



President's Message

Greetings from a Snowbird!

Since retiring, Karen and I have found any excuse to go somewhere warm during the month of January—this year it's Florida. We have been birding along the way and found that birders can be the nicest people! Here's a couple of examples:

On the drive down south, we used eBird to guide us toward a long-sought after lifer, a Red-cockaded Woodpecker. An eBird Alert showed that some had recently been seen in the Donnelley Wildlife Management Area outside of Walterboro, SC. When we arrived in this huge preserve, we had no idea where to look. As we were about to wander the miles of roads through Donnelley, a spry older lady with binoculars showed up—a fellow birder!

Next Meeting

March 9, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church
41 N. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn

Also via Zoom.
See page 4 for details.

She knew the area well and told us just where to go to find the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers; in fact, she said we were at the perfect time (near sunset) to see them. She directed us to go down a dirt road, take the first left and then look for



trees with white rings painted around them. We easily found the area and within 15 minutes a group of three Red-cockaded Woodpeckers arrived! Lifer high-fives were exchanged, thanks to a friendly fellow birder.

Later in our trip, we saw an eBird Alert reporting Burrowing Owls at the Miami Executive Airport. We've seen Burrowing Owls in Aruba but not in the U.S. so we made plans to search for them, which was easier said than done. Even though it was an "executive" airport, it was huge – over 3200 acres of property to scan. We read that the owls' underground burrows were marked with orange cones so we slowly drove down a busy street that bordered the airport and saw some cones, but it was impossible to stop in the heavy traffic to actually look for an owl. There was a pull-off at the end of the airport property so we parked the car and walked along a canal that bordered the airport's fence line, and it was there that we bumped into a fellow birder. He told us that the Burrowing Owls could be found inside of the airport property right off the main entrance road. He gave us a phone number to call to alert security that we would be coming in (they told us we were welcome as long as we didn't photograph the planes). Again, thanks to a friendly birder we saw our target bird.



Next time you're far from home looking for new birds just go up to a fellow birder (they're the ones with binoculars around their necks) and say, "Hi. Seen anything good around?" I bet they'd be happy to help you find that target bird you're searching for. I like to think DBC members are just as friendly and helpful as those two strangers were.

When you're out on the trail in search of birds and you come upon a birder you don't know, pause and say, "Hi." Ask them if they've seen any interesting birds and share any you've recently seen with them. Tell them you belong to the DuPage Birding Club and that the organization has field trips open to everyone and that they can find out more on our website Dupagebirding.org. After they move on, hopefully they'll be thinking, "DuPage Birding Club members are the nicest people!"

Mike Warner



In Case You Missed It: The January Meeting—"20 Years of 'Words on Birds'"

Jeff Reiter, columnist for the Daily Herald, presented "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.

Click here for a replay of Jeff's talk: <https://youtu.be/ne3h0YQqbSc>

Members' Night Call for Presenters: Show Us What You've Seen!

The DuPage Birding Club's annual Members' Night will be held Thursday, March 9, in person and via Zoom. All DuPage Birding Club photographers are invited to share their favorite bird photos and stories with fellow members. The photos can be from any birding location—and all levels of photographic expertise will be enjoyed by club members.

Each presentation is limited to 10 minutes, so please be very selective and limit yourself to 10 to 15 images to share. We will only have time to show approximately 10 presentations. To make sure the evening goes smoothly, we ask that presenters adhere to the steps below. If you have never presented live or on Zoom, don't let that stop you! It is actually pretty easy and we can help you through it.

STEP 1

Submissions will be accepted starting on February 11th.

Coordinate submission with Robert Perez by email at robertperez787@gmail.com. Please include the Presenter's Name, Presentation Title, Number of pictures or slides (not including titles and separators), and a few words describing your presentation.

STEP 2

After approval from Robert, **put your pictures in a slide show format.** It can be any slide show format you choose: Google Slides, Keynote, PowerPoint, etc. For those presenting via Zoom, you'll be using your own computer. For people presenting live, you'll be using the host's computer. Practice and time your presentation--remember you are limited to 10 minutes!

STEP 3

Presenters will be invited to a session the first week of March (on a date we can all agree on), where we will do a quick practice run via Zoom. If you are confident and comfortable doing a Zoom presentation, you can skip this. If you are new to presenting on Zoom, you will have a chance to practice sharing your screen and presenting.

Please email Robert at robertperez787@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Thank you and see you March 9!



