



President's Message

Hello Birders!

Many years ago while driving down a country road outside Tampa, Florida, I saw an Eastern Bluebird sitting on a wire. I slowed down, stopped the car, and got out to get a better look. I had never seen a bluebird before. In fact I didn't think they really existed outside of Disney's *Cinderella* movie. I was surprised and delighted to discover that there really were bluebirds! That is when I began birding.

Next Meeting

September 8, 2022. 7:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church
41 N. Park Blvd
Glen Ellyn

And via Zoom

See page 2 for details.

We all have a story about a bird that first captured us and led us to birding. It is always interesting to hear someone's "spark" story. The story is told with smiles and enthusiasm. These bird encounters take place in backyards and faraway places. They can happen when one is young or in later years, alone or in crowds. I'd say you can be captured by a bird just about anywhere or any time!

Different as the individual stories are, they all include an eventual encounter with another birder. It can be a teacher in a class, a stranger with a pair of binoculars, a neighbor, or a club like the DBC. Birders are friendly people who enjoy sharing their love of birds. **On Saturday, August 13, the DBC will have its annual Birding and Breakfast at Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve.** There will be a short field trip at 7:30 and breakfast at 9. I hope everyone will come out to this fun event for a little birding, a doughnut, and the opportunity to swap Spark Bird stories. **(For more details see the article in this issue or the field trip listings.)**

Happy Birding!
Natalie

Note: I searched for an image of the "bluebirds" from Disney's 1950 *Cinderella* and was surprised and a little disappointed how unlike a real bluebird they look! (I can't use a Disney image on our website but you can see one here if you are interested: [Blue Birds.](#))

September 8 Meeting: News from Willowbrook Wildlife Center Plus Tips for Traveling eBirders

Mark your calendar now for our next DBC meeting on September 8th. This will be a hybrid Live/Zoom meeting. See registration information for each at the bottom. Below are the two topics scheduled to be covered:

Update on Willowbrook Wildlife Center: Mission and Planned Improvements

Stephanie Touzalin, Education Specialist for the DuPage Forest Preserve, will present information about the Willowbrook Wildlife Center. Known throughout the region as a center for bird and wild animal rehabilitation, Willowbrook holds a key position in maintaining the health of the bird population in DuPage County. The Forest Preserve has plans for updating and expanding Willowbrook's facilities and Ms. Touzalin will share information about those plans with us.

Traveling with eBird

As some of us return to traveling far from home, we always enjoy looking for birds in the areas we visit. Mike Warner will share some techniques he uses to find birds in unfamiliar areas using eBird, which contains a lot of information about the bird species found in any part of the world you might travel to. Even if you're just going for a couple of days on business, to visit family, or on a non-birding vacation, eBird might just help you find a couple of Lifers while you are there.

How the Hybrid Meeting Will Work

In Person: To maintain social distancing we are only admitting 60 people in the meeting room at Faith Lutheran Church, 41 N. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn. To be admitted, you must preregister for the meeting by sending an email to natcatcher7@gmail.com. Include your name and the name(s) of anyone else that will be attending with you. You are requested to wear a mask while inside Faith Lutheran Church. You will receive a confirmation email informing you if you are among the first 60 people, or if not, how to register for the Zoom meeting.

Zoom: The Zoom meeting will begin at 7 PM. We will try to capture as much of the meeting on Zoom as possible. To register for the Zoom meeting, click on the following link: [September Zoom Meeting Registration](#)

If you have any questions regarding the in-person or Zoom meeting in May contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.

Decoy Silent Auction Raises \$1,161!

Joe Suchecki reports that the DBC Silent Auction for the remaining decoys in the Craig Holderness estate donation garnered \$1,161, bringing the total raised through the sale of these decoys to more than \$3,100! The high bids went to the Female Wood Duck, a real beauty, and the Blue-winged Teal, another excellent piece. The proceeds from these sales will fund a future donation to a regional bird conservation program. Stay tuned for details on that. THANK YOU, DBC members, for your generosity and participation, and thanks to Joe for organizing and administering the decoy sales.

In Case You Missed It: July Meeting Roundup

The July 14, 2022, meeting of the DuPage Birding Club featured a close look at the conservation of our two Midwestern crane species, plus a rundown of the club's outreach activities.

