



President's Message

Welcome to 2021! I hope the new year is treating everyone well and that there is a lot of good to come compared to the year that has just passed. It seems like an eon ago that I was at Ellyn's Pub with a few club members the night we sadly had to cancel last year's Members' Night. The good news, Members' Night will be back in 2021—this time online, but we have adapted and even thrived at times in our new world.

The DuPage Birding Club kept plenty busy last year, as recounted by Denis in the first two pages of [December's Drummings](#). I'm thankful so many of you enjoyed attending our safely-distanced field trips and online club meetings, viewed and commented on our social media channels, and spent quality time on our revamped website. All of those who worked on these endeavors thank you for your participation in the DBC over the shared experience that was 2020. We aim to continue and build on these efforts this year, and at some point return to all the normal, in-person fun we've been missing.

My time is split about 50/50 between DuPage County and Chicago, and when the shelter in place was declared in spring, I holed up in my Chicago apartment. Just leaving my place through a shared entryway I considered to be an act of daring. Just about every park—and the entire lakefront—was closed. But my birding world expanded anyway, and not just from illuminating videos like "[The Beak of the Bird](#)."

Simply opening my neglected window blinds on the small garden lot next door made a world of difference. My neighbors put in extra time with plantings and a new feeder or two, and now when I paused from typing I spent time looking out the window: I saw the clamoring House Sparrows, rich-noted cardinals, and the half-demented whistling White-throated Sparrows I usually only heard. The quietly migrating thrushes emerged into view too.

I also heard crows cawing outside. I re-read *Caw of the Wild*, by Chicagoland's Barb Kirpluk—a book written before the tragic devastation to corvids that is West Nile Virus. While we were now suffering our own epidemic, I decided to get to know a family of these birds on the once-per-day I allowed myself outdoors. I scrambled to find some unsalted peanuts, still in the shell, at the grocery store and,

Next Meeting

January 14, 2021

Zoom Meeting
(see page 3)

just as Barb had done, I set out on my walks. Crows are quick to recognize a friendly food source, and soon a few—along with some lucky squirrels—were given a peanut when they swooped down to the grass or a low tree limb near me when I emerged from my abode. I wonder if they'll recognize me when we stop wearing masks.

Almost everything was closed, but sometimes the gates to a nearby cemetery were swung open to walkers, so I grabbed my binoculars and walked in, something I'd not done more than once or twice in the past. Now it's an ongoing treat when I'm in town, and during fall migration I had the pleasure standing silently surrounded by feeding Golden-crowned Kinglets, spying a Yellow-billed Cuckoo just hanging out at the edge of a small patch of shrubs and grass, and watching a tail-bobbing, screeching kestrel scouting an open field from treetop to treetop. The crows were there too—one time about 15 of them chased a hapless Red-tailed Hawk in a dizzying kind of alternative Chicago Air Show. After a dozen minutes of this, three members of the Red-tail's family converged from distant points, putting an end to the crows' fun.

So, I found some joy in the limits of the pandemic, a really hard year—I hope you all did too. As the poet Dylan Thomas said, "I sang in my chains like the sea." I'm sure if I put my mind to it, I could come up with other changes in my perceptions of birds.

What about other DBCers? What new birding experiences did you have in 2020? What did you learn about avian life from your backyard or a book? I'd love to hear about new dimensions you've added to your birding world. Email me at sconstantelos@dupagebirding.org and we'll print some of them in future *Drummings*.

Stay warm and safe—and happy birding!

Steve

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!



We survived 2020—and that's worth celebrating! Hoping your holiday season was full of good cheer and your New Year is rich with good friends, good health, and of course, good birds!

Make sure you start 2021 on the right foot with an up-to-date DBC membership. Read on...

Dues are Due NOW: Renew Your Membership Today!

It's time to renew your club membership as we are 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.

