel: Highlighting Migrants and Sparrows

Here's hoping you were able to get out in to catch our migrant warblers passing through last month. If you've recently visited the DBC Education Channel on You Tube, you were well-prepared to deal with those confusing fall plumages—Tennessee vs. Orange-crowned Warbler and the Blackpoll/Bay-breasted/Pine/Chestnut-sided Warbler complex, for starters. And just for fun, we looked at Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak and a few confusing backyard juveniles. October brings us the sparrows and the blackbirds. Here's what's coming:

- Nelson's Sparrow and LeConte's Sparrow
- Lincoln and Swamp Sparrow
- Brewer's Blackbird and Rusty Blackbird
- Perils of Migration

New tutorials roll out every Wednesday morning at www.youtube.com/dupagebirdingclub. Be sure to take advantage of this amazing repository of birding knowledge.

SAVE THE DATE: October 15, 2020 - 7:00 pm Zoom Meeting

Cryptic Birds of the Night

Tara Beveroth

A look into the natural history of some of Illinois' nocturnal birds, and the importance—and challenges—of population trend monitoring.

Join the DuPage Birding Club on the evening of October 15 as Illinois Natural History Survey ornithologist Tara Beveroth presents a program on monitoring two of our intriguing nocturnal birds: owls and nightjars.

While we are fortunate to have some long-standing bird surveys in North America that are beneficial for monitoring population trends for most bird species, they fall short with nocturnal species, such as nightjars and owls. In addition, though data is sparse, the data we do have in conjunction with anecdotal reports suggests nightjars, especially, are experiencing a dramatic population decline. Come learn about these elusive nocturnal species and project MOON (Monitoring of Owls and Nightjars). Tara will also share a brief look at some of her other projects, including the Critical Trends Assessment Program (CTAP) and a brand-new banding station.



Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIVceyurDgtHtxT3ZtzwSV8jsgH91ptuS0u>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

YOU'RE INVITED: Birders Breakfast October 24 via ZOOM!



Come join us for the 2020 Zoom Birders Breakfast! Like everything else, the Birders Breakfast is going to be a little different this year. We are going to do a ZOOM breakfast, complete with food, birding, and other really fun stuff!

Here is how it will work.

Today - Sign up to join the ZOOM meeting to be held on October 24 at 9AM.

Sign up information [here](#)

October 11 - October 18 Pick a day and go birding to your favorite spot, neighborhood, or backyard. Go on your own, with your Pandemic Pod, or with a friend (remember to practice social distancing).

While you are out, take a photo to share. Just a quick shot or selfie of you birding or an image of something interesting you saw, a humorous pose, a bird, a plant, an insect, a scenic view, whatever you want to share. It does not have to be a spectacular shot of a bird! We all know how hard it is to get one of those! Just something to share.

Send the photo to Natalie at nmcfaul@dupagebirding.org. **Do this by October 20, 5PM!** Please **include your name and the location the photo was taken.** The photos will be put together in a slideshow to share at the Zoom Birders Breakfast.

October 20, 5 PM - Deadline for sending in your photo.

October 24, 9 AM - Fix your favorite breakfast and join the ZOOM meeting. We will view the slide show and you will have the opportunity to say a few words/comments about your birding adventures that day or this past year.

Call for Annual Membership Dues

As the year end approaches, we encourage you to renew your club membership now so we can begin building our new Member Directory for early 2021 publication. As you might recall, the DBC Board moved annual dues renewals from the July renewal date to a calendar year renewal beginning January 1. This gave all current members an extra 6 months of free membership, which seemed appropriate for a pandemic year in which some club activities had to be curtailed.

Please note: if you renewed or joined July 1 or later this year, your dues are considered paid through 2021.

Annual dues of \$20 (\$30 family, \$10 student) are the major source of annual funding for our speaker program, grants and donations, and operating expenses. They ensure that the club continues to serve your interests and supports the birding community.

