



President's Message

Happy Spring!

Spring is officially here and the air is beginning to fill with bird song: "Purty, purty, purty," "Cheerly, cheer up, cheerily," "Kill dee Kill dee," lots of "Okalee" and one of my favorites, "Hey sweetie." Do you recognize these? I wish I knew more, but even with my limited ear, it is fun to walk through the woods and listen for the latest spring arrival. Walking without using your binoculars and just listening can feel so intimate, like you are hearing the private conversation of birds.

The coming months are an exciting time for birders with the arrival of lots of migrants. The DBC also has some enticing events coming up.

The **April 14** meeting will feature **Jack Davis** discussing his latest book, ***The Bald Eagle***. Jack will cover the cultural history of the Bald Eagle in the U.S. and the efforts to prevent its extinction from hunters and DDT. It will be an interesting evening delving into the history of these once rare birds of the wild that we can now see flying down the DuPage River. See the writeup below for details and registration.

The winter photo contest was such a great success we have decided to do a **Spring photo contest!** For details on the Spring contest, see the article in this *Drummings*. Also be sure to look at the impressive selection of winning photos from the DBC's Winter contest. Thank you to all the participants and Mike Warner for coordinating the contest.

Coming up in June, we are planning a **Big Fun Morning**. This is a very friendly little competition where you will have the opportunity to team up with fellow birders, pick a DuPage County park, bird the morning, and then get together to share your sightings. You don't have to be an expert birder to join in the fun, just an enthusiastic one. It will be a great opportunity to meet other club members. See the article below for the details.

Finally, I would like to thank Mike Warner for putting together a great March Members' Night program. It beautifully demonstrated the wide variety of birding experiences we have at the DBC from folks who have seen over a thousand species to the excitement of newly discovering the joy of birding. A big thank you to the volunteers who participated; you made the night so enjoyable for all of us!

Good Birding!
Natalie

Next Meeting

April 14, 2022

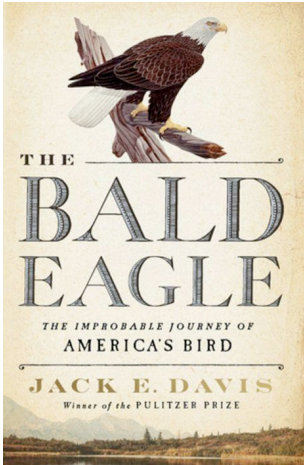
Zoom Meeting
See page 2 for details.

Save the Date!

May 7th

Spring Bird Count
See page 4.

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



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](#)

Mark your calendars for our May 12 meeting. It's going to be fun, it's going to be different, it's a "don't miss"! Info to come...

In Case You Missed It: Members' Night

Members' Night has been a long-standing tradition of the Club and offers a number of short presentations by members who have volunteered to share with us a bird-related trip or experience. For this year, there were a total of 9 presentations shared via zoom. In case you missed it, the recorded presentation is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZsPkgEBvY0>

Robert Perez (San Diego, southern California, Las Vegas). In December 2021 Robert traveled to Joshua Tree, birded areas around San Diego, including the San Diego Zoo and River, and visited Cabrillo National Monument. Seeing photos from his favorite sighting of Long-billed Curlew to Heerman's Gull on a pelagic tour and even a Cinnamon Teal swimming in a pool on the Vegas trip, Robert took us on a tour through the southern California area.

John Baker (Jamaica, Uganda, South Africa and Lesotho). John shared photos and highlights from his most recent excursions. Some of the species discussed were Northern Potoo, Jamaican Owl and Red-billed Streamertail hummingbird from Jamaica; Abyssinian Ground Hornbill from Uganda compared to South Africa's Southern Ground-Hornbill with its red eye wattle; and Ground Woodpeckers and Gurney Sugarbirds in Lesotho. Mammal highlights from Kruger National Park were seeing three packs of wild dogs as well as the smallest termite-eating hyena, the Aardwolf, and another termite eater, the Aardvark.

Sirimon Reutrakul (Birds Around Bangkok, Thailand). Sirimon took us on a tour of common birds found in their family's backyard in Thailand, such as Coppersmith Barbet, Black-naped Oriole, a Streak-eared Bulbul nesting in a lime tree, and Olive-backed Sunbird (no hummingbirds occur in Thailand). The tour continued with birds that can be found in city parks around Bangkok and wild birds within an hour's drive of the city. You could spot Scaly-breasted Munia, Spotted Owlets, and the once rare Asian Openbill in parks, or find Red-spotted Bluethroat or the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, a migrant from Russia, on a short drive outside the city.