DBC Expands Willowbrook Wildlife Preserve Sponsorships

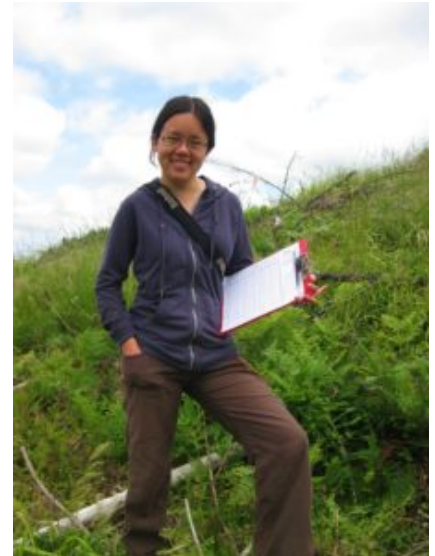
Speaking of your dues at work, the club recently expanded its support of Willowbrook Wildlife Preserve by renewing its sponsorship of the Red-shouldered Hawk exhibit AND adding sponsorship of the Turkey Vulture exhibit. Our \$500 annual contribution helps cover the cost of maintaining these two bird exhibits. Next time you stop by Willowbrook, give a nod to our avian buddies.

This last contribution of the year brings our total donations to \$4,850 for the year. That is on top of \$5,100 in 2019 to selected birding initiatives. This would not be possible without your dues contribution and your participation in our biennial auction. Thank you, DBC members. Through you, we are giving back to our community and helping birds in important ways!

DON'T MISS: 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.

Bonus Mini-Tutorial!

Stephanie Schmidt

UIUC grad student Stephanie Schmidt will lead off the meeting with a mini-tutorial about her research on wetlands management and predation risk for nesting marsh birds at Emiquon Preserve. American Coot, Least Bittern, Pied-billed Grebe, and the state-endangered Common Gallinule were four of the species studied. Stephanie received funding for her research from the DBC through the Illinois Ornithological Society's grant program.

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqc-mrqjsrGN0ayh1VEMdLOAmZZGBWNfJt>

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

Christmas Bird Count Results from Fermi Circle

On December 19, 2020, birders counted every bird they could see and hear within the 15-mile circle during the 45th Fermi-Batavia CBC. Eighty-one species were observed in the count, below our 10-year average of nearly 84 species. We had high counts of Hooded Merganser (44), Winter Wren (18), Carolina Wren (12), and Pine Siskin (327), while tying the high count for Pileated Woodpecker (2). Thank you to all the area captains and counters in making this year another successful count!

1	Snow Goose	272	Downy Woodpecker
8	Cackling Goose	85	Hairy Woodpecker
12,651	Canada Goose	2	Pileated Woodpecker
1	Trumpeter Swan	23	Northern Flicker
21	Northern Shoveler	13	American Kestrel
11	Gadwall	2	Peregrine Falcon
1,733	Mallard	4	Northern Shrike
7	American Black Duck	138	Blue Jay
1	Green-winged Teal	194	American Crow
2	Ring-necked Duck	663	Black-capped Chickadee
3	Bufflehead	25	Horned Lark
153	Common Goldeneye	7	Golden-crowned Kinglet
44	Hooded Merganser	40	Red-breasted Nuthatch
157	Common Merganser	282	White-breasted Nuthatch
3	Ruddy Duck	36	Brown Creeper
4	Ring-necked Pheasant	18	Winter Wren
4	Wild Turkey	12	Carolina Wren
432	Rock Pigeon	2,972	European Starling
763	Mourning Dove	18	Eastern Bluebird
1	Virginia Rail	9	Hermit Thrush
1	American Coot	1,097	American Robin
98	Sandhill Crane	380	Cedar Waxwing
2	Wilson's Snipe	994	House Sparrow
99	Ring-billed Gull	464	House Finch
62	Herring Gull	327	Pine Siskin
1	Double-crested Cormorant	419	American Goldfinch
32	Great Blue Heron	1	Lapland Longspur
1	Great Egret	389	American Tree Sparrow
19	Northern Harrier	13	Fox Sparrow
1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	728	Dark-eyed Junco
21	Cooper's Hawk	7	White-crowned Sparrow
12	Bald Eagle	72	White-throated Sparrow
92	Red-tailed Hawk	3	Savannah Sparrow
1	Eastern Screech-owl	74	Song Sparrow
13	Great Horned Owl	28	Swamp Sparrow
3	Barred Owl	14	Red-winged Blackbird
1	Long-eared Owl	20	Rusty Blackbird
1	Short-eared Owl	1	Common Grackle
3	Northern Saw-whet Owl	29	Yellow-rumped Warbler
28	Belted Kingfisher	536	Northern Cardinal
211	Red-bellied Woodpecker		

