



President's Message

A couple of months ago, a fellow DBCer and I exchanged notes—he'd just had the pleasant surprise of seeing two Pileated Woodpeckers fly across a road into Blackwell Forest Preserve. I'd seen these majestic beauties often enough when I lived in Virginia, and had seen them a couple of times in Cook County. When he mentioned their increasing presence in DuPage, I then recalled a time I too had seen them in our county—at the Morton Arboretum on a DBC field trip!

Now, Pileateds aren't the shyest or quietest, and I stood a good chance of seeing one on my own sooner or later, but I attribute my first DuPage sighting to the club. I looked back at eBird and, sure enough, that trip was on a lovely early October day and also yielded a family of Wood Ducks and four sparrow species: Song, Field, White-crowned, and Lincoln's! Again, being with an alert group of field trip goers probably accounted for these wonderful sights.

Field trips are one of the pillars of the DBC, especially in 2020 when indoor events and large gatherings were not possible. They—along with the Spring and Christmas Bird Counts—are how I got to know many local birders and nature spots. Field trips have provided opportunities for friendship, camaraderie, and even mentorship for many a club member. New members get to know their birds and their fellow club members, and veterans have the opportunity to see old friends and offer some birding tips to new ones. They're one of the main reasons I joined the DBC, and they're a great way of advancing knowledge of bird life in our community.

I'm happy to report that field trip participation limits have now expanded to up to 15, and we continue to look forward to opening up club activities safely as the weeks roll on. The spirit of community safety—among club members and our broader DuPage and Illinois neighbors—has been our guiding star these past twelve months. We want everyone to be comfortable to enjoy a positive experience amid the challenges we face.

Not only are we thrilled to be opening up, but also excited by new trip leaders and destinations in 2021. We offer a few trips for newer birders, and I hope to add more of those soon. A couple of other ideas are being implemented by our VP, Natalie McFaul. The first are "Bird Sit" trips for those who aren't able or don't want to walk for an hour or two, but still want a guided, social birding experience.

Also coming soon: leaderless "Bird the Park" trips, where a place and timeframe are announced, and members are invited to bird the area on

Next Meeting

April 8, 2021 Zoom Meeting
(See page 2 for details)

their own and share their sightings as they meet people on the trail. This might appeal to those who would rather not bird alone and are comfortable knowing that other club members (and knowledgeable birders) are nearby.

So, thank you to our field trip coordinators, our field trip leaders, our board members, and other volunteers for keeping this pillar of the DBC strong. And thank you to all who have journeyed out on our field trips as new members, guests, and longtime members. Your patience, understanding, and creativity in navigating these past twelve months have been wonderful. Happily, the time is coming soon when any attendance limits we have on our field trips will arise from a leader wanting to be sure they're offering a quality birding experience—not because of a virus.

Happy birding!

Steve
steve.constantelos@gmail.com

April 8, 2021 - 7:00 pm Video Conference

Great Spring Birding in DuPage County

John Cebula

Beginning birders and birders new to the area: Don't miss this chance to learn about some of the best birding areas in DuPage County. John Cebula, educator, writer, naturalist and long-time DuPage Birding Club member, will share when and where to look for those fantastic migrating birds. Been birding DuPage for years? John will also be sharing information on some under-birded and overlooked sites in DuPage County. Join us and learn about a possible new favorite birding spot!

This month's meeting will have two mini-tutorials. First, Joe Suchecki will give a brief presentation on the Spring Bird Count and how to participate. Then Bob Fisher will give a mini-tutorial on the Bird Conservation Network's monitoring program and how to participate. Both are great opportunities to engage in great birding experiences and do a little citizen science too.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lduutrTwpGtA4NE6NzZZPOgZJrG8M5j7D>

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

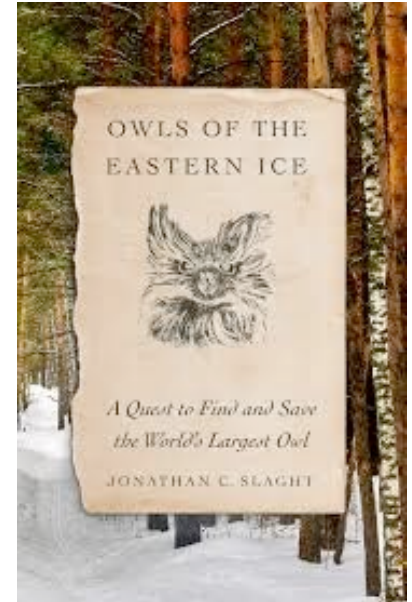
Coming Thursday, May 13, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Owls of the Eastern Ice: Blakiston's Fish Owl Conservation in Russia

With Jonathan Slaght

This month we are delighted to host Jonathan Slaght, author of *Owls of the Eastern Ice*. If you have not read his book, you're in for a treat! It is an engrossing and interesting look at field work in the Russian wilderness.