John Cebula (Florida Feathers, Naples). John also took us on a tour showing many exotic backyard birds, but these were seen from his lanai in Florida and in and around the area of Naples. Common birds such as White Ibis, Anhinga, immature (white) Little Blue Heron, and Osprey are easy to see every day. Hundreds of Black Skimmers mixed with Royal and Sandwich Terns can be seen at Clam Pass. Bird Rookery Swamp and Ten Thousand Islands offer views of Red-shouldered Hawks, Wood Stork, Glossy Ibis, and if you're lucky, a Swallow-tailed Kite.

Henry Meade (Rio Grande Valley, Texas). Henry's recent February trip to southern Texas included trips to Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Estero Llano Grande State Park, University of Texas in Brownsville, as well as South Padre Island and wetlands outside San Benito. First up was finding the Bat Falcon that has been hanging around from Mexico, seen from a hawk watch tower! The interesting Resaca habitat in Brownsville had ponds with land bridges harboring Fulvous Whistling Duck and Green Kingfisher. Marsh birds such as Black-necked Stilt, Willet, Tri-colored Heron and a white morph Reddish Egret were found on South Padre. The last-minute decision roadside stop at San Benito proved worth it with a Vermillion Flycatcher and Groove-billed Ani.

Beth Gunzel (Birding in Berwyn and Chicago, Illinois). Beth is a new member who logged 26 species seen from her tiny backyard in Berwyn! The pandemic proved daunting for many of us, but Beth inspired us with her story of "Carol," the little Yellow-rumped Warbler that sparked her interest in birds. Her trips to Montrose offered a chance to test out a new camera, which left the viewers in awe of beautiful pictures of our spring warblers, such as Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Blackpoll, Wilson, Nashville, and Mourning Warbler! A Palm Warbler attracted to a recently installed native plant garden in their backyard led her down a path of researching and sharing with others how to attract birds (even to the smallest) backyard by providing habitat.

Denis Kania (Costa Rica). Denis and Melissa's very recent trip to Costa Rica in 2022 showed us glimpses of La Ensenada Lodge, Hacienda Guachapelin and Rincon de la Vieja National Park, and Heliconia Rainforest Lodge of Tenorio Volcano National Park. Pacific Screech-Owl, Double-striped Thick-knee and White-throated Magpie-Jay proved an interesting first jaunt! Great finds such as Boat-billed Heron and Bare-throated Tiger-Heron on a river tour, as well as upland species like Thicket Tinamou and Lesser Ground-Cuckoo were exciting to hear about. A watermelon feeding station at Arenal Volcano National Park was a highlight that attracted Crested Guan, Golden-hooded and Emerald Tanager, and Green Honeycreeper!

Bonnie Graham (Big Bend, Texas). Bonnie visited west Texas at the end of April into May, driving from Illinois with several important (bird) stops along the way. A Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo were nabbed in Los Maples near San Antonio, then onto Big Bend National Park, where the Colima Warbler was the main target. Many western species were seen such as the iconic Cactus Wren, Audubon Yellow-rumped Warbler with its yellow throat, Brewer's and Black-throated Sparrow, Greater Roadrunner, and Pyrrhuloxia. Laguna Meadow Trail, which is a four-mile hike straight up the mountain, was the known Colima sighting. Along the trail a Western Tanager and Spotted Towhee were sighted before finally seeing the Colima Warbler!

Joe Suchecki (Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico). Joe showed us great photos from his trip to the Yucatan. First stop, Cozumel, to pick-up the local endemics like Cozumel Emerald hummingbird and House Wren, which might be a split in the future to Cozumel wren--nice! The mainland offered great finds such as Collared Aracari and Turquoise-browed Motmot on hotel grounds. A wonderful variety of marsh birds were found while on the hunt for the elusive Spotted Rail, including Limpkin, Purple Gallinule, Ruddy Crake, and Ringed Kingfisher. Luckily, the Spotted Rail was found at the last minute before leaving the wetland complex! In the more rural areas at the edge of the smaller towns, Lesser Roadrunner, Mexican Sheartail hummingbird and Yucatan Wrens were seen. A estuary boat tour highlighted a flock of beautiful flamingos. The local guide and flamingo researcher educated the group on their behavior and population dynamics. The boat tour continued through a mangrove forest for beautiful sights of Bare-throated Tiger Heron and American Pygmy Kingfisher.

Calling All Birders! Spring Bird Count Coming Up May 7

Hold the date and plan to participate in the 2022 Spring Bird Count in DuPage County on Saturday, May 7. The Spring Bird Count is held annually throughout Illinois around the first weekend in May and is intended to provide information and data on early spring bird migration throughout Illinois. The DuPage Birding Club coordinates the spring count efforts in DuPage County, and last year we recorded 168 species throughout DuPage County on spring count day. Results from past counts can be found on the DBC website.

