



President's Message

I hope you're enjoying watching bird life these winter days, however and wherever you're doing it. Maybe you've picked out a detail you never noticed before as a bird picks at the suet in your feeder or at some tufts of seeds in a local grassland.

In reply to last month's message about widening our birding horizons in 2020, I heard from a club member who has taken to telling bedtime stories over Zoom to her young nieces. Birds, naturally, are a theme, but since she couldn't find many pleasant stories about crows and their ilk, she made one up about a certain raven befriending a mastodon. A pleasant imagining from an Ice Age ago.

Next Meeting

March 11, 2021

Member's Night via Zoom

Winter Birding and Forest Bathing

I've always enjoyed winter birding, spending early December toughening up for the all-day Christmas Bird Count, moving into the snowy and sometimes grim days of January and February. I think it's an ideal time for beginning birders—if they can reconcile themselves to the cold. Not as many species to get confused over; plumage often contrasting well with shades of brown and white that dominate the landscape. The birds are quiet, but they do vocalize, and it resounds in the stillness of the preserves. There may not be as many birds to be found, but when you do find one, the joy radiates. It's a season to really get to know our resident species, as well as a few visitors, like the subtly-colored junco.

A birding buddy of mine recently suggested that winter is the ideal season for “forest bathing,” or in its original language, [*shinrin-yoku*](#), a term coined by Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 1982. Simply put, it's going into the woods and letting it all soak in through all our senses. I usually hear about this practice in any season but winter, but it does fit with my way of thinking, relishing a season when signs of life are more hidden, when it might take us a little more time to accustom ourselves to the temperature and lose ourselves in the atmosphere.

Sharing Photos and Stories

This same friend and his wife take great pains, mixed with pleasure I'm sure, to take photos during our outdoor expeditions. Without a camera to speak of, I have punted on taking photos other than scene-setting ones of our morning's sky and landscape. I am privy to their mumbled thinking out loud as they try to perfect their focus and capture the birds we're after. The results of their efforts are beautiful, useful for our many ID questions, and later bring great recollections of the time we spent together and the wildlife we encountered.

In this *Drummings*, you'll see that Members' Night is coming, a chance to share photos and tell stories to fellow DBCers. It's always entertaining and always leaves me wanting more. Only so many people can take the stage on Members' Night, but I know every club member takes a photo or two and has a story to tell. Luckily, [we have outlets](#) for sharing just these things for those who want bring their light out from under the bushel. If you're unacquainted with the ways of Flickr groups and would like to know more, drop me a line. And if you're a photographer or videographer who would like to share some tips on your craft in a mini-tutorial, we can likely find space for you on the club's YouTube channel; again, drop me a line.

Our website features some wonderful bird photos from members. Something I'd love to see more of in our image collection—*club members!* This is a hard thing to ask when in-person events are few, but we're still going on field trips, and there's nothing wrong with photos of masked people—this era deserves recording too. Plus, humans get away from the lens much less quickly than wildlife, so that makes it easier. If you're on a field trip, or down the road attend a club meeting or event, I hope you'll share with us all.

Happy birding and snapping!

Steve
sconstantelos@dupagebirding.org



DuPage River Morning



Great Blue Heron tracks on the DuPage

One Last Time: Annual Renewal Time is NOW

A final reminder to all that have not renewed your annual dues that the time is NOW! 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.

Call for Presenters: DBC Members' Night March 11

The DuPage Birding Club's annual Members' Night is back! It will be via Zoom on Thursday, March 11, 2021, and all DuPage Birding Club photographers are invited to share their favorite bird photos and stories with fellow members. The photos can be from any birding location—and all levels of photographic expertise will be enjoyed by club members.

Each presentation is limited to 10 minutes, so please be very selective and limit yourself to 10 to 15 images to share. We will only have time to show approximately 10 presentations. To make



Prothonotary Warbler by Bonnie Graham

sure the evening goes smoothly, we ask that presenters adhere to these steps which are slightly different than previous years. If you have never presented on Zoom, don't let that stop you! It is actually pretty easy and we can guide you through it.

STEP 1

Submissions will be accepted starting on February 15. Coordinate submission with Natalie McFaul by email, nmcfaul@dupagebirding.org. Please include the Presenter's Name, Presentation Title, Number of pictures or slides (not including titles and separators), and a few words describing your presentation.

