



President's Message

Hello, fellow birders. Wow! This is my last president's message. How time flies! It certainly was not the year that I envisioned for the club. But, as doors were closing, other doors were opening. In the end, I think your board did a smashing job of advancing the club's interests during the pandemic.

Depending on your comfort level, there were plenty of birding opportunities throughout the year. I ran into many of you on the trails in our local forest preserves. Each of us doing our own thing during spring migration. As the state loosened up its Covid restrictions, we started offering field trips again in June. Our field trip co-chairs, Bonnie Graham and Kathy Mineck organized close to 50 outings. To ensure safety for our members, we required registration and limited participation. Aside from the masks, this actually made for a more enjoyable experience for both the leaders and the participants. I've had several field trip leaders tell me that they actually appreciate having limits on participation as it is so much easier to lead 10 birders rather than 30. We may adopt this practice for future trips, post Covid.

Holding board meetings after the state shut down was also a challenge, but we quickly adapted to Zoom meetings. What a wonderful concept! No matter what the weather or traffic, I was never late for a meeting. It took us a couple of months, but we brought the same concept to our club meetings. We only lost out on our March meeting. We have continued to bring in some very informative speakers thanks to Steve Constantelos. Again, there is the convenience of not having to leave the comfort of one's own cozy couch. I'm surprised that more people don't take advantage of the virtual meetings. It'll be a little while before we can meet in person again, so maybe it will catch on. I do miss the social component.

Things like the pre-meeting dinner and the social time before the meeting started were missing. Those will have to wait, but Natalie McFaul developed a very nice virtual Birder's Breakfast event. Not quite the in-person experience, but it was a chance for club members to socialize via Zoom. There was even a fun birding quiz. We have so much talent on the board!

I think that we reacted very well to the Covid situation. As a board, we were also proactive, and we worked on several projects that benefited member's birding experiences and educational opportunities.

Diann Bilderback enlisted many club members to write up site descriptions for special birding haunts throughout the county. All of this information can be found on our website under "Birding Hotspots". Now birders have all of the information that they need to plan their own personal field trip to 22 locations thanks to Diann's vision.

Next Meeting

January 14, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Details on page 3

The use of Zoom spawned another educational platform. We had been presenting mini-tutorials at our in-person meetings last year, so that members always came away with a little more birding knowledge. Since we were not holding in-person meetings we decided to record mini-tutorials that members could view at their leisure on our new educational YouTube channel. This project started up in mid-April with the Waterthrushes tutorial. There are now over 35 tutorials to be used as a reference library for difficult ID questions and other birding related topics. I did many of the recordings, but others are welcome to give it a try. It's actually a lot of fun. The real backbone of this project is Steve Constantelos. He's the guy behind the scenes that reviews all of my powerpoints and makes me look like I know what I'm talking about. Steve also performs in the role of our YouTube guru.

If not for the pandemic we might still be waiting for the latest edition of the DuPage County checklist. Since I had to stay put for a while I locked myself in a room and sifted through years of data to come up with the latest population trends.

Donna Kubik found her niche in the club and has been breathing new life into Outreach. Enlisting the help of many others in the club, Donna has begun to populate an area on our website under "Learn About Birds". There one will find profiles on many of our common birds as well as other informative pages for both beginning birds as well as educators. Natalie McFaul chipped in with her creative juices and came up with Birdo Bingo. Everyone should go and check that out! Donna also coordinates outreach speaking engagements aimed at other organizations.

With all of the new content, our website has had a couple of face-lifts this year. Many hands played a role, but we could not have accomplished this without Diann Bilderback and our webmaster Nancy Allured.

There are also board members keeping the whole club running smoothly. Andrea Duffy does a great job as recording secretary and keeps track of our official proceedings. Andie makes sure we cross all of our "T's and dot our "I's. Diann Bilderback has been our corresponding secretary and gets the word out to the birding community on everything that is DBC related.

We have three directors, Jane Barnett, Natalie McFaul and Donna Kubik. They pitch in wherever they are needed and provide thoughtful contributions to all of the issues that the board has needed to address. Their input has helped to formulate a response to many of this year's challenges.

Then there is John Hebert, our treasurer. Where would we be without John? He collects our dues, pays our bills, and has the pleasure of writing checks for all of the various projects and organizations that the club has funded this year. Once again, we supported American Bird Conservation, Bird Conservation Network, and Chicago Audubon through paid memberships. We are a paid participant in the annual Gull Frolic. We have made substantial donations to Chicago Bird Collision, Robert Dolgan and his Piping Plover documentaries, and the Wetland Initiative. The club supported one IOS research grant as well as sponsoring two species at the local Willowbrook Wildlife Haven. In all, the club will have paid out close to \$4000 this year in support of birds and conservation. All of this is made possible through your dues as well as your support at the bi-annual club auction! Be ready to dig deep into your pockets in 2021!

