



President's Message

Looking over the great list of field trips for March I notice there will be two opportunities to view American Woodcock, an unusual bird also known by some pretty colorful names—timberdoodle, night partridge, big-eye, bogsucker and mudbat! I saw my first Woodcock on a DBC field trip. Since then it has become a part of my March to spend at least one moonlit evening at a small park near my home to look for Woodcock and hopefully see their display flight against the evening sky and hear their long *pee-chuck tee chuc chip chip chip chip* call.

Next Meeting

March 10, 2022

Member's Night via Zoom
See page 2 for details.

The American Woodcock is not the only lifer I've seen on a DBC field trip; there have been many others. I'm very grateful to all the people who volunteer their time to lead a field trip, and as the weather gets warmer, I strongly encourage more members to lead trips.

I think most of us feel we must be an exceptional birder to lead a trip. While it is truly wonderful to be on a walk with an experienced birder who can name every bird you see or hear, I think there might be other ways to do a field trip and I would invite you all to think about a unique field trip you might lead. Perhaps you have a spot you go to regularly that never comes up as a field trip destination. You could lead a trip there. Maybe you can't walk the 2-3 hours of most of our trips, but you could lead a short one hour trip. Do you have a favorite park in another county? Lead a trip! You could lead a "we're all new birders trip" and see how many species you can see and identify as a group. If you are a more adventurous type you could lead a trip to some wild place that goes for a full day. Pair up with a buddy and plan your ideal trip. No matter what the trip you plan, I'm sure you will have someone who will be excited to join. My experience with any DBC field trip I've been on or led is that our members are generous in sharing their knowledge and are great companions to share the joy of birding.

If you are inspired to lead a field trip or have an idea for a special trip, contact me (natcatcher7@gmail.com) or our field trip coordinators, Karen Warner (k_warner@comcast.net) and Wally Levernier (wglevernier@gmail.com). They can give you help in writing up your field trip, scheduling, and answering any questions you might have.

Hope to see you on a future trip!

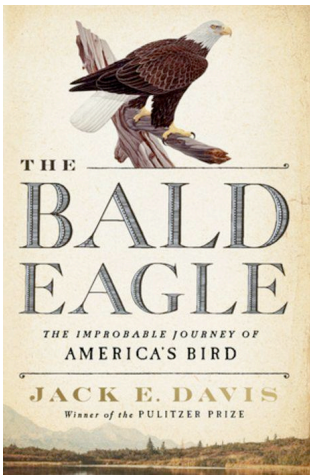
Natalie

It's Finally Here—Members' Night March 10!

Please plan to join us on Thursday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m. for a Zoom meeting featuring presentations by several of our members. We have an exciting lineup of pictures and stories from Texas, Thailand, Jamaica, South Africa, California, Cook County, and more! If you've missed getting out and about lately, you won't want to miss hearing about these birds from around the world.

Click the following link to reserve your spot now: [March Members' Night Zoom Link](#). You will receive a confirmation of your registration and a link to the meeting.

Coming April 14: The Bald Eagle, a Fascinating Story of our National Symbol



Mark your calendar now for Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m. for a Zoom presentation by Pulitzer Prize award winner Jack Davis. Dr. Davis has just released his latest book, titled The Bald Eagle. The book is an in-depth look at the cultural history of the Bald Eagle here in the United States, starting back in 1776 when our founding fathers first tried to design the new nation's Great Seal (it took five years to do it). The book goes on to discuss the threats to our national symbol by hunters and DDT and the efforts of some unsung heroes to prevent the extinction of the Bald Eagle not once, but twice.

Dr. Davis was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his book, The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea and is Professor of History at the University of Florida.