From 2006-2010, Jonathan Slaght studied Blakiston's fish owls in Russia for his Ph.D. in Wildlife Conservation at the University of Minnesota. His memoir of this experience, called *Owls of the Eastern Ice*, was published in summer 2020 to great acclaim. It was named a New York Times Notable Book for 2020, longlisted for a 2020 National Book Award for Nonfiction, called one of the Ten Best Books of 2020 by the Wall Street Journal, and most recently, selected as a finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Science Writing award.



In his presentation, Slaght will describe the owls and his project, including details of the adventures and struggles of fieldwork as well as ongoing conservation efforts with this endangered species.

Slaght is the Russia & Northeast Asia Coordinator for the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). He manages research projects involving endangered species such as Blakiston's fish owls and

Amur tigers and coordinates WCS avian conservation activities along the East Asia-Australasian Flyway from the Russian Arctic to the mudflats of Southeast Asia.

Slaght's writings, scientific research, and photographs have been featured by the [BBC World Service](#), the [New York Times](#), [The Guardian](#), [Smithsonian Magazine](#), [The New Yorker](#), and [Audubon Magazine](#), among others. *Owls of the Eastern Ice* is his first book.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvduirpzwpgTfQyfaLVSMUOK4LMOkY1Xti>

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

In Case You Missed It: Members' Night March 11, 2021

Our Zoom meeting started with a few club announcements. The annual Membership Directory will be coming out next month, and anyone who would like to be included needs to be paid-up on membership dues. The Spring Bird Count will be held on May 8, 2021, and like last year, arrangements will be adapted for Covid-19 issues. All were encouraged to consider participating to help with our Club's key support of this event, which typically offers nice weather and "exotic" migrating birds to boot!

Members' Night has been a long tradition of the Club, and it was happily welcomed back after 2020's last-minute cancellation at the onset of Covid-19 shut-downs. Members' Night offers a number of short presentations by individual Club members who have volunteered to "Show and Tell" to the group one of their birding-related experiences. We were fortunate that most of last year's scheduled presenters patiently waited a year to make their presentations. For this year there were a total of 7 presentations, and 86 people joined in to watch on Zoom. The presenters were as follows:

Joe Suchecki (Galapagos Islands) In 2019, Joe (along with a few other club members) took a boat tour of seven southern Galapagos Islands. On these isolated islands the birds and other wildlife do not seem to have the same fear of people as in most other places. Visitors are provided with amazingly close-up views, artfully reflected in Joe's unique photos of the rare and beautiful birds (plus a few famous reptiles, too).

John Baker (Cuba and Colombia) In 2019, John took trips to Cuba and Colombia. He did not bring his camera to Cuba due to concerns about potential "spying" hassles, but he did capture a great cell phone photo of a rare dove. His camera made it to Colombia, and there he shot lots of great photos of colorful and interesting tropical birds, including many hummingbirds.

Robert Perez (US National Parks – Olympic, North Cascades, Yellowstone and Grand Canyon) Robert actually traveled to all of these places in 2020, after deciding the Covid-19 risks were manageable given his outdoor itineraries. He was rewarded with great trips and a number of life (first-time) birds. Robert noted a few "surprise" birds, which he hadn't anticipated from his pre-trip study.

Mike Warner (GreatBirdPics.com) Mike designed a free public website to provide high-quality bird photos, both local and worldwide. Other websites often include lower quality photos, such as tiny or blurred images, for purposes like documentation. GreatBirdPics.com has free memberships for those who want to contribute photos, evaluations or commentary. Currently there are over 4,000 photos, with robust filters for finding specific types of birds or their activities. The Random feature displays a different great image every seven seconds.

