



President's Message

Many birders have a “spark bird,” a particular bird that drew them into avid interest in avian life. When meeting a fellow enthusiast in the field or at a pub, it’s not a bad icebreaker to ask them about their spark bird and listen to their story. A DBC member or two even commemorate their spark bird on their license plates.

For me, it’s not an easy story to trace—I wasn’t sure about my spark bird until giving it some thought recently. To mention just a few candidates, last month my message was about the Eastern Bluebird, a species I was reading about long before actually seeing one. I remember in later youth being mesmerized by hundreds of Cedar Waxwings flitting around, feeding on insects high in the trees in late summer over the DuPage River. I remember trading robust whistles with a cardinal one day in my backyard. This made a positive impression on me, but it likely just annoyed the bird on the other end. But I have come to the conclusion that my spark bird was an upside-down American Robin.

One warm summer day, long ago, I walked into the backyard to enjoy some shade and check on our plants’ water situation. Over in our hawthorn tree I noticed a robin staring at me, unperturbed and unmoving although suspended upside-down from one of the branches, about two feet off the ground. I moved closer and noticed fishing line as the culprit, although we were miles from a fishing hole. Somehow the plastic had gotten wrapped around this unfortunate bird’s “ankle.” Expressionless, the upside-down robin did not struggle and seemed to look at me, asking silently, “Hm. Well, now what?”

This is long before I was comfortable handling any sort of wild animal, but I had to do something, so I went inside and grabbed some gloves and pruners to cut the victim free. I held the bird tentatively and tried to snip as close to its leg as I could, to leave as little line as possible. Amid several flaps of wings, I managed a decent job and as I backed away it recovered from its daze and took off. A bird can live a full life with a metal band on its ankle, so I imagine this one had a decent chance to live out its days comfortably without being snagged again on a thorn or twig.

Next Meeting

July 8, 2020

Zoom Meeting

See page 3 for details.



Backyard robin. Photo by Bill Constantelos.

For my part, I got to look into the eye of a helpless animal and give it a chance to survive. After meeting this robin, I found myself looking around for birds wherever I went, learning their ways, and thinking of the obstacles they faced, natural and human-made. I eventually got into bird counting, caretaking, rescue, and more. Come to think of it, this beautiful member of the thrush family makes a great a spark species, dramatic incident or not. Few birds in our suburban setting offer such a course in studying life in all its aspects.

Like you, nowadays I see them in our yards, extracting worms from lawns with a vengeance. I walk down a riverside strip of grassland and spot one sitting snugly in its nest, giving me a look like, “Okay, you saw me, now move along.” Sometimes they are bold and gaze up at you as



One peril of being an American Robin: flight take-off pattern.
Drawing by Martha R. Hall from the book *The American Robin: A Backyard Institution* by Len Eiserer.

you pass them on the sidewalk; sometimes they skittishly dash away, but still refuse to take flight and abandon their turf. Fledglings harshly peep away for parent-provided food. The air is filled with tuneful varieties of robin song throughout much of the day—yesterday I noted hearing one at 3:43 a.m., and the singing started again at the same time this morning.

On summer and autumn mornings, I’ll scan the treetops for their warm orange breasts shining in the sun. In winter I think of them whenever I enter the woods, hoping to find a flock. I think of them when the snow is deep and when I see, say, a crabapple tree with a lot of leftover fruit. And this is not to mention all the other species of birds we encounter and marvel at. I guess I have a lot to thank my spark bird for, and I look forward to the spark stories flying when I meet fellow club members.

Happy warm-weather birding! Steve steveconstantelos@gmail.com



Late fall. Photos by Mayumi Barrack.

July 8, 2021, 7:00 P.M. Zoom Meeting

Birds in the Garden: Creating and Enjoying a Bird Oasis Pam Karlson

This past year many of us have spent more time than usual observing birds in our own backyards. July's program will provide inspiration for creating a great backyard bird habitat.

The program will feature Pam Karlson's photographs of the Chicago bird garden she created and its bird visitors, illustrating how it's possible to attract over 100 bird species in an urban garden. Tips include landscape enhancements, practices and plant selection, with an emphasis on natives and nativars. Chicagoland's importance along the migratory route, bird species diversity, habitat, diet/foraging, nesting, supplemental support and citizen science will also be discussed. Doug Tallamy's book, *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*, includes Pam's city garden, exemplifying the power of urban lots.

Pam Karlson is a career artist and certified professional gardener/garden designer. Art, nature and gardening have been her passions since early



childhood. She has been rescuing migratory birds since 2004 as a volunteer with licensed wildlife rescue/rehabilitation organizations. Residing in Chicago, she co-owns Waxwing Studio, Inc. with her artist husband, specializing in design, illustration, gardening/garden design, and landscape watercolor painting.

Preregister for this event here:

[Welcome! You are invited to join a meeting: DBC Meeting: Birds in the Garden: Creating & Enjoying a Bird Oasis. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.](#)

In Case You Missed It: Jonathan Slaght on Blakiston's Fish Owls

Jonathan Slaght, American wildlife biologist, conservationist, and author, took us on a captivating journey to Primorye in Eastern Russia, where he studies endangered Blakiston's Fish Owls, the world's largest and one of the rarest owl species. Jonathan described these birds, his project and goals, and gave details of his field work and conservation efforts to benefit this species.

Jonathan brought to life the challenging conditions he and his small team experienced. Housing was sparse and primitive, coupled with extremely cold temperatures. Navigating land without roads and waterways that may or may not be frozen was the norm. These men were dedicated and creative as they searched for the owls, studied them, and devised a conservation plan to protect the owls. His presentation was an armchair adventure in a place that many of us will never visit.

Jonathan is the Russia and Northeast Coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society. He has spent more than 20 years living and traveling in the Russian Far East and is an expert on the Blakiston's Fish Owl. Besides Fish Owls, he has worked with projects involving tigers as well as migratory waterbirds across Asia.

His book, *Owls of the Eastern Ice*, published in 2020, has won many awards, including multiple "Best Books of 2020" lists. His other writings, scientific research, and photos have been featured in many publications.

This presentation could not be recorded, but you can learn more about Jonathan and his research if you visit these links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1YgMHUqucY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6FP0QfYBbE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQHRA3RokBI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MiUIJcciCk>

jonathanslaght.com

fishowls.com

P.S. Check out this story for a fascinating peek at another impressive owl, the Bornean Rajah Scops Owl. It again shows us how little we know about some of these elusive species.

Rare Owl With Bright Orange Eyes Seen for the First Time in More Than 125 Years

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/owl-documented-first-time-more-than-125-years-180977722/>

Outreach Alert - June 26 Prairie Patch Pollinator Party

DBC's own Bob Fisher will represent hummingbirds in the upcoming Prairie Patch Pollinator Party at Indian Prairie Public Library, June 26, 9:30-12:30 p.m. The event features presenters on bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. You must register due to Covid; no walk-ups will be allowed. See <https://ippl.info/> under the calendar for more information.

We continue to fulfill requests by local libraries and clubs for presentations. Recent topics include Spring Migration, Attracting Hummingbirds, and Gardening for Birds and Butterflies. Keep your ears open for school and scouting groups, retirement homes, and any others expressing a desire to learn more about birds, and please send them our way. If you'd like to be included in our Outreach Presenter Pool, we would welcome you with open arms!

Club Backs Two IOS Grant Projects

Under the guidance of the Grants and Donations Committee, the DBC has awarded grants to two research projects that will contribute to scientific understanding and public awareness of birds.

The first is full funding of \$1,000 for "Determining Latitudinal Summer Origins and Subspecies Distribution of Wintering Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) in Illinois" by Illinois Wesleyan University students Katie Vogler, Rebekah Harden, and Steven Burkett. The project utilizes cutting-edge stable hydrogen isotope ratio analysis of feathers and will contribute significantly to the body of knowledge on this key species' migration and distribution—with great potential to inform conservation work.

The club has also contributed \$200 toward a creative project proposed by high school student and gifted birder Gracie McMahon. Its topic is "Creating Avian Sculptures Out of Found Trash and Recyclables," and it will be installed around Winnebago County to spread awareness about bird conservation.

We're glad the Illinois Ornithological Society annually brings projects like these to our attention. We look forward to hearing the results of both projects in presentations from the winners!

2021 Membership Directory to Publish Soon

More than 400 birders are now members of the DuPage Birding Club. The 2021 Membership Directory will be distributed electronically in mid-June via a DBCbirds email blast to all members of record. Use the Directory to connect with people you meet in the field or would like to get to know.

The growth in members represents an increase of 33 percent in the last year, no doubt reflecting the increased interest in birding as people spent more time observing nature during the pandemic year. Many of our new members are new birders. All of us who are old-timers need to help these new birders build their skills and learn to enjoy the fantastic adventure that birding affords.

In the News: John Cebula profiled in "Catching Nature"

The DuPage Forest Preserve recently profiled DBC member and 2021 speaker John Cebula in its "Catching Nature" series of people who have found ways to engage with nature in interesting ways. John shares how DuPage Forest Preserves support his lifelong interest in nature, the changes in our preserves he has seen over the last decades, and the perspective it has given him—nature's lessons and how nature inspires. Read it here: <https://www.dupageforest.org/catching-nature/john-cebula>



Need to Spiff Up Your Birding Wardrobe?

Show off your DBC pride and upgrade your birding wardrobe at the same time at the DBC Apparel Shop. Members can order vibrantly colored shirts, jackets, hats, and tote bags embroidered with the DBC logo at our online store operated by Hyperstitch, Inc., in Marengo, IL. **Click [here](#) to start shopping!**

News from the Forest Preserve

Dennis Streicher, our liaison to the DuPage County Forest Preserve, shares these two interesting new developments:

Bike Path Grant for Springbrook: A grant agreement between IDNR and the FPDDC for trail development has been accepted for improvements of Trail Development at Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve. Brighton Ridge (A Naperville Subdivision) Connector will be .25 miles and 50% of the cost is covered by a grant.

Willowbrook Wildlife Center: A master plan for Phase II at Willowbrook was presented to the commission. In 2011 the rehabilitation clinic plan was to care for 8,000 animals. In 2019 nearly 10,000 patients were treated at Willowbrook. The discussion presented was for a new 32,000 square foot clinic and visitors Center as well as indoor and outdoor rehabilitation areas addressing the increasing need for this treatment center. Outdoor classroom, amphitheater, interpretive trail, and wildlife gardens are all planned as well. Total cost is \$23,700,00, with the largest amount \$16,500,000 for the new clinic, indoors rehabilitation area, and visitor center. The current request is for funding of a schematic design phase for this ambitious new plan. The timetable for this proposal shows an actual ribbon cutting in Spring 2025. A bond issue is being considered for this funding without impact to taxpayers.

In other news, the Forest Preserve is inviting public feedback on Master Plans for three of our largest preserves: Blackwell, Greene Valley, and Waterfall Glen. Zoom meetings will be conducted in June to solicit public commentary. If you bird these preserves, have a look at their plans. More information is here:

<https://www.dupageforest.org/news/upcoming-projects/preserve-master-plans>

The 2021 Spring Bird Count Results

By Joe Suchecki, DuPage County SBC Compiler

The 2021 Spring Bird Count (SBC) was held on Saturday, May 8, which turned out to be a relatively nice day for birding. We were almost back to normal with Covid-19 restrictions being lifted somewhat and counters able to bird at the Morton Arboretum and Fermi Lab this year.

First, the effort. DuPage County birders came through with flying colors again this year with 142 birders answering the call to count birds on the SBC. That is an increase from the 120 participants last year. Not only did we have more birders out in the field this year, but our DuPage birders put in more time and effort while looking for birds. From about 4:00 am in the morning to after 8:30 pm, DuPage birders put in 372 party-hours in the field and walked about 275 miles in their quest to count birds in the county. The 372 party-hours is an all-time new record for the amount of time birders spent out in the field for the spring count. So, give yourselves all a big round of applause.

Now, for the birds. All that effort paid off in the totals for the count. We ended up tallying 168 species plus one hybrid form for the count this year. That compares to 156 species last year, but is below the all-time high count of 188 species seen in 2018 and slightly above the average over the last ten years. Birders also counted 26,476 birds for the 2021 count. That is a lot of “tick” marks on the field checklists and is around the average number of birds seen over the years.

With all those birds seen on May 8, there had to be some good ones. And there were. Among the highlights was an Anhinga spotted flying over McDowell Grove Forest Preserve by Denis Kania. Needless to say, the Anhinga is a new bird for the DuPage County Spring Bird Count checklist. It is nice to be able to add a new bird after 49 seasons of conducting the Spring Bird Count. Another very rare bird found on the count was a Black Rail. Black Rail has been recorded only once before on the SBC in 2010. Similarly, one Stilt Sandpiper was found, and it too has only been seen once before, in 2013.

In addition to those species, a Lawrence’s Warbler – the rarer form of the Blue-winged-Golden-winged Warblers hybrid – was observed in Area 9 by the Rebecca Huebler.

So, what are the most common birds in DuPage County as indicated by the SBC results? They are Red-winged Blackbird, American Robin, Canada Goose, Tree Swallow, and Mallard.

We hit new high counts for several species including Caspian Tern (79), Bald Eagle (17), and Red-bellied Woodpecker (387). You can look through the complete checklist below or on the [DBC website](#) in the near future to find how many of your favorite birds were found. In addition, there is a spreadsheet on the website showing count results back to 1973 when the first Spring Bird Count was completed in DuPage County. You can look at that table and see how birds have changed over the last 49 years

Thanks to all the birders who volunteered to take part in the count this year. DuPage County is consistently near the top in number of participants throughout the State. Keep up the great work.

And speaking of great work, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Area Captains who do all of the work organizing and assuring coverage of all the birding areas in the county for the Spring Bird Count. They are Liza Gray, Kyle Wiktor, Margie and Al Busic, Dave Yeager, Herman Jensen, Urs Geiser, Eric Secker, Jeff Reiter, Glenn Perricone, Jim Huebler, Dave Spleha, Jerry and Jodi Zamirowski, Susan Kaley, Linda Radtke, Joe Suchecki, Mike Madsen, and Jim Green.

It’s not too early to plan for next years count, so keep open the first Saturday in May for the 2022 Spring Bird Count. Next year will be our 50th SBC in DuPage County – We will have to find something really special to celebrate!

Area: DuPage County Totals

Big Bird Count - May 8, 2021

species not on this list must be documented

	Snow Goose		Bonaparte's Gull		Horned Lark	32	Orchard Oriole
1447	Canada Goose	162	Ring-billed Gull	235	Rough-winged Swallow	379	Baltimore Oriole
4	Mute Swan	13	Herring Gull	16	Purple Martin	4074	Red-wingd Blackbird
256	Wood Duck	79	Caspian Tern	1159	Tree Swallow	692	Brown-head Cowbird
83	Blue-winged Teal		Black Tern	11	Bank swallow	687	Common Grackle
	Northern Shoveler		Common Loon	651	Barn swallow	16	Ovenbird
	Gadwall	251	Dble-crtd Cormorant	19	Cliff Swallow		Wrm-eating Warbler
	American Wigeon		American Bittern	336	Black-capped Chickadee	3	La Waterthrush
1070	Mallard		Least Bittern	7	Tufted Titmouse	72	Northern Wtertrush
	Northern Pintail	255	Great Blue Heron	10	Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	Golden-wing Warbler
4	Green-winged Teal	114	Great Egret	202	White-breasted Nuthatch	24	Blue-wing Warbler
	Canvasback	45	Green Heron	3	Brown Creeper	40	Bl-and-wt Warbler
1	Redhead	3	Blck-crwn Night-Heron	203	House Wren	10	Prothonotary Warbler
1	Ring-necked Duck	113	Turkey Vulture	13	Sedge Wren	27	Tennessee Warbler
1	Lesser Scaup	7	Osprey	13	Marsh Wren	6	Orange-crwn Warbler
2	Hooded Merganser	1	Northern Harrier	10	Carolina Wren	94	Nashville Warbler
	Common Merganser	1	Sharp-shin Hawk	222	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		Mourngn Warbler
2	Red-brstd Merganser	30	Cooper's hawk	41	Ruby-crwnd Kinglet		Kentucky Warbler
	Ruddy Duck	17	Bald Eagle	68	Eastern Bluebird	290	Common Yellowthroat
	Ring-necked Pheasant		Red-shouldered Hawk	9	Veery	2	Hooded Warbler
13	Wild Turkey	10	Broad-winged Hawk	6	Gray-cheeked Thrush	19	American Redstart
17	Pied-billed Grebe	118	Red-tailed Hawk	40	Swainson's Thrush	2	Cape May Warbler
88	Rock Pigeon	1	Eastern Screech Owl	3	Hermit Thrush		Cerulean Warbler
362	Mourning Dove	16	Great Horned Owl	33	Wood Thrush	33	Northern Parula
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Barred Owl	2597	American Robin	4	Magnolia Warbler
	Black-billed Cuckoo	13	Belted Kingfisher	322	Gray Catbird		Bay-breastd Warbler
	Common Nighthawk	5	Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	29	Brown Thrasher	5	Blckburnian Warbler
436	Chimney Swift	31	Red-hded Woodpecker		Northern Mockingbird	273	Yellow Warbler
15	Ruby-t Hummingbird	387	Red-belld Woodpecke	475	European Starling	15	Chestnut-side Warbler
13	Virginia Rail	230	Downy Woodpecker	1	American Pipit	1	Blackpoll Warbler
44	Sora	75	Hairy Woodpecker	16	Cedar Waxwing	5	Blk-thrd Blue Warber
	Common Gallinule	12	Pileated Woodpecker	157	House Finch	304	Palm Warber
4	American Coot	167	Northern Flicker	11	Purple Finch	4	Pine Warbler
22	Sandhill Crane	5	American Kestrel	638	American Goldfinch	310	Yellow-rump Warbler
	Black-bellied Plover	1	Peregrine Falcon	13	Pine Siskin	3	Yellow-thrd Warbler
	Amer Golden Plover	1	Olive-sided Flycatcher		Grasshopper sparrow	74	Bl-thr Green Warbler
4	Semipalmated Plover	2	Eastern Wood-Pewee	59	Chipping Sparrow		Canada Warbler
166	Killdeer		Acadian Flycatcher	6	Clay-colored Sparrow		Wilson's Warbler
2	Dunlin	1	Willow Flycatcher	153	Field Sparrow	4	Summer Tanager
38	Least Sandpiper	9	Least Flycatcher	95	White-crowned Sparrow	14	Scarlet Tanager
	White-rmp Sandpiper	27	Eastern Phoebe	220	White-throated sparrow	804	Northern Cardinal
53	Pectoral Sandpiper	61	Great- Crstd Flycatcher	1	Vesper Sparrow	161	Rs-brstd Grosbeak
	Semipalm. Sandpiper	61	Eastern Kingbird	133	Savannah Sparrow	176	Indigo Bunting
	Short-bill Dowitcher	6	White-eyed Vireo	9	Henslow's Sparrow		Dickeissel
5	Amer Woodcock	1	Bell's Vireo	634	Song Sparrow	655	House Sparrow
8	Wilson's Snipe	19	Yellow-throated Vireo	10	Lincoln's Sparrow		
2	Wilson's Phalarope	14	Blue-headed Vireo	90	Swamp Sparrow		Other Species
61	Spotted Sandpiper	1	Philadelphia Vireo	108	Eastern Towhee	1	Bufflehead
95	Solitary Sandpiper	163	Warbling Vireo		Yellow-breasted Chat	1	Anhinga
7	Greater Yellowlegs	21	Red-eyed Vireo		Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	Black Rail
110	Lesser Yellowlegs	829	Blue Jay	81	Bobolink	1	King Rail
		95	American Crow	61	Eastern Meadowlark	1	Stilt Sandpiper
						8	Monk Parakeet
33	Species Count	45	Species Count	47	Species Count	1	Lawrence Warbler (H
							Overall Total
						43	Species Count
4436	Number of Birds	3474	Number of Birds	9229	Number of Birds	168	Total Species Count

June 2021 Field Trips

In June, migration gives way to the breeding season when many birds will be singing in all landscapes, from grassland to water to woods. 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. There is special support for new birders on some trips. Non-members are welcome.

Participants, please remember that the weather can be variable and trails can be muddy, so dress accordingly and bring protection for biting insects, including ticks. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent.

Participants are welcome to contact the leader if they have any questions. Our field trip leaders can help you find the trip's starting location if you need additional directions. Situations can sometimes change, so please check our DBC website www.dupagebirding.org for the latest status information.

NOTE: Registration with the trip leader is required; you are NOT registered until you receive a confirmation from the trip leader. Each trip has a participant limit ranging from 10 to 20 (including the leader). Absolutely no stretching the limit.

Field Trips will observe a few guidelines to ensure that our birding is safe and comfortable for all:

- It is expected that all field trip participants will follow the CDC's recommendations regarding masks and social distancing.
- Anyone not feeling well should not attend.
- Attendees of DBC field trips and other events who are under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- All field trip attendees should be aware of and follow the [ABA Code of Birding Ethics](#).

Friday, June 4, 7:30 am

Beginners Bird Walk at McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 12 participants.

We'll explore this celebrated preserve, searching for grassland and marsh species. We will concentrate on basic bird ID skills in order to establish a foundation for your future enjoyment of birds. 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 clothing.

Leader: Denis Kania, djkan36@gmail.com

Sunday, June 6, 7:00 am-9:00 am

York Woods, Oak Brook

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 10 participants.

York Woods is a great location for summer residents. It is one of DuPage County's smallest forest preserves with level asphalt trails and mainly oak woods. This field trip will be designed for beginners, but experienced birders may not be disappointed. We will cancel in the event of inclement weather.

Directions: From southbound York Rd. take Frontage Rd. west (I-88 exit) to Harger. Access to Frontage Rd. from northbound York is not allowed. Take York north to Roosevelt Rd. and follow the Roosevelt interchange to southbound York. Please note there is major construction in progress at Harger Road.

Leader: Kathy Mineck, day of: 630-254-4077, kmineck@dupagebirding.org

Tuesday, June 8, 7:30 am-9:30 am

Bird Sit at Danada East, Wheaton

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 10 participants.

This is a field trip for anyone who finds the long walks of our regular field trips too difficult or who would just like a less vigorous birding experience but still share the camaraderie of fellow birders. Bring your folding lawn chairs, binoculars, and field guides. We will be birding on the Danada Equestrian (east) side of the park. We will meet in the parking lot and then take a short walk on a paved trail to a small bird garden behind Danada House where we will sit. Birders of all levels are welcome. Dress for the weather and bring bug spray (sitting, we are easy targets for mosquitos!) and drinking water. [Danada website](#)

Danada is located at 3S507 Naperville Road, 1 mile south of Butterfield Road and 0.75 mile north of Interstate 88 on the **east** side of Naperville Road.

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Saturday, June 12, 7:00 am

Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 10 participants.

This trip will focus on finding and identifying the grassland birds that nest at Springbrook Prairie including such species as Henslow's, Savannah, and Grasshopper Sparrows; Bobolinks; Sedge Wren; and Dickcissel. Some shrubland birds such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Bell's Vireo, and marsh-nesting birds are also possible.

Meet the leader at the main parking lot for Springbrook Prairie on 83rd St. west of Book Rd. The main lot is across from the Springbrook Golf Course. The trip will go off-trail and the vegetation may be wet, so please wear appropriate footwear. Ticks are an issue, so please bring and use insect repellent.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-369-5570 (home), jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, June 12, 7:30 am

TWI's Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin Hopper and other Putnam County birding hotspots

Pre-registration with the leaders is required, limit 20 participants. An all day trip!

It takes approx. 90 minutes to reach the morning rendezvous spot from the merge from I-355 onto I-55 S. This spot is the farmhouse on the W side of IL Rte 26, right at the edge of the The Wetlands Initiative (TWI) complex; [9231 State Route 26 Hennepin, IL 61327](#)

From the start location, we will break into 2 groups of 10 or less each, visit various scattered locations containing different habitats and bird species. Carpooling will be encouraged as the 2 groups travel from spot to spot. We plan a group brown bag lunch at a covered pavilion at the [Putnam County Conservation District](#). Bathroom facilities are available there, and some short walking trails along the bluff can produce some interesting woodland birds at this location.

Some stops may have wet trails, etc., so please wear appropriate footwear. Ticks are an issue, so please bring and use insect repellent. We will cancel in the event of predicted inclement weather.

Leaders: Bob Fisher bfisher928@aol.com and Vera Miller vleopold@wetlands-initiative.org

Tuesday, June 15, 7:00 am

Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 10 participants.

This trip will focus on finding and identifying the grassland birds that nest at Springbrook Prairie including such species as Henslow's, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows, Bobolinks, Sedge Wren, and Dickcissel. Some shrubland birds such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Bell's Vireo, and marsh-nesting birds are also possible.

Meet the leader at the main parking lot for Springbrook Prairie on 83rd St. west of Book Rd. The main lot is across from the Springbrook Golf Course. The trip will go off-trail and the vegetation may be wet, so please wear appropriate footwear. Ticks are an issue, so please bring and use insect repellent.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-369-5570 (home), jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org

Thursday, June 17, 8:00 am

Greene Valley, Woodridge

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 20 participants.

This morning trip will be more oriented for new birders, but experienced ones are welcome. We will walk at a leisurely pace to allow for all to see any birds. We will search for late migratory birds and summer residents. Meet at the Thunderbird Youth Camp Parking Lot. Go west on 79th about 1/2 mile, the entrance is on south side of 79th Street, west of Greene Road in Naperville/Woodridge.

Leader: Bonnie Graham, 630-204-8750, coye72112@gmail.com

Monday, June 21, 7:30 am-11:30 am

James Pate Philip State Park and nearby areas, Bartlett

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 15 participants.

Let's meet at James Pate Philip State Park in the northwest corner of the county, to look for nesting grassland, shrubland, and marshland birds. This preserve includes an area designated as an Illinois Nature Preserve, comprised of a Dwarf Bur-Reed Marsh. Please be prepared to walk almost 4 miles on flat turf and limestone trails, mostly without shade.

Park in the main parking lot in front of the Visitor Center. Bring a sack lunch so we can eat there together when we're done. Depending on time, and scouting results, we could visit parts of Pratt's Wayne Woods, especially the nearby wetland areas, and check out the newly improved Dunham Woods Forest Preserve afterwards.

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, 630-297-9512, RSVP to VSroczynski@comcast.net

Tuesday, June 22, 7:00 am-10:00 am

Bird the Park: Hidden Lake, Downers Grove

This is a leaderless birding experience, you do not need to sign up with the organizer.

You will bird on your own between the hours of 7 am 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! Dress for the weather, bring bug spray and water.

The route we will bird is as follows: starting at the North parking lot follow the Round Meadow Lake trail to the Eagle Trail loop. Complete the Eagle Trail loop then return back to the Round Lake Trail, complete it back to the parking lot. As always you can hike the loop in either direction. Hidden Lake is located on the east side of Route 53 0.25 mile south of Butterfield Road. [Hidden Lake Website](#)

Organizer: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Saturday, June 26, 7:00 am

Bemis Woods South, Western Springs

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 10 participants.

Join us at Bemis Woods South for a morning of birding. This will be a walk for new birders. We will walk slowly and allow time for all to look at the birds. We will check out resident and nesting birds. Meet by the “Go Ape” course. The entrance is off Ogden Ave. between I 294 and Wolf Rd. The trails can be muddy so wear appropriate shoes and use insect repellent.

Leader: Lesa Hipes, 630-689-7463, lhipes@dupagebirding.org

NOTE: Don't forget to register with the leaders. You are not registered until you receive a confirmation from the leader.

For additional birding opportunities check out the Illinois Birding Calendar at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/illinois-birding-calendar/> or the DuPage and Cook County forest preserves: <https://www.dupageforest.org/calendar-of-events>, www.fpdcc.com/events.

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

Email us if you have questions or would like to lead a trip. Leaders do not have to be birding experts, just familiar with the location.

Field Trip Coordinators:

Bonnie Graham, coye72112@gmail.com

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

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: Open

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