Click the following link to reserve your spot now: [April DBC Meeting: The Bald Eagle](#)

A Haiku for the Season

By Donna Kubik

*Painted by the snow
The Junco's sparkling white breast
Marking the snow line.*

*White flashes in flight
The snow returns to the sky.
Bye, little snowbird!*



Photos by Jackie Tilles



DuPage Birding Club Members Only – Free Beginning Bird Watching Course with Denis Kania and Joe Suchecki

If you are a member of the DuPage Birding Club in good standing and are a beginning birder, the DuPage Birding Club is offering you an opportunity to learn more about birds and increase your birding ID skills. As a service to its members, the Club is initiating a free course for beginning birders taught by DuPage County birders Denis Kania and Joe Suchecki. The Club-sponsored course will provide beginning birders with information, resources, and tips on how to become a better birder, find more birds, and hopefully increase the joys of birding for you. The class will cover topics such as:

- The basics about birds and identification
- Information on habitat and seasonal differences
- Selection and use of binoculars
- Tips on finding and identifying birds in the field
- Birding by ear
- Resources for birding
- Keeping track of your sightings and lists

The course will include three classroom sessions via Zoom and three field sessions at DuPage County birding locations. Denis and Joe will provide you much of the basic information on birds and birding in the classroom sessions and then reinforce those concepts and guide you through identifying birds during the field sessions. At the end of the course, you should have a good knowledge of the basics of birding and better skills that will allow you to more easily enjoy the great hobby of birding.

Zoom sessions

April 6
April 13
April 20

Field work

April 9
April 16
April 23

The Zoom classroom sessions will be held on Wednesday April 6, 13, and 20 at 7:00 pm and will last about an hour. The field sessions will be held in the morning on Saturday April 9, 16, and 23 at a local DuPage County Forest Preserve and will last about 3 hours. Field session locations will be announced during the preceding Zoom class.

Participation is Limited

Enrollment is limited to 20 participants. The course is being offered as a benefit of your membership in the DuPage Birding Club, so you must be a current member of the Club to enroll in this free course.

Enroll by sending an email with your contact information to Joe Suchecki at DBCsec2020@gmail.com. In order to ensure a reasonable number of people on the field trips and to be able to give everyone some personal attention, enrollment is limited to the first 20 emails received. Deadline for enrolling is April 1.

Additional sessions of the course will be offered throughout the year if warranted by demand.

About Your Instructors

Denis Kania is a long-time member and past-president of the DuPage Birding Club. He has been birding for over thirty years, has taught courses in birding at the Morton Arboretum and is the primary contributor to DBC's YouTube education channel videos. He regularly organizes and leads international birding trips. Joe Suchecki is also a veteran birder and a long-



time member and past president of the Club. He began his career as an ornithologist but is perhaps best known for his birding, conservation, and advocacy efforts locally at Springbrook Prairie in Naperville.

The Latest from the DBC YouTube Education Channel

This month the DBC Education Channel team has returned to produce tutorials on a variety of new topics. New titles will be available starting in March. With all of the titles that are already recorded and stored on YouTube, there are many ways for you to sharpen your birding skills.

This month we will begin to address some basic birding skills for **birders just getting started** in birding. See the related story on our introductory birding course.

The Education Channel library has many titles in its collection that can help you with tips for improving your birding skills, everything from bird song identification to understanding bird topography. Check out these titles so that you are at the top of your game as we welcome back some of our early migrants.

Female Dabbling Ducks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MubKH3n9IPI&t>

The Odd Goose

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XNGrw0ar8o&t>

Brewer's and Rusty Blackbirds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncStcaAhdC8&t>

Watch the videos of your choice and hone your skills for the next time you are in the field birding.

Alert: Rockford Airport Expansion Threatens Bell Bowl Prairie

DBC members may be interested in the proposed expansion of the Rockford Airport and how it may negatively impact the Bell Bowl Prairie. Bell Bowl Prairie is one of the last remaining gravel prairies in the state of Illinois and home to Loggerhead Shrikes, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, and others. For more information click: [Save Bell Bowl Prairie](#)

There's Still Time! DBC's Photo Contest Closes March 15

There are still a few days to get your entry in for our first annual photo contest. **Pictures of birds taken by Club members between December 1, 2021 and February 28, 2022 are eligible.** 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 dupagebirdingclub@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.

Get your pic(s) in by March 15...and good luck!

Welcome to New Members!