Bonnie Graham (Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Louisiana, Arizona and Florida) Since our last Members' Night in 2019, Bonnie traveled in these six states, gathering great bird photos. Many were "firsts" for Bonnie, either the species or the bird's activity. Some were uncommon shots of common birds, and Bonnie had a story for each. She highly recommended Avery Island in Louisiana, which is also great if you like hot sauce (Tabasco comes from here).

Sirimon Reutrakul (Northern and Western Thailand) Sirimon is from Thailand, and she has taken multiple trips to remote National Parks in northern and western Thailand. She showed us a great collection of colorful tropical birds found on family trips, including some with her father who took up birding at 70 years old. Whether rare or common in Thailand, these birds were fascinatingly exotic to most of us here in Illinois.

Denis Kania (Zambia and Botswana) In 2019, Denis traveled to Zambia and northern Botswana as far as the Okavango Delta. Although this was not specifically a birding trip, we could count on Denis to find plenty of birds. Denis focused his presentation on relatively common but still amazing African birds that the typical visitor can often see. Denis has made multiple trips to Africa, and he noted which of the birds were widespread in many parts of Africa. We also saw a few nice non-bird wildlife photos.

For the majority of us who have been spending far too much time at home this past year, these armchair adventures and great photos were a welcome sight. Many thanks to the presenters!

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the DBC Education Channel at https://youtu.be/o_IeBpMv9KE

Annual Spring Bird Count, Saturday May 8

Hold the date and plan to participate in the 2021 Spring Bird Count in DuPage County on Saturday, May 8.

The Spring Bird Count is held annually throughout Illinois around the first weekend in May and is intended to provide some information and data on early spring bird migration throughout Illinois. The Spring Bird Count also is a great opportunity for birders of all skill levels to get out in the field and look for all those great and colorful spring migrants moving through northeastern Illinois. The DuPage Birding Club coordinates the spring count efforts in DuPage County, and last year we recorded 155 species on spring count day. Results from past counts can be found on the DBC website.

It is not too early to start getting ready for this year's spring count. If you have participated in the past, look for an email in mid-April from Joe Suchecki with information about the count, your area captain and your count area. If you have not participated previously and would like to join the fun this year, contact Joe Suchecki at Dupagesbc@gmail.com, and he will put you in touch with an area captain for the count.

Last year we had 118 participants counting birds on the spring count in DuPage County. We would like even more people to participate this year. Appropriate Covid-19 safety precautions will be in place similar to what the club requires for field trips to keep everyone safe. So, don't miss out on the fun and excitement of the great Spring Bird Count on May 8. Any questions? Contact Joe Suchecki who is coordinating this year's count at Dupagesbc@gmail.com.

Refresh Your Skills in Time for Spring Birding

Spring migration is heating up and migrants will be flooding into our favorite birding haunts. There are some great mini-tutorials set for release that can help you to prepare for the new arrivals.

In April we will be releasing two new tutorials titled "Birding by Ear Part 1 and 2" presented by Joe Suchecki. Look for new releases on the first and third Wednesday of every month.

The education channel library also has several titles in its collection that can help you with your early migration ID questions. Check these out so that you are at the top of your game when these migrants arrive.

Waterthrushes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32bhTFP3hEA&t=180s>

Early, Small Flycatchers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lg-66-jeOdM&t=5s>

Pine Warbler versus Yellow-throated Vireo

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_jnykJMNkk&t=228s

Spizella Sparrows

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JcQN1p_eUk

Get Alerts When New Videos Post

Did you know that you can be alerted instantly when new videos post to the DBC Education Channel on YouTube? First you must subscribe to the channel at www.youtube.com/dupagebirdingclub. Then click on the bell next to the Subscribed button and select ALL. Next go into your YouTube settings under Notifications and click the option to receive content from your subscriptions. Alerts only appear when you are in YouTube unless you choose (in YouTube settings) to get notifications in your Chrome browser. It's easy and ensures you won't miss any good content.

“A Bird in the Hand”: A Field Report from the MAPS Banding Station

By Vicky Sroczyński

I had the good fortune of bumping into Glenn Gabanski at Waterfall Glen one morning after I'd finished monitoring my point count areas there and was feeling pumped about having observed a singing male Blue Grosbeak once again. Glenn asked if I would consider helping that summer with the MAPS banding station, and I said “yes.” I had previously avoided this task, anxious both about spending six hours in a mosquito-infested woodland, and about seeing birds caught in mist nets. Both of those concerns proved unwarranted.

