



## President's Message

Hello, Birders!

I saw the first flock of Sandhill Cranes fly over this week, a sure sign that winter is rapidly approaching. Along with the winter comes the end of my tenure as president of the DuPage Birding Club. It has been a busy, interesting, and fun year!

This year the board eased the club into hybrid meetings. There were a few rocky starts but VP Mike Warner's determination combined with Steve Constantelos' Zoom expertise made it happen. And for the first time in two years, club members met in person. Mike also brought together an interesting and varied group of speakers to our monthly meetings.

Karen Warner and Wally Levernier coordinated over 100 field trips this year to 36 different locations. Field trips are the heart and soul of the DBC. We offer more field trip opportunities by far than any other birding club in the area and that is only possible because we have an abundance of generous people who volunteer their time to lead them.

The board provided several opportunities for members to engage in other bird-related activities this year. Mike Warner and Steve Constantelos are responsible for making the idea of a DBC photo contest into a reality. In June, we had a Big Fun Morning thanks to the enthusiastic help of Vicky Sroczyński. In August we continued the tradition of a Birding and Breakfast and in early November the Volunteer Luncheon.

The DBC offered its first Beginning Bird Watching class this year. It takes a lot of time and work to put together a class. Denis Kania and Joe Suchecki did it all and then some, adding several new mini-tutorials to our YouTube education channel.

The DBC was also out sharing the joy of birding in the community this year. Under Donna Kubik's leadership and a dedicated group of volunteers, the DBC participated in the Aurora Pollinator Festival, the Gull Frolic, and monthly bird walks at the Prairie School of DuPage in Wheaton. Outreach also provided speakers for 12 venues throughout the area.

### Next Meeting

January 12, 2023  
Zoom Only  
See page 3 for details.

The board continued the DBC's support of bird-related projects with almost \$4,000 in grants and donations to organizations such as BCN, ABC, Willowbrook Wildlife Center and Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. A special thank you to Joe Suchecki who worked with the DuPage Forest Preserve to coordinate DBC's \$2,000 donation for native shrubs planted at McKee Marsh. Joe also took on the sale of a beautiful decoy collection from the estate of Craig Holderness raising over \$3,000 for future club donations.

Jane Barnett, Angela Levernier, Dennis Streicher, Sirimon Reutrakul, and Steve Constanelos not only performed their duties as treasurer, recording secretary and directors but also volunteered to help out whenever an extra pair of hands were needed. Most importantly they shared their ideas, voiced their opinions, and gave thoughtful feedback on the many topics and issues that came to the board this year.

There is a dedicated group of committee leaders that work throughout the year to support the club. As president I had the opportunity to experience first hand how much they do to create an interesting *Drummings* newsletter every month, keep the website lively and up to date, share DBC news through emails and social media, coordinate the spring and winter bird counts and just keep things running smoothly. Thank you.

A very special thank you to Steve Constantelos and Joe Suchecki, our two outgoing board members. I am especially grateful for all your thoughtful suggestions and guidance. The DBC is very fortunate to have two such talented, dedicated members.

I look forward to another productive year for the DBC with the able leadership of Mike Warner and our newly elected board. A special welcome to new members, Robert Perez, Vice President, and Pamela Martyn-Nemeth, Director.

Thank you to all the members for granting me the privilege to serve as DBC president. I was pretty nervous about taking on the position but quickly learned that the DBC is full of friendly people willing to help and guide. I highly recommend to anyone who has the opportunity to serve as DBC president to grab it! It has been a deeply gratifying experience for me. Thank you.

Have a wonderful holiday season and may the new year bring you many birds and much joy!

Natalie

## January 12 Meeting: “20 Years of ‘Words on Birds’”



Jeff Reiter, columnist for the Daily Herald, will present "20 Years of Words on Birds," a highlight reel of his columns over two decades, with plenty of photos, people he's met over the years, and places he's gone for the story. Jeff is a long-time DBC member, past President, and leader of the monthly bird walks at Cantigny Park.

NOTE: this meeting will be held via Zoom only given the likelihood of inclement weather in January, and we will not meet at Faith Lutheran Church. To register for the Zoom meeting, click on the following link: [January 12th Zoom meeting registration](#).

Zoom meetings are recorded and placed on the DBC Education Channel a few days after the meeting.

## In Case You Missed It: Richard Hoeg at Sax-Zim Bog

Richard Hoeg joined the Club for the November meeting to share his expertise and experiences at Sax-Zim Bog in Northern Minnesota. Birding in extreme cold temperatures can seem daunting; however, if you know how to dress (mukluks and chopper over-mittens), where the restaurants and, more importantly, restrooms are located, then you're bound to have a great experience. Richard has been volunteering for Sax-Zim for ten years and a lot has changed, including a new welcome center open in winter and summer months. Besides planning your trip with maps and possibly a guide, be sure to check the weather. Owls hunt by ear and you want to make sure Great Grey and Northern Hawk Owls are in your forecast!