STEP 2

After approval from Natalie, **put your pictures in a slide show format.** It can be any slide show format you choose: Google Slides, Keynote, PowerPoint, etc. You will be presenting over Zoom from your own

computer. Practice and time your presentation—remember you are limited to 10 minutes!

If you do not have access to a slide show format you can put your photos in a folder and present them from the folder. Contact Natalie for specific information on how to do this.

STEP 3

The first week of March (on a date we can all agree on) we will do a quick practice run via Zoom. If you are confident and comfortable doing a Zoom presentation, you can skip this. If you are new to presenting on Zoom, you will have a chance to practice sharing your screen and presenting.

Please email Natalie nmcfaul@dupagebirding.org if you have any questions. Thank you and see you March 11!



Photo: Blue Pitta by Sirimon Reutrakul

In Case You Missed It...

Sachi Schott was the featured speaker at our first DuPage Birding Club meeting of 2021 (virtual) on the evening of January 14, which had 81 Zoom attendees. Sachi gave us an engaging and in-depth presentation of bird monitoring activities at Pelee Island Bird Observatory (PIBO), where she has worked as an Assistant Bird Bander since 2011.

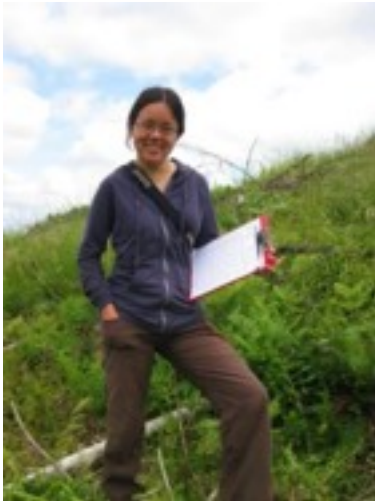
Pelee Island is the southernmost point in Canada, located in a migration “flyway” in the middle of the western side of Lake Erie. PIBO has been monitoring birds during spring and fall migrations since 2003, using a disciplined program of daily monitoring, bird banding, and visual observations. Their data can be found on their website and it is used in

ongoing analyses such as those showing declines in migrating songbirds. PIBO welcomes visitors (except during Covid-19 restrictions), and Sachi’s appealing account encouraged a trip someday to this remote spot. We need to thank club Board member Donna Kubik, who took such a trip and then connected the DBC to PIBO and Sachi!

Our meeting started with an additional “Mini-Tutorial” speaker, Stephanie Schmidt, who received funds from our club last year through the Illinois Ornithological Society’s grant program. Stephanie is a University of Illinois graduate student researching the effects of restoration wetland management on predation risk for nesting marsh birds at Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge in central Illinois. Stephanie gave an informative presentation of her initial findings, indicating that the varying water levels engineered to restore native wetland plant communities may inadvertently be increasing nest predation, particularly by mammals gaining easier access when water levels are lowered. The target species in her study are the vulnerable American Coot, Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and the state-endangered Common Gallinule. Stephanie will keep us posted as her research continues.

This meeting was held on the 36th anniversary of the founding of our club, and it was great to have some of the founding members in attendance!

These presentations can be viewed on the DBC Education Channel on You Tube, and here is the direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZCvtZXNIvE>



Stephanie Says: Visit Emiquon Any Time of Year!

Stephanie Schmidt, our IOS grant recipient who spoke at January's meeting, invited us to explore Emiquon Nature Preserve any time of year. From Stephanie:

"I really appreciated the opportunity to talk at the club meeting and I am glad you liked the presentation. If anyone is interested in visiting Emiquon Preserve, the winter is a great time to see large numbers of Tundra Swans at the preserve and Bald Eagles along the river. Early spring is also a wonderful time to listen for rails during migration. The calling Sora and Virginia Rails are hard to miss at Emiquon as there are so many. In the summer, large groups of pelicans, cormorants, and countless other birds use the marsh. There is also an Osprey nest right in front of the pump to the river and it uses a nesting platform along the elevated edge of the pump canal. The road leading to Emiquon is also full of flying insectivores dipping and diving in front of your car. And finally, in the fall the massive number of coots and waterfowl at Emiquon is quite a sight to see. I hope everyone interested is able to make the visit. There really is no other place quite like Emiquon."

Sounds like a great place to visit any time of year!