MAPS is an acronym for “Measuring Avian Productivity and Survivorship.” Staff and volunteers determine how successful breeding birds are at fledging offspring, and how well and how long these birds are living.

This summer we had an abbreviated season, meeting five times instead of the usual eight, after a late start due to COVID restrictions. District staff members were not able to work since they were pulled off for other duties. So, I got to assist the inestimable pair of Dave Willard and Glenn Gabanski.

Glenn has 28 years of experience with the MAPS station, and Dave has 50+ years of experience with mist-netted birds. Watching the two of them gently and efficiently take birds out of the mist nets, and quickly and carefully put them into cloth bags, was reassuring to me.



Most birds hung quietly in the nets, except for Gray Catbirds, who never stopped squawking, even in the cloth bags, even while being measured and evaluated. If a Gray Catbird did get caught in the net, another Gray Catbird would fly around the net and squawk back to it. It was hard to avoid imagining they were mates.

Towards the end of the season when we started seeing fledglings (hatch-year birds), we encountered an Indigo Bunting female in the net close to a hatch-year bird; this was a likely a parent bird with fledgling. Another time, a female American Goldfinch was caught in the net, a couple of feet away from two male American Goldfinches—not a stretch to understand that that situation had probably started out as a hot pursuit!

I quickly appreciated why Glenn groaned when faced with a Northern Cardinal or a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in a net. They bite! And that bill is strong—so during the in-hand session, Glenn would put a rubber faucet washer in its bill, just like a pacifier. Blue Jays got a similar treatment, though it was a small stick to hold in their feet, to avoid struggling and scratching.

I learned it was hard to age certain birds, like Gray Catbirds, and hard to gauge the age and sex of birds, like Blue Jays. The “hair-do's” you see in these pictures result when Glenn wet the birds' heads in order to measure their skulls. Once Glenn fitted each bird with a band, measured their wing chords, looked at the feathers, and told me a few more measurements to record, he would pop the bird, head-first, into a tube to weigh it on the scale, and then, let it go. This was a very fast procedure, from start to finish.

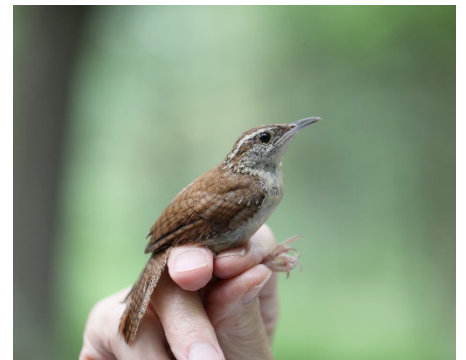
We went to the nets hourly, or half-hourly if it was hot, for the men to gather birds. We also did some observations of breeding birds and were able to find both adults feeding young and singing males. There was a pair of Scarlet Tanagers in the banding area, and we could watch the female vocalize “chip-burr,” which was good experience to have. Another time, we watched a pair of helpless Red-eyed Vireos near their top-of-canopy nest as a Blue Jay took one of their fledglings. An Eastern Wood-pewee was right near the vireos, seeming to watch the event closely.

Recaptured birds are useful to assess how long they are living in their nesting area. About half of songbirds perish during their first year, and sources differ about the lifespan of the common birds we recaptured, like Eastern Wood-Pewee, Field Sparrow, Gray Catbird and Indigo Bunting. The fact that we recaptured a five-year old Indigo Bunting female and four-year-old Gray Catbird, Field Sparrow, and Eastern Wood-Pewee was good evidence that despite the risks of migration, despite their many life stressors, these birds were able to return to the exact same area and attempt breeding. I was thoroughly fascinated and grateful to have had this experience. Attached, please see Glenn’s summary and some photos.

Results of 2020 MAPS Banding at Waterfall Glen

Commentary from Glenn Gabanski

Due to Covid restrictions, the MAPS Banding Station at Waterfall Glen was operated on only five of the usual eight days during the breeding season. Our first day of banding was June 23 and our last day was July 30. Normally we will band on eight days during the period of May 21 to August 8.



Two new species added in 2020 to our banding list are Yellow Warbler, a bird sometimes heard near the savanna-prairie edge but never before trapped, and Carolina Wren, a bird both heard and trapped for the first time on July 30.

