



President's Message

Happy New Year, Fellow Birders!

I'm writing my first President's Message a couple of days before Christmas and it is 11° outside! Birding buddy Mark and I talked about going out this morning in search of birds, but we both agreed it was just too cold!

As I look out the window to my left, my backyard is abuzz with activity with birds all over the place! Chickadees are exploring every nook and cranny. A couple of White-breasted Nuthatches come for a sunflower seed or two from the tube feeder and dash off with them. I spot Tree Sparrows and Juncos beneath the thistle feeders scratching through the thin layer of snow in search of food. Above them, Goldfinch perch on the thistle feeder rods and munch away—most of them have turned a dull brown but a few still have a bib of bright yellow. A Blue Jay squawks as it swoops in for a whole peanut on the platform feeder and takes off with it (sometimes they swallow it whole). Five Cardinals look like bright red Christmas ornaments perched in the bare lilac bush in the back of the yard. At one time or another during the morning, most of the birds make their way to the heated birdbath for a drink or a quick dip (brrrrr!).

I spotted movement on the trunk of our old pine tree and yelled, "Karen, there's a Brown Creeper out here!" My heart beats a little faster every time a Fox Sparrow joins the other birds beneath the thistle feeder. Watching birds still thrills me and it's an honor to be so closely associated with the hundreds of DuPage Birding Club members who have a similar affinity with birds. I encourage you to join me and your fellow DBC members on some of our many field trips this year because that's what DBC is all about—enjoying the birds around us with others who are just as passionate about birds as you are.

Happy Birding in the New Year!

Mike

Next Meeting

January 12, 2023

Zoom only!

See page 2 for details.

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.

Members' Night Coming March 9

This year's annual Member's Night will be March 9th. One of the most popular events held each year, Members' Night provides DBC members with the chance to showcase some of their memorable photographs from the past year. All levels of photographic skill are welcomed. Members have shown photos from a wide array of places—from backyards in DuPage County to trips around the globe. Further information on registration will come in the February newsletter.

Last Chance: Dues Renewal

Your annual membership dues in the DBC for 2023 were 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 1st 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!

2022 Fermilab-Batavia Christmas Bird Count Results

On December 17, 2022, birders counted every bird they could see and hear within the 15-mile circle during the 47th Fermi-Batavia CBC. Despite blustery conditions, 74 species were observed in the count, below our 10-year average of nearly 84 species. Overall numbers were down, but we tied the high counts of Merlin (2) and managed two new species for the count: Ovenbird and *Selasphorus* hummingbird (likely Rufous). Thank you to all the area captains and counters in making this year another successful count!

4	Snow Goose	15	Northern Flicker
18	Cackling Goose	11	American Kestrel
9,090	Canada Goose	2	Merlin (tied high count)
2	Mute Swan	1	Northern Shrike
26	Gadwall	174	Blue Jay
1,646	Mallard	96	American Crow
12	American Black Duck	432	Black-capped Chickadee
1	Northern Pintail	11	Tufted Titmouse
3	Green-winged Teal	150	Horned Lark
1	Ring-necked Duck	6	Golden-crowned Kinglet
2	Bufflehead	12	Red-breasted Nuthatch
42	Common Goldeneye	175	White-breasted Nuthatch
11	Hooded Merganser	20	Brown Creeper
4	Common Merganser	5	Winter Wren
156	Rock Pigeon	2	Carolina Wren
468	Mourning Dove	4,127	European Starling
1	<i>Selasphorus</i> Hummingbird (new record)	45	Eastern Bluebird
5	American Coot	264	American Robin
37	Sandhill Crane	121	Cedar Waxwing
3	Wilson's Snipe	752	House Sparrow
206	Ring-billed Gull	261	House Finch
50	Herring Gull	361	American Goldfinch
16	Great Blue Heron	64	Lapland Longspur
13	Northern Harrier	3	Snow Bunting
1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	632	American Tree Sparrow
14	Cooper's Hawk	2	Fox Sparrow
18	Bald Eagle	1,095	Dark-eyed Junco
102	Red-tailed Hawk	19	White-crowned Sparrow
1	Eastern Screech-owl	88	White-throated Sparrow
7	Great Horned Owl	32	Song Sparrow
1	Barred Owl	8	Swamp Sparrow
1	Long-eared Owl	37	Red-winged Blackbird
15	Belted Kingfisher	4	Brown-headed Cowbird
1	Yellow-bellied Woodpecker	1	Common Grackle
1	Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Ovenbird (new record)
232	Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	Yellow-rumped Warbler
245	Downy Woodpecker	495	Northern Cardinal
74	Hairy Woodpecker		

Announcing DBC's Fall 2022 Photography Contest Winners!

The DBC's Fall '22 photo contest was a great success! The 27 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 Fall '22 Photography Contest Winners.

Best of Show - Purple Sandpiper

Photographer: Andrew Steinmann

Species of Bird: Purple Sandpiper

Where was the picture taken? Fishhook Pier, Montrose Harbor

Narrative - This was a very early migrant bird that was seen by many on Saturday, 17 September. I was able to sit on the pier and get very low and close. This enabled me to get a sharp image with a marvelously blurred background of Lake Michigan.