See the whole presentation with all of Richard's tips and advice here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SthAyitpV8>



## **Start Planning Now—March 9 is Members' Night!**

Be sure to mark your calendar now for Members' Night on March 9. This very popular event showcases bird photographs and the stories behind the pics presented by our own DBC members. Past presentations have been about birds here in DuPage County and from hotspots around the world. If you have an interesting birding experience you'd like to share, put a few pictures together and get ready! Registration information will follow in the New Year.

## **Renew Your Dues by December 31 Deadline—Yes, Please**

Your annual membership dues in the DBC for 2023 are due by December 31, 2022. **We need you to respond now and renew your membership.** Your dues fund Club operations and support a broad range of activities:

- 100+ field trips a year
- Interesting regional and national speakers to headline meetings
- Special social events like Big Birding Morning, Birding and Breakfast, Volunteer Luncheon
- An up-to-date website and monthly newsletter
- Generous Grant and Donation program supporting bird-centric conservation initiatives
- Proactive Community Outreach program (more than a dozen events in 2022)
- The camaraderie of 400 other birders!

Dues remain \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$10 for students. Please note that any new member joining on or after September 1 has been automatically registered for the following year. Your 2023 dues may now be paid in any of the following ways:

- 1) Online through our website using PayPal or credit card, at this link: <https://dupagebirding.org/renew/>.
- 2) By mailing a check to: DuPage Birding Club, P.O. Box 3381, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138
- 3) Giving cash or a check in person to a board member.

Renew now and stay part of one of the most vibrant and proactive bird clubs in the region. Thank you for your support and membership!

## **Fermi Christmas Bird Count December 17, 2022**

There's still time to sign up for the 47th annual Fermi Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The Fermi CBC circle has traditionally been sponsored by the DBC, and we usually have around 100 participants to count all the birds we see and hear on this one day in December. This is your chance to contribute to an important community science opportunity. Data collected provides invaluable insights into winter bird populations plus it's a great opportunity to connect with fellow birders.

If you participated last year, you're already on the list and will be contacted in early December regarding your counting areas. If it's been a few years, or you are new to the count and would like to participate, please contact the compiler, Jeff Chapman at [jeffchapman948@gmail.com](mailto:jeffchapman948@gmail.com). Remember you'll be grouped with a team so no need to be an expert; there will be plenty of them on your team! This year's countdown dinner is TBD at this point. **TIME IS SHORT, so don't delay! Deadline to sign up for participation is December 9.**



## McKee Marsh Planting Day Success—JOB WELL DONE!

WOW—what a morning we had planting more than 100 saplings and shrubs at McKee Marsh on November 6! The Club partnered with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County on a project to improve habitat for our forest birds by restoring the understory of a local woodland. We provided a \$2,000 grant to the District to purchase native shrubs and saplings for planting in an area of McKee Marsh where nonnative, invasive shrubs and trees were removed. In the photo at right, fearless leader Joe Suchecki lays out the plan of action.



When the weather proved too cold and blustery on the original planned day of November 5, we flexed and rescheduled for Sunday, November 6. Fortunately, more than 30 Club volunteers could adjust their schedules and stay with the plan. We divided into a half a dozen work teams to dig, dig, dig! Angela Levernier first provided a little tutorial on the proper way to plant, and our friends John, Tonya, and Cathy from the DuPage Forest Preserve worked alongside us to mentor us. We thank them for giving up their Sunday to be there for us!



Hot coffee, juice, and delicious donuts and bagels kept our energy going, and we got the job done around 11:00 a.m. This included fencing sensitive new plantings to discourage deer browsing and generous watering of all new plantings. We believe restoring the understory vegetation will improve the habitat for woodland nesting birds such as thrushes and warblers, and the DBC and Bird Conservation Network will be monitoring species usage in the coming years. A big thank you to Joe Suchecki for championing this project and winning support from the Forest Preserve for proceeding. It will be an interesting case study for the impact of restoring native habitat.



To see all 40 pictures from our Planting Day, visit the DBC website at <https://dupagebirding.org/member-gallery/>



## Volunteer Luncheon Says Thank You

A pleasant fall day greeted the 20+ volunteers who attended the Club's Volunteer Luncheon on October 29 at Blackwell Forest Preserve. A stroll around the newly restored wetland and grassland area near Silver Lake yielded a couple dozen species of birds and helped us work up an appetite for a yummy lunch. Thanks to Andie Duffy for organizing the buffet of goodies!

President Natalie McFaul entertained us with a quiz on the Club's accomplishments over the last year, which held its own surprises. Can you guess how field trips we led? how many “views” our Zoom meetings got on YouTube? how many total followers the DBC has on its Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts? or how many people attended last year’s meetings live and via Zoom? Well, thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, these numbers were pretty impressive. The answers: 109, 1072, 2320, and 669. Way to go, DBC volunteers!