In a nutshell, the club has once again been served by a high-performing board that gets stuff done. Next time you run into one of the board members make sure you acknowledge their contributions. We would not have a club without them.

I want to personally say thanks to all that supported my year as president. Without so many hands pitching in this year, the outcome would have been very different. Thanks too to our members that have stuck with us through this challenging year. You're all very much appreciated!

Stay well, and we'll see you on the birding trails.

Denis

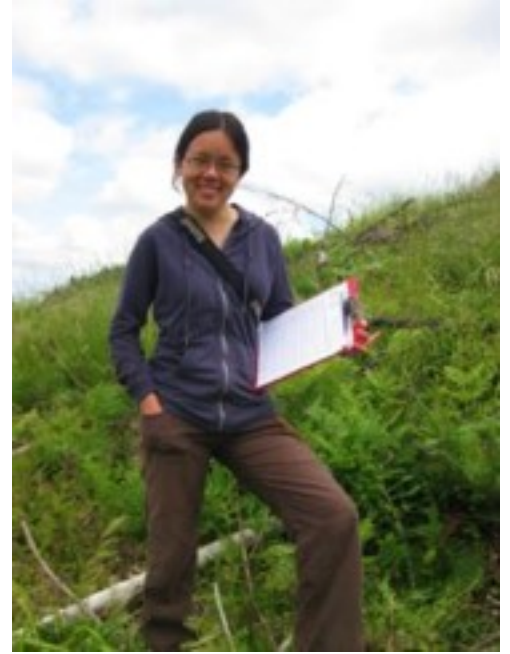
SAVE THE DATE: January 14, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Banding Birds at Pelee Island Bird Observatory Sachi Schott

Toronto native Sachi Schott has worked at Pelee Island Bird Observatory (PIBO) as an Assistant Bird Bander since 2011. Sachi will tell us all about PIBO and the work they do monitoring bird populations and bird migration on Pelee Island, Lake Erie's largest island, situated about halfway between Ontario and Ohio. She'll also discuss some of PIBO's band recoveries and encounters from over the years, and what these records tell us about bird movement and longevity.

Sachi has always loved animals and the outdoors, but it wasn't until she volunteered at the Long Point Bird Observatory in 2008 that she entered into the wonderful world of birds and birders! Since then, she's worked on a variety of bird-related research in Canada and the U.S., including a recent autumn migration stint in Alberta.



Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqc-mrqjstGN0ayh1VEMdLOAmZZGBWNfJt>

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

In Case You Missed It...

Than Boves, Ornithology Professor at Arkansas State University, was the featured speaker at the November 12, 2020 meeting. Than credits DuPage Birding Club as being instrumental in his life and career. As a young birdwatcher at Maple Grove Forest Preserve, Than interacted with club members who helped him maintain his interest in birding. He was encouraged to join DuPage Birding Club and take birding classes at College of DuPage. Later he attended a birding camp in Arizona with help from the club. In the past 15 years he has done research in places across the country on various bird species, and it all began at Maple Grove. Than shared highlights of his bird studies, with implications for various bird populations. Visit www.boveslab.com, and click on *News* to follow Than's work. 68 people attended the Zoom meeting. Than's presentation can be viewed on the DBC Education Channel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVl4K_kOQxM.

The Time is Now: Renew Your Membership Today!

It's time to renew your club membership 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:

- Online using PayPal or credit card—visit <https://dupagebirding.org/renew/> and click on the PayPal button. Easy!
- 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.

New and Exciting on the DBC Education Channel!

The last month has seen four interesting new videos post on the DBC Education Channel at www.youtube.com/dupagebirdingclub, now surpassing more than 40 mini-tutorials. Most of you are probably familiar with outgoing President Denis Kania's "Hello, fellow birders..." introducing each mini. Well, this month features a new voice! Mr. Springbrook Prairie himself, Joe Suchecki, has contributed a mini-tutorial on the importance of preserving habitat.

- Fall Grebes of DuPage County
- The Swans of DuPage County
- On the Prowl for Owls
- Springbrook Prairie and the Importance of Habitat

If you'd like to share your knowledge on a birding topic, please reach out to Denis at dkania@dupagebirding.org. We're always interested in engaging the expertise of our members.

Let's Get Social: DBC Flickr

Did you know that DBC members have contributed more than 2,700 photos to the club's Flickr site? If you'd like to browse some stunning images of DuPage County birds or contribute your photos, check out the site at <https://www.flickr.com/groups/1621981@N20/>. The site is managed by DBC member Urs Geiser. Thank you, Urs!

Birdo-Bingo is Just in Time for the Holidays

If you're looking for a way to entertain the children in your lives over the holidays and interest them in birding, the DBC has an answer for you!

As part of our new Tools for Educators, an Outreach initiative, incoming Vice President Natalie McFaul designed and beautifully illustrated a bingo game showcasing our local birds. Featuring four bingo cards, the game challenges you to find a bird under a tree or three or more birds on the ground or a bird flying or...you get the idea. Just print out the cards and take the kids for a stroll.

Many thanks to Natalie for her gorgeous illustrations and to the Outreach team led by Donna Kubik for their creativity and outreach initiatives.



Take a walk outside and see if you can find birds that are described above. You can get four in a row or just see how many you can match.

You can find Birdo-Bingo on the DBC website under Learn About Birds/Tools for Educators at <https://dupagebirding.org/tools-for-educators/>

Welcome to New Members

The DBC welcomes the following three new members:

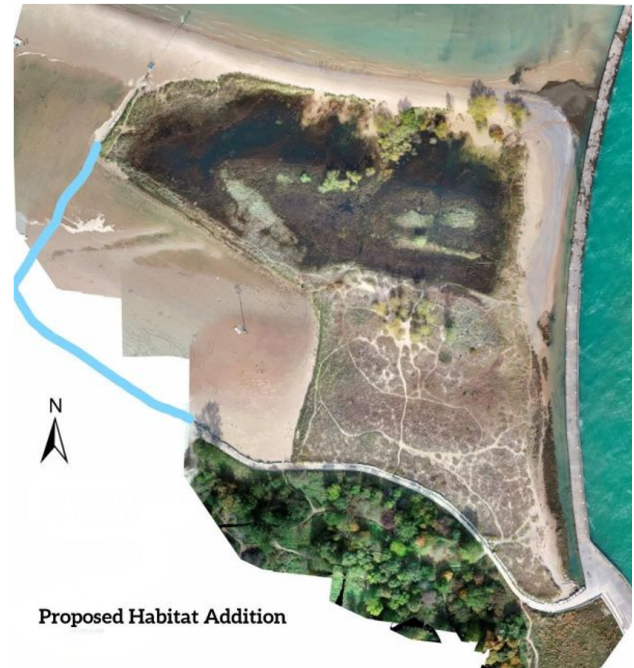
- Christopher and Diana Fleege, Glen Ellyn
- John Nikoleit, Hinsdale
- Samuel Schratz, Villa Park

Proposed Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary Habitat Addition in Review

The Chicago Park District is considering a proposal to add the Piping Plover nesting/foraging area ("fluddle" and Bank Swallow colony) to Montrose Beach Dunes and grant it formal protection. **They are inviting public commentary, and this presents an opportunity for your voice to be heard.**

The proposed habitat addition would extend from the western edge of the fluddle south to the stone wall at the sidewalk, roughly forming a rectangle. It is delineated by the Piping Plover protection fencing that was in place earlier this season and is basically a continuation of the existing western habitat protection fence south to the rock wall. The area encompasses the habitat used during the most critical phases of breeding, brooding, and rearing of the Piping Plover chicks.

The Chicago Park District wants to hear from you. Please take time now to send personal letters and messages voicing your views to the four top officials listed below. This will greatly facilitate the decision process because the Park District really cares about what public user groups (us) think and want.



- mike.kelly@chicagoparkdistrict.com (General Superintendent)
- patrick.levar@chicagoparkdistrict.com (Chief Operating Officer)
- matthew.freer@chicagoparkdistrict.com (Assistant Director of Landscape, Cultural and Natural Resources Department)
- cathy.breitenbach@chicagoparkdistrict.com (Director, Cultural and Natural Resources Department)

Real USPS letters are especially impactful. If you wish to write a letter, mail a separate letter to each of the above-named people at: Chicago Park District, 541 N. Fairbanks Court, Chicago, IL 60611.

2020 December Field Trips

Please note the following guidelines that will be strictly observed 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 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.

This month is the time to see early winter birds. Some species are only seen this time of year. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season. Please remember that weather and trail conditions can be variable and dress accordingly. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent. Situations sometimes change; please check our website (DuPageBirding.org) for any trip changes, additions or cancellations. Participants are welcome to contact the trip leader if they have questions.

Monday, December 7, 7:30 am

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Join another morning walk at the marsh to check out resident and winter birds, at one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. 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 warm clothing.