One Ruby-throated Hummingbird was trapped but not banded as we do not have a permit to band hummers.

Here are some interesting recaptures. Birds banded in 2018 and recaptured in 2020 include one Eastern Wood-Pewee (AHY-F) and two Indigo Buntings (ASY-F, HY-U). Birds first banded in 2019 and recaptured in 2020 include one Gray Catbird (ASY-U, this bird was netted four times this year), two American Robins (ASY-M, ASY-U), one Field Sparrow (ASY-M), and one Indigo Bunting (SY-M).

Below are some data taken from a summary 2020 report we needed to prepare for the Inland Bird Banding Association.

NEW BANDS 2020

Total # of new birds (avg. of previous years)	60 (64.37)
Most individuals on a single day (date)	14 (30 Jul)
# of species banded (avg. of previous years)	19 (18.69)
Most species on a single day (date)	9 (30 Jul)
# of species first banded	2

TOP 5 SPECIES IN 2020

# 1 (# banded)	GRCA Gray Catbird (13)
# 2 (# banded)	INBU Indigo Bunting (9)
# 3 (# banded)	AMGO American Goldfinch (7)
# 4 (#. banded)	NOCA Northern Cardinal (5)
# 5 (# banded)	FISP Field Sparrow (4)

RECAPTURES 2020

Total # of recaptures	13
# of individuals banded in 2020 recaptured \geq 1x	1 (a FISP)
#. Individ. banded in previous years recaptured \geq 1x 2x, 1 FISP)	8 (2 AMRO, 3 INBU, 1 GRCA recap 4x, 1 EAWP recap

TOTALS SINCE BEGINNING OPERATION

# of years in operation including 2020	27
Total # of species	66
Total # of recaptures	431
Total # of individuals recaptured \geq 1x	282
Total # of species recaptured	21

Top 5 species for all years combined

# 1 (#. banded)	GRCA Gray Catbird (245)
# 2 (# banded)	INBU Indigo Bunting (238)
# 3 (# banded)	BCCH Black-capped Chickadee (199)
# 4 (# banded)	AMGO American Goldfinch (132)
# 5 (# banded)	DOWO Downy Woodpecker (100)



DBC Shares Birding Tips in New Podcast

DBC President Steve Constantelos and Corresponding Secretary Joe Suchecki served as ambassadors for birding in a recent podcast for ParkTalk, a program of the Naperville Park District. Steve and Joe talked about great local birding sites and what birds observers might see, why they enjoy birding, the benefits of membership in the DuPage Birding Club, and advice for beginners. Listen to the full podcast here: <https://www.napervilleparks.org/podcast/s22-episode-02-bird-watching>.

Pulte Development Near Danada Approved

The Naperville Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved the proposed Pulte development near Danada on March 17. The Forest Preserve District submitted a letter stating that they worked out virtually all issues they had with the development and so did not object to the revised plans. Pulte also submitted a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicating that since the distance of the development to the eagle's nest was greater than 600 feet, there should be no impact on the nesting eagles. The neighborhood association to the north and Joe Suchecki spoke against the project, essentially indicating that Pulte did not substantially change the plans to address the issues. But the Commissioners thought otherwise.

On the positive side, Pulte agreed to the District's concerns about use of native plants, using dark-sky lighting, restrictions on the use of road salts and coal tar sealer, clarification on some stormwater control issues and ongoing negotiations on relocation of a major stormwater sewer that the District needs to maintain. They also included a 25-ft buffer between the yards and the forest preserve property that will be planted with native prairie species. This buffer and other open space/stormwater retention basins are to be maintained by the Homeowners Association.

Next step is approval by the Naperville City Council, which is expected. Thanks to all of you who wrote to the Planning and Zoning Commission expressing your concerns. It definitely helped achieve some positive results.

