### **DuPage Birding Club**



#### **Next Meeting**

September 9, 2021

**ZOOM Meeting** 

See page 4 for details.

# **Drummings September 2021**

# **President's Message**

September is an exciting month—and not just because of the air of intellectual excitement surrounding the start of the school year. Baby birds have fledged and parenting duties have diminished; an abundance of birds young and old scour the landscape to feast on the ripening fruits and seeds. Some fatten up to trek south, and some that bred north of us start passing through en route to warmer climes. A few will stop here for winter. There's so much bird action, it's even captured on radar. See them move in waves here: <a href="https://birdcast.info/">https://birdcast.info/</a>.



That 'molty' time of year. Photo by Mayumi Barrack.

But with movement comes peril. That became clear when I used to spend a lot of time in downtown Chicago, full of tall buildings, lights, and glass that confuse migrating birds. One morning, standing near Calder's Flamingo sculpture waiting for the post office to open, a woman strode up to me holding out a gently clenched fist. Thinking I was a rescuer—I was carrying a bag and wearing a backpack, but had no net—she partly opened her hand and offered me the stunned bird that peeked out. I replied, "That's a Black-and-white Warbler, but I'm not a bird monitor." We chatted for a moment and she walked away toward the lake to release the tiny, stunned traveller. A few minutes later, on my way to the office, I found a grounded warbler, still alive, by one of the buildings. I put it in my cloth bag. As I headed east, lo and behold, another living (Oven)bird lying stunned in the middle of the sunny sidewalk. I added that one to the bag and soon released them under some trees in the relative quiet of Millennium Park.

I knew the <u>Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (CBCM</u>) existed and that I should have contacted them at their hotline number, 773-988-1867. I would see their volunteers in the streetlight shadows as I left my pre-dawn train. I thought I didn't have time to be involved, but I was now seeing birds everywhere and I decided to do something. After a few days of my own unofficial, vigilante bird rescuing, I signed up for a training session and was soon out monitoring one morning a week.

Every day during fall and spring migration, teams of monitors scour routes as commuters dash to work. Even seasoned DBCers would be astounded by the new, close-up perspective on many species, including some (like the White-throated Sparrow) that we see much less of in the suburbs. Woodcocks are fairly common, there are kinglets and coots, all kinds of warblers, thrashers and nighthawks. It certainly added a new dimension to my love of birds. And if you don't know a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker from a Brown Creeper, that's okay—we're there to rescue not ID.



American Kestrels rescued and photographed by Nora Moore Lloyd, <u>www.nativepics.org</u>.

It's an exhilarating experience, helping the birds, and yes, it can be traumatic. I guess I look at it as if I am an EMT or firefighter—something is going wrong and I can help at least a little. It's a social activity with humans too, getting to know other monitors, building managers, and locals who call the hotline to report a "bird in trouble," as we sometimes call them. Birds that don't survive contribute to science as part of the <u>Field Museum</u>'s research collection. Injured and stunned birds are driven to <u>Willowbrook Wildlife Center</u> for rehabilitation and release.

Willowbrook is in Glen Ellyn, so bird rescue isn't just a Chicago thing—the CBCM hotline sends rescuers out across Chicagoland and beyond, with occasional calls from as far away as Europe. A few DuPage residents monitor downtown, respond to suburban hotline calls, and help transport birds to where they need to be.

Not only does the CBCM rescue birds and contribute to research, but their presence on the streets builds awareness and keeps pressure on the city to continue and expand its <u>Lights Out</u> program. And there are other rescue organizations the DBC lists at the bottom of our <u>Regional Links page</u>; I've had good experiences with both Flint Creek and Fox Valley in addition to CBCM.



Great Horned Owl rescued and photographed by Nora Moore Lloyd, <u>www.nativepics.org</u>.

There are many other ways to help, including making your home's windows safer. The American Bird Conservancy has a <u>wonderful page</u> on glass collisions: how to prevent them at your home, research findings, and more. You may have heard of the recent passage of the <u>Illinois Bird Safe Buildings Act</u>, requiring state government buildings to be bird-friendly. Chicago and Evanston are also working on <u>similar legislation</u>. There are always opportunities to help birds in trouble.