It is not too early to start planning for this year's spring count. If you have participated in the past, look for an email in early April from Joe Suchecki with information about the count, your area captain and your count area. If you have not participated previously and would like to join the fun this year, contact Joe at [dupagesbc@gmail.com](mailto:duplicatesbc@gmail.com) and he will put you in touch with an area captain for the count.

Last year we had over 90 participants counting birds on the spring count. We would like even more people to participate this year. So, don't miss out on the fun and excitement of the great Spring Bird Count on May 7.

Get Ready for Spring with Mini-Tutorials on the Education Channel

Spring migration is heating up and migrants will be flooding into our favorite birding haunts. We have a great mini-tutorial set for release on April 6. This release, "**Separating Woodpeckers by Call**" has been recorded by Joe Suchecki, and will make it easy for you to tell what species of woodpecker you are hearing in your favorite woods.

The Education Channel library also has several titles in its collection that can help you with your early migration ID questions. Check these out so that you are at the top of your game when these migrants arrive.

Waterthrushes - Our first waterthrushes will be showing up in April. Are you ready to tell the difference between Louisiana and Northern waterthrushes? This tutorial will simplify your identification.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32bhTFP3hEA&t>

Early, Small Flycatchers – The first flycatchers to show up in early spring are Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Eastern Phoebe. This tutorial outlines a simple approach to telling them apart.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lg-66-jeOdM&t>

Yellow, Female Warblers – Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Yellow Warbler females can be somewhat difficult to tell apart. You'll find some useful tips in this tutorial.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpYh2FIdurY&t>

DuPage Birding Club 10th Anniversary Big Fun Morning

Save the Date: Sunday June 5, 2022, 5:00 am - Noon

Ten years ago, the club held a friendly BIG Day competition. We picked names out of a hat to form teams of 4, who then sallied forth with a captain to bird all day and compete to win prizes like: Most Species, Best Bird, Most Species at a Site, Most Sites Visited, Worst Missed Bird. We were out from 5 am to 4 pm and met at Portillo's for a wrap-up dinner. The team, "Pigeon, Crow and the Dreamboats"—Diann Bilderback, Jeff Chapman, Nicole and Christian Goers—won the "Most Species" award.

We're revisiting this tradition with some modifications. Get ready for a **Big Fun Morning!** We will bird from 5 am (if your team wants to do some owling) and quit at noon. We will bird at ONE site. This keeps us relatively "green" by not wasting fuel and keeps us outside and avoiding carpooling, in case there's another variant headed our way. We'll meet for lunch afterwards at Hidden Lake—we've got the picnic shelter reserved all day, and plan to have food arrive by 1 pm.

How can you participate? There are a couple of ways!

1. Volunteer to be a **Captain**, who communicates with a team of four, one of which has to be a club member. The Captain is responsible for coordinating the team's meeting time, downloading a DBC checklist to keep track of species, teaching about birding if there are new birders on the team, and making sure the team follows the rules and has a great time! Compete to earn prizes for: *Most Species, Best Bird, Worst Missed Bird, Most Species at a Big Sit, Most Species for a Biking Team*, and others.
2. Don't want to be a Captain, but **want to be on a team**? If you are new to the club or have a group of two-three friends let me know I'll put you on a good team.

RULES

Have fun! This is our chance to connect with each other after a long couple of COVID-influenced birding years.

All teams must have a name. Team members, stay in direct voice contact and travel together as a group at your site. Or, set up a BIG SIT at a member's yard or preserve. **All members must see/hear the bird you count towards your species total. (95% of the species reported must be seen/heard by the whole team.) Work together; help everyone succeed.**

Captains: before the Big Morning, have a group session-email, Zoom meeting, meeting or conference call to set up a plan, a start time, snack break, and meeting place (car placement—don't carpool on site if you're not comfortable). Scouting your site ahead of time is optional.

Stay within DuPage County, at public lands like forest preserves, places allowing public access like Cantigny or the Arboretum, or member's yards. A site can have more than one team birding. Don't use recordings to attract birds, or a laser to point out birds, or flush birds on purpose. Pishing is fine. Bird between 5 am and noon. If your team doesn't want to go owling, and sleeps in instead, that's fine! If any team finds a super rarity, please text Vicky at 630-297-9512 and she'll get the word out.

HIDDEN LAKE is on Route 53 north of the Morton Arboretum and .25 mile south of 56. The entrance is on the east side of 53, and the picnic shelter is a little north of the entrance. Read up on this preserve's colorful history [here](#).

Please RSVP to Vicky Sroczynski at VSroczynski@comcast.net by May 25th, 2022 if you would like to serve as CAPTAIN, and if you have a team and name, or would simply like to join a team.