Welcome New Members

Claudia Borowski	Darien	Jennifer Kfoury	Lisle
Jennifer and Ed Hammer	Lisle	Sylvia and John McIvor	Darien
Barbara Backley	Wayne	Irma Lopez	Westmont
Jacob Jones	Wheaton	Jennifer and Timothy McAtee	Aurora
Kathryn List	Wheaton	Linda Malawy	Naperville
Linda Fox	Lisle	Elizabeth and Winnie DeLeon	Downers Grove
Mary Loye	Downers Grove	Deborah Ness	Wheaton
Gail Chastain	Wheaton	Ruth Schumacher	Wheaton
Patricia Besenhofer	Hinsdale	Donna Conrad	Villa Park
Mary Collins and Tim Vanasselt	Woodridge	Patty Corsolini	Aurora
Kathleen Eddy	Streamwood	Aimee Misch	Lombard
Susan Riefe	Hinsdale		

April 2021 Field Trips

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

These early spring field trips target migrating waterfowl, raptors, passerines, and shorebirds plus some returning breeders. We are offering a variety of field trips, including mid-week trips. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season.

We encourage everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner. Please remember that the weather can still be very cold, and trails can be muddy, so dress accordingly, wearing proper warm clothing and appropriate footwear.

Registration with the trip leader is required.

You are **NOT** registered until you receive a confirmation from the trip leader.

Field trips are open to non-members.

Participant limit is now generally set at 15, including the leader. However, the limit for each field trip is at the discretion of the trip leader, so some may be limited to 10 or 12, while others could allow 15. 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. There should be no sharing of field guides or equipment, and no carpooling, unless it's among people from the same household. Anyone not feeling well should not attend.

Monday, April 5, 7:30 am

Morton Arboretum, Lisle WEST SIDE

Meet at P21, the Thornhill parking lot. Must get entry passes beforehand. Will be looking for early spring migrants. This field trip will be limited to 15 participants.

Leaders: Mike & Karen Warner, mwarner2543@gmail.com

Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 pm

Woodcocks, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Woodridge/Naperville

Greene Valley Forest Preserve is known for its Woodcock displays, which begin shortly after sunset. Join us this spring on one of our walks. Meet at the west entrance parking lot: west on 79th St. from Greene Rd, then Thunderbird Rd. south, apprx. ½ mile to the campground entrance. This field trip will be limited to 15 participants. The walk will NOT be cancelled due to weather.

Leader: Jeff Smith, mrqmagoo13@gmail.com

Saturday, April 10, 8:15 am

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 and interpreting breeding and nesting bird activity. This trip will be limited to 15 attendees.

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, joceb2005@sbcglobal.net

Thursday, April 15, 7:30 am

Centennial Trail, Lemont, IL

Meet at the 101st Street Waterfall Glen parking lot off of Lemont Road where we will caravan, and depart promptly at 7:30 am. This trip will be limited to 15 participants. We will be walking along Centennial Trail along the Des Plaines River in search of waterfowl, Bald Eagles, and new spring arrivals.

Leader: Mark Freeburg, freebs59@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, April 17, 7:00 am

Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

This trip will focus on grassland birds and late spring migrants. Please park at the model aircraft field on Plainfield-Naperville Road, South of 75th Street in Naperville. This trip is limited to 15 participants.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-386-5570, issuesman50@yahoo.com

Sunday, April 18, 7:00 am

Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, Oak Brook

This will be a walk for new birders. We will walk slowly and allow ample time to look for spring warblers and other migrants. Our focus will be the lowland woods along the Salt River. Meet at the main parking lot on Spring Road in Oak Brook. The number of participants allowed on this walk will be limited to 15.

Leader: Lesa Hipes, 630-689-7463, lesahipes@gmail.com

Sunday, April 18, 8:30 am

Hidden Lake Forest Preserve, Downers Grove

Enjoy a mid-morning bird walk at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve for a chance to see herons, egrets, kingfishers, terns, geese, ducks, and early spring migrants. This site includes ample parking and an indoor restroom which will be open. This trip is limited to 15 participants.

Mary Loye, maryloye@gmail.com

NEW!

Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 7:00 am - 10:00 am

Bird the Park: Herrick Lake, Butterfield Road, Wheaton

This is a leaderless birding experience. You are invited to bird the **Meadowlark Trail / Danada-Herrick Lake Regional Trail** loop (about one and half miles) on your own between the hours of 7 and 10 am. The idea is you will 'bump' into fellow birders as you make your way along the trail loop, chat a little about what you are seeing, then move on and hopefully run into another birder further along the trail. You can start at 7 or sleep in and start at 8 or even 9!