## Guidelines for Ethical Birding

We love our birds, but let’s make sure we’re not loving them to death—that is, let’s make sure our behaviors do not diminish a bird's ability to survive and thrive.

### [ABA Birding Associate Code of Birding Ethics](#)

American Birding Association’s Code of Birding Ethics is the gold standard covering bird interactions. Whether you are a casual backyard birder or a serious lister, you should be familiar with these guidelines.

### [Audubon’s Guide to Ethical Bird Photography](#)

Being a responsible photographer means always putting birds and their habitats first. Review these guidelines to ensure that you are not disrupting natural behaviors or nesting and know the ethics for posting and sharing photos.

### [Respecting Owls: Ethical Owl Viewing and Photography](#)

Owls are a special category as they are especially vulnerable to unintentional harm from overzealous birders. Make sure your observances don’t stress them or cause them to abandon a nest.

## Welcome to New Members!

Jeremy Caseltine	Wheaton
Tim and Chris Gavlin	Western Springs
Julie Hanebuth	Elmhurst
Elena Nelson	Villa Park
Heather Ogilvie	Lisle
Ann Roth	Lombard
Greg and Renee Tomila	Elmhurst

## December 2022 Field Trips

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

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

Participants are welcome to contact the leader if they have any questions. Our field trip leaders can help you find the trip's starting location if you need additional directions. Situations can sometimes change, so please check our DBC website <https://dupagebirding.org> for the latest status information.

**NOTE: For trips with a participant limit, registration with the trip leader is required. In those cases, you are NOT registered until you receive a confirmation from the trip leader.**

**Field Trips will observe a few guidelines to ensure that 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 stay home.
- 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 <https://dupagebirding.org/events/category/trips/>.**

**Sunday, December 4, 7:30 am**

**McKee Marsh, Warrenville**

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

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

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

**Tuesday, December 6, 8:00 - 10:00 am**

**Fullersburg Woods, Oak Brook**

Pre-registration with the leader is required.

This field trip will include some good winter birding in wooded areas as well as some open water sections. Join us to look for a good variety while walking about 2 miles on uneven trails. Prepare for possible snow and/or ice depending on current weather. Meet in the main parking lot on Spring Road.

**Leader: Nancy Allured, [nallured@comcast.net](mailto:nallured@comcast.net)**

**Sunday, December 11, 8:00 - 10:00 am**

**St. James Farm, Warrenville**

Pre-registration is not required for this walk. Come out for a Birding/Nature Walk at a local forest preserve. St. James Forest Preserve is a 595-acre preserve that contains more than 100 acres of woodlands, prairies, and wetlands. We will be looking for winter birds and enjoying the pristine winter landscape. Paths are gravel. Dress for the cold. The main entrance is on Winfield Rd. just north of Butterfield Road. Meet at the Horse Statue in the parking lot.

**Leader: Pat Sterbling, 630-235-5001**

**Wednesday, December 14, 8:00 am**

**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](#). Feel free to ask questions on how to get there after you RSVP.

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

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

**Thursday, December 15, 4:10 pm**

**Springbrook Prairie, Naperville**

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

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

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

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

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

**Saturday, December 17, All-Day Event**

**Christmas Bird Count, Fermilab Circle**

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

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



## **Sunday, December 18, All-Day Event**

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

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

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

## **Sunday, December 18, 4:10 pm**

### **Springbrook Prairie, Naperville**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pre-registration suggested so you can be contacted if the trip is canceled due to bad weather.

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

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

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

## **Thursday, December 29, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

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

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

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

For questions ahead of time, or if you are running late the day of the trip, please call 630-297-9512.

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

**Friday, December 30, 8:00 am – 10:30 pm**

**Whalon Lake, Naperville**

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

The goal of this trip will be to help participants get last minute additions to their year lists. Whalon Lake can have great diversity of waterfowl, so we will be looking for goldeneye, mergansers etc. Please meet in the parking lot off of Royce Road that is east of the dog park.

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

**Sunday, January 1, 2023, 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

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

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

There is no limit to the number of participants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Kathy & Steve Mineck, 630-254-4077**

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

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

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

For additional birding opportunities, check out the Illinois Birding Calendar at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/illinois-birding-calendar/> or the DuPage and Cook County forest preserves: <https://www.dupageforest.org/calendar-of-events>, [www.fpdcc.com/events](http://www.fpdcc.com/events).

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

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

**Field Trip Coordinators:**

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

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



## 2023 Meeting Schedule

January 12	July 13
March 9	September 14
April 13	October 12
May 11	November 9

## 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: Glenn Gabanski,

Diann Bilderback, Glenn Perricone

Christmas Count Coordinator: Jeff Chapman

Communications: Diann Bilderback, Steve Constantelos

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

YouTube: Denis Kania, Steve Constantelos