First, the DBC welcomed the return of one of our IOS grantees, Stephanie Schmidt, Whooping Crane Outreach Coordinator for the International Crane Foundation. The International Crane Foundation (ICF), in Baraboo, Wisconsin, is committed to conserving all 15 species of cranes worldwide and the watersheds, ecosystems, and flyways they depend on. Learn more about the ICF here: <https://savingcranes.org/>.

Stephanie introduced all the species of cranes and how to identify Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes by sight and sound. She then described the historic decline of these birds, the legislation that aids in their protection, the reintroduction program that brought Whooping Cranes back, and the threats cranes continue to face. The talk concluded with a call to action to advocate for cranes in your community.

In a second presentation, DBC's Outreach Coordinator Donna Kubik shared how the DBC helps promote birding in our community through a variety of activities, from table events and festivals and speaker presentations to youth education and field trips. Learn more about the club's many outreach activities and how to pitch in here: <https://dupagebirding.org/outreach/>.

To view the meeting video, click here: https://youtu.be/AQZj-7v_oHw

Be There: Birding and Breakfast August 13!

One of life's great pleasures is birding. Another is eating. Put them together and you have a perfect start to your day, Birding and Breakfast! AND it is a great opportunity to socialize and get to know new club members and see some friends you may not have seen for a while!

Please join us for a bird walk and casual breakfast at Pratt's Wayne Woods, Saturday, August 13. We will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a short bird walk. Then at 9:00, breakfast will be served in the picnic shelter. The club will provide fruit, bagels, donuts, juice, and coffee. All birders and potential birders are welcome! Just like last year, this event is a great time to get together and share highlights of your summer birding experiences. Pratt's Wayne has a variety of habitats, so you might just be able to pick up one more bird for your summer list, spot a new dragonfly, or see a butterfly or two.

Pratt's Wayne is located at Powis Road south of Stearns Road in Wayne ([Driving Directions Here.](#)) For the bird walk, meet at 7:30 a.m. at the far parking lot near the trailhead. If you're skipping the birding and showing up for breakfast, meet at the picnic shelter at 9:00 a.m. See you August 13!

Welcome to New Members!

Tim Duitsman Naperville

Chris George Naperville

Kathryn and Paul Micheli Glen Ellyn

DBC Funds IOS Grant Project at Midewin

Under the guidance of the club's Grants and Donations Committee, the DBC has awarded \$1,000 to the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance for the purchase of a high-resolution viewing scope. The scope will be installed in the Welcome Center at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie for visitor use. One focus of the scope will be the viewing of an active Bald Eagle nest located ¼ mile west of the Welcome Center. It will also be used by U.S. Forest Service rangers and volunteers to provide visitors the opportunity to view, learn about, and appreciate the many special bird species that frequent and reside at this 30-square mile gem of our Chicago Wilderness region.

We're glad the Illinois Ornithological Society annually brings projects like these to our attention. Next summer there will be a club field trip to Midewin to look for grassland birds and take a peek through the new scope, hosted by a Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance member. You can find a new guide to Midewin's birds on their homepage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/midewin/>.

Birding without Borders: A Note from Outreach

Contributed by Donna Kubik, Outreach Coordinator

During these long, lazy days of summer, I often find myself daydreaming about autumn and the return of fall migrants. I've also been dreaming about the return of autumn outreach events and anticipating new ones!

At the [last DBC Meeting](#), the DBC Outreach group had the opportunity to share our activities with the club. If any of the activities struck your fancy and you'd like to join in, please contact us! And if you have any new ideas, we'd enjoy hearing about them!

There are already several fall outreach events scheduled!

Prairie School of DuPage Monthly Bird Walks—Last year, the DBC Outreach team enjoyed birding with the students at Prairie School of DuPage once a month, helping them identify the birds and record their observations. We've been invited to come back to Prairie School this fall! Please contact us if you're interested in joining us.

"Helping Birds" (Sept. 14, 7:00 p.m.)—At the invitation of the Bloomingdale Park District, John Cebula will explore why bird numbers are declining and what individuals can do to help birds.

"I've Seen One Hundred Species: Attracting Birds to Your Garden" (October 19, 7:00 p.m.)—John Cebula takes the stage again at the invitation of the Bloomingdale Park District to explore the basics of attracting birds (and butterflies) by providing food, water, and shelter. The presentation will also address the need to grow as many native plants as possible.