Park in the Herrick Rd parking lot or, if you want to walk around Herrick Lake, the West Picnic Area lot off Hwy 56. You can reach the Meadowlark Trail from both lots. You can hike the loop in either direction. **Dress for the weather. Masks and social distancing required.**

The main entrance is on Butterfield Road approximately 1 mile west of Naperville Road. The south parking lot (Herrick Rd lot) is on the east side of Herrick Road south of Butterfield. [Herrick Lake Website](#) (including a trail map).

Organizer: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Tuesday, April 20, 8:00 am

Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Woodridge/Naperville

This morning trip will be oriented toward early spring migration. We will be at a leisurely pace to provide as much time as desired to look at each bird and to answer questions for any new birders. This trip will be limited to 15 participants. If you register for this walk, Bonnie will either notify you that you are confirmed, or offer to put you on a waiting list in case someone cancels.

Meet at the Thunderbird Youth Camp Parking Lot. Go west on 79th about 1/2 mile, the entrance is on the south side of 79th Street, west of Greene Road in Naperville/Woodridge.

Leader: Bonnie Graham, 630-204-8750, Coye72112@gmail.com

Thursday, April 22, 7:00 am

Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

This trip will focus on grassland birds and late spring migrants. Please park at the model aircraft field on Plainfield-Naperville Road, South of 75th Street in Naperville. This trip is limited to 15 participants.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-386-5570, issuesman50@yahoo.com

Thursday, April 22, 7:30 am

St. James Farm FP, Warrenville

We'll be concentrating on early woodland migrants as we explore some of the excellent trails through this preserve. We will meet in the main parking lot which is accessed off of Winfield Road just north of Butterfield Road. This trip is limited to 10 participants.

Leader: Denis Kania, djkan36@gmail.com

Thursday, April 22, 7:30 pm

Woodcocks, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Woodridge/Naperville

Greene Valley Forest Preserve is known for its Woodcock displays, which begin shortly after sunset. Join us this spring on one of our walks. Meet at the west entrance parking lot: west on 79th St. from Greene Rd, then Thunderbird Rd. south, appr. ½ mile to the campground entrance. This field trip will be limited to 15 participants. The walk will NOT be cancelled due to weather.

Leader: Jeff Smith, mrqmagoo13@gmail.com

Sunday, April 25, 7:00 am

Introduction to Birding By Ear, Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

This trip is intended for those birders who would like to learn about bird calls and songs and how to use those sounds to identify "Birds-by-Ear." The trip leader will key-in on bird calls and songs as the group looks for marsh birds, grassland birds, and spring migrants. The emphasis of the trip will be to point out and learn the calls of the birds and how to develop the skills of identifying birds by sound. Please park at the Model Aircraft Field on Plainfield-Naperville Road south of 75th Street in Naperville. This trip is limited to 10 participants.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-369-5570, issuesman50@yahoo.com

Sunday, April 25, 7:30 am

McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

McDowell Grove is typically a productive site for warblers and other migrants. The focus of the trip will be early migrants, forest, and scrubland birds. Meet in the parking lot off Raymond Drive, 1/2 mile south of I-88. Most of our walk will be on gravel and good earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing. This trip is limited to 15 participants.

Leader: Diann Bilderback, 630-272-5746, diann.bilderback@yahoo.com

Thursday, April 29, 7:30 am

McDowell Grove FP, Naperville

We'll be concentrating on early woodland migrants as we explore some of the excellent trails through this preserve. We will meet in the main parking lot which is accessed off of Raymond Drive where it intersects with McDowell Road (stop light). This trip is limited to 10 participants.

Register with the leader Denis Kania at djkan36@gmail.com

Don't forget to Register for the walks you're interested in.

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

Other Birding Opportunities. For additional birding opportunities check out the Illinois Birding Calendar at [http:// www.illinoisbirds.org/illinois-birding-calendar/](http://www.illinoisbirds.org/illinois-birding-calendar/)

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. We do not charge fees for birding trips.

Field Trip Coordinators:

Bonnie Graham, coye72112@gmail.com

Joan Campbell, peachjmc@gmail.com



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

Vice President: Natalie McFaul

Treasurer: John Hebert

Recording Secretary: Andrea Duffy

Corresponding Secretary: Joe Suchecki

Director: Donna Kubik

Director: Jane Barnett

Director: Denis Kania

Contact the Board and its members at dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com or by filling in the online form at <https://dupagebirding.org/contact/>.

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