Questions? Please e-mail Vicky or call her at 630-297-9512.

Just Released on the DBC Education Channel: Basic Bird Identification

If you're a beginning birder and want to learn how to look at a bird to remember what you're seeing, look no further! On the DBC Education Channel, Denis Kania reviews basic bird identification skills, with plenty of useful images to demonstrate his points, in a new video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTn6n372iXY>.

His first recommendation: use field guides to prepare for birds that could be in your area. This tutorial will take through some basic identification strategies once you're out in the field, including:

- Bird topography
- Relative size
- Bill structure and color
- Overall body structure
- Color patterns
- Behavior

Basic Bird Identification is one of a series of mini-tutorials designed to help the beginning birder develop basic birding skills. In addition, DBC's Education library contains mini-tutorials that do a deep dive on bird topography, how to use binoculars, birding by ear, making the most of the DuPage County checklist of birds, how to point out a bird to others, and more.

The new video is used as part of the previously announced free 6-session course called *Beginning Bird Watching*, which runs April 6-23. This course, led by Denis Kania and Joe Suchecki, combines classroom sessions and field experiences. The Club rolled out the members-only course in March. Signup closed April 1 for the course.

Bird News from the Web

Bald eagle lays two eggs in Washington's National Arboretum

The drought for celebrity bald eagle couple Lotus and Mr. P is officially over as the Washington pair is expecting.

Read in Reuters: https://apple.news/AEW_vGgzHQEGaTEwYVmKYNw

UC Berkeley's Famous Peregrine Falcon, Annie, Just Faked Her Own Death

On Monday, Annie's death was announced. On Tuesday, she swooped back in like nothing happened.

Read in KQED: <https://apple.news/ADUagC7CSQtmGZwAAVULKAg>

Two stories regarding local researchers.

Many bird species nesting and laying eggs nearly a month early, study says

Heating of the atmosphere, due to the burning of fossil fuels, is seemingly upending a process that long appeared unshakeable

Read in The Guardian: https://apple.news/A9DmqxT_0ToWxId9Gq_jITQ

Changes to birds' nesting habits may signal broader climate shift, study says

The findings add to a growing body of research on how birds are affected by shifts in their environment and the potential struggles they may face in coping with climate change.

Read in NBC News: <https://apple.news/AcdYcGVrHTOWZv3JqU88-3w>

Announcing DBC's Winter Photography Contest Winners!

The DBC's first photo contest was a great success, with 45 entries submitted! Twenty DBC members sent in pictures that ranged from backyard birds to birds from far-away lands like Thailand, Jamaica, and Antarctica. The photo contest entries were judged by John Hebert, Andie Duffy, Steve Constantelos, Natalie McFaul, and Mike Warner. Because of the variety and quality of the submissions, the committee had a very tough time deciding on which pictures to recognize. The committee wants to thank all the photographers for their entries.

Below are the DBC Winter '22 Photography Contest Winners. The committee set aside two entries because they came with a great story. See elsewhere in the Drumblings for those two special photos and the story behind the shots.

Best Photograph - "Berry Pretty"

Photographer: Dennis Streicher
Species of Bird: Cedar Waxwing
Where was the picture taken: Glen Ellyn
Narrative: This photo was taken on a foggy winter morning. The red cedars next to my bedroom balcony had a full crop of cedar berries that the waxwings found very appetizing. There were light snow flurries and the light made this shot very mystical. The bird turned to look at me as I took the shot but wasn't bothered by my presence at all. The flock of waxwings fed on the berries for about 5 minutes and moved on.



Best Common Redpoll - "Hangin' at the Birch Cafe"

(Judges' note: we received a lot of Common Redpoll pictures so we decided to select the best of them.)

Photographer: Jackie Tilles
Species: Common Redpoll
Where was the picture taken: Chicago Botanic Garden
Narrative: When I heard this was an irruption year, I knew that the Redpolls would be back at the Chicago Botanic Garden. It didn't take long to find over fifty of them eating the catkins on the birch trees. I had to aim my camera up and was grateful that this friendly bird landed on one of the lower branches. By the time I finished my visit I had catkin seeds on my coat, my hat, and stuck to my face.



Best Photograph Taken Outside of the U.S.

“Are You Giving Me the Side-Eye?”

Photographer: Cathy Walz

Species: King Penguin

Where was the picture taken?: St. Andrews Bay, South Georgia

Narrative: There were huge numbers of penguins at the site. I was looking around for one or two penguins off by themselves that I could focus on and saw these two posing for me!



