



## President's Message

Ah, the 4 pm sunsets of December. Last month I wrote about winter birding, so I won't discourse on that again—this is a month for me to express how honored I've been to be at the helm of the DBC this past year, and to highlight some of 2021's goings on.

The year hasn't gone exactly as planned—no auction, no in-person speakers for our club meetings—but what a wonderful year it has been. One of our bread and butter institutions is our field trips. By my count, the DBC offered over 100 of them this year, including new “bird sits” offered by our incoming president. When waitlists overflowed, leaders added extra trips, and then there's the trips we co-sponsored with [Cantigny Birding](#) where visitors could walk the renovated grounds, experience a bird sit, or enjoy birdability outings in the gardens. All in all, that makes for 120+ outings in 2021.

Many of our members continued to participate in and play leadership roles in the Greene Valley Hawkwatch, as well as the Spring and Christmas Bird Counts. Members participated in (inter)national events like the Great Backyard Bird Count, an October Big Day, the Wild Things conference, and an IOS Big Sit. We got together to socialize and enjoy some leisurely nature walks at summer's Birding and Breakfast and the fall Volunteer Luncheon. Many of these are in the cards for 2022, so I hope you'll enjoy the company of club members as we explore our natural areas. If you scroll down you'll see an announcement for a photo contest, sure to cure the winter blues.

We kept up a robust speaker program, with eight club meetings, from DBC experts to field researchers, from a filmmaker to a gifted gardener. View the list and click the links to view the videos [here](#). Our outreach program shares knowledge and our love for birds throughout the area with a host of accomplishments (see the article in this issue for details).

We continued the club's tradition of supporting birds and their habitat through donations to the American Bird Conservancy, the Bird Conservation Network, Willowbrook Wildlife Center, Pelee Island Bird Observatory, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, and Bob Dolgan's new “Magic Stump” film, as well as two Illinois Ornithological Society

### Next Meeting

January 13, 2022

ZOOM Meeting

See page 4 for details.

grants to student projects, the results of which we'll hear about at future meetings. More is coming in this vein, so keep your eye out for future announcements.

The club also kept up the communications momentum our new website brought us in 2020. The website attracts visitors from near and far; our [YouTube channel](#) doubled its subscribers and released 24 educational and club meeting videos. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram actively engage birders and would-be birders. We kept in touch with DuPage's forest preserve, providing members with updates. The DBC published a directory to help members get acquainted, and members appeared in articles in *The Daily Herald*, *The Hinsdalean*, and even a Naperville Park District podcast.

The venerable [Drummings](#) featured a number of special feature articles and continues to go strong. I hope you'll take a look at this year's past issues for stories you may have missed or want to re-read. Take a look around the website too, while you're at it.



The chortle of the Yellow-breasted Chat. May, Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve.  
Photo by Stan Barrack.

To begin my thank you's, I ask you to scroll to the last page of this newsletter, listing many of our volunteers, many of them unsung. (This list doesn't even include all of our field trip leaders, outreach people, etc.) Next time you run into one of these folks make sure you acknowledge their contributions to keeping our club not only going, but thriving. I'd like to

thank every club member (and non-club members I've met) for making my year so interesting and fulfilling, for supporting my term as president.

Finally, a special thank you to the board members I've served with and the club presidents who led us: Denis Kania, Diann Bilderback, and John Baker. You all offered me excellent insights on how to lead the club, as well as general wisdom about this birdy world of ours. I know Natalie McFaul, with her creative flair and her thoughtful approach, will lead us through a fun-filled 2022. I'm looking forward to getting to know our new board, volunteers, and members.

My knowledge of birds has increased dramatically since joining the DuPage Birding Club. Still, in some ways my birding life has just begun, so I look forward to my ongoing quest to see more sparrows and next year will step up either my vireo or flycatcher game. I'll still be trying to squeeze water from a stone in some of my favorite hotspots and keep my eyes peeled for some of my favorite behaviors—mobbing and mixed foraging flocks. My broader interests in conservation prioritization and building conservation connections will continue.



The colors of the White-throated Sparrow. October, St. James Farm Forest Preserve.  
Photo by Stan Barrack.

This winter, it might finally be time to look through my old notebooks and record my meager pre-eBird sightings. A how-to on that is [here](#). I'll also look forward to things DBC. Other than field trips, first up is Katie Fallon on vultures (see listing below). I loved both of her books, so I know already that the new year will be onward and upward for the club.

Happy birding into 2022!

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



## January 13, 2022 7:00 PM Zoom meeting:

### Vultures—The Private Life of an Unloved Bird

Speaker: Katie Fallon

We see them on warm summer days gliding overhead, tipping their wings as they gracefully spiral up the late afternoon thermals. Vultures flying overhead are a pretty common sight here in Illinois—it is much rarer to see these large birds up close.

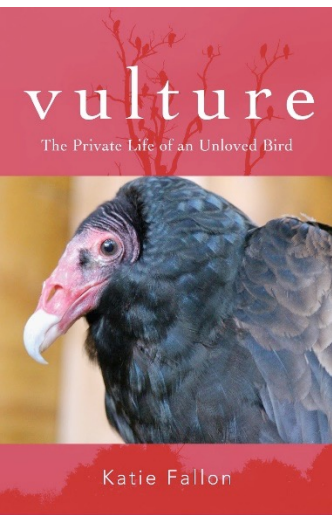
Our January speaker, Katie Fallon, will offer an intimate look at vultures. Vultures are often overlooked, underappreciated, and unloved, despite the vital role they play in healthy ecosystems. Worldwide, vultures are more likely to be threatened or endangered than any other group of raptor, but in the United States, Turkey and



Black Vultures may be increasing in number. Based on Katie Fallon's book, this fun presentation will discuss the life and times of the noble Turkey Vulture, including its feeding, nesting, and roosting habits, migratory behaviors, and common misconceptions.

Katie Fallon is the author of the nonfiction books *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* (2020, 2017) and *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird* (2011), as well as two books for children. She is a founder of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the region's wild birds through research, education, and rehabilitation, and has served as President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society. A member of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators, Katie has worked with birds since 1998; over the last 20 years she has given educational presentations featuring live raptors, vultures, parrots, and

corvids. She is also a columnist for *Bird Watcher's Digest* and has taught writing at West Virginia University, Virginia Tech, and elsewhere. Her first word was "bird."



Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpc-qsrzMsHtEOb9Qd85fYxakLY1QXVeHP>

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

## **In Case You Missed It—November 11 Zoom meeting: “21 Years of Breeding Bird Monitoring by the Bird Conservation Network”**

Effective land management is crucial for creating successful breeding bird habitat. The Bird Conservation Network (BCN) has compiled 21 years of breeding bird survey data toward that goal. Volunteer monitors have participated in point counts across 5 habitat types, and results have identified birds of concern. The purpose is to help landowners, managers, and stewards best manage their land for birds to thrive. Evidence shows that better land management is resulting, so this program has been very successful.

At the November 11 meeting BCN representatives Bob Fisher and Eric Secker presented a summary of the BCN survey data and explained that this comprehensive analysis reveals how the birds are doing.

BCN needs more volunteer monitors. Anyone interested in applying or in sharpening their birding-by-ear skills in order to become a better monitor should contact Bob Fisher at [bfisher928@aol.com](mailto:bfisher928@aol.com).

The BCN talk was recorded and can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/T4kAldoLpPA>.

## **Call for Action: Renew Your Dues by December 31**

Your 2022 annual dues for membership in the DuPage Birding Club are due by December 31. This income funds our operations, helps us attract topnotch speakers, and enables us to make grants and donations to worthy bird-related initiatives. Dues are especially important this year as we have had to postpone our major fund-raiser, the biennial auction.

Dues remain \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$10 for students. We hope to close the membership roster very early in 2022 in order to publish a timely Member Directory.

Please note that any new member joining on or after September 1 is automatically registered for 2022 and need not renew their membership.

Dues may be paid through our website using PayPal or credit card. Here is the link to the renewal page of our website: <https://dupagebirding.org/renew/> Dues may also be paid by check and mailed to:

DuPage Birding Club  
P.O. Box 3381  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

Thanks in advance for complying with our request!

## **Signup for CBC Closes December 3**

There's still time to join a team for the Christmas Bird Count on December 18. Put on your woollies and become part of this century-old tradition of citizen science. Contact compiler Jeff Chapman at [jeffchapman@gmail.com](mailto:jeffchapman@gmail.com) by December 3 to be assigned a territory.

## Announcing: DuPage Birding Club Photo Contest

The DuPage Birding Club is proud to announce its first bird photography contest! The DBC is looking for **pictures of birds taken between December 1, 2021 and February 28, 2022**. Photographs will be judged by a small team of DBC members. All photos are welcome: amateur, funny, imperfect, high-quality. The “story behind the shot” will be taken into account when judging. The judges want this to be a fun contest; no categories have been defined for award-winners so every entry has a chance to win!

The contest is open to DBC members only. Photos may be taken anywhere (not just DuPage/Illinois) for all you Snow-Birds. If a picture includes people, the submitter must have permission from those people to publish their image on the DBC website.

There are two ways to enter your bird photographs:

If you have a Google Account (i.e. Gmail email) click link below.

[DBC Photo Contest Entry Form](#)

If you don't have a Google Account, email your image as an attachment to [duplicatebirdingclub@gmail.com](mailto:duplicatebirdingclub@gmail.com). In the body of your email include:

- a) Your name.
- b) The species of the bird(s).
- c) Where the picture was taken.
- d) Catchy caption - Enter a caption or title you would like displayed with your pictures. (Optional)
- e) Narrative - Tell us about your picture - what's the story behind the shot? Include any information the judges might need to fully appreciate your shot.

Good luck!

## Congratulations to Newly Elected DBC Leadership Team!

Also at the November meeting, the membership elected a new slate of officers for the 2022 year. The membership voted to accept the following candidates for the 2022 DuPage Birding Club Executive Committee:

President—**Natalie McFaul**

Vice-President—**Mike Warner**

Treasurer—**Jane Barnett**

Recording Secretary—**Angela Levernier**

Corresponding Secretary—**Joe Suchecki**

Directors—**Dennis Streicher, Sirimon Reutrakul, Steve Constantelos**

Secretary **Andie Duffy** will continue to help plan DBC events and will be taking up a hospitality role at club meetings. **Karen Warner** and **Wally Levernier** will be our Field Trip Coordinators in 2022. Also, a welcome to **Keri Myslinski**, who joins **Maddie Olivieri** in managing our Instagram account: @dupagebirdingclub.

# 2021: One Big Year

By DBC member Henry Meade

Hello everyone, my name is Henry Meade and I'm a young birder from Elmhurst, IL. In 2021, I've been attempting a DuPage County big year. This is the first of two articles that I've been invited to write to share my big year experience.

A big year is a challenge to see as many bird species in a certain area in one calendar year. I hope that my strategy and planning can be useful in setting personal birding goals or even in attempting your own big year. A big year is a lot of work, but the results are very rewarding.

The big year was an exciting challenge. I've always liked nature and wildlife. Four years ago I started to notice smaller birds around my house. I was very interested and wanted to learn more. From there my interest in birds took off, but what I consider to be my "spark bird" is a Bald Eagle that I saw catch a fish out of the water one winter four years ago at Starved Rock State Park. I've never stopped birding and learning about birds since then. I also like traveling, especially for birds. I've been to 25 states on both coasts, and many Illinois counties.

Jumping back to the big year, a primary resource for successfully completing a big year is eBird. eBird is an online database where birders can report birds that they see, and see when and where others are reporting birds. Before my big year started, I was using eBird to see where and when rare birds showed up in the past. I used this

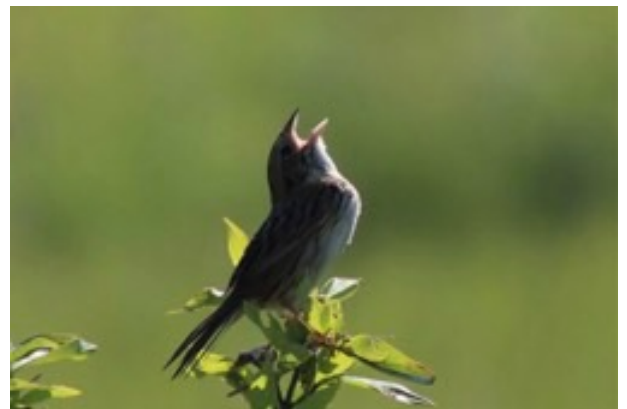
information to plan where I might look for a bird at a certain time of the year. All this is important, but more effort has to be put into getting out into the field as much as possible. For example, during my big year I was out at least 4 or 5 times a week.

In late 2020 I wanted to challenge myself to find as many birds in DuPage County in one year. It didn't start off as a big year, but after I had a high county bird count at the end of January, that's what it turned into. Planning and knowledge of county hotspots and the birds that inhabit them are key to having a successful year.

Understanding the timing of birds moving through the county is important because some birds are only in DuPage for a short period of time each year. One example are the *Ammospiza* sparrows, Nelson's and LeConte's. I'm going to focus on LeConte's sparrows in particular. Occasionally they can be found in late April and early May in DuPage, but appear more regularly in October. I knew they had been found in the past at Springbrook Prairie, West Branch, Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve, and FermiLab. (Fermilab has been closed for well over a year because of COVID. I haven't had access at all during my big year.)



Henry scoping some early shorebirds at Wood Dale Reservoir in late March.  
Photo by Kathleen Meade



Henslow's Sparrow singing on territory at Pratt's Wayne F.P., June 3. Photo by Henry Meade.



I didn't have luck with them at Springbrook in early October, so mid-October I decided to try West Branch. None had been reported there, but based on historical records I knew that this was a good time to check that spot. I ended up finding a LeConte's, a very cooperative one. It stuck around for four days, and was the first of only two different LeConte's that were reported in DuPage this year.

I couldn't have seen as many birds as I have without other birders who reported birds, gave me advice on where to look, and kept me in the loop with rarities. And my family, who helped out so much too. Thanks so much to everyone who helped out, even in a little way! I hope you can learn from me and my experience. I hope that I can inspire other birders to get out and enjoy nature and the diversity of birds that call DuPage County home.



A very friendly Yellow-throated Warbler from April 17 at Morton Arboretum.  
Photo by Henry Meade

## Outreach Program Wraps Up Productive Year

DBC Outreach has enjoyed sharing their love and concern for birds via many avenues during 2021.

Responding to more than 15 requests by DuPage public libraires and community groups, DBC members have given presentations on a range of topics. In addition, we have received requests to participate in events. For example, Bob Fisher presented "Birds as Pollinators" at Pollinator Week, an annual event celebrated internationally in support of pollinator health.

Venturing a bit beyond DuPage County, at the request of Morton Grove Library, we led "Bird Walk for Beginning Birders" at Linne Woods, located along the North Branch of the Chicago River. We provided binoculars to the beginners along with instruction on how to adjust and use them, followed by a stroll along the river.

Schools and scouts have also asked for our help. A request by the leader of a group of Daisies (kindergarten-age scouts) to help the Daisies learn about birds resulted in a wonderful field trip to Willowbrook Wildlife Center, with a tour by a Willowbrook professional followed by walk along the nature trail.

Very recently, Prairie School of DuPage, a private elementary school whose mission emphasizes fostering a deep connection with the natural world, has invited DBC members to accompany the students during their monthly bird counts. The counts are held on the school grounds: 42 acres of woods, water, orchards, and open fields on the campus of the Theosophical Society in downtown Wheaton. Having at least four DBC members to help the students with Bird ID and binocular use on the morning of the counts would be ideal. **We welcome volunteers for this opportunity.**

But that's not all! DBC Outreach is continuously enhancing its Tools for Educators <https://dupagebirding.org/tools-for-educators/>. Our first tool was *Deep Dive: Common Birds of DuPage County*, detailed presentations describing some of our common birds. New tools include color-by-number bird drawings in the *DBC Paintbox* feature and two bingo games, *Birdo-Bingo* and *Bird-Call-Bingo*, which provide a fun way to learn bird ID. *Nesting Guide for Common Birds of DuPage County* is an easy-to-use compilation of nesting characteristics of the 21 birds commonly seen in DuPage County.



We are actively working on a new Tools for Educators project, *Flight and Feather Guide for Common Birds of DuPage County*. In the same spirit as the Nesting Guide, it will be an easy-to-use compilation of flight and feather characteristics, such as wing type, flight style, and feather function, of the 21 birds commonly seen in DuPage County.

**The DBC Outreach group meets from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm the first Monday of the month and invites you to join the team.** The Outreach team has started a tradition of birding together the Sunday morning before the meeting from 8:00 am -11:00 am at Hidden Lake. It's fun to compare month-to-month changes in the birds and environment together!

Thank you to every volunteer who contributed to the success of DBC Outreach in 2021! We actively seek volunteers for a range of activities—see the next story for a special one for our bilingual members. If you would like to participate in DBC outreach activities or have questions or suggestions, please contact Donna Kubik at [donnakubik@gmail.com](mailto:donnakubik@gmail.com).

## 2021 Outreach Presentation Topics

- How to Attract Birds in Winter
- Beginning Birdwatching – the Great Backyard Bird Count
- Attracting Hummingbirds
- Spring Warblers
- Landscaping for Birds and Pollinators
- Gardening for Birds and Butterflies
- Spring Migration
- Perils of Migration

## Outreach Call for Spanish-Speaking Members

Do you speak fluent Spanish? If so, the DBC Outreach team needs YOU!

DBC has been invited to present to the West Chicago Library via Zoom on a topic of our choosing. The presentation timing is late March 2022, which is a flexible date. If you are willing to help, the Outreach team has a number of standard presentations you can use as a baseline (see callout in Outreach story), and we can get you up to speed on using Zoom as well. If interested, please contact Donna Kubik at [donnakubik@gmail.com](mailto:donnakubik@gmail.com).

## Let's Welcome Our New Members

Joseph Angermeier, Hoffman Estates

Matt Crisler, Clarendon Hills

Edward and Christine Doty, Woodridge

David Llewellyn, Naperville

Suzanne Storrs, Arlington Heights

Dennis Zhan, Naperville

# Noise

By DBC member John Finley

I have always been fascinated by birds. As a little boy, I remember the thrill of finding Northern Flicker or Blue Jay feathers. My lifelong casual interest in birds has become more serious in my later years and I now embrace birding as a hobby. I also took up another hobby, photography, initially to help me identify some of the birds I was seeing.

We enjoy putting up a few backyard bird feeders. We also put up a wren house and, a few years ago, a pair of House Wrens took up housekeeping in our backyard. One day my wife called me outside to say that the eggs laid in the wren house must have hatched because she could hear the chicks inside. Unfortunately, try as I might, I could not hear their high-pitched chirping.

This eventually prompted a visit to the audiologist, where I was diagnosed with hearing loss and tinnitus. Like many people, I procrastinated about doing anything about my poor hearing, but eventually, in early 2020, took the plunge and bought a pair of hearing aids. While it took some time to get used to them, it was amazing to me how well I could hear. I didn't realize what a "muffled world" I had grown used to living in. Why did I wait so long?

Hearing aids have improved my quality of life, including raising my birding efforts to a whole new level. With a special setting on an iPhone app from my hearing aid manufacturer, I can now hear many birds that sing at very high frequencies (including baby wrens). I also started recording bird songs with a small handheld recorder to help me learn their songs and calls better, which has added an enjoyable dimension to birding in addition to photography.

I upload sound files to BirdNET, a research platform by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Chemnitz University of Technology (Germany), which does a decent job of identifying bird songs. I've also experimented with the recording function on the Merlin iPhone app. An important caveat in using recording tools like these is that they are not fool proof and should be used with caution as the sole basis for posting an observation. For example, I recently saw a Blue Jay in my backyard imitating a Cooper's Hawk cack-cack-cack vocalization. It didn't fool any of the birds at the feeders, but it fooled the Merlin app.

By far the biggest obstacle to recording bird songs is ambient noise from trains, planes and automobiles. Add to that trucks, motorcycles, and emergency vehicles. Aircraft noise, of course, is omnipresent in a county so close to DuPage, O'Hare and Midway Airports. And don't forget construction noise, lawn mowers and leaf blowers. (One birder I know inadvertently recorded the sound of a nearby automobile crash).

Certain popular birding locations in DuPage County are notorious for significant human-caused (anthropogenic) noise, such as Lincoln Marsh (trains), Wood Dale Reservoir (planes) and The Morton Arboretum-East Side (traffic). But let's face it, every birding spot in the County has varying degrees of noise pollution, depending on proximity to major transportation routes, as well as the time of day or day of the week.

Sometimes, it's not the anthropogenic noise that's the problem, but the singing of other nearby birds that obscures the target bird's song. Canada Geese and Red-Winged Blackbirds are among the loudest culprits. Insects (like cicadas) or the wind blowing through the trees can also be a problem. All of which is to say that, if you want to try your hand at recording bird songs, be forewarned: the odds of achieving a clean, clear recording are very small. Investing in a parabolic or shotgun microphone can help to minimize unwanted ambient noise when recording, however.

Noise problems with recordings are one thing, but I would be remiss if I didn't mention before closing that much research has been published on the detrimental effects of noise pollution on the birds themselves. These include damage to ears, stress responses, changes in foraging, changes in reproductive success, changes in communication and reduced responses to alarm calls, among other things. We can all be mindful of this whenever we go birding.

In stark contrast to the ubiquitous noise we usually encounter outdoors, you may, on a rare occasion, experience a time of peaceful silence, broken only by birds singing in the distance. Close your eyes, let it soak in and enjoy it. It's a gift and it will restore your soul.

## **The Latest on the DBC YouTube Education Channel**

This month the DBC Education Channel team will be taking a well-deserved break. With all of the titles that are already recorded and stored on YouTube, there are many ways for you to sharpen your birding skills during the winter months.

The education channel library has several titles in its collection that can help you to prepare for the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts in our area. Check out these titles so that you are at the top of your game when the snow flies.

**Snow Bunting, Longspurs, and the Horned Lark –**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lPkN0GxGQE&t>

**Female Diving Ducks –**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyeXvMnZMqQ&t>

**The Mergansers -**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovU1N4p\\_aD8&t](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovU1N4p_aD8&t)

**The Swans of DuPage County –**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y7yaOxDt\\_I&t](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y7yaOxDt_I&t)

There are many tutorials in the library to help you with tips on everything from bird song identification to understanding bird topography. Watch the videos of your choice and hone your skills for the next time you are in the field birding.

## News from the Forest Preserve

**West Branch DuPage River Trail:** This trail extension will connect Blackwell to the West Branch, crossing both the river and Roosevelt Rd. This is less than a one-mile connection with a complicated bridge crossing both entities. Grants provided 80% of the cost of this engineering study involving IDOT.

**Mack Road Trail Project:** In 2016 Warrenville and the FP District agreed that increased trail connections would be a great thing. In addition, the existing bridge is at a critical failure point and must be replaced as soon as possible. Warrenville will take the lead on this project, replacing the bridge and constructing a 14-foot wide trail.

**Willowbrook Master Plan:** Approval was voted on for the Master plan improvement and design phase of Willowbrook Wildlife Center remodeling. This plan includes a net 0 impact on carbon footprint, which basically eliminates fees for utilities when completed. There are four phases with a total contract fee not to exceed \$1.3 Million. Willowbrook would be classified as a LEED Gold standard facility. Total cost for the project would be \$21.6 Million. By next spring contracts to begin work will be considered, with work beginning June/July 2022.

**Masterplan Update:** Blackwell, Greene Valley, and Waterfall Glen Forest Preserves were targeted because they are among the most visited preserves. Prioritizing resources for capital improvement projects was the focus of the presentation.

**Sustainable Outdoor Lighting:** Additional lighting of the night sky significantly impacts the natural world with negative effects. As a result, the FP District is moving to utilize the latest in technology to minimize the impacts of light with a new resolution that guides new and current lighting practices.

## Cleve Carney Museum, College of DuPage

Don't miss Tony Fitzpatrick's last museum exhibit: "Jesus of Western Avenue" at the Cleve Carney Museum at College of DuPage, Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm, from now till January 31, 2022. His layered artwork features many birds, from different parts of the world, including Illinois. Mr. Fitzpatrick, besides being a visual artist, is also an actor and activist, and a person profoundly moved by experiences with birds. To see his work on a larger scale, visit his two murals on the pedway in Glen Ellyn, 427 North Main Street. Before you go, deepen your experience by watching the Youtube video of Mr. Fitzpatrick describing important moments in his life, including how he became fascinated with birds, on the Cleve Carney Museum website homepage. The exhibit is free, but a timed ticket purchase is necessary. <https://www.theccma.org/tony-fitzpatrick>





## December 2021 Field Trips

This is the month we learn which birds have decided to spend the winter in our area, including waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds. There are opportunities for all types of birders to 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:**

1. ● It is expected that all field trip participants will follow the CDC's recommendations regarding masks and social distancing.
2. ● Anyone not feeling well should stay home.
3. ● Attendees of DBC field trips and other events who are under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
4. ● 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).**

**Wednesday, December 1, 8:00 am – 10:00 am**

**The DuPage Greenway Trail, Bolingbrook**

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

The DuPage Greenway Trail is a paved trail in Bolingbrook that runs alongside the East Branch of the DuPage River. The trailhead is on Royce Rd just west of Rt 53. It is about a mile and a half walk down to Whalon Lake, where we will look for migrating waterfowl, gulls, and possibly a bald eagle. We also hope to see winter residents along the way.

**Leader: Mark Freeburg, [freebs59@sbcglobal.net](mailto:freebs59@sbcglobal.net) or call or text 630-661-1521.**

**Saturday, December 11, 8:00 am**

**Centennial Trail, Lemont**

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

On this field trip we will meet in the gravel parking lot at the end of Canal Bank Road. Coming off of Lemont Road this turnoff is called Old Lemont Road, and is unmarked, so turn at this pin: 41,683840, -88.003541.

[Google Map link](#). Feel free to ask questions on how to get there after you RSVP.

On this field trip our main targets will be waterfowl. Common Goldeneye and American Coots, along with Lesser Scaup, Redhead, Canvasback, and Northern Pintail are all possible. Centennial Trail in the past has been an excellent spot for Winter Wrens too.

**Leader: Henry Meade. Please register with [kathleenreeves22@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenreeves22@yahoo.com)**

**Wednesday, December 15, 7:30 am**

**McKee Marsh, Warrenville**

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 20 participants. Call or text only to register.

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us to check out winter birds, as well as possible late migrants. Northern Shrike and American Black Duck are among the several species of birds known to regularly winter here.

Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd. (Mack is south of Roosevelt and north of Butterfield), located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville. Be sure to dress for the weather.

**Leader: Kyle Wiktor, 708-506-5186**

**Thursday, December 16, 4:10 pm**

**Springbrook Prairie, Naperville**

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

Join Joe Suchecki at Springbrook Prairie in Naperville to look for Short-eared Owls. Short-eared Owls frequently winter at Springbrook Prairie and can be seen as they come out to hunt over the preserve at dusk.

Meet at the Model Aircraft Field Parking Lot on Plainfield-Naperville Rd., south of 75th St. in Naperville. We will walk a short distance off-trail to wait for the owls to appear. Dress very warmly since we will be standing in one place as the sun goes down. Note that the owls are generally pretty far away and often appear just as the light is failing, so this trip does not offer a photo-op. The trip will last about 30-40 min.

Contact Joe if you plan on attending. The owls do not always winter at Springbrook and the trips will be cancelled if they are not around or in the event of inclement weather.

**Leader: Joe Suchecki. Register via email at [dbcsec2020@gmail.com](mailto:dbcsec2020@gmail.com). Phone: 630-369-5570.**

**Saturday, December 18, All-Day Event**

**Christmas Bird Count, Fermilab Circle**

The DuPage Birding Club sponsors this Christmas Bird Count. Thousands of birds and over 100 species have been logged in previous Bird Counts. This opportunity to join almost 100 other birders is open to all skill levels. If you did not count last year, please contact the compiler, Jeff Chapman, for details or to volunteer and to be assigned to a location and area captain.

**Contact: Jeff Chapman, [jeffchapman948@gmail.com](mailto:jeffchapman948@gmail.com)**

## **Sunday, December 19, All-Day Event**

### **Christmas Bird Count, Lisle-Arboretum Circle**

Birders of all skill levels are welcome on the Lisle-Arboretum CBC. The Chicago Ornithological Society ([www.chicagobirder.org](http://www.chicagobirder.org)) sponsors this count where sub-teams are assigned to various locations. Even if you cannot go out in the field, there is another way to contribute: DBC members who live in the count circle can participate as a feederwatcher. For details and signup:

**Contact: Carl Giometti, [chicagiometti@gmail.com](mailto:chicagiometti@gmail.com)**

## **Sunday, December 19, 4:10 pm**

### **Springbrook Prairie, Naperville**

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

Join Joe Suchecki at Springbrook Prairie in Naperville to look for Short-eared Owls. Short-eared Owls frequently winter at Springbrook Prairie and can be seen as they come out to hunt over the preserve at dusk. Meet at the Model Aircraft Field Parking Lot on Plainfield-Naperville Rd., south of 75th St. in Naperville. We will walk a short distance off-trail to wait for the owls to appear. Dress very warmly since we will be standing in one place as the sun goes down. Note that the owls are generally pretty far away and often appear just as the light is failing, so this trip does not offer a photo-op. The trip will last about 30-40 min.

Contact Joe if you plan on attending. The owls do not always winter at Springbrook and the trips will be cancelled if they are not around or in the event of inclement weather.

**Leader: Joe Suchecki. Register via email: [dbcsec2020@gmail.com](mailto:dbcsec2020@gmail.com). Phone: 630-369-5570.**

## **Sunday, December 26, 8:00 am - 10:00 am**

### **Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville**

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

Enjoy the winter quiet as we explore the fields and woods along the Thunderbird Trail. The walk will be on grass, gravel, and mulch paths. We'll look and listen for woodpeckers and whoever else has decided to spend the holidays in our area. As always, new birders are welcome as we'll take our time to spot the birds and to answer questions.

The entrance is located on the south side of 79th Street, about 0.5 miles west of Greene Road. Meet in the parking lot at the south end of Thunderbird Road. [Map link](#) for parking. [Greene Valley map](#).

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

## **Thursday, December 30, 8:00 am – 11:30 am**

### **Southeast DuPage and Southwest Cook Waterfowl Search**

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

We'll look for waterfowl, gulls and others at the Centennial Trail Borrow Pit and ponds, Lemont Quarries, and Saganashkee Slough. Depending on conditions and sightings, other stops may include Sag Quarries, Long John Slough, and Maple Lake.

Meet at the Lemont Rd. parking lot of Waterfall Glen (at the portable toilet). We will then caravan to the Borrow Pit. The trip will be canceled if waterfowl are scarce or the weather is poor. Directions to Waterfall Glen: drive south on I55 on Lemont Rd. to 101st St. and turn left at the stoplight into the parking lot.

Please register with the leader who will e-mail driving directions to each location in case the caravan gets separated. For questions ahead of time, or if you are running late the day of the trip, please call 630-297-9512.

**Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, [VSroczynski@comcast.net](mailto:VSroczynski@comcast.net)**

**Saturday, January 1 2022, 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

**New Year's Day Birding at the Morton Arboretum, Lisle**

A reservation with the Morton Arboretum is required (see below).

There is no limit to the number of participants.

You do not need to register with the DBC Organizers listed below, but they are available to answer questions.

Come one, come all to Morton Arboretum to start the new year right! Gather at the north end of the Visitor's Center parking lot, P1. We will split into several groups to look for birds across the Arboretum. There will be several Organizers that will give a hand with the various groups. We can rendezvous back at the parking lot to compare our sightings.

- Non-members (aka, guests) can't enter the Arb until 9:00 am, so we will start gathering at 9:00 am and begin birding at about 9:15.
- We will adhere to the Arb's Covid-19 policies. Vaccinated birders don't need to wear masks outdoors. See this FAQ for more details:  
<https://mortonarb.org/visit-the-arboretum/faq/#covid-19-adjustments>.
- We are not planning a lunch; bring your own water/snacks. Bathrooms will be open. And dress warmly!

Here is the link for reserving an entry pass: <https://buy.acmeticketing.com/events/480/list>

Please read the details below on how to obtain an entry pass to the Arboretum:

- Every attendee must reserve their own entry pass online.
- This must be done well in advance (days).
- Non-members (aka, Guests) will need to pay for their pass.
- Entry passes are sent via email.
- The pass must be shown at the entry gate.
- Entry is only allowed at the selected entry time.

If you have questions, feel free to contact any of the Organizers:

**Kathy & Steve Mineck, [kmineck@yahoo.com](mailto:kmineck@yahoo.com)**

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

**Diann Bilderback, [diann.bilderback@yahoo.com](mailto:diann.bilderback@yahoo.com), 630-272-5746**

**NOTE: Except for the Arboretum trip, 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)

**\*\*To lead a trip in 2022, email our new Field Trip Coordinators\*\***

Wally Levernier, [wglevernier@gmail.com](mailto:wglevernier@gmail.com)

Karen Warner, [k\\_warner@comcast.net](mailto:k_warner@comcast.net)



## 2022 Meeting Schedule

January 13	July 14
March 10	September 8
April 14	October 13
May 12	November 10

## 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: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, Andie Duffy

Instagram: Keri Myslinski, Madison Olivieri

Lending Library: Jeff Smith

Membership Directory: Susan Kaley

Outreach/Youth Education: Donna Kubik

Spring Count Coordinator: Joe Suchecki

Twitter: Vera Miller

Webmasters: Barb Dougan, Nancy Allured

YouTube Educational Channel: Denis Kania,

Steve Constantelos