Laurel Ahlenius	Wheaton	Jeanne Rosone	Wood Dale
Mike Doyle	Wheaton	Brian and Sun Rupp	Naperville
Donna Gongola	Joliet	Joan Rush	Chicago
Beth Gunzel	Lombard	Laura Shimkus	Westmont
Daryl Kellenberger	Glen Ellyn	John Swarens	Chicago
Kimberly and Charles Porter	Westmont		

News from the Bird Conservation Network (BCN)

The Bird Conservation Network (BCN) recently conducted its annual meeting and inducted a new slate of officers for 2022. BCN is a volunteer organization of 22 conservation groups across Northeast Illinois dedicated to the preservation of birds and the habitats they need to survive. Its activities include annual surveys of breeding birds, public advocacy, and research. DuPage Birding Club has been a long-standing member and is well-represented in the new slate of officers, noted with *.

President – Eric Secker*

Vice President – Diann Bilderback*

Treasurer – Charlotte Pavelka

Secretary – Vera Leopold (Miller)*

At-Large – Tim Balassie

At-Large – Aubrey Sirman

Past President – Sonny Cohen

In addition, DBC has four representatives to the BCN: Diann Bilderback, Steve Constantelos, Glenn Gabanski, and Glenn Perricone. This team represents Club interests with BCN and keeps us up to date on BCN activities.

In 2021, BCN completed an analysis of 21 years of breeding bird data collected through annual surveys led by volunteer monitors according to standard protocols. This treasure trove of data yields fascinating insights and raises questions for further research. It will prove invaluable to forest preserve districts and other land managers engaged in habitat management and restoration. BCN will be sharing this data with land managers, partner organizations, and the general public through a series of communications in the spring months. Diann recently joined BCN to work with Eric Secker, Bob Fisher, and other members of the leadership team to develop the messaging and communicate the story more broadly.

Call for Volunteers for Annual BCN Survey of Breeding Birds

The BCN invites you to consider becoming a monitor for its annual survey of birds breeding in our region. This important survey has been conducted annually for the last 21 years in selected preserves within the Chicago Wilderness area, and it provides vital information for understanding the population trends of the key species that breed here. Data is used by forest preserve districts and other land managers to identify their property's most critical preservation and restoration needs.

To become a monitor, you don't have to be an expert birder but should have at least three years of birding experience and be able to identify birds breeding in our area by sight and sound. You can volunteer to monitor alone, or you can team up with a birding friend to monitor together. Only one of you needs to be adept at birding by ear.

Volunteers do two bird surveys in June at one of the selected preserves in our area. As a monitor, you go to predetermined points within your preserve and count the number of birds seen and heard for five minutes at

each point. After wrapping up your count, you enter your results into a special BCN eBird portal—and you're done!

This is a great opportunity to contribute to the continued conservation of birds and their habitats right here where you bird. If you are interested or would like to learn more, contact Tim Balassie at tbalassie@gmail.com or your county coordinator (see below).

Cook Co - North Judy Pollock jpbobolink@gmail.com
Cook Co - South Tom Mulcahy tmaxm@sbcglobal.net
Chicago Park District Tim Balassie tbalassie@gmail.com
DuPage Co Glenn Perricone bcndupage@gmail.com
Kane Co Tim Balassie tbalassie@sbcglobal.net
Lake Co Charlotte Pavelka cpavelka4@gmail.com
McHenry Co Jeff Aufmann jaufmann@ameritech.net
Will Co Tim Balassie tbalassie@gmail.com

Speaking of Field Trips...

Tying into Mme. President's March letter, it's time for a little shout-out for DBC's Field Trip team. In 2021, Field Trip coordinators Joan Campbell and Bonnie Graham organized 102 field trips all over Chicagoland. In addition, DBC's Jeff Reiter organized and led another dozen trips we co-sponsored with Cantigny. That's a big number, our biggest ever in a single year!

Our 2022 coordinators, Wally Levernier and Karen Warner, are off to a strong start this year, with more than 24 trips planned in the first three months of the year.

Of course, we would be remiss not to mention the 32 Club members who volunteered to lead these trips.