Sag Moraine Native Plant Community Fall Opportunity—Having heard DBC presentations, Sag Moraine Native Plant Community has invited us to share information with the southwest suburbs this fall. They would like to hear how we can help native birds in our own backyards. If you are interested in helping with this request, please contact me.

I love that we are reaching groups like Sag Moraine Native Plant Community, beyond the borders of DuPage County. Following the example of the birds, we are birding without borders!

Outreach contact: donnakubik@gmail.com

Share Your Birding Adventures with Our Summer Photo Contest

There's still plenty of time to submit your photos for the Summer Photo Contest. The DBC is looking for pictures of birds taken between June 1, 2022 and August 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 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.

Good luck!

Summer Tutorials on the DBC Education Channel

The DBC Education Channel features several titles in its collection that can help you sharpen your birding skills during the summer months. Check these out so that you are at the top of your game next time you are out birding.

Shorebirds are already well into their southerly migration. The Education Channel has several shorebird ID videos for your review.

The Peeps

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

The Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpiper, and Ruff

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tff6tqvOerE&t>

The Plovers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73oJFtfns8s&t>

You may also want to revisit the **Birding without Binoculars** tutorials which are presented in two parts:

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OctOY4VHIjI&t>

Greene Valley Hawkwatch to Begin 17th Season

September 1st marks the beginning of the hawkwatching season atop the scenic overlook at Greene Valley F.P. Volunteers have been counting migrating raptors since 2006 from this site. The data collected here and from nearly 200 other sites in Central and North America is used in the scientific study of migration and the promotion of raptor conservation.

At 190 feet above the surrounding landscape, “The Hill” offers a 360 degree view of the horizon. On clear days one can see landmarks from six counties. We have recorded 22 species of raptors and 160 species of non-raptors from the hilltop over the last 16 years.

While our core group of volunteers man the hill daily through November 30, members of the general public are only allowed to visit on weekends from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. through the end of October. DBC usually offers Hawkwatch field trips in mid-September and later in October. Visitors are always welcome to join us when the hill is open to the public, bring a chair, water, and extra clothing.

For more information on hawkwatching: <https://www.hmana.org/>

<https://hawkcount.org/siteinfo.php?rsite=660>

News from the Web

See the last refuge for burrowing parrots

Burrowing parrots live on the cliffs along Argentina's coastline. It's their last stronghold. The new Original Series "Patagonia: Life on the Edge of the World" airs Sundays at 9 p.m. ET.

Read in CNN: https://apple.news/AdiJEFrH_S6if_C_1160eWg

How the Yurok Tribe is bringing back the California Condor

Birds' reintroduction offered insight into importance of parenting in species.

Read in Ars Technica: <https://apple.news/Aj7Lb0WjiQ9i8Ij6d9IOVgg>

The Bizarre Bird That's Breaking the Tree of Life

Darwin thought that family trees could explain evolution. The hoatzin suggests otherwise.

Read in The New Yorker: https://apple.news/Agy3Vl8uOQM62yBXm1hN_JQ

Woodpeckers Don't Have Shock-Absorbing Skulls

The birds' small brain size protects them from getting concussions, a new study finds

Read in Smithsonian Magazine: <https://apple.news/ABB3I--pQQIG4nd9cbhULVg>

Scientists uncover history of 'ridiculously charming' penguins

The evolution of penguins from their flying seabird ancestors into the flightless denizens of marine environments from frigid Antarctica to the tropical Galapagos Islands is among the wonders of the animal kingdom.

Read in Reuters: <https://apple.news/AWUSXrHpSTrqrJm9NUzxIw>

August 2022 Field Trips

Now is the time for birds to nest, raise their young, molt feathers, and prepare for the fall migration. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the month.

Please remember that the weather can be variable, so dress accordingly and bring protection for biting insects, including ticks. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent.

Participants are welcome to contact the leader if they have any questions. 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).

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.
- A responsible adult must accompany attendees of DBC field trips and other events who are under the age of 18.
- 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, August 13, 7:30 am - 10:30 am

Birding and Breakfast!

No pre-registration required.