Best Local Bird

“Red-bellied among the Red Berries”

Photographer: Rick Roche

Species of Bird: Red-bellied Woodpecker

Where was the picture taken?: Centennial Trail

Narrative: I had just been looking at the many swans along Canal Bank Road and decided to hike east along the Des Plaines River. Past fence sign 355+00 I found more open water and lots of ducks and a couple more swans. I was happy for the sightings but frustrated by trying to photograph them through the carp fence. Then a Red-Bellied Woodpecker landed in a low tree right in front of me as a sort of peace offering.



Once in a Lifetime Shot!

“This fish is mine! Go get your own!”

Photographer: Jeanne Rosone

Species: Bald Eagle

Where was the picture taken?:

West Dundee

Narrative: One eagle caught a fish from the river and another eagle was chasing the first eagle to try to steal the fish. The second eagle was unsuccessful in stealing the fish and the first eagle thoroughly enjoyed its lunch.



Best Bird Interaction “Two Rufous Hummingbirds Interacting”

Photographer: Mike Davern

Species: Rufous Hummingbird

Where was the picture taken?: La Jolla, California

Narrative: Hand-held with these quick birds, Nikon Z 7 2 with a Sigma 150-600@ 600mm at 1/500 at 5.6.



Best Caption (Humorous) “Line Up Double File!”

Photographer: Andrew Steinmann

Species: Black-necked Stilt

Where was the picture taken?: Greater Portmore Sewage Ponds, Jamaica

Narrative: At the sewage ponds there were a lot of stilts. They always seem to arrange themselves in lines. Birds in Jamaica are no exception.



Best Rarity

“‘Lew’ our Leucistic Common Redpoll”

Photographer: Cindy Duranceau

Species: Common Redpoll (male partially-leucistic)

Where Was the Picture Taken?: My Naperville yard

Narrative: This partially-leucistic Redpoll visited our feeders with his crowd for 5 days intermittently between Feb. 5 and Feb. 13th. This photo was taken on his 2nd visit on Feb. 7th. We decided to name him "Lew" (Lol). A couple of the days he was missing from our yard, he showed up a few miles west in someone else's yard, at least 2 or 3 times.



Best Artistic Quality

“White on Black (with a Little Blue)”

Photographer: Joe Suchecki

Species of Bird(s) in Photo:

White Pelican

Where was the picture taken?:

Yucatan, Mexico

Narrative: I captured this flock of White Pelicans sitting on the water during a boat trip on an estuary during a birding tour in Yucatan in December 2021.



Best BIF (Bird In Flight) **“A Moment in Time** **(Actually 1/1600 of a second)”**

Photographer: Laurel Ahlenius

Species of Bird(s) in Photo: Female Common Goldeneye

Location: Des Plaines River, close to the Centennial Trail, Cook County, IL

Narrative: I love winter and the birds and ducks that come with it. I enjoy doing high speed photo shooting to capture birds in flight. The details such as wing positions, feather details, colors, lighting, a clean appealing background, following the bird in flight pattern with 8 pounds of camera & lens all have to come together. I get shots like this in every 200 - 500 attempts. When this happens, I love to see the beauty of each bird in flight/motion. Photos freeze action which our human eyes are not capable of seeing all the detail that the camera collects. I consider these photos as “gifts.” I am grateful for these beautiful “moments in time.”



Best Photograph by a Young Photographer **“Keeping Watch from Above”**

Photographer: Henry Meade (age13)

Species of Bird(s) in Photo: Great Blue Heron

Where was the picture taken?: Morton Arboretum

Narrative: We were driving through the Morton Arboretum when I spotted this Great Blue Heron sitting on a log above the water. Normally you see these herons standing still in the water watching for prey, so it was interesting to see this one watching from a perch above the water. I really like how the darker and moody tones in the background add to the effect on the picture. I also like how the colors on the log stand out.



Best Holiday Picture “Just Want to Be Part of the Christmas Festivities!”

Photographer: Cindy Duranceau

Species of Bird(s) in Photo:

Cooper's Hawk

Location: My Naperville yard

Narrative: I stepped out the front door and there it was- in the neighbor's decorated tree. The Hawk stayed long enough for a few photo poses on 12/23/22 (2 days before Christmas LOL). I have some bird feeders not too far away.



DBC's Winter Photography Contest: “How I Got the Shot” Stories

When the Photography Contest judges (see article above) reviewed the submissions, two stood out because they came with a great story. The judges thought the photographers deserved special recognition for their efforts to “get the shot” and share their tale with us.