2022 Members' Night: Blue Pitta by Sirimon Reutrakul



2022 Members' Night: Prothonotary Warblers by Bonnie Graham

Members' Night is Live and Via Zoom

Members' Night March 9 will be live and via Zoom. If you're planning to attend live, doors open at Faith Lutheran Church just before 7:00 p.m. If you're planning to attend via Zoom, you must preregister here:

When: Mar 9, 2023 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pcuiqjkiHNe-eqxwqbkIB11hPyarc9Qj>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

eBirding with the DBC

DBC's [eBird account](#) was set up on Valentine's Day, 2007, and has since recorded 287 species on 840 checklists from Illinois and surrounding states: Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota. In our state, Club members have registered 273 species from many counties, including all the northernmost counties, down to mid-state counties Mason and Tazewell. For DuPage, our all-time numbers are 242 species on 511 lists.

Our eBird account is a great way to get our Club name out there and to share DBC Big Days and other Club events. Last year, we had a bit of a renaissance after a few years of lull—70 submitted lists testify to 195 species in Illinois, including 175 species on 55 lists for DuPage. One highlight: June's Big Fun Morning added up to an amazing 105 summer birds in DuPage County.

An [October day](#) at the Greene Valley Hawkwatch garnered an impressive array, including 87 Turkey Vultures, good numbers of Chimney Swifts, Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Bald Eagles, and Red-tails, plus a Rough-legged Hawk, Kestrel, and a couple of Merlins. A Pileated Woodpecker also made an appearance, plus a "leftover" Palm Warbler and Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

So far, we're off to a good start for 2023, with 39 species spotted in just a few lists. Field trip leaders, please continue to share with our account: [dupagebc](#). And if a bunch of you *Drummings* readers out there get together and bird somewhere interesting, share that list too!

Seriously Your Last Chance for Dues Renewal

This is truly the last call for our annual membership dues, which were due December 31. WE WILL NOT ASK YOU AGAIN!

Members who have not renewed by February 28 will be removed from the 2023 Member Directory and will not receive DBC communications, including the *Drummings*. Don't be left out! These funds support our operations and a broad range of activities, including our meetings and speakers, social events like our Birder's Breakfast, a grants and donation program for bird-related initiatives, our field trips, maintaining our extensive website, our monthly newsletters, and community outreach programs. Annual dues remain \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$10 for students.

Please note that any new member joining on or after September 1st of last year is automatically a member for 2023 with no renewal needed.

Your dues may 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.

Great Backyard Bird Count is February 17-20, 2023

Join thousands of others across the globe in the Great Backyard Bird Count, which invites participants to record the birds they see and hear during a minimum 15-minute period at least once during the four days of February 17-20. Sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this annual event helps scientists understand bird populations before the semiannual migration season gets in full swing. For us here in wintry Chicago, it's a good reason to get out and explore our winter landscape. Full details are at www.birdcount.org

Visit the DBC at Wild Things February 25

The DuPage Birding Club will be sponsoring an exhibit February 25 at 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. If you'd like to volunteer for staffing our exhibit for an hour, contact Natalie McFaul, Corresponding Secretary, at natcatcher7@gmail.com. We could use your help!

Tickets range \$40-50. Learn more at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wild-things-2023-registration-457050730037>

Decoy Sales Fund a Wetlands Initiative Project

The DBC donated \$2,000 to fund a restoration project managed by The Wetlands Initiative (TWI) from proceeds derived from the sale of the beautiful collection of decoys the family of longtime DuPage birder Craig Holderness donated to the Club in his memory.

The donation will support the second year of habitat restoration at Violet Meadow, so named for the four native violet species that thrive there. Violet Meadow is part of TWI's internationally recognized restoration site, the Sue and Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge in north-central Illinois. This project focuses on restoring high-quality habitats across 292 acres in the Refuge's northeastern corner, benefiting waterfowl, marsh and grassland birds, and other wildlife while also opening this special area to the public through a low-impact hiking trail. Our grant will help leverage a federal award by providing crucial private match.

Welcome to New Members!

Dee Adams	Westmont
Dan and Sandra Bretz	Aurora
Mark Camp	Darien
Gita and Rajam Krishnaswamy	Glen Ellyn
William Pixler	Downers Grove
Acile Said	Oak Forest

2022 Treasurer's Report

Every year we publish an annual accounting of the Club's finances, which you will find below, thanks to Treasurer Jane Barnett.