Directions and more information about the visiting the Emiquon Preserve can be found here: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/emiquon/>

Wanted: Field Trip Leaders

As the new year kicks off, our Field Trip Coordinators are looking ahead to finding exciting birding opportunities available to us every single month of the year—and that's where you come in! Coordinators Joan Campbell (jcampbell@dupagebirding.org) and Bonnie Graham (bgraham@dupagebirding.org) seek prior and new field trip leaders to host field trips in your favorite birding patch. You DO NOT have to be an expert birder, just have familiarity with the destination. Help us keep our Field Trip program interesting and lively—contact Joan or Bonnie to volunteer to lead a trip today.

DBC to Exhibit at Virtual Wild Things Conference

DuPage Birding Club will be a virtual exhibitor at the all-virtual Wild Things Conference 2021, to be held in two parts, February 19-21 and February 26-28. Wild Things is a community of people interested in protecting and supporting northeastern Illinois's wild spaces. The organization sponsors a conference every two years to share knowledge, explore mutual interests, and celebrate our natural diversity. Learn more and register to attend at <https://www.wildthingscommunity.org/>.

Guides for Ethical Birding

As we kick off the new year, it's a good time to remind ourselves that we must always practice ethical birding. Spend two minutes and review The American Birding Association's Guide to Ethical Birding on the DBC website at <https://dupagebirding.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>. In addition, we thank Chicago Audubon Society for recently reminding us of two other resources that dive a little deeper into a pastime many of enjoy—photographing birds.

It is challenging to get that perfect shot while putting birds and their habitats first. Learn the best practices for responsible field photography here: [Audubon's Guide to Ethical Bird Photography](#)

It's also appropriate timing to highlight best photography practices for owls who are in nesting season this time of year. Owls are especially vulnerable to unintentional harm through birding activities. Learn how to photograph owls in ways that don't interfere with their hunt for food or stress them into abandoning a nest. [Respecting Owls: Ethical Owl Viewing and Photography](#)

New Video Offers Key Insights into DBC Mini-Tutorials

Nearly every video on our DBC Education Channel features color-banded charts pertaining to birds detected by the Fermilab Bird Monitoring Project, an innovative program and robust microcosm for DuPage birding covering 6,800 acres of varied habitat.

In a [recent video](#), Denis Kania explores the project and those color-banded charts in detail—how the survey is broken into five-year time periods, with quarterly increments for each month—and how they inform monitoring efforts. He also shares the wealth of information available on the project's homepage. Gain insights into a key aspect of our YouTube channel by clicking [here](#) now.

2021 Outreach News

On Feb. 8th, DBC member Vicky Sroczyński will lead an online presentation for the Morton Grove Public Library titled “Beginner Birdwatching.” Vicky will cover basic gear, how to find and identify common winter and yard birds, and ways to keep track of sightings. Here's the link to register: <https://mgpl.org/events/beginner-birdwatching-online>.

This presentation follows a presentation in January led by Bob Spitzer for the Warrenville Public Library. Bob's topic: “How to Attract Birds in Winter.” Thank you, Bob and Vicky!

The Outreach team responds to speaker requests from schools, libraries, senior centers, scouting groups, and others interested in learning about birds. If you'd like to join the group of volunteers who respond to these requests, contact Donna Kubik at dkubik@dupagebirding.org.

Get Your Guide to Our Singing...Insects!

When people think of singing animals, birds are the first that come to mind. But when spring fades and the birds go quiet, where should song lovers turn? To the summer crescendo of crickets, katydids, grasshoppers, and cicadas, of course.

DBC member Carl Strang has just released his updated *Singing Insects of the Chicago Region*, covering 22 counties with details for over 100 species. Email him at wildlifer@aol.com to get your copy of this amazing guide.

From the Forest Preserve

DBC member Dennis Streicher has taken on the role of Forest Preserve Liaison for the club and will provide updates from time to time that may be of interest to members. Things have been quiet over the holidays, but a couple of new work efforts have launched.

Master Planning for Blackwell, Greene Valley, and Waterfall Glen—Master plans for the three most used preserves in the County have not been revisited in several decades. A consulting firm has been engaged to develop new plans for all three preserves. The public will be invited to provide input and feedback so stay tuned.

Swift Prairie Forest Preserve Expansion—Swift Prairie is home to rare flora and fauna, including rare bittern and heron species. The FP will continue invasive plant removal from surrounding home sites that have been acquired to serve as buffer zones to protect the high-quality habitat. Work will continue into 2022, giving native plants an even better chance to rebound.

