DuPage Birding Club

Drummings February 2022



Next Meeting

March 10, 2022

Members Night via Zoom See page 3.

Other Events

Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 18-21 See page 8.

DBC Photo Contest Now until Feb. 28. See page 5.

President's Message

Good Morning, Birders!

This morning there is a beautiful carpet of fresh snow in the garden. I am watching out the window hoping for the return of a Red-breasted Nuthatch that has been visiting the last couple of days. It is wonderful to have this little daily adventure awaiting just outside the window. What birds will come? How many? Will there be a Red-bellied WP today? Will the Chickadee take shelter under the back stoop like it did last winter? We birders are so fortunate—we can make even the dark days of deep winter exciting!

If you are an avid backyard birder, you might want to join people from all over the world and participate in **The Great Backyard Bird Count**. This year the count will take place February 18 - 21. The count has been conducted for 25 years in the month of February. It is a joint citizenscience project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon, and Birds Canada. If you would rather go farther afield than your backyard you can—you just need to choose a location and make at the minimum one 15-minute observation during the four days of the count and then report what you have seen. Go to the <u>Great Backyard Bird Count</u> website for details on how to share your data and see updates of this worldwide count.

February is also the time to gather together photos of your best birding adventure and get ready to share them at the popular **March Members' Night** meeting. Select your photos from a trip, your backyard or any other birding adventure, put them together in a slideshow and submit them. If you have never participated, make this the year you do! Check the **Members' Night announcement** in this issue of Drummings for details.

Also, don't forget to submit favorite winter photos you've taken to the **DuPage Birding Club Photo Contest.** Entries must have been taken in the months of December 2021 or January/February 2022. See this month's Drummings for how to submit entries. Stay healthy and enjoy the many winter adventures that birding offers!

Natalie

PS: And please don't forget to renew your membership! <u>DBC</u> <u>Membership</u>

Last Call for Dues Renewal!

This is it, gang, truly the last call for dues, which were due December 31. Members who have not renewed by February 28 will be removed from the 2022 Member Directory and will not receive DBC communications, including the *Drummings*. Don't be left out!

Renewal 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

Outreach Calendar is Filling Up

The Outreach team is already filling their calendar with requests from community organizations for presentations on birds and bird-watching. If you'd like to join our team of presenters, we're eager to support you with content and counsel. Outreach programs make birds more accessible and engaging for the general public. You're truly an ambassador for the birds! Here is our program year-to-date:

DATE	TYPE	TIME	LOCATION	TOPIC	PRESENTER
6-Jan	Zoom	7:00 PM	DuPage Organic Garden Club/ Carol Stream Public Library	Feeding Birds in Winter	John Cebula
17-Feb		6:30 PM	Glen Ellyn Park District	Helping Birds in Your Own Backyard	Denis Kania
30-Mar	Zoom	7:00 PM	West Chicago Public Library	Beginning Birdwatching	Sirimon Reutrakul and Mike Warner
21-Apr	Zoom	7:00 PM	DuPage WildOnes	Attracting Hummingbirds	Denis Kania
27-Apr	In person	7:00 PM	Wheaton Library	Perils of Migration	Denis Kania
3-May	Zoom	7:00 PM	1	Beginning Birdwatching	John Cebula
8-May	Bird walk	2:00 PM	Fountaindale Public Library's Birds, Birds Fountain dale! Festival	Beginners' Bird Walk	Donna Kubik

Call for Presenters: DBC Members' Night March 10

The DuPage Birding Club's annual Members' Night will be held via Zoom on Thursday, March 10, 2022. All DuPage Birding Club photographers are invited to share their favorite bird photos and stories with fellow members. The photos can be from any birding location—and all levels of photographic expertise will be welcomed.

Each presentation is limited to 10 minutes. We will only have time to show approximately 10 presentations. If you have never presented on Zoom, don't let that stop you! It is actually pretty easy and we will guide you through it. To be sure the evening goes smoothly, we ask that presenters adhere to the following steps:



STEP 1

Submissions are being accepted starting NOW. Send your submission to Mike Warner by email, mwarner2543@gmail.com. Please include Your Name, Presentation Title, and a few sentences describing your presentation (this description may be published on our website). Presentations will be considered in the order they are received so do it right away.

STEP 2

Mike will inform you if your presentation is accepted shortly after he receives it. Once accepted **put your pictures in a slide show program.** It can be any format you choose: Google Slides, Keynote, PowerPoint, etc. You will be presenting using Zoom from your own computer. Practice and time your presentation—remember you are limited to 10 minutes! If you do not have access to a slide show program contact Mike for assistance.

STEP 3

The first week of March (on a date we can all agree on) we will do a quick practice run via Zoom. If you are confident and comfortable doing a Zoom presentation, you can skip this. If you are new to presenting using Zoom, you will have a chance to practice sharing your screen and your presentation.