Join us for a bird walk and casual breakfast at Pratt's Wayne Woods. Participants planning on joining the bird walk should meet at the furthest parking lot near the trailhead at 7:30 am. The breakfast will occur at the picnic shelter at 9:00 am. The club will provide fruit, bagels, donuts, juice, and coffee. You are invited to come for both the walk and breakfast or just join us for breakfast. All birders and potential birders are welcome! Pratt's Wayne is located at Powis Road south of Stearns Road in Wayne ([driving directions here](#).) Meet at the picnic shelter.

Organizers: Natalie McFaul natcatcher7@gmail.com and Jane Barnett jane.barnett333@gmail.com

Sunday, August 14, 7:30 am

Wood Dale Reservoir

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

On this trip we will be exploring one of the premier shorebird spots in DuPage County. We will focus on finding and identifying migratory shorebirds such as Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers and both species of yellowlegs. There's even the chance for something rarer like a Stilt or Baird's Sandpiper. Please meet in the parking lot at the end of School St.

Leader: Henry Meade kathleenreeves22@yahoo.com

Wednesday, August 17, 7:30 am

McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

Meet at the main parking lot off of Raymond Rd in Naperville. Trip is looking for summer residents and maybe an early migrant. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing and bring insect repellent.

Leader: Mark Freeburg, freebs59@sbcglobal.net

Friday, August 19, 8:00 am

Greene Valley Shorebirds

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

Meet at Greene Road parking lot. We will walk east to the 83rd Street Fluddle to look for shorebirds, birding on the way. Scopes recommended here—leader will have one. To prepare for fall shorebird migration (that begins mid-July or so, please consider enrolling in Cornell's Shorebirds Class, and definitely review shorebird ID with Denis Kania's mini-tutorials: "[Yellowlegs and Similar Waders](#)," and "[Peeps](#)" on the DBC YouTube channel. Some bushwacking on overgrown grass trails or thru tall grass is necessary here so please prepare for ticks and mosquitoes.

Leader: Vicky Sroczyński, vsroczyński@comcast.net or text 630-297-9512

Saturday, August 20, 7:30 am

Lincoln Marsh, Wheaton

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

Lincoln Marsh Natural Area is located just northwest of downtown Wheaton. From County Farm Road, go east on Harrison Street. Harrison ends in Lincoln Marsh's parking lot. Two large marshes dominate the area.

However, there is a large oak woodland, a small prairie, and two small ponds. A variety of birds, residents and migrants, associated with such habitats can be seen here. The trails at Lincoln Marsh are generally excellent, consisting mostly of wood chips and crushed limestone; boardwalks cross low areas, and there are two floating boardwalks and bird blinds. A fuller description of the site can be found [here](#).

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

Tuesday, August 23, 7:00 - 9:00 am

Bird Sit at Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

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

This is a new spot! This field trip is for anyone who finds the long walks of our regular field trips too difficult or who would just like a less vigorous birding experience, but still share the camaraderie of fellow birders. Bring your folding lawn chairs, binoculars, and field guides. We will be birding at the small picnic shelter by the Model Airplane field parking lot off Plainfield-Naperville Rd on the east side of the park.

The parking lot is located on the west side of Plainfield-Naperville Road .05 mile south of 75th Street. [Places to Go-Forest Preserves-Springbrook Prairie \(dupageforest.org\)](#). Dress for the weather and bring bug spray (sitting, we are easy targets for mosquitos!) and drinking water.

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Friday, August 26, 7:00 - 9:00 am

Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Bolingbrook

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

We'll be looking for summer residents, avian youngsters, and early migrants as we explore the fields and woods along the Thunderbird Trail. New birders are welcome as we will take a fairly leisurely pace to see (and listen to) the birds and to answer questions. If conditions are good, we'll do a little bonus walk at the end.

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

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

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

Cantigny Park in Wheaton posts bird walks and related events several months in advance on the calendar pages of [Events | Cantigny](#). For that reason, the events are often at capacity by the time DBC publishes its monthly calendar. To ensure your spot on a Cantigny walk, check the park's website and follow the sign-up instructions. In addition to regular walks, held monthly, Cantigny now offers Accessible Birding opportunities for those with limited mobility.

For additional birding opportunities, check out the DuPage and Cook County forest preserves: 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