Don't Miss: Great Backyard Bird Count February 12-15

Join your fellow citizen scientists around the world and participate in this year's Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participation is easy—just observe birds for at least 15 minutes once or multiple times over the four-day period and share your observations on eBird.

The 2020 count included checklists from 194 countries representing more than 27 million birds. Details are here: <https://www.birdcount.org/>.

Welcome new DBC Members

Scott Freer	Wheaton	Ronald Leopold	Homewood
Jerome Abramson	Chicago	Ramona Brorson	Burr Ridge
George Kalinka	Naperville	Darlene Reilly	Wheaton
Kathy Lech	Naperville	Eric Schwister and Manju Durairaj	Westchester
Dwayne Pipal	Wheaton		

2020 DuPage Birding Club Treasurer's Report

Income		Expense	
Dues	5070.00	Donations Out	3850.00
Other income	54.00	Grants	1000.00
		Insurance	521.00
		Rent	400.00
		Speakers	567.00
		Website	1623.00
		Revised Checklist	822.00
		Printing & other exp.	1156.00
Total Income	5124.00	Total Expense	9939.00
		Net Operations	(4815.00)
Total Assets as of Jan. 1, 2020	15178.00		
Net from Operations	(4815.00)		
Total Assets as of Dec. 31, 2020	10363.00		

February Field Trips

This month is the time to see winter birds, especially waterfowl, raptors and owls, and many other species are only seen this time of year. We encourage everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner. Wear proper, warm clothing and winter footwear. **NOTE: Please check DuPageBirding.org for any trip changes, additions or cancellations. This is more likely with winter weather.**

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.

Goose Lake Prairie SP and surrounding areas

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021 AT 2:30PM (bad weather on Saturday?, alternate is Sunday, Feb. 7)

Join Bob Fisher and check various locations for raptors, gulls, waterfowl and owls. Meet at the McDonalds in Coal City at the SE corner of Hwy 113 and Broadway. Dress warmly since we will likely be standing in one exposed location as the sun sets. Pre-registration is required; limit 10. Trip may be cancelled in the event of bad weather. Contact Bob to register.

Leader: Bob Fisher bfisher928@aol.com

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 @ 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Pre-registration required. You must call or text Kyle to request a spot. He will reply to let you know if you are confirmed, or if you have been placed on a waiting list. Only 10 people are allowed on each walk and that includes the leader. Do not show up if you are not confirmed. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, no additional participants beyond 9 people will be allowed to join the event. If for some reason you are confirmed and then realize you cannot attend, please notify Kyle ASAP so that he can add someone from the waiting list.

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us to check out winter birds. 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.

Leader: Kyle Wiktor Cell: 708-506-5186

Little Red Schoolhouse

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 8:30 AM

Currently the grounds are open from 8 am to 4pm. Nature Center exhibit buildings remain closed. Drinking fountains are not available; please bring your own water. Please dress warm and in layers. We will walk mostly on natural trails, so hiking boots with solid treads are advised. We can expect to see Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Nuthatch, Sparrows, Juncos, and Waterfowl. Face masks and social distancing are required. You must pre-register with the Leader. The walk will be approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours. The Little Red Schoolhouse Address is 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs 60480 Directions: From LaGrange, I usually take LaGrange Rd South, turn right on to W 95th St, and then turning left (south) on Flavin Rd. The entrance is about a half mile further on the right. For directions from other locations, I recommend using a GPS or contacting the nature center at 708.839.6897.

Leader: Alan Seelye-James

Cell: 954-708-4804 with any questions.

Norris Woods

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 AT 8:00AM

Norris Woods is an Illinois Nature Preserve in St. Charles along the Fox River. We will hike along the river utilizing the bike trail that heads north through St. Charles Park District property as well as Kane County Forest Preserve property. We'll be searching for early woodland migrants as well as anything that might be moving along the river. To reach Norris Woods starting from the intersection of Route 64 and Route 25 head north on Route 25. In .9 miles turn left on Johnor Avenue which is right after the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Johnor Avenue will take a hard turn to the left and then you will see a parking lot on your right. Meet in the parking lot at 8:00am. You must pre-register with the Leader.

Leader: Denis Kania djkan36@gmail.com

***Don't forget you must 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



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 Educational Channel: Denis Kania,
Steve Constantelos