How I Got the Shot - European Goldfinch

Photographer: Bonnie Graham

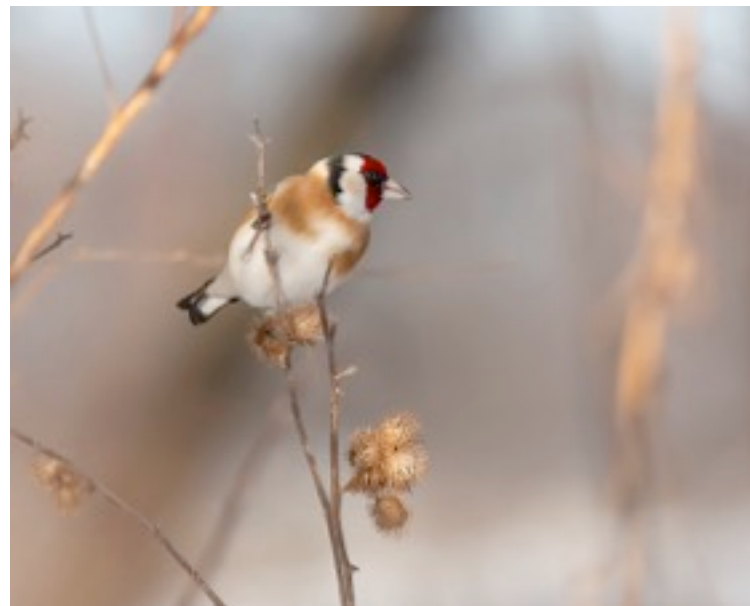
Where was the picture taken: Armstrong Park, Carol Stream

The Story Behind the Shot

This European Goldfinch has been hanging around Armstrong Park for a few years. Last year I tried several times to find it, but came back empty-handed. This year, on my first try I located him in some thickets. It was quite cold and when he came out in the open, I had my shot!

I usually take continuous shots, but being so cold my battery died after one shot. My fingers frozen, I took the dead battery out, only to break the battery cover off. This finch stayed on the plant for quite awhile but got tired of me fiddling with my camera and flew off.

So the point is, if you only have one shot, make it count! My excursion ended with me slipping on ice in the parking lot and hitting the ground hard. Good news...my camera and I are OK :-)! !



Take Your Shot

How I Got the Shot - Great Gray Owl

Photographer: Hazem Alkhan

Where was the picture taken?: Sax-Zim Bog, Minnesota

The Story Behind the Shot

In the first week of January, 2022, I took my brother, mom's cousin, and friend on my post-graduation trip to Sax-Zim Bog in Minnesota, one of the most renowned winter birding destinations. Our hotel was about 50 minutes from the area, so we left about an hour before sunrise. I decided that my first course of action would be to go to a feeder where two of my target birds, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, were being seen. I was checking the Telegram chat for live sightings of Great Gray Owls, another one of my target species and one of the main bird attractions at Sax-Zim Bog. Things, however, turned out differently.

The sun had just risen when we arrived at the Sax-Zim Bog area. As we drove, I had my eyes set on what I believed to be some ravens flying. We were driving behind a car that seemed to slow down as if trying to get a good look at the birds; it then came to a stop behind another parked car at the shoulder.

The unwritten rule of birding at Sax-Zim Bog is: When you see cars that seem to be birders pulled over, pull over behind them, they're probably seeing something interesting. So, that's what we did.

I got out of the car and walked up to the people standing there. I greeted them and asked what they had. One of them replied. "There's a Great Gray Owl in that distant stand of trees." We happened to pass by where a Great Gray Owl had been seen regularly!! I immediately became frenzied. I excitedly gestured to my party to get out of the car. As the owl shifted perches, I frantically ran to the car and back more than once to get the various equipment I saw fit for photographing - scope, tripod, camera, binoculars. I began attempting to take a digiscope photo of the owl. Having a broken and nearly non-functional tripod, I had to position the scope with one hand and take a photo with my phone with my other hand, all while trying to balance the scope on the tip of the tripod; a task I had become accustomed to but was particularly more challenging with -30°F wind chills. After a few minutes I was unsuccessful.

Determined to get a photo, I took the glove off my left hand. My hand quickly became so cold that it went numb. I eventually got a couple of poor photos and ran back to the car. As I sat in the passenger seat, wincing in sheer pain, something incredible happened.



The Greatest Great Gray Encounter

"Hazem! It's coming here!" my friend shouted. I turned to see the owl fly right up to the top of the tree next to our car (on my side) and perch! The pain in my hand instantly vanished. The others moved closer to our car, as we were now the closest to the bird. The owl sat there for a few minutes, and we all got excellent looks and photos of it from the comfort of our warm car. This photo is a "digibin" photo (taken by my phone through my binoculars). After we were all satisfied with our experience of this bird—which we encountered accidentally and was one of the first birds we saw on our trip—we moved on to see Evening and Pine Grosbeaks.

THANKS AGAIN to all our photographers for sharing their stunning images!

DuPage Birding Club Photo Contest for Spring 2022!

Due to the popularity of our first Bird Photography Contest, we are doing it again! The DBC is looking for pictures of birds taken between March 1, 2022 and May 31, 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 already 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). 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 (you have one if you use Gmail) click the 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](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) A 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.

Donation in Memory of Craig Holderness Will Support Club Agenda and Activities

Craig Holderness of Willowbrook passed away last fall. Craig was a birder and nature lover who regularly participated in Club-sponsored events such as the Christmas Bird Count and the Spring Bird Count here in DuPage County. He was a long-time bird monitor at Fullersburg Woods. He also donated his time as a volunteer for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, where he worked on river ecology projects including the conservation of fresh water mussels.



Craig was a long-time collector of duck decoys and bird carvings. Upon his passing, Craig's family donated his decoy and carving collection to the DuPage Birding Club. The collection, a total of 25 duck decoys and 20 other bird carvings, is currently being evaluated, and the DBC Board will determine the best way to utilize the collection in a manner that honors Craig's love of birds and nature.

On behalf of the Club, President Natalie McFaul has expressed our condolences and heartfelt thanks to Craig's family in a letter sent to Craig's brother. The DBC greatly appreciates the donation of Craig's collection and will utilize any resulting funds generated in a manner consistent with Craig's legacy.

Joe Suchecki Featured in Forest Preserve Video

Join Joe for a tour around Springbrook Prairie and hear why he volunteers as a steward at the site. Spoiler alert—this short video includes stunning bird images! Just a reminder: in 2019, the DBC donated \$2,500 to the Springbrook Prairie Restoration Program through the DuPage County Forest Preserve. The video includes information about how you can help support such programs through the Friends of the Forest Preserve. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puX65mQIXIU>

Welcome to New Members!

Jerry Ball	Downers Grove	Alyssa McHugh	Bartlett
Laura Bianchi	Hoffman Estates	Patty Sanek	Naperville
Michael Davern	Naperville	Jeanne Stacey	Orland Park
Aadi Deshmukh	Hinsdale	Tricia Tokash	Downers Grove
Greg Gorski	Lombard	Joseph Troy	Naperville
Ted Gray	Darien	Francine Venegas	Winfield
Carol Kierzyk	Wheaton	Michelle Wysocki	Bartlett

Bird Conservation Network (BCN) Monitoring Opportunities

If you're interested in helping our breeding birds, the Bird Conservation Network has a perfect opportunity. Each year, the BCN recruits monitors to conduct a survey of breeding birds in selected preserves within the Chicago Wilderness area, providing 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

April 2022 Field Trips

These early spring field trips target migrating waterfowl, raptors, passerines, and shorebirds plus some returning breeders. We are offering a variety of field trips, including mid-week trips. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season.

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.

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 am - 10:30 am 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

Tuesday, April 5, 7:30 pm, 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

Friday, April 8, 7:30 am – 10:00 am, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Woodridge

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

A spring exploration of woods, wetland, and grassland habitats. We'll walk the limestone White Oak and Kestrel Trails in search of newly-arrived breeding birds as well as migrants just passing through, plus our all-year residents of course. New birders welcome. Meet at the "horse trailer" or "south" parking lot on Greene Road, a little south of 79th Street. [Map link](#). Greene Valley [map](#).

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

Sunday April 10, 8:00 am-11:00 am, West Branch Forest Preserve

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

This morning trip is designed to focus on waterfowl such as Common Loons and Horned Grebes, but we will also search for songbird migrants alongside the lake. We will most likely go onto smaller trails, which could be muddy depending on recent conditions, so boots are highly recommended. We will meet in the parking lot off Army Trail Road.

Leader: Henry Meade. Please register with kathleenreeves22@yahoo.com

Wednesday, April 13, 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 spring migrants along the way.

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

Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 pm, 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 16, 7:30 am, Lincoln Marsh, Wheaton

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

Between 1979 and 1992 more than 100 parcels of land were assembled to form the core of this park. Today it is one of the most accessible natural areas in DuPage County, having wood chip trails and a floating boardwalk. There is a small prairie and an oak forest besides the marsh. The walk should be between one hour fifteen minutes and two hours and cover approximately a mile.

Directions: The entrance to Lincoln Marsh is on the west side of the park, at the corner of Harrison St. and Pierce Ave. From County Farm Rd., turn east on Harrison St. and proceed one mile to the parking lot. If entrance gate is locked, be prepared to park along the street. Be prepared for wet trail conditions and insects, and dress accordingly.

Leader: John Cebula, 630-640-2721, joceb2005@sbcglobal.net

Thursday, April 21, 7:30 am - 11:00 am, St. James Farm FP, Warrenville

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

We'll be concentrating on early woodland migrants as we explore some of the excellent trails through this preserve. We will meet in the main parking lot which is accessed off of Winfield Road just north of Butterfield Road.

Leader: Denis Kania, djkan36@gmail.com

Friday, April 22, 7:00 am, Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

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

This trip will focus on grassland birds and spring migrants. Please park at the model aircraft field parking lot on Plainfield-Naperville Road, South of 75th Street in Naperville.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-386-5570, issuesman50@yahoo.com

Sunday, April 24, 7:00 am, Spring Migrants and Birding By Ear, McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

While we will be looking for early spring migrants, this trip will also focus on learning about bird calls and songs and how to use those sounds to identify "Birds-by-Ear." The trip leader will key-in on bird calls and songs as the group looks for spring migrants. The emphasis of the trip will be to point out and learn the calls of the birds and how to develop the skills of identifying birds by sound. Please park at the first McDowell Grove Parking lot off of Raymond Drive in Naperville.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-369-5570, issuesman50@yahoo.com

Sunday April 24, 7:30 am - 10:00 am Bird the Park: St. James Farm, Warrenville

This is a leaderless birding experience. You do not need to preregister. You will bird on your own between the hours of 7:30 and 10 AM. The idea is you will "bump" into fellow birders as you make your way along the trail, chat a little about what you are seeing, then move on and hopefully run into another birder further along the trail. You can start at 7:30 or sleep in and start at 8 or even 9! The entrance is located on the east side of Winfield Road, 0.25 mile north of Butterfield Road. Dress for the weather. See map below for the route. You can walk the route in either direction.

Organizer: Natalie McFaul natcatcher7@gmail.com



Wednesday, April 27, 8:00 am - 10:00 am, Bird Sit at Whalon Lake Preserve (Royce Road), Naperville

Pre-registration with the leader required, limit 10 participants

This is a field trip for anyone who finds the long walks of our regular field trips too difficult or who would just like a less vigorous birding experience but still share the camaraderie of fellow birders. Bring your folding lawn chairs, binoculars, and field guides and join us at Whalon Lake Preserve. We will meet and sit as a group and look for early spring migrants, waterfowl and any birds that come to us! Birders of all levels are welcome.

NOTE this trip takes place on **WEDNESDAY** not Tuesday as in the past.

Whalon Lake Preserve is located on Royce Rd. west of Route 53/Bolingbrook Drive in Naperville. (It is across the street from Lisson Rd.) Park in the first parking area near the picnic shelter. We will be sitting in the shelter. Bring a folding chair or you can sit at the picnic tables in the shelter. Dress warmer than you think necessary as it is harder to stay warm while sitting, especially if the weather is chilly. [Whalon Lake Preserve](#)

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Thursday, April 28th, 7:30 am, Lyman Woods Forest Preserve, Downers Grove

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

This morning trip will be oriented toward early spring migration. We will be at a leisurely pace to provide as much time as desired to look at each bird and to answer questions for any new birders. Meet in the parking lot in front of Lyman Woods Interpretive Center, located one block east of Highland Avenue on 31st Street. Boots are HIGHLY recommended.

Leader: Bonnie Graham, 630-204-8750, Coye72112@gmail.com

Friday, April 29th, 8:00 am, Maple Grove Forest Preserve, Downers Grove

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

We'll be looking for spring migrants, including warblers, songbirds, and Wood Ducks that nest in the area. Trails are dirt and may be muddy, so wear appropriate footwear. Meet in parking lot off of Maple Ave. in Downers Grove.

Leader: John Hebert, johnhhebert@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 1, 7:30 am Elsen's Hill/West DuPage Woods, Winfield

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

This location has the designation of "Important Bird Area." Elsen's Hill is known for spring migrating birds and is a traditionally excellent spot for warblers. Take Winfield Rd. to Gary's Mill Rd. Go west on Gary's Mill Rd. to the Preserve parking lot entrance on the north side of the road. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing and boots for muddy trails.

Leader: Diann Bilderback, 630-272-5746, diann.bilderback@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 1, 7:30 am, Know Your Neighborhood: Bloomingdale

Take a leisurely stroll through Springfield Park in search of migrant songbirds, such as warblers and orioles, and waterbirds. Meet at the Springfield Park Pavilion, on 269 Springfield Dr. After the walk, join us for breakfast at a local Bloomingdale establishment.

Leader: Glenn Perricone, 630-687-2921, gp_arts39@yahoo.com

Don't forget to register for the walks you're interested in.

NOTE: All last-minute changes are posted on www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips.

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 about the trips or if you would like to lead a trip. Leaders do not have to be birding experts, just familiar with the location. We do not charge fees for birding trips.

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 20
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