Let's Get Social: Instagram Channel Launches!

The DBC is kicking off 2021 with the launch of an Instagram channel. Instagram will complement the activity occurring on other DBC social channels at Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Flickr.

The new social media channel will be managed by Madison Olivieri, a new club member with some fresh ideas and great creative thinking. Maddie will reach out to educators, senior centers, and others in the Instagram community to let them know "the DBC is there to support their new all-weather, self-isolation-friendly birding hobby." As you've probably heard, the pandemic has led to an explosion of interest in watching birds as people have begun to spend more time at home and outdoors. Maddie will share club information and resources and encourage followers to engage with us to identify problem birds, answer questions, and learn about birds. Join the conversation at <https://www.instagram.com/dupagebirdingclub/>

Outreach Team Continues its Momentum

The Outreach team is kicking off the New Year strong, with two presentations and a new addition coming soon to our Tools for Educators section on the website.

Two local libraries have requested introductory presentations in January:

How to Attract Birds in Winter

January 7, 2021

Bob Spitzer at Warrenville Library

<https://warrenville.libnet.info/event/4707025>

Great Backyard Bird Count and Winter Bird ID

Late January 2021

Vicky Sroczynski

Morton Grove Public Library



The team will also be adding a new resource to complement Birdo-Bingo and the Common Birds of DuPage County. Watch soon for the debut of the DBC Coloring Book. New member Di Lan Johnson, a high school student, is using her artistic talents to create color-by-number sketches of some of our common birds. Fun!

New Housing Development May Impact Danada and Herrick Lake Forest Preserves

DBC members may be interested in following and taking some action regarding a proposed residential property development on the old Lucent/Nokia property, northwest of the intersection of Warrenville and Naperville Roads in Naperville. Pulte Builders proposes to convert about 70 acres of land that is now an old parking lot and fallow ground into a residential development called Naper Commons with several hundred new homes. The housing development would border the Danada/Herrick Lake Forest Preserves on three sides and would be close to a known Great Blue Heron rookery.

The Naperville Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on the matter on December 16, 2020. Initial plans for the development (Item PZC 20-1-086) were discussed, and there also was some testimony from the public. Residents of the existing low-density subdivision neighboring the proposed development voiced significant concerns about the plans. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County submitted some written comments to the City of Naperville regarding potential impacts of the development on the adjacent preserves and their wildlife.

Due to other items on the agenda as well as the number and length of public comments, the Public Hearing was continued until February 3, 2021. At that time, the Commission will take additional testimony from the public. Since the case is continued, the public may also submit additional written comments on the proposed development. Information on the case can be found on the City of Naperville, Planning and Zoning Commission website (<https://www.naperville.il.us/government/board-and-commissions/planning-and-zoning-commission/>).

Some members may wish to research what impacts the proposed development will have on the adjacent public lands, habitats, wetlands, and birds. Any concerns regarding the impacts of the Naper Commons development should be submitted to the City of Naperville in the form of written comments or public testimony at the upcoming public hearing on February 3rd.

Welcome to New Members

Sixteen new members were recorded in December!