Christmas Tree Topper Award

Photographer: Jerry Ball

Species of Bird: Red-tailed Hawk

Where was the picture taken? Taken in my Townhouse Community with my phone

Narrative - I walk my dog every day in a small 3/4 mile circle around our community. We often see hawks flying, but when we saw this Red-Tail perched on top of this tree, we thought he looked like an ornament on top of a Christmas tree!



Berry Good Picture Award

Photographer: John Obenland

Species of Bird: Cedar Waxwing

Where was the picture taken? Springbrook Prairie FP

Narrative: OK, it wasn't Christmas, but mid-September is celebration time for the Waxwings and many other species! Red berries and green leaves - it's the most wonderful time of the year! A time for fun and games for all ages, such as "How Many Berries Can One Stuff In One's Mouth?", and the popular "Most Athletic Grab". The competition is so great that the participants seem to lose all sense of fear of birders and flock to the seasonal decor. It's all about the prize!



Fine Feathered Friend Award

Photographer: Jackie Tilles

Species of Bird: Great Blue Heron

Where was the picture taken? Axehead Lake, Park Ridge, IL

Narrative: This Great Blue Heron had its spot staked out on Axehead Lake and seemed to enjoy the activity going on around it. The heron was not intimidated by anyone passing by, including fishermen, birders, children at play and even dogs. It was a beautiful day in October and the light was just right for defining the features of the bird and bringing out the colors of the lake.



Colors of Fall Award

Photographer: Cindy Duranceau

Species of Bird: Red-bellied Woodpecker

Where was the picture taken? Holland, Michigan

Narrative: While visiting Holland, Michigan for a few days, we were awestruck by the gorgeous fall leaf colors. As we were walking in the woods, a Red-bellied Woodpecker appeared and posed for us.



“I Am Batman” Award

Photographer: Jeanne Rosone

Species of Bird: Blue Jay

Where was the picture taken? Wood Dale, IL

Narrative: I usually get a few Blue Jay visitors to my yard and I enjoy taking their pictures as they are very entertaining. Most of the time I get a picture with their wings outstretched but this time I captured one with its wings down, making for an interesting picture.



“Sometimes It’s Good To Get Lost” Award

Photographer: Sirimon Reutrakul

Species of Bird: Black-throated Magpie-Jay

Where was the picture taken? San Diego (and beyond)

Narrative: We were visiting our kid in San Diego and wanted to go birding south of the city. As usual, Google Map was our guide. Perhaps there were several similar names of places, and before we knew it, we were on a dirt road and my phone said, “Welcome to Mexico!” It was still early morning. We turned around to go back north and suddenly came upon the blue silhouette on the tree along the road. We got out of the car and realized that we have not seen this bird before. It was very loud (like a jay) and looked somewhat like a jay. A few seconds later it flew out to perch on the electric wire and posed for us. This was a lifer bird. I guess sometimes getting lost could be a good thing!



Best Travel Photo Award

Photographer: Rick Roche

Species of Bird: Northern Emerald Toucanet

Where was the picture taken? Savegre Hotel gardens in a valley in the Talamanca Mountains of Costa Rica

Narrative: Though this Northern Emerald Toucanet sat on a branch within five feet of a sidewalk, many of the hotel guests walking through the gardens did not see it. I had to find a spot slightly uphill and about ten yards away to get this clear view of its beak and head. Sitting very still, it was a cooperative subject - if you found where to stand.



Down and Dirty Award

Photographer: Lisa Gaylord

Species of Bird: House Sparrow

Where was the picture taken? Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve

Narrative: I was at Fullersburg alone and enjoying the day. I didn't see anything too unusual or anything to write home about. I decided to take one last look from the large deck/overlook in hopes of seeing something interesting. Oh! I did see a sight I had never seen before. I was seeing some dirt flying around from the ground. I zoomed in with my camera and to my amazement I saw this House Sparrow having a field day in a dry patch of ground. It seemed he had made a clearing that he was able to nestle his body into. He then started flapping his wings causing the dirt to fall on him. He was just covered with dirt.

I was still wondering what this was all about so I went home and looked it up. I found out that this is called “dusting.” It is a way for birds to, in a sense, take a bath to get extra oil off of their body and feathers so they can fly more efficiently and to keep parasites away.



“Flight to Freedom” Award

Photographer: Laurel Ahlenius

Species of Bird: Red-tailed Hawk

Where was the picture taken? Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Landfill Mountain

Narrative: Wow - this was some day! While at the Hawkwatch, our little group was rather puzzled to see a man drive up, and start unloading some animal crates from his vehicle. He was one of the rangers, helping out with Willowbrook Wildlife Center. He was there to release some rehabilitated birds: Cooper’s Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawks (3) and a young Great-Horned Owl. Our little group of volunteers were privileged to watch their release. Timing was essential due to the changing season, weather and migration. It was thrilling to see them individually released and take flight. I was able to get pictures of all, but this was my best action shot. The Red-tailed Hawk did a short jump flight to the end of the picnic table, to check his bearings, paused a minute or two before taking off to the chain link fence to study the terrain. A short while after that, he took to the sky, and was gone. I am glad for the staff, volunteers, DuPage Forest Preserve, and to all who contribute to release these birds and other wildlife back to their natural habitat. Fly well and live long!



DuPage Birding Club's Winter '23 Photo Contest Now Open!

The DBC is looking for pictures of birds taken between December 1, 2022 and February 28, 2023. All photos are welcome: amateur, funny, imperfect, high-quality. The “story behind the shot” is also taken into account when judging. The judges want this to be a fun contest; no categories have been pre-defined for award-winners so every entry has a chance to win! If you would like to look at past DBC Photo Contest winners [CLICK HERE](#).

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.

Photographs will be judged by a small team of DBC members. If you are interested in being a judge (no experience necessary) please contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.

There are two ways to enter your bird photographs:

- 1) If you have a Google Account (you have one if you use Gmail) click the link below.

[DBC Photo Contest Entry Form](#)

- 2) If you don't have a Google Account, email your image as an attachment to dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com. In the body of your email include:
 - a) Your name.
 - b) The species of the bird(s).
 - c) Where the picture was taken.
 - d) 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! Winners will be announced in April, 2023.

Welcome to New Members!

Norma Budzinski

Wheaton

Kara Fawbert

Naperville

Hollie Myers

Glen Ellyn

Sid Padgaonkar

Des Plaines

Winter Fun at Upcoming Events

Two great learning and social opportunities await birders during this wintry season.

First up, the annual Gull Frolic will be held February 18 at North Point Marina at the Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club. This popular event is a great way to hone your gull identification skills with experts on hand to teach you the often subtle differences among these hard-to-identify birds. Sponsored by the Illinois Ornithological Society (IOS), the event often features specialties such as Iceland, Glaucous, Great Black-backed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, plus an assortment of other waterfowl. Tickets are \$35. For more information and registration information, click <https://www.illinoisbirds.org/21st-annual-gull-frolic/>

February 25 marks the semiannual Wild Things conference, which brings together the Chicago Wilderness conservation community in a session-packed day covering everything from habitat management to new research to case studies and more on our wild places and the creatures who live in them. Tickets range \$40-50. Learn more at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wild-things-2023-registration-457050730037>

The DBC will be an exhibitor at both events. If you have an interest in volunteering to staff our booth at either event, please contact Natalie McFaul, Corresponding Secretary, at natcatcher7@gmail.com.



January 2023 Field Trips

This month we look for wintering birds 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 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/>

Saturday, January 7, 7:30 - 10:30 am

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Pre-registration is not required for this walk.

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us to check out winter birds. 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

Saturday, January 14, 8:00 - 10:00 am

Danada East/Rice Lake, Wheaton

Pre-registration is requested for this walk so that participants can be contacted in event of cancellation due to weather or unsafe walking conditions.

Come out for a Birding/Nature Walk at a local forest preserve. We will be looking for winter birds and enjoying the pristine winter landscape. Paths are gravel. Dress for the cold. Danada East on the east side of Naperville Rd, 3S507 Naperville Rd. Meet in the parking lot by the horse corrals.

Leader: Pat Sterbling, pesterbling@gmail.com

Wednesday, January 18, 8:00 - 10:00 am

Centennial Trail, Lemont

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

On this field trip we'll be exploring Centennial Trail in hopes of finding waterfowl and any other wintering birds that might be around. Please meet at the end of Canal Bank Road at 8 am. The coordinates for the parking area area (41.6874173, -87.9825162).

Feel free to ask questions about parking after you RSVP.

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

Sunday, January 22, 9:00 am

Des Plaines River Tour

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

Meet at the Bolingbrook Park & Ride lot, 120 E. Old Chicago Drive, Bolingbrook, IL 60440 (Behind Ramada Inn). We can carpool from there. We will travel downstream along the Des Plaines River looking for waterfowl. The trip will end in the Channahon area. We can stop for lunch along the way. A scope would be helpful, but not necessary. Hope to be back late afternoon. Trip may be canceled if roads become hazardous.

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

Friday, January 27, 8:00 - 10:00 am

Fullersburg Woods, Oak Brook

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

Beginning birders welcome. We'll explore the woodlands along Salt Creek on pretty easy, level trails, as well as the feeders around the visitor's center and other buildings. Meet in the main parking lot at 3609 Spring Road. If conditions are good, we might do a quick side-trip at the end to nearby Dean Nature Sanctuary or Graue Mill. More info [here](#).

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

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.

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



2023 Meeting Schedule

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

2023 DBC Executive Committee Members

President: Mike Warner

Vice President: Robert Perez

Treasurer: Jane Barnett

Recording Secretary: Angela Levernier

Corresponding Secretary: Natalie McFaul

Director: Dennis Streicher

Director: Sirimon Reutrakul

Director: Pamela Martyn-Nemeth

2023 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, Diann Bilderback

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