You can renew one of two ways:

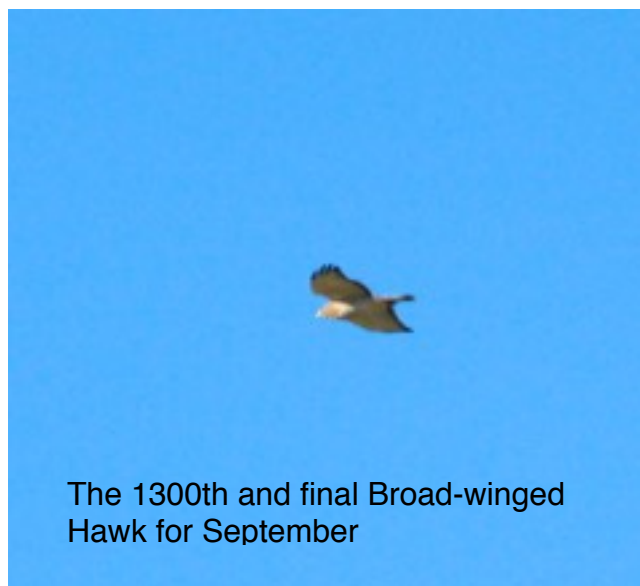
1. Online using PayPal or credit card—visit www.dupagebirdingclub.org/membership and click on the PayPal button. Easy!
2. Via mail—fill out the form online at the above URL, print it, and mail it and a check for your dues to the address on the form. Please do not mail cash. Your canceled check is your receipt.

The DBC does not rent, sell, or share your personal information, and the personal information you share with DBC is not stored on the DBC website or the host server.

September Hawkwatch Update

The 15th season of the Greene Valley Hawkwatch started off slowly but we ended the month with a flurry of Broad-winged Hawks for a respectable total of 1659 migrants. That would rank as our 6th best September but falls just short of the 15 year average. Most species had below average numbers. Only ‘Broadwings’ and Merlin numbers were around average. We did add 3 new species to our “Hill” list. We have heard Pileated Woodpeckers calling from the woods north of the hill but have not yet seen them. A Grasshopper Sparrow was photographed on the fence and a Semi-palmated Plover briefly landed in the parking lot. The “Hill” is open to the public Weekends, 11 am until 6 pm. We are following Covid guidelines by roping off an area for Hawkwatchers and keeping our distance. Come join us as we watch the only channel where you can see the Eagles, the Falcons, the Hawks, and Blue Jays on the same playing field.

(sorry cubs, sox, bulls, and bears)



The 1300th and final Broad-winged Hawk for September

Welcome to New Members

Welcome to a dozen new members joining the DBC in September! It's fun to see folks from so many different communities.

Melanie and Brian Burns, Wheaton

Steven Mack, Villa Park

George Busse, Mount Prospect

Gail MacMillan, Villa Park

Sawako and Dennis Graf, Bolingbrook

Candace Pastore, Naperville

Tomomi and Robert Hartung, Bloomingdale

Nannette Salemi, Warrenville

Kent Jager, OakBrook Terrace

News From the Wacky World of the Web

A 150,000-Bird Orchestra in the Sky

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/07/opinion/a-150000-bird-orchestra-in-the-sky.html?referringSource=articleShare>

In This Woodpecker Kingdom, War Is a Spectator Sport

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/12/science/acorn-woodpeckers-wars.html?referringSource=articleShare>

Gray heron seen for first time in contiguous U.S., as species expands range

This tall waterbird, native to Eurasia, was spotted in Nantucket. Could the species soon establish a foothold in the Americas?

Read in National Geographic: <https://apple.news/ASootLbtpQEOjLGndPO2pg>

The 232 animals in this photo were killed by house cats in just one year

The image seeks to draw attention to the more than two billion birds and other animals killed annually by domestic cats in the U.S.

Read in National Geographic: https://apple.news/AeBJYnAHZS5-VenPb_jGyiQ

Bird watchers flock to Lake Michigan during peak fall migration in Chicago area

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Read in ABC7 Chicago: https://apple.news/AsFp7kPleTYaivZZ3_fs3Aw

Parrots in wildlife park moved after swearing at visitors

The foul-mouthed birds were split up after they launched a number of different expletives at visitors and staff just days after being donated to Lincolnshire Wildlife Park.

Read in CNN: <https://apple.news/AukbGPodkQw6ycOliKDP2tQ>

October 2020 Field Trips

Come join us on an October field trip and let's enjoy our fall birds. All trips require preregistration with the trip leader and must observe other guidelines described at the end of this message. Participants are welcome to contact the trip leader if they have questions including additional driving directions. Note: Conditions can change so please check our website (DuPageBirding.org) for last-minute trip changes, additions or cancellations.