Kimberly and Bri Backman, Downers Grove

Di Lan Johnson, DuPage

Sharon Devo, Bartlett

Carl and Karyn Zielinski, Bartlett

Ronald Aubrey, Glen Ellyn

Mary Godlewski, Woodridge

Bonnie Dunne, Naperville

Sylvia Washington, Winfield

Scott Heirbaum, Glen Ellyn

AJ Comerci, Elmhurst

Henry Meade, Elmhurst

William Harding Jr., Willowbrook

Madison Oliveri, Lisle

Andy and Michelle Batt, Aurora

Maureen and David Baird, LaGrange

Carissa and Charles Baier, Lisle

January 2021 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.

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
- 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.
- 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.**

Our birding will be on walking trails. The weather may change. Wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Past New-year Birding has been both fun and productive. Let's make this a good 2021 birding event. See you all at the Arboretum. **Leaders: Bob and Jean Spitzer** bobspitzer1@msn.com
630-222-3307

Danada East Forest Preserve, Wheaton

Sunday, January 17 @ 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

We will be looking for winter residents, with nearly 3 miles of the nationally designated Danada-Herrick Regional Trail winding through prairie, woodland and marsh habitats. Dress for the cold. The main entrance is on Naperville Rd., 1 mile south of Butterfield Road. **Leader: Pat Sterbling** pesterbling@gmail.com
630-235-5001

McKee Marsh, Winfield

Sunday, January 24 @ 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us to check out winter birds. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Road (Mack is south of Roosevelt and north of Butterfield), located between Winfield Road and Rte. 59 in Warrenville. **Leaders: Joan Campbell** peachjmc@gmail.com **630-337-2605**

Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, Oak Brook

Friday, January 29 @ 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

This will be a walk looking for winter birds. We will walk along the Salt Creek in the lowland woods with good habitat for birds and possibly ducks. Meet at the main parking lot on Spring Rd. in Oak Brook. **Leader: Nancy Allured**, nallured@dupagebirding.org

Field trip participants

Participants, please remember that the weather can be variable, and trails can be muddy, slippery, or even snow covered, so dress accordingly. Also, depending on weather, bring protection for biting insects, ticks, sun, rain, or winter cold. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner. Visitors are always welcome! We do not charge fees for birding trips.

Field trip coordinators

Bonnie Graham (bgraham@dupagebirding.org) and Joan Campbell (jcampbell@dupagebirding.org) manage the DBC calendar of trips. Contact them if you have questions or if you would like to lead a trip. Leaders do not have to be birding experts, just familiar with the location.



DuPage Birding Club

2021 Meeting Schedule

January 14	July 8
March 11	September 9
April 8	October 14
May 13	November 11

2021 DBC Executive Committee Members

President: Steve Constantelos, sconstantelos@dupagebirding.org

Vice President: Natalie McFaul, nmcfaul@dupagebirding.org

Treasurer: John Hebert, jhebert@dupagebirding.org

Recording Secretary: Andrea Duffy, aduffy@dupagebirding.org

Corresponding Secretary: Joe Suchecki, jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org

Director: Donna Kubik, dkubik@dupagebirding.org

Director: Jane Barnett, jbarnett@dupagebirding.org

Director: Denis Kania, dkania@dupagebirding.org

2021 DBC Committee Chairs

Audio-Visual Coordinator: Julie Appler

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

Christmas Count Coordinator: Jeff Chapman

Communications: Diann Bilderback

DBC Apparel: Steve Constantelos

Drummings Newsletter: Jeff Smith

Email Distribution: Bob Fisher

Facebook: John Cebula, Glenn Perricone

Field Trips: Bonnie Graham, Joan Campbell

Flickr: Urs Geiser

Forest Preserve Liaison: Dennis Streicher

Grants and Donations: Vera Miller

Hospitality: Geralynn Hoffmann

Instagram: Madison Olivieri

Lending Library: Jeff Smith

Membership Directory: Susan Kaley

Outreach/Youth Education: Donna Kubik

Spring Count Coordinator: Joe Suchecki

Twitter: Vera Miller

Webmasters: Nancy Allured, Barb Dougan

YouTube Education Channel: Denis Kania.

Steve Constantelos