DuPage Birding Club 2022 Treasurer's Report

INCOME	
Dues	\$7,370
Decoy Sale Proceeds	\$3,372
Donations Received	\$412
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$11,154</u>

EXPENSE	
Donations Out	\$4,953
Grants	\$1,000
Insurance	\$978
Meeting Room Rent	\$500
Zoom	\$205
Speakers	\$1,365
Website	\$677
PayPal	\$348
Member Hospitality Events	\$1,204
Outreach Materials	\$228
PO Box	\$156
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$11,614</u>

NET 2022 OPERATIONS **(\$460)**

TOTAL ASSETS AS OF JAN 1, 2022	\$11,178
Net from 2022 Operations	(\$460)
Book Adjustment for rounding numbers	\$3

**TOTAL ASSETS AS OF DEC
31, 2022** **\$10,721**

2022 Grants and Donations Set New Record

Yes, you read that right—in 2022 DuPage Birding Club gave almost \$6,000 in support of regional bird conservation efforts. That sets a new record for the Club’s generosity and puts your dues, the decoy sales revenue, and other donations to the Club to good use. Here’s where the money went:

Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance	Eagle Viewing Scope
Bird Conservation Network	Annual membership dues
American Bird Conservancy	Annual membership at Tanager level
Friends of the Forest Preserve of DuPage	Native shrubs and trees for McKee Marsh restoration
Willowbrook Wildlife Center	Sponsorship of Red-shouldered Hawk and Turkey Vulture
Illinois Ornithological Society	Table at Gull Frolic
The Wetlands Initiative	Violet Meadow restoration

DuPage Birding Club’s Winter ’23 Photo Contest Wants Your Photos!

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.

Birders, Spies, and Agent 007...What Do Chicago Birders Have in Common with James Bond?

By Peter Quagliana, friend of the DBC and a Chicagoland birder.

Who would have guessed that ornithologists and Chicago's Field Museum might be linked to spies, James Bond, and Ian Fleming?

James Bond Times Two

The evidence is contained in Jim Wright's 2020 book, *The Real James Bond*, subtitled "a true story of identity theft, avian intrigue & Ian Fleming." It's a great read and filled with many interesting photos and illustrations. Plus some intriguing links to Chicago. Here's the story.

Ian Fleming, author of the famous James Bond/007 novels which spawned the blockbuster movie series, was a spy for British

Intelligence during and after World War II. (Fleming the spy appears in the recent Netflix movie, "Operation Mincemeat," tricking the German Army into defending Greece while the Allies invaded Sicily.) Fleming was also an avid birder who wintered at Goldeneye, his home in Jamaica, and did much of his writing there. (The Red-billed Streamertail, a favorite hummingbird of Fleming's, is part of the logo for the Fleming website,

<https://www.ianfleming.com/>)

The link between ornithology and 007? When Fleming was casting around for a name for the hero of his first spy novel, *Casino Royale* (1953), he looked to the shelves of his library and found inspiration from his local field guide, the classic *Birds of the West Indies*. The author was an eminent ornithologist from Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences...James Bond. And so Fleming transformed James Bond, ornithologist, into Bond...James Bond, on her majesty's secret service.

A farfetched legend? Not at all. Ornithologist James Bond did meet Ian Fleming after Bond the spy had become famous, dropping in unexpectedly at the Goldeneye compound in 1964. After being reassured that Bond wasn't threatening a libel suit, Fleming presented the ornithologist with a copy of his recently published bestseller, *You Only Live Twice*, with the inscription, "To the *real* James Bond from the thief of his identity, Ian Fleming, February 5, 1964 (a great day)!"

As a further homage to the *real* James Bond, in the Bond movie – "Die Another Day" – Pierce Brosnan's 007 posed as an ornithologist in Cuba and carried a copy of *Birds of the West Indies*.

Birders as Spies

As promised, there's a Chicago connection here also. But first we need to look at the link between spies and ornithologists...and it's a solid one.

It might surprise you to learn that ornithologists and birders have been some of the most successful members of the intelligence community in modern history. Both Britain and the United States extensively recruited researchers with foreign expedition experience into roles in the intelligence field. Helen Macdonald, author of *H is for Hawk*, described the dovetailing of bird science and espionage: "Birdwatcher is old intelligence slang



Peter Quagliana

for spy... You have the same skills, the ability to identify, recognize, be unobtrusive, invisible, hide. You pay careful attention to your surroundings. You never feel part of the crowd.”

Well-educated scientists such as ornithologists who had done field work in foreign countries had language fluency and familiarity with local customs, culture, government, and geography in their skill set. And those skills easily transferred over to their roles as intelligence operatives.

Wright’s book suggests that hundreds of birder/spies likely existed going back to before the turn of the 20th century, and he devotes a whole chapter entitled “Twitchers and Spooks” to the topic. Among those receiving extended profiles are two with Chicago connections, W. Rudyerd “Rud” Boulton and Emmet Reid “Bob” Blake.

Rