



## President's Message

This time of year, bird families are everywhere—young ones are making their debuts in awkward plumage and voice. I hope you're out and about soaking in the cultural details of some of our resident birds, despite the surge in humidity and mosquitos.

To cool off a little, my thoughts recently turned to 2020's Christmas Bird Count. Stalking Dean Nature Sanctuary in the quiet early a.m., birds were not over-plenty, but we heard some wonderful avian gurgling and cooing and mewling, verging on the tuneful. We wondered what creative vocalizer this was—maybe a kind of finch, irruptive or otherwise? Turns out one of our highlights of the morning were a few European Starlings hanging out on a treetop, having a grand time communicating whatever it is they communicate to each other, and adding a species to our count.

### *Starling*

Although not always a welcome sight for birders or conservationists, non-native birds stand out in winter as well as our current heat of summer. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors, as well as ecological impacts, and all have something compelling for the bird lover. The European Starling is one of our most [common birds of DuPage County](#), and tracking its changes in plumage from month to month is fun. It is, however, a cavity-nester that often usurps native birds and is not exactly a welcome sight to farmers either. Starlings have fascinating qualities, though. Their bill that is actually stronger when opening than when closing (this helps in foraging); and there are a slew of "[murmuration videos](#)" documenting their mesmerizing flocking behavior—a scientific and aesthetic treat.

### Next Meeting

September 9, 2021

Zoom Meeting

See page 5 for details



Some phases of starling life. Photos by Mayumi and Stan Barrack.

## *Sparrow*

Even more than the starling, the House Sparrow is reviled by nest box monitors. They are ingenious when it comes to finding nesting spots, from parking garage vents to streetlight fixtures, from defunct Purple Martin houses to a tiny gap in some brickwork.



Home of the House Sparrow.

As much as the House Sparrow can be the bane of other species, it also ingests its share of insects, and I often wonder if any creature would really want to fill the niches it favors—is this bird better than no bird? For some people, the House Sparrow is the only thing that can show them what bird life is all about. As it declines globally, there are many [working for its conservation](#). There's even a [World Sparrow Day](#). There is nothing like approaching the craggiest of city shrubs or a pool of dusty dirt and seeing how many of these birds emerge from it. I suspect that the ecologist and taxonomist find global species like the House Sparrow an absorbing study.

When I see them at the edge of a prairie or big grassland, I have to grin, imagining they are city birds on some sort of country holiday. In Illinois, we have the added pastime of looking over their flocks for the Eurasian Tree Sparrow. And if you're the sort that likes to find just one more species at the end of a walk, there's nothing like looking across a busy street or visiting a preserve's bathroom building, hoping to add a House Sparrow to your list.



Firmly ensconced.

## *Finch*

In my proto-birding days, I once stood under a leafy tree listening to delightful changes in a bird's song. For all my trying, I couldn't see the singer, but after what seemed like 20 minutes we had managed to hop into each other's field of view. It was a House Finch, and I learned then that [learning to ID birds by ear](#) was a good idea.



Missing some carotenoid pigments: House Finch male in a less frequent, diet-related color.  
Photo by Stan Barrack.

I've yet to hear a harsh word about the House Finch, even though it's also not native east of the Mississippi. It's colorful and apparently not much of a threat to other birds. If it does engage in conflict, it's with House Sparrows and cowbirds, so it has a better rep. It's also half the reason for one of our YouTube channel's most popular [videos](#). Sadly, House Finches are also susceptible to an eye disease called mycoplasmal conjunctivitis: they remind us to keep our feeders and water sources clean.

## *Pheasant*

As a young kid in DuPage, a family of Ring-necked Pheasants lived in our backyard's thin strip of woods, bordering a vacant lot next door. I don't know how long they stayed, but have a clear picture in my head of when they left one day, just walking off and never returning. I am sometimes nostalgic for the time when Northern Bobwhites and these "exotic" birds lived in my hometown.