Thursday October 8, 8:00 am (preregistration required)

Greene Valley, Woodridge

This morning trip, oriented toward early fall and 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 about 1/2 mile, the entrance is on south side of 79th Street, west of Greene Road in Naperville/Woodridge.

Leader: Bonnie Graham, 630-204-8750, bgraham@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, October 10, 7:30 am (preregistration required)

Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville

Join Joe Suchecki for our annual club fall trip to locate Nelson's and LeConte's sparrows at Springbrook Prairie. We also will be looking for other late migrant species of the wetlands and grasslands.

This trip requires we go off-trail through uneven terrain, so this is not for those who want/need to stay on wide, flat groomed trails. The vegetation and footing will likely be wet as we walk along the edge of wetlands looking for the sparrows, so rubber boots are recommended. Meet at the Model Aircraft Field Parking Lot on the west side of Plainfield-Naperville Road south of 75th St.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-386-5570, jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, October 17, 8:00 am (preregistration required)

Lincoln Marsh, Wheaton

Between 1979 and 1992 more than 100 parcels of land were assembled to form the core of this park. Today it is one of the most accessible natural areas in DuPage County, having wood chip trails and a floating boardwalk. The focus of the trip will be observing resident birds and fall migrants. Directions: The entrance to Lincoln Marsh is on the west side of the park, at the corner of Harrison St. and Pierce Ave. From County Farm Rd., turn east on Harrison St. and proceed one mile to the parking lot. Be prepared for wet trail conditions and insects and dress accordingly.

Leader: John Cebula, 630-640-2721, jcebula@dupagebirding.org

Wednesday, October 21, 8:00 am – 10:00 am (preregistration required)

St. James Farm Forest Preserve, Warrenville

Explore the woodlands of this preserve looking for woodpeckers, nuthatches, and other fall and winter birds. We will also check out the open spaces for grassland birds and the skies for migrating raptors. Be prepared for some dirt trail, possibly muddy if wet.

Meet at the parking lot off Winfield Road.

Leader: Nancy Allured, nallured@comcast.net

Saturday October 24, 9:00 am (preregistration required)

ZOOM Birders Breakfast

Keep this date open for the 2020 Zoom Birders Breakfast. Like everything else, the Birders Breakfast is going to be a little different this year. We are going to do a ZOOM breakfast complete with food, birding and other really fun stuff! Check the October Drumblings newsletter for further details.

Sunday, October 25, 7:30 am (preregistration required)

Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

This is a morning trip over gravel and earthen trails. We continue to visit this site year-round because it has multiple habitats that attract birds. Let's meet at Lyman Woods parking lot. Trails could be muddy. We strongly recommend wearing boots and suitable clothing.

Leader: Joan Campbell, Cell: 630-337-2605 peachjmc@gmail.com

Monday, October 26, 7:30 am (preregistration required)

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Join us on a morning walk to the marsh for fall migrants, including shorebirds and waterfowl. 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. and be prepared for some dirt trail, possibly muddy if wet. Located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville.

Leader: Kyle Wiktor, 708-506-5186, kylewiktork@msn.com

TRIP GUIDELINES

This month's field trips will strictly observe a few guidelines to ensure that our birding is safe and comfortable for all.

- Preregistration with the trip leader is required; you are NOT registered until you receive a confirmation from the trip leader. Field trips are open 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 observe the 6-foot distancing recommendations.
- Anyone not feeling well should stay home.
- 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.



DuPage Birding Club

2020 DBC Executive Committee Members

President, Denis Kania, dkania@dupagebirding.org

Vice President, Steve Constantelos, sconstantelos@dupagebirding.org

Treasurer, John Hebert, jhebert@dupagebirding.org

Recording Secretary, Andrea Duffy, aduffy@dupagebirding.org

Corresponding Secretary, Diann Bilderback, dbilderback@dupagebirding.org

Jane Barnett Director, jbarnett@dupagebirding.org

Natalie McFaul, Director, nmcfaul@dupagebirding.org

Donna Kubik, 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, 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: Julie Appler

DBC Apparel: Steve Constantelos

Lending Library: Jeff Smith