#### Happy birding! Steve / <u>steve.constantelos@gmail.com</u>

# Welcome New Members

Thomas Pawlicki and Cristen Vincent, Itasca

Paul Bessey, Aurora

#### "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/tZAqde6rrzIjG93W1vySAOYZfk5z2yTdWp-e

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

### **DBC** Auction Postponed

Due to the unpredictable nature of Covid-19 variants—and the need to plan big events well in advance—the DuPage Birding Club is postponing its biennial auction until it can be held in unquestionable safety and comfort for all. It is disappointing to put off this popular event but we feel it is the right decision at this time. We will reschedule the Auction as soon as it is possible to have the relaxed, freewheeling and fun event we've had in the past.

Thank you to all those who volunteered to help out with the auction. Hopefully we will be back to planning and working together again soon!

In lieu of the October 14 auction we will have our regular club meeting. See the following story highlighting our presenters and topic.

# **October Meeting: "Where in the World are the Birds?"**

As it turns out, everywhere! Join Denis Kania and Joe Suchecki for a worldwide perspective on the joys of international birding. Even if you have never felt the urge to venture beyond our own borders, you may find yourself dreaming about some of the exotic species and exotic destinations that Denis and Joe will cover in their presentation.

Denis started his international travels with a family/birding trip to Costa Rica in 1994. Joe's first trip to England and Scotland in 1978 was a business trip with a little birding on the side. They teamed up for a trip to southeast Ecuador in December 2000 and sweated it out in an Amazonian jungle hut while Naperville was being pounded with several snow storms. The timing seemed perfect although their wives would disagree. Since then, they have traveled to almost every corner of the world in search of inspiring landscapes, iconic tourist locations, and of course spectacular birding.

If you are inspired to make that leap, you'll never regret it. Denis and Joe will show you just how easy it is to plan a successful trip. If you are not ready to make that leap, you'll receive plenty of material to assist with your daydreams of magical bird encounters.

Denis Kania is a founder of the DuPage Birding Club and a past President. He has been enjoying international birding since 1994. In that time, he has made about 40 trips to 27 countries. When not on the road, Denis teaches bird classes at the Morton Arboretum which he enjoys very much. Having to stay put due to the pandemic, Denis has devoted his energy to creating YouTube videos which reside on the DBC Education Channel. There are currently over 60 tutorials in the library where Denis shares his birding knowledge.

Joe Suchecki is a long-time member and past President for the DuPage Birding Club. He has been birding for over 40 years, and has traveled all over North America to find new birds. He is a regular contributor to the club's Members Night presentations but is perhaps best known for his long-time volunteer work and bird monitoring at Springbrook Prairie in Naperville. Joe took the plunge and completed his first international birding trip (other than Canada) in 2000 when he visited Ecuador with Denis Kania. He has been hooked ever since, has visited 15 countries, and is approaching 4,000 birds on his international life list.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIuf-ChrjgrH9XWwVUeQkHLo5XmsKI05qlk

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

# DBC Volunteer Luncheon October 2 at Hidden Lake

The DuPage Birding Club Board would like to acknowledge the efforts of all of our volunteers with a luncheon Saturday, October 2, at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve. The event is open to anyone who has volunteered on behalf of the club in the last two years, from September of 2019 to now. That includes current and 2021 Board and Committee members, field trip leaders, outreach volunteers, newsletter and website contributors, and any others who have helped out.

The event begins at 9:00 a.m. with a leisurely stroll around the lake to look for waterfowl, migrants, and resident birds, followed by a luncheon at 11:30, rain or shine! This is also a great time to socialize with fellow members so mark your calendar now.

# "Birding by Ear" Series Enhances Both Skills and Enjoyment

We must use ALL our senses to recognize what birds are near. Take your birding to the next level by learning bird songs and calls. Recognizing bird calls alerts you to birds that are present and not yet seen. If you recognize a White-breasted Nuthatch calling, you know where to start looking for it. Hearing the song of a migrant warbler tells you to start looking for it. Believe it or not, as experience grows, recognizing the song of the elusive Wood Thrush, for example, can be just as enjoyable as seeing it, which we know is hard to do!

DBC Board member Joe Suchecki has authored a series of videos on the DBC Education Channel on YouTube to help you hone your birding by ear skills. Check out this playlist and learn the fundamentals of birding by ear and start to hone your skills with our thrushes and vireos.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQT3FeXShqchC83nvdrvyA5XMi6RUKGfN

# **Mini-Tutorials Sharpen Skills for Fall Migration**

Check out these mini-tutorials on the DBC Education Channel on You Tube and be at the top of your game as fall migration gets underway.