If pheasants were stocked for hunters here before, they certainly aren't now, and gone are the open fields and farmland of those days. By 1989, the DBC's [breeding bird atlas](#) reported that they had been driven to the edges of our county, hanging on at Fermi and McDowell, plus the Arboretum: "Gone are the days when this bird could be found in some backyards of most suburban towns." Although I sometimes miss them and wish I could borrow a time machine for a few hours, I know that the pheasant's time in our region has passed for good as we look to healthily restoring lands for native species.



The Pheasant Prince of Waterfall Glen, taken at a respectful distance.

I admit I was not thrilled when I first saw pigeons on the lampposts up and down some central Naperville trails. But such is urban-suburban life these days: the result of the landscape we have “developed.” With every downer, though, there is often something glorious, like hearing some vague bird chatter, and then seeing wedges of green Monk Parakeet slicing through the sky at a certain [Elmhurst ComEd Substation](#).

I wish you well in your adventures with our non-native birds: they are often uncelebrated but surely occasionally engaging and enlightening. Drop me a line if you have a story to share.



The night has eyes.

Happy birding!

Steve / [steve.constantelos@gmail.com](mailto:steve.constantelos@gmail.com)

## “Monty and Rose 2” Highlight the September 9 Zoom Meeting

**\*\*This meeting will not be recorded.\*\***

September’s meeting will be a special treat! Bob Dolgan will be presenting his brand-new film, “Monty and Rose 2: The World of Monty and Rose.” It is his new documentary film about the endangered Piping Plovers that have nested at Chicago’s Montrose Beach the past three summers. They are the first Piping Plovers to successfully nest in Chicago since 1948. The film tells the story of how the birds took up residence on one of the busiest stretches of the busiest beach in Chicago and how Chicagoans fought to protect their right to do so—and along the way, fell in love with these hardy birds.



The DuPage Birding Club was a Champion Sponsor of this film, donating \$500 to cover its production.

Bob Dolgan created his first film, “Monty and Rose,” as a volunteer plover monitor in Chicago in 2019. He is past Board Member of Chicago Ornithological Society and writes the This Week in Birding newsletter. He works as a consultant to nonprofit organizations in the areas of strategic planning and communications.

This is a DON’T MISS DBC meeting, especially since it will not be recorded. Fix a bowl of popcorn and join us for a very special night out.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqde6rrzljG93W1vySAOYZfk5z2yTdWp-e>

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

## Coming Up: Birding and Breakfast August 14!

Get ready for a great opportunity to socialize and see some friends you may not have seen for a while at our Birding and Breakfast event August 14.

Please join us for a bird walk and casual breakfast at Pratt’s Wayne Woods, Saturday, August 14. We will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a short bird walk. Then at 9:00 a.m., breakfast will be served in the picnic shelter. The club will provide bananas, bagels, donuts, juice, and coffee. All birders and potential birders are welcome! This is an activity the club has done in the past that has always been a pleasant morning. As the summer comes to an end, it is a great time to get together and share highlights of summer birding experiences with others who share your interest in birding and the outdoors.

Pratt’s Wayne has a variety of habitats so you might just be able to pick up one more bird for your summer list, spot a new dragonfly, or see a butterfly or two. Pratt’s Wayne is located at Powis Road south of Stearns Road in Wayne ([Driving Directions Here.](#)) Meet at the picnic shelter.

## In Case You Missed It... Birds in the Garden: Creating and Enjoying a Bird Oasis



Imagine you live in the heart of Chicago. Houses are all around, the Kennedy Expressway is a half block away, and so is the Blue Line. Picture busy streets, a nearby fire station and hospital, a runway approach from O'Hare directly overhead. Is it possible to document 120 species of birds in your backyard, not to mention to create a beautiful garden retreat?

Our speaker at the July 8 meeting, Pam Karlson, showed that she has done just that. She took us on a tour of her amazing backyard bird haven, showing

photos she has taken of avian visitors and sharing pictures of the wide variety of native plants and other features that make up her gardens.

Pam has created a four-season bird oasis that provides food, water, and shelter for different diets, bill shapes, and foraging habits using no fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, or rodenticides. She explained how various plants meet the needs of her backyard visitors and where to obtain native greenery.

Seeing the possibilities was inspiring!

### Improve Your Birding Skills at the DBC Education Channel

The DBC Education Channel on YouTube offers many resources to help you improve your birding skills, which in turn will increase your enjoyment of the birding experience.

In August, we continue our focus on bird song with two new releases. The first will cover vocalizations of our thrushes and the second will cover vocalizations of our vireos. Both of these tutorials are presented by Joe Suchecki. Watch for the new releases on the first and third Wednesday of this month.

It may seem like spring migration just ended, but shorebirds are already well into their southerly return migration. The Education Channel has several shorebird ID videos for your review.

The Peeps - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miPkNqnmMkc>

The Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpiper, and Ruff - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tff6tqvOerE>

The Plovers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73oJFtfns8s>

You may also want to revisit the "Birding without Binoculars" tutorials which are presented in two parts. Know how to get the most out this important resource.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poMBh\\_whArc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poMBh_whArc)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OctOY4VHIjl>

Check these out so that you are at the top of your game next time you are out birding.

NOTE: YouTube has instituted new terms of service and is now occasionally running ads on DBC videos. Please note that the club is not gaining any revenue from these ads, nor do we endorse the products appearing in these ads.

## Nominating Committee Wants YOU!

The Nominating Committee actively seeks volunteers to fill open Board posts and Committee leads for the 2022 year. The DBC thrives year after year on the efforts of its core of dedicated volunteers. Please consider joining the effort to keep this club a vital resource by offering a few hours a month in its service.

In addition to Board positions, there are two openings for 2022: Audio-Visual Coordinator and Field Trips Coordinator. If you have a knack for tech and plan on attending most of our in-person meetings, Audio-Visual Coordinator may be your bag. Our two Field Trips Coordinators line up and list the club's outings each month—one spot is open for 2022.

If the time is right for you to step up, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee to learn more about the many opportunities for volunteering:

Steve Constantelos, [steve.constantelos@gmail.com](mailto:steve.constantelos@gmail.com)

Natalie McFaul, [natcatcher7@gmail.com](mailto:natcatcher7@gmail.com)

Joe Suchecki, [jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org](mailto:jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org)

## Seeking Volunteers for October 14 Auction

If you'd like to join the planning team for our important biennial fund-raiser, speak now and get in on the ground floor planning for this exciting event held at beautiful Cantigny Park. We also need volunteers the night of the auction to oversee raffle tables, greet attendees, record auction results, set up the event, and more! Let us know if we can count on you. Contact Natalie McFaul at [natcatcher7@gmail.com](mailto:natcatcher7@gmail.com).

## News of Interest from the DuPage County Forest Preserve District

**Wayne Grove Forest Preserve:** A trail that meanders along Bartlett Road allows residents to access the Wayne Grove Forest Preserve. The local Park District is asking for a permit to be waived since they have been doing all the maintenance on this access trail for many years.

**Waterfall Glen:** Survey work will be done on 24 acres near Bluff and Cass to design a parking lot and trail access at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve. Although staff will be making the actual plans, the survey will be on topography and trees that are 3 inches of diameter and larger.

**North Central Regional Trail Project:** Construction engineering and intergovernmental agreements are being authorized for the North Central Regional Trail Improvement.

**Salt Creek Greenway Forest Preserve:** The District and Elmhurst Park District co-manage the Salt Creek Greenway along with ½ mile of trail, a portion of Salt Creek and a forested area. The trail runs along Cook County to the north, along the creek in DuPage, and then back into Cook County. The lease was established in 2009 and 2010 and the park district is extending the lease in the upcoming months before Sept. 2021.

## Welcome New Members!

DBC welcomes the following new members:

Lauren and Mark Baran	LaGrange Park
Nancy Turek	Indian Head Park
Margaret McCalla	Warrenville

## Greene Valley Hawkwatch to Begin 16th Season

September 1st marks the beginning of the season for hawkwatchers atop the Scenic Overlook at Greene Valley Forest Preserve. The “Hill” is open to the public Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. through the end of October. The all volunteer Hawkwatch Team monitors migration daily September through November. Anyone wishing to join the team a few hours (or more) a week can contact Bob Fisher, [bfisher928@aol.com](mailto:bfisher928@aol.com) or Jeff Smith, [mrqmagoo13@gmail.com](mailto:mrqmagoo13@gmail.com) for more information.

## News from the Web

### Rare whooping cranes raised for wild as COVID rules relax

Work to raise the world's rarest cranes for release into the wild is back in gear  
Read in ABC News: <https://apple.news/AgGu8CEVJSLytzRzbtwa2EQ>

### Scientists baffled by hundreds of sick and dying birds across the U.S.

Wildlife experts in at least six states are investigating the cause of the bird deaths.  
Read in NBC News: <https://apple.news/AvAKsDKOVQtydOq6d5vI7g>

### Magic at Montrose: Chicago's bird-watching hotspot - Chicago Sun-Times

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/2021/6/6/22447493/birders-birding-community-chicago-montrose-beach-monty-rose-plovers>

### Red Knots in Steepest Decline in Years, Threatening the Species' Survival

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/05/science/threatened-red-knot-shorebird-decline.html?referringSource=articleShare>

### Opinion: What the birds are trying to tell us

Dr. Elizabeth Gray of the National Audubon Society writes that it is time for change, both for birds and for the policies that protect them.

Read in CNN: <https://apple.news/AjAFNqppj6Q9aI7Hzla8elKg>



## August 2021 Field Trips

Now is the time for birds to nest, raise their young, molt feathers, and prepare for the fall migration. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season.

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](http://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](#).

**NOTE: All last-minute changes are posted on [www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips](http://www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips).**

**Tuesday, August 10, 7:00 am - 10:00 am**

**Bird the Park: Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville**

This is a leaderless birding experience. You do not need to register.

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. We will be focused on birding the grassland and woods of the White Oak Trail: park at the Thunderbird lot; the trail begins just east of the parking lot. You can hike the loop in either direction, heading east or north. [Greene Valley map](#)

The entrance is located on the south side of 79<sup>th</sup> Street, about 0.25 miles west of Greene Road.

**Organizer: Steve Constantelos, [steve.constantelos@gmail.com](mailto:steve.constantelos@gmail.com)**

**Saturday, August 14, 7:30 am - 10:30 am**

**Birding and Breakfast!**

No pre-registration required.

Join us for a bird walk and casual breakfast at Pratt's Wayne Woods. We will begin at 7:30 am with a short bird walk. Then at 9:00 am, breakfast will be served in the picnic shelter. The club will provide bananas, bagels, donuts, juice, and coffee. All birders and potential birders are welcome! Pratt's Wayne is located at Powis Road south of Stearns Road in Wayne ([driving directions here.](#)) Meet at the picnic shelter.

**Organizers:** Natalie McFaul [natcatcher7@gmail.com](mailto:natcatcher7@gmail.com) and Jane Barnett [jane.barnett333@gmail.com](mailto:jane.barnett333@gmail.com)

**Saturday, August 14, 3:00 pm**

**McKee Marsh, Warrenville**

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

Join an afternoon walk around the marsh in search of the local nesting birds and possibly a few early fall migrants. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd., located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59. Most of our walk will be on Preserve limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

**Leader:** Kyle Wiktor, 708-506-5186, [kylewiktork@msn.com](mailto:kylewiktork@msn.com)

**Saturday, August 21, 7:45 am**

**Lincoln Marsh, Wheaton**

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

Lincoln Marsh Natural Area is located just northwest of downtown Wheaton. From County Farm Road, go east on Harrison Street. Harrison ends in Lincoln Marsh's parking lot. Two large marshes dominate the area. However, there is a large oak woodland, a small prairie, and two small ponds. A variety of birds, residents and migrants, associated with such habitats can be seen here. The trails at Lincoln Marsh are generally excellent, consisting mostly of wood chips and crushed limestone; boardwalks cross low areas, and there are two floating boardwalks and bird blinds. A fuller description of the site can be found [here](#).

**Leader:** John Cebula, 630-640-2721, [joceb2005@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joceb2005@sbcglobal.net)

**Sunday, August 22, 7:30 am**

**Bemis Woods South Forest Preserve (near Western Springs)**

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

The Bemis South Forest Preserve address is Ogden Ave, west of Wolf Rd in Cook County, IL 60558.

Directions: *From the East or West* the entrance is on *Ogden Avenue*. Turn into the Forest Preserve between I-294 and Wolf Rd. Make the turn and drive to end near where the cul-du-sac is and park nearby. We will start the walk from the parking lot meeting in the open area on the right by the trail which leads to the bridge.

Bring your own water and snacks. We will walk mostly on natural trails, so hiking boots with solid treads are advised. Jeans or long pants are recommended to minimize any bug exposure.

We can expect to see Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wood-Pewees and other Flycatchers, Buntings, Vireos, and other resident species; possibly we will get lucky with an early migrant. Mother Nature provides no guarantees. August is not as plentiful as peak spring and fall migration but we anticipate feathered locals strutting their stuff so we can enjoy a birdiful day communing with nature. The walk will be approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours.

**Leader:** Alan Seelye-James, for questions and time-sensitive matters, call: 954-708-4804, less urgent, email: [alan\\_seelyejames@yahoo.com](mailto:alan_seelyejames@yahoo.com) (note the underscore ( \_ ) between alan and seelyejames@yahoo.com).

**Thursday, August 26, 7:30 am**

**Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Woodridge**

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

This morning trip is oriented towards summer residents as we explore the fields and woods along the Thunderbird Trail. Most of the walk will be on grass, gravel, or mulch paths. As always, new birders are welcome as we will take a fairly leisurely pace to provide time to see (and listen to) the birds and to answer questions. The entrance is located on the south side of 79<sup>th</sup> Street, about 0.5 miles west of Greene Road. Meet in the parking lot at the south end of Thunderbird Road. [Greene Valley map](#)

**Leader: Steve Constantelos, 630-890-8956, register by emailing: [steve.constantelos@gmail.com](mailto:steve.constantelos@gmail.com)**

**Friday, August 27, 5:00 pm**

**Know Your Neighborhood: Wood Dale/Itasca**

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

Enjoy a walk around the Wood Dale Reservoir and through the Salt Creek Marsh Forest Preserve in search of shorebirds and other early migrants. A spotting scope is recommended for long-distance viewing. Meet at the parking lot on School St., off Wood Dale Rd., north of Irving Park Rd. Most of our walk will be on a paved trail; wear appropriate shoes and clothing and don't forget to bring insect repellent. Dinner afterwards!

**Leader: Glenn Perricone, 630-687-2921, [gp\\_arts39@yahoo.com](mailto:gp_arts39@yahoo.com)**

**Tuesday, August 24, 7:30 - 9:30 am**

**Bird Sit at McDowell Grove, Naperville**

**Pre-registration with the leader required, limit 10**

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 at McDowell Grove and looking at any birds that come our way!

McDowell Grove is on the east side of Raymond Drive, south of Interstate 88. The [main entrance](#) is south of Diehl Road, approximately 1 mile north of Ogden Avenue (Route 34). Meet in the parking lot near the Information Kiosk.

**Dress for the weather and bring bug spray and drinking water.**

**Leader: Natalie McFaul, [natcatcher7@gmail.com](mailto:natcatcher7@gmail.com)**

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

**Cantigny** posts field trips several months in advance on the Cantigny website, and for that reason they are often sold out by the time the DBC publishes its monthly calendar. To ensure your spot on a monthly Cantigny field trip, check [Events | Cantigny](#) and sign up there.

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](http://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](http://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](mailto:coye72112@gmail.com)

Joan Campbell, [peachjmc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:duplicatebirdingclub@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