Leader: Kyle Wiktor, 708-506-5186

Thursday, December 10 and Saturday, December 12, 4:10 pm

Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

Join Joe Suchecki at Springbrook Prairie in Naperville to look for Short-eared Owls. Short-eared Owls frequently winter at Springbrook Prairie and can be seen as they come out to hunt over the preserve at dusk. Meet at the Model Aircraft Field Parking Lot on Plainfield-Naperville Rd., south of 75th St. in Naperville. We will walk a short distance off-trail to wait for the owls to appear. Dress very warmly since we will be standing in one place as the sun goes down. Note that the owls are generally pretty far away and often appear just as the light is failing, so this trip does not offer a photo-op. The trip will last about 30-40 min. Pre-registration is required. Contact Joe if you plan on attending. The owls do not always winter at Springbrook and the trips will be cancelled if they are not around or in the event of inclement weather.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-369-5570

Two Christmas Bird Count Opportunities

Saturday, December 19, All Day Event

Christmas Bird Count, Fermilab Circle

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's count will be quite a bit different than year's past. First, there will be no countdown dinner this year, as it's unclear that open dining will be possible or advisable. In addition, we will have a Zoom countdown instead of an in-person countdown. Details are still being worked out, but the countdown will likely be a scaled down version of our typical program.

If you counted in the last year or two, each area captain will reach out regarding count details, as Audubon is advising that no carpooling, large group meet-ups or counting in groups more than necessary should be incorporated into every circle. In addition, it is looking that Area 1 (Fermilab grounds) will likely be off limits this year. If this occurs, Area 1 participants may be rerouted to other areas needing additional counters. If you have not counted before, or haven't counted in several years, but would like to, please let me know and I can put you on the list. **Note that the deadline for new counters is Friday, December 4, 2020, since late decision participation throws off area captain plans and coverage strategies.**

Let's work together to make this count a safe and successful one!

Contact: : Jeff Chapman, jchapman@dupagebirding.org

Sunday, December 20, All Day Event

Christmas Bird Count, Lisle-Arboretum Circle

Birders of all skill levels are welcome on the Lisle-Arboretum CBC. The Chicago Ornithological Society (www.chicagobirder.org) sponsors this count where sub-teams are assigned to various locations. A map of the circle is on this webpage: http://geoffwilliamson.info/lislecbc/lisle_files/circle.htm. Even if you cannot go out in the field,

there is another way to contribute: DBC members who live in the count circle can participate as a "feederwatcher." For details and signup:

Contact: Carl Giometti, chicagiometti@gmail.com

2021 New Year Day Birding at the Morton Arboretum

Friday, January 1, 9:00 am

Note: Preregistration with the trip leader is required; you are NOT registered until you receive a confirmation from the trip leader. Note also, the Arboretum may choose to close off access – check the [DBC website](#) for updates on the trip's status. Also, read carefully the details below on how to obtain an entry pass to the Arboretum

Gather at the north end of the main parking lot (near to the Troll and Car).

We plan to sample a variety of bird locations.

We will split into several groups to look for birds across the Arboretum.

We can rendezvous back at the parking lot to compare our sightings.

We want to exit before the Arboretum prepares for the evening lights.

The Covid-19 Virus has impacted this year's birding.

There are some key constraints, both from the Arboretum and our bird club.

Arboretum:

1. Consult the **Arboretum website** section for **Admissions and Hours**.
 - Link to gain admission and pay the fee as required.
2. Everyone must sign-in days in advance to gain entry into the Arboretum.
 - Every attendee must have an entry pass.
 - We all must individually apply for the entry pass.
 - This must be done well in advance (days).
 - Arboretum members can use their Member Card
 - Non-members will need to pay on the computer in advance
 - We all will receive an entry pass via email.
 - The pass form must be shown at the entry gate.
 - Entry is only allowed at the selected entry time.
 - There is a "late" arrival tolerance period of two hours.
 - Expect a "no entry" sign when they hit their daily overall limit.
 - We should be OK with our entry timing.
3. Given the Virus-related constraints, there is no restaurant service. There may be some take-out service.
 - As of this time, we will NOT be planning a lunch.
 - Bring your own water.
4. The Arboretum encourages all those who visit to follow the basics, especially in proximity with people.
 - All attendees should have full-face mask.
 - All attendees should honor the 6-ft. spacing.
 - Activities in buildings require full adherence.
 - There is less concern with outside activities
5. **We all are subject to changing to Covid-19 rules.**

****Don't forget to register with the leader of the trip you're interested in.**

NOTE: All last-minute changes are posted on dupagebirding.org/field-trips.

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. Visitors are always welcome. We do not charge fees for birding trips. Field trip information is also found at: www.dupagebirding.org

Field Trip Coordinators

Bonnie Graham bgraham@dupagebirding.org

Joan Campbell peachjmc@gmail.com



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