Kudos, team, for making Field Trips one of the Club's strongest benefits!

If you have a favorite "patch" you'd like to share with fellow Club members, contact Wally or Karen to join the Field Trip team. You don't have to be an expert birder (there are usually a few of them on your trips to help out), just familiar with the location and where birds are.

2021 Field Trip Leaders

Pat Sterbling	Jeff Chapman	Lesa Hipes	Kathy Mineck
Joan Campbell	Andrew and Rebecca	Mary Loye	Vera Miller
Nancy Allured	Steinmann	Bonnie Graham	Steve Constantelos
Bob Fisher	Mike and Karen	Diann Bilderback	Glenn Perricone
Kyle Wiktor	Warner	John Hebert	Carolyn Wolthusen
Alan Seelye-James	John Cebula	Bob and Jean Spitzer	Henry Meade
Denis Kania	Mark Freeburg	Vicky Sroczynski	Jeff Reiter
Jeff Smith	Joe Suchecki	Natalie McFaul	"Bird the Park"

News from the Forest Preserve

Illinois Prairie Path and the North Central DuPage Regional Trail: An intergovernmental agreement with DuPage County and the Forest Preserve memorializes the trail maintenance of a new intersection between the Illinois Prairie Path Elgin Branch and the project known as the North Central DuPage Regional Trail, which is at the intersection of Smith and Munger Road.

Invasive Species: A video has been prepared for community education to help residents understand the need for invasive species removal and control. It will be available on the district website and to send out to folks as they ask questions about district work. Honeysuckle and Buckthorn are the most common invasives the district works to control. About 1000 acres are being restored now.

Bird News from the Web

New falcon brood banded at UIC

Club member Hazem Alkhan featured.

https://today.uic.edu/new-falcon-brood-banded-at-uic?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=today%2B06.22.21

See where birds are migrating in real time, in one map

This bird forecast is way more fun than any weather app.

Read in Vox: <https://apple.news/A-CplNBshQKmlTsoE0utbcw>

Ivory-billed woodpecker officially declared extinct, along with 22 other species

U.S. officials have declared the ivory-billed woodpecker, a ghostly bird whose long-rumored survival in the bottomland swamps of the South has haunted seekers for generations, officially extinct after years of futile efforts to save it.

Read in The Washington Post: <https://apple.news/APi0wQTOdSB2QDaCLb27M0A>

Climate change is causing problems for puffins

Maine's Atlantic puffins took a big hit this year. Chicks' survival rate plummeted after a record-setting "marine heatwave" disrupted food supplies.

Read in NPR: https://apple.news/AXA-WS20jRgy_a1-LDSbihQ

Watch parrot steal family's GoPro and film flight

A mischievous kea parrot grabbed the Verheul family's camera and captured a bird's eye view of a hiking trail in the Fiordland National Park, in New Zealand.

Read in CNN: <https://apple.news/APXKQGM4zSE27YaMrFSen3g>

March 2022 Field Trips

These early spring field trips target migrating waterfowl, raptors, passerines, and shorebirds plus some returning breeders. This month we have planned some fun weekend day trips to see a variety of birds. Please remember that the weather can still be very cold, and trails can be muddy, so dress accordingly with warm clothing and appropriate footwear.

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.

Friday, March 4, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

DuPage River Park, Royce Road, Naperville/Bolingbrook

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

We'll explore grassland, edge, and riverside habitat along the east branch of the DuPage River, looking for resident birds and early spring migrants. New birders welcome. Trails are mostly grass with some blacktop. Meet in the parking lot east of Braddock Drive at 808 Royce Road. [Map link](#).

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

Sunday, March 13, 8:00 a.m.

Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin & Hopper Lakes

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

Meet at the observation tower where we will start the trip by scanning for waterfowl. We will also scan from the boat launch lot before hiking the trails. Due to Covid, lunch will be on your own. Pack a sandwich if you plan to stay past noon. Leader will stay until 5:00 p.m. for those who want to "make a day of it." Bring a scope if you have one. Bring plenty of water and snacks. More information: <http://www.wetlands-initiative.org/dixon-location-and-visiting>

Leader: Jeff Smith, 331-481-3362, mrqmagoo13@gmail.com

Thursday, March 17, 8:00-10:30

Danada East/Rice Lake Forest Preserve

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

Join us for a St. Patrick Day walk. Danada is located at 3S507 Naperville Road, south of Butterfield Road and north of I-88 on the east side of Naperville Road. Meet in the parking lot by the horse corrals. We will walk the woods looking for passerines and scan the lake for waterfowl.

Leaders: Karen and Mike Warner, mwarner2543@gmail.com, 630-640-2450

Saturday, March 19, Time to be announced at registration

Mississippi River - Waterfowl Trip

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

Waterfowl, cranes, eagles, and pelicans will be sought on this all-day trip exploring spots along the Mississippi, both in Illinois and Iowa. In addition to the river, Lost Mound will be visited to search for Western Meadowlark and Northern Mockingbird. Please contact the leader for meeting time and location. We will caravan from the western suburbs.

Leader: Jeff Chapman, jeffchapman948@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.

Woodcocks, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Woodridge

Greene Valley Forest Preserve is known for its Woodcock displays, which begin shortly after sunset. Join us this spring on one of our walks. Meet at the west entrance parking lot: west on 79th St. from Greene Rd, then Thunderbird Rd. south, appr. 1/2 mile to the campground entrance. The walk will NOT be canceled due to weather.

Leader: Jeff Smith, mrqmagoo13@gmail.com

Wednesday, March 23, 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Centennial Trail, Lemont

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 15 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](#). We will be walking Centennial Trail along the Des Plaines River in search of waterfowl, Bald Eagles, early spring migrants, and resident birds.

Leader: Mark Freeburg, freebs59@sbcglobal.net, 630-661-1521

Friday, March 25, 7:00 a.m.

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

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

Join another morning walk to the marsh to check out early migrating birds. We hope to see migrant waterfowl. 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 in Warrenville. Most of our walk will be on limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and warm clothing.

Leaders: Steve and Kathy Mineck, 630-254-4077 (day of), kmineck@yahoo.com

Sunday, March 27, 8:00 a.m.

Palos Area-McGinnis Slough: Waterfowl and More

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

This location is an Audubon "Important Bird Area." Loons, grebes, and other waterfowl are targeted on this trip. Meet at McGinnis Slough, on the west side of LaGrange Rd. (US45), approximately 1/2 mile south of 131st St. Finding waterfowl is associated with open water conditions. Bob will monitor conditions and may change the starting location in order to see more birds. This trip might extend past the noon hour. Wear appropriate clothing.

Leader: Bob Fisher, 630-985-2956, bfisher928@aol.com

Thursday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.

Woodcocks, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Woodridge

Greene Valley Forest Preserve is known for its Woodcock displays, which begin shortly after sunset. Join us this spring on one of our walks. Meet at the west entrance parking lot: west on 79th St. from Greene Rd, then Thunderbird Rd. south, appr. 1/2 mile to the campground entrance. The walk will NOT be canceled due to weather.

Leader: Jeff Smith, mrqmagoo13@gmail.com

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Cricket Creek Forest Preserve, Addison

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

This morning trip is especially designed for new birders and will be at a leisurely pace to provide as much time as desired to look at each bird and to answer questions on equipment or bird identification. Join us to check out this small preserve on the eastern side of DuPage County, right next to Salt Creek. Meet at the parking lot north of Fullerton Avenue (west of Rt. 83, east of Villa Ave.). Link: <https://www.dupageforest.org/places-to-go/forest-preserves/cricket-creek>

Leaders: Andrew and Rebecca Steinmann, 708-533-6604, asteinmann@ameritech.net

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

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

For additional birding opportunities, check out the DuPage and Cook County forest preserves: <https://www.dupageforest.org/calendar-of-events>, www.fpdcc.com/events. Also check local park districts.

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, wglevernier@gmail.com

Karen Warner, k_warner@comcast.net



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