#### **Vireos Without Wingbars**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbQG9MzNhD8

Three Fall Warblers, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, and Nashville <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=WA30sG-AGIM</u>

Four More Fall Warblers, Chestnut-sided, Pine, Blackpoll, and Bay-breasted <u>https://www.youtube.com/</u> watch?v=ftQutBEIJAI

#### Fall Warbler Tidbits

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caf08ohVf44

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 Closes in on 2022

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, we are seeking new field trip leaders to show off their favorite hotspots. If you'd like to share your love of birds or have an artistic flair, the Outreach Committee would love to hear from you. If you have a knack for tech and plan on attending most of our in-person meetings, Audio-Visual Coordinator may be your bag.

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

Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Joe Suchecki, jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org

# A Beautiful Day for Birders and Breakfast!

August's Birders and Breakfast event was picture perfect! We had crisp, sunny weather, a tasty breakfast, and some great birds! A nice mix of 31 long- time and new members attended. It was terrific to see and welcome so many new faces!

The group was too large for one bird walk so Denis Kania quickly drafted Kyle Wiktor to lead a second group. At least 35 species of birds were seen. Some highlights were Blackcrowned Night Heron, Green Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Baltimore Oriole. Birders were also treated to great views of a Rubythroated Hummingbird feeding along the trail. Afterwards there were donuts, bagels, coffee, and good conversation. It was a delightful morning of birding and sharing the joy of birding with old and new friends.







Thank you Andie Duffy, Jane Barnett, and Donna Kubik for organizing and setting up. Thank you, Denis and Kyle, for leading the walks. As always, it is volunteers that make good things happen!

# **DBC Members Featured in The Hinsdalean**

DBC members Christian Goers and Sue Riefe shared the different ways they enjoy their love of birding in a news story in the regional newspaper for Hinsdale, *The Hinsdalean*. Read the story here: <u>https://www.thehinsdalean.com/story/2021/07/29/news/birders-enjoy-hobby-with-eye-to-the-sky/3415.html</u>

# **September Field Trips Target Returning Migrants**

DBC Field Trip leaders are pulling out the stops to make sure we get our fill of returning migrants. September features 12 field trips—count 'em, 12!—mostly targeted to returning migrants, including shorebirds, warblers, and others on the move. A shout-out to all our trip leaders for helping us take advantage of this exciting time of year.

# September 2021 Field Trips

Late summer and early fall are the time for resident birds to raise their young and molt, and for many species to begin their migration south. 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 <u>www.dupagebirding.org</u> 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 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 <u>www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips</u>.

#### Sunday, September 5, 7:30 am – 10:00 am

#### McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

This walk will be geared towards new birders. This morning trip will focus on woodland migrants passing through our area. McDowell is a popular migrant hotspot in both spring and fall. If birds are on the move, we will be in a great location to view them. Meet in the first parking lot after entering the preserve. The entrance is at the intersection of Raymond Dr. and McDowell Rd. where there is a stop light.

Leader: Denis Kania, djkan36@gmail.com

### Thursday, September 9, 7:30 am – 10:00 am

### McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

This morning trip will focus on woodland migrants passing through our area. This is a popular migrant hotspot in both spring and fall. If birds are on the move, we will be in a great location to view them. Meet in the first parking lot after entering the preserve. The entrance is at the intersection of Raymond Dr. and McDowell Rd. where there is a stop light.

Leader: Denis Kania, djkan36@gmail.com

#### Friday, September 10, 7:30 am - 10:00 am Elsen's Hill/West DuPage Woods, Winfield

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

Elsen's Hill is a great site for fall migrants, especially warblers passing through on their way to their wintering grounds. Take Winfield Rd. to Gary's Mill Rd. west to the preserve parking lot entrance on the north side of the road. Bring boots as needed for muddy trails.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-369-557, jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org

### Saturday, September 11, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

### St. James Farm Forest Preserve, Warrenville

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

This morning's walk will take us through some prairie and woods. We'll be looking for resident birds as well as early migratory birds. We'll be walking around 2 miles on mostly easy terrain. We will meet in the parking lot off on Winfield Rd, just north of Butterfield Rd.

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

#### Sunday, September 12, 7:30 am - 9:30 am Churchill Woods, Glen Ellyn

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

We will look for residents and hopefully early fall migrants at the riverside and wooded area, then open woods and prairie to the north, walking primarily preserve limestone, also gravel or grass trails. Meet at easternmost (picnic shelter) parking lot, just west of I-355, on the south side of St. Charles Rd., between old Rt. 53 and Swift Rd. If time allows we can check out the Monk Parakeet nests very nearby. Wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

Leader: Carolyn Wolthusen, 630-677-7189, <a href="mailto:birdsongpix@gmail.com">birdsongpix@gmail.com</a>

# Sunday, September 12, 7:30 am - 10:00 am

### Elsen's Hill/West DuPage Woods, Winfield

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

Elsen's Hill is another great site for migrants, especially warblers passing through on their way to their wintering grounds. Take Winfield Rd. to Gary's Mill Rd. west to the preserve parking lot entrance on the north side of the road. Bring boots as needed for muddy trails.

Leader: Diann Bilderback, <u>diann.bilderback@yahoo.com</u>

### Tuesday, September 14, 7:30 - 9:30 am

### Bird Sit at Warrenville Grove, Warrenville

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 at Warrenville Grove along the west branch of the DuPage River. Meet in the parking lot on Batavia Rd. Warrenville Grove is located on Batavia Road a <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mile south of Butterfield Rd (Rt 56). <u>Warrenville Grove website</u>. Dress for the weather and bring bug spray (sitting, we are easy targets for mosquitoes!) and drinking water.

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

#### Thursday, September 16, 7:30 am – 10:00 am McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

This morning trip will focus on woodland migrants passing through our area. This is a popular migrant hotspot in both spring and fall. If birds are on the move, we will be in a great location to view them. Meet in the first parking lot after entering the preserve. The entrance is at the intersection of Raymond Dr. and McDowell Rd. where there is a stop light.

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

### Tuesday September 21, 7:00 am – 10:00 am

### Bird the Park: Blackwell Forest Preserve, Warrenville

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

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! The route we will bird is as follows: starting from the first parking lot off the main entrance on Butterfield road follow the West Branch limestone trail west around White Pine Lake to the 0.6 mile Cenacle loop to Batavia Road then back track the same route back to the parking lot. Map

The main entrance to Blackwell Forest Preserve is on the north side of Butterfield 0.25 miles west of Winfield. Blackwell Forest Preserve website

Dress for the weather, and bring bug spray and water.

Organizer: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

### Friday, September 24, 7:30 am - 9:30 am

York Woods, Oak Brook

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

York Woods is a small site with good paths. Meet at the main entrance parking lot. There will be the usual suspects plus migrants. Beginning birders are always welcome. Directions: From York Rd, south of Roosevelt, take the I-88 exit, then turn right for the parking lot. Anyone driving north on York Rd will need to drive north to Butterfield Rd and turn around\*\*. (\*\*Just after driving over Roosevelt Rd, turn left into the health center, turn around in the parking lot, and go back south on York Rd. There is an exit for I-88 on the right, which has a right turn-off for the York Woods main parking lot.)

Leader: Kathy Mineck, cell: 630-254-4077, <u>kmineck@dupagebirding.org</u>

### Sunday, September 26, 7:30 am - 10:00 am Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

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

This is a morning field trip. Meet at the Model Airplane Field Parking Lot on Plainfield- Naperville Rd. south of 75th St. in Naperville. The trip will focus on fall migrants in the grassland and wetland habitats of Springbrook with special emphasis on locating Sharp- tailed Sparrows. Springbrook is among the best sites to find Sharp-tailed Sparrows in the fall, and we have been able to find them on previous trips to this location. Wear waterproof boots since the area around the marsh and early morning vegetation is likely to be wet. **Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-369-5570, jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org** 

#### Thursday, September 30, 7:30 am - 10:00 am McKee Marsh, Warrenville

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

This morning walk will be around the marsh in search of the local resident birds and possibly a few 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, kylewiktor@msn.com

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

**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 <u>http://www.illinoisbirds.org/</u> <u>illinois-birding-calendar/</u> or the DuPage and Cook County forest preserves: <u>https://www.dupageforest.org/</u> <u>calendar-of-events</u>, <u>www.fpdcc.com/events</u>.

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

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, <u>coye72112@gmail.com</u> Joan Campbell, <u>peachjmc@gmail.com</u>



### 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: Jane Barnett Director: Denis Kania Contact the Board and its members at <u>dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com</u> or by filling in the online form at <u>https://dupagebirding.org/contact/</u>.

#### **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