Please email Mike mwarner2543@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you and see you March 10!

In Case You Missed It: January 13, 2022 7:00 P.M. Zoom Meeting:

Vultures—The Private Life of an

Unloved Bird
Speaker: Katie Fallon



January's DBC meeting featured Katie Fallon, author of *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird*. More than 135 people showed their love and attended this Zoom event! Katie's talk gave us a closeup look at these large birds which we normally only see soaring overhead. 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.

Katie shared much interesting information about these fascinating birds. For example, did you know that vulture digestive systems have such powerful acids and chemicals they neutralize many of our most dangerous pathogens such as rabies and anthrax? There are six subspecies of Turkey Vulture, three of which breed in North America, and each population has a different migratory strategy. Her presentation also included interesting video footage as well, including her toddler daughter feeding dead mice out of a bucket to a patiently waiting vulture in rehab.

Along with all the information on vultures, Katie included a couple of good vulture jokes and a beautiful quote by Edward Abbey: "Let us praise the noble Turkey Vulture: no one envies him, he harms nobody, and he contemplates our little world from a most serene and noble height."

You can view Katie's presentation in its entirety on the DBC Education Channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wioOE7R7ocE

2021 Grants and Donations Uphold DBC's Generous Tradition

In 2021, the DuPage Birding Club donated approximately \$3,000 to support various bird-related endeavors, continuing the club's tradition of generous giving. Recipients in 2021 included the following organizations:

- American Bird Conservancy
- Bird Conservation Network
- Bob Dolgan's "Magic Stump" Film Project
- Cosley Zoo bird and conservation projects
- Illinois Ornithological Society Research Grants
- Illinois Wesleyan University Red-tailed Hawk Project
- Pelee Island Bird Observatory
- Willowbrook Wildlife Center sponsorship of the Turkey Vulture and Red-shouldered Hawk

In the last three years, the DBC has donated \$12,950 to various bird-worthy projects.

DuPage Birding Club Photo Contest Open Through February 28

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 <u>every entry</u> 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 <u>don't</u> have a Google Account, email your image as an attachment to <u>dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com</u>. 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!

Sharpen Your Winter Birding Skills at the DBC Education Channel

Winter birding offers its own pleasures with its icy stillness and dramatic silhouettes, not to mention some of our interesting winter residents. 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. Check out these titles so that you are at the top of your game as the snow and ice move out.

Snow Bunting, Longspurs and Horned Lark

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

Female Diving Ducks

 $\underline{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyeXvMnZMqQ}$

Hairy Woodpecker vs. Downy Woodpecker

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1_oS9OnFMU

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. New videos will roll out in March.

2021: One Big Year—Part 2

By DBC member Henry Meade

Hello everyone, my name is Henry Meade. In 2021 I completed a DuPage County big year. My last Drummings article (December 2021) focused on my strategy, whereas this article will highlight the species I saw month by month.

January-March

During these early months I focused a lot on waterfowl. My January highlight birds include Common Redpolls, ducks including Northern Pintail and American Wigeon at Centennial Trail, and White-winged Crossbill and Northern Saw-whet Owl at the Morton Arboretum. At the end of the month there were more good birds at Centennial Trail such as Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, Winter Wren, and one of my best birds of the year, Iceland Gull.

February brought Pine Siskins, Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared Owls and trips to Springbrook Prairie. Trips to Centennial showed Brown Creeper, both Scaup species, Redhead, Canvasback, and Greater White-fronted Goose. By the end of February, I was at almost 80 species.

March brought signs of spring and even more birds. Early March brought my first Sandhill Cranes, Eastern Phoebes and American Woodcocks. Then came the Horned Grebes, followed by Common Loon and Piedbilled Grebes. At the end of the month, I saw my first Pectoral Sandpiper flock and Eurasian Collared Dove, bringing my year list up to 105 species.

April-May

Early April brought Field Sparrows, swallows, and Pine Warblers. Then came the first Wild Turkeys at Cantigny and Snow Geese at Silver Lake. Following shortly after were the first towhees, Osprey, and Yellow-throated Warbler. April 22nd marked my first Broad-winged Hawk and Lincoln's Sparrow. From here things quickly got interesting. On April 27th a Ruff was found at Wood Dale Reservoir, and I saw it the next day! Way to end the month on a high note!

May started with Black-necked Stilts at Springbrook Prairie, followed by a Worm-eating Warbler, Purple Finches, and then a Cerulean Warbler. Next came the Ruddy Turnstone, Snowy Egret, and the second county record of White-faced Ibis! May 22nd brought my 200th species of the year, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Centennial Trail. I ended the month at 212 species.

June-July

My plan for the summer was to target breeding birds that I had missed. On June 1st at Springbrook Prairie, I spotted good birds such as Clay-colored Sparrow and a flyover Least Bittern. At Pratt's Wayne, highlights include Black Terns and Henslow's Sparrows. There was also a male Hooded Warbler and Blue Grosbeaks at St. James Farm, both likely trying to breed. On June 6th I saw a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, my final flycatcher for the year, at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve. Trips to Pratt's Wayne in the middle of the month revealed Black-billed Cuckoo and Ring-necked Pheasant. On June 11th, a White-winged Dove in the backyard of a friend in Elmhurst was a highlight.

July was my slowest month of the year, despite still getting out a lot. My only new bird for the year this month was a Northern Bobwhite. At the end of July my year list was at 229.

August-September

The first highlight of August was a Lark Sparrow at Fabyan Marsh. White-rumped Sandpiper, another Ruddy Turnstone, Short-billed Dowitcher and Wilson's Phalarope were all seen at Wood Dale Reservoir before tornado sirens cut the birding short. Later in the month at the reservoir I saw a Bonaparte's Gull, Western Sandpiper, and Stilt Sandpiper.

September highlights include an Eastern Screech Owl whinnying at night at Wood Dale Reservoir, and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper the next morning. I also was going to the Greene Valley Hawk Watch for a few hours each week and on September 24th I was excited to see a Brewer's Blackbird at the base of the hill. At the end of September, I was at 244 birds for the year.

October-November

October started off with a bang because I saw an American White Pelican fly over Simpson Pond during the October big day. On the 11th I self-found both Nelson's and LeConte's Sparrows at West Branch. Later in the month I picked up a Vesper Sparrow at Danada and a Harris's Sparrow and Barred Owl at St. James. Going into November I was at 250 bird species.

In November my only new birds for the year came from the Hawkwatch, which was a Snow Bunting on the 20th and a juvenile Golden Eagle on the 22nd. I went into December needing 3 new birds, and only 31 days to find them.

December

On December 7th I received a tip about a likely Snowy Owl at The Preserve at Oak Meadows, a golf course in Wood Dale. I headed over there early the next day with no luck at the golf course but checked nearby Wood Dale Reservoir. In the early morning light, I spotted through my scope a Snowy Owl roosting on the rocks. I saw my 254th bird of the year on December 18th, a Long-eared Owl, and I thought that would be it. But by some miracle, on the morning of December 31st I re-found a Hoary Redpoll at, you guessed it, Wood Dale Reservoir. I had found my 255th bird with roughly only 15 hours left to spare!

The next morning after 365 days of non-stop birding, I got up and went out, starting 2022 off strong. 2021 was a crazy year, with many highlights. I feel like I became a much better birder, with more awareness for birds and the habitats and spaces that they use. Thank you so much to everyone who supported me. It all helped!



Henry scoping for shorebirds at Wood Dale Reservoir.



Young Golden Eagle first spotted by Henry at the Greene Valley Hawkwatch.

February Fun: The Great Backyard Bird Count

If Henry Meade's Big Year story made you restless to get out there and bird, you can practice some of your birding skills February 18-21 during the annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The GBBC is a joint citizen-science project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon, and Birds Canada. It is a global event that has been conducted in February for the last 25 years.

To participate, you just need to choose a location and make at the minimum one 15-minute observation during the four days of the count and then report what you have seen on eBird. No need to stay in the backyard either; just find your patch! Go to the <u>Great Backyard Bird Count</u> website for details on how to share your data and see updates of this worldwide count.

News from the Forest Preserve

Spring Brook Creek at Blackwell: Phase three of Spring Brook Creek will begin a \$2.2 million project as the creek joins the West Branch of the DuPage River. Three homeowners on the west side of the creek have conservation easements and all are in favor of the project. District in-house staff will be doing the engineering in-house during 2022. The project is expected to be completed in 2023. Eric Neidy reports that this is one of the highest quality reaches of the creek and anticipates a great project.

Greene Valley Forest Preserve: The district recently acquired an industrial steel building at Greene Valley Forest Preserve. Natural resources support will use the building that was previously used by Waste Management. The design cost to renovate must not exceed \$115,000. The building will be used by program administration and natural resources equipment. All public buildings must comply with the IL energy efficiency conservation code. Lighting will be dark sky compliant and indoor will be EE as well.

Prescribed Fire Burns: Autumn is the time for this efficient tool to manage invasive species. As a natural part of the ecosystem, fire burns support new seedlings as well as hold back invasives. Invasives must be controlled because they outcompete our native plants. The deep root systems protect the natives and destroy the invasives. Using prescribed burns is a time-saver and money-saver for success in managing the exotics and invasive plants.

Master Plan: The Master Plan is moving forward with ideas, refinement and delivery of plans for Blackwell, Greene Valley, and Waterfall Glen. A company has been hired to collect the feedback from stakeholders and residents. Process will begin in March and culminate in November.

Pratt's Wayne Woods: In 2020, a new parcel of 8.9 acres adjacent to Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve was acquired. An extension of Brewster Creek meanders through this parcel and a dozen rare, threatened, or endangered species exist here. Staff is working to designate this parcel as a "Buffer" Nature Preserve. This is an action that ultimately will be signed by Governor Pritzker if all steps are approved. Over the next few years, staff will continue to improve the area in hopes of creating an actual Nature Preserve designation, the highest quality habitat recognized in Illinois.

2021 Treasurer's Report

INCOME	
Dues	7,154.00
Other Income	351.00
TOTAL INCOME	7,505.00
EXPENSE	
Donations Out	1,708.00
Grants	1,200.00
Insurance	1,116.00
Rent	160.00
Speakers	578.00
Website	615.00
Member Outings	665.00
Other Expense	648.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	6,690.00
NET OPERATIONS	815.00
TOTAL ASSETS AS OF JAN 1. 2021	10,363.00
Net from Operation	815.00
TOTAL ASSETS AS OF DEC. 31,2021	11,178.00

Welcome New Members

Dori Eldridge	Naperville, IL	Tom and Eileen Kubica	Bensenville, IL
Carrieann Fischer	Bensenville, IL	Cathy Mousseau	Wheaton, IL
Judi Gawlik	Naperville II.	Sara Noel	Glen Ellyn, IL

February 2022 Field Trips

This month is the time to see winter birds, especially waterfowl, raptors and owls, and many other species are only seen this time of year.

Please remember that the weather can be variable and trails can be snow covered or icy, so dress accordingly. 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. Situations can sometimes change, so please check our DBC website www.dupagebirding.org for the latest status information.

NOTE: For most trips 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.

Sunday, February 6, 8:30 am - 10:00 am

Dean Nature Sanctuary, Oak Brook

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

A short winter walk at a charming nature sanctuary along Salt Creek. We'll look for birds in savanna, wetland, pond, and field. New birders welcome. Trails are basically level and are grass/dirt, with some gravel/pavement. Meet at the parking lot on 115 Canterberry Lane, Oak Brook. <u>Google Maps link</u>.

Leader: Steve Constantelos, 630-890-8956, steve.constantelos@gmail.com

Friday, February 11, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Knoch Knolls Park, Naperville

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

A weekday winter walk to the DuPage River confluence, where the east and west branches meet. We'll look for birds in the woods, fields, and on the water. New birders welcome. Trails are basically level and are grass/dirt, with some paved. Meet at the parking lot on 336 Knoch Knolls Rd., Naperville. Google Maps link.

Leader: Steve Constantelos, 630-890-8956, steve.constantelos@gmail.com

Sunday, February 13, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Hickory Knolls, St. Charles

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

We will walk through this hilly oak savanna in search of wintering birds. The walk will be on a mixture of gravel road and mowed trails. It is hilly and on uneven terrain. Meet outside of the entrance of the Discovery Center, 3795 Campton Hills Dr., St. Charles.

Leader: Wally and Angela Levernier, wglevernier@gmail.com

Sunday, February 20, 7:30 am – 9:30 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. Most of our walk will be on preserve limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd., located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville.

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

Tuesday, February 22, 8:30 am - 10:30 am Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, Oak Brook

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

This will be a walk looking for winter birds. We will walk along the Salt Creek in the lowland woods with good habitat for birds and possibly ducks. Meet at the main parking lot on Spring Rd. in Oak Brook. Trails can be snow covered and often slippery in winter so bring appropriate footwear in case.

Leader: Nancy Allured, nallured@comcast.net

Saturday, February 26, 8:00 am - 11:00 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 Redhead, along with many others are all possible. We will also be on the lookout for songbirds on the wooded side of the trail.

Leader: Henry Meade. Please register with <u>kathleenreeves22@yahoo.com</u>

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

The Great Backyard Bird Count (February 18-21) is an opportunity to contribute from the comfort of your own home. Check out their website at: www.birdcount.org

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.

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

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

Field Trip Coordinators:

Wally Levernier, <u>wglevernier@gmail.com</u> Karen Warner, <u>k warner@comcast.net</u>



2022 Meeting Schedule

January 13 July 14

March 10 September 8

April 14 October 13

May 12 November 10

2022 DBC Executive Committee Members

President: Natalie McFaul

Vice President: Mike Warner

Treasurer: Jane Barnett

Recording Secretary: Angela Levernier Corresponding Secretary: Joe Suchecki

Director: Dennis Streicher Director: Sirimon Reutrakul Director: Steve Constantelos

2022 DBC Committee Chairs

Audio-Visual Coordinator: OPEN

Bird Conservation Network: Steve Constantelos,

Glenn Gabanski, Diann Bilderback, 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: Karen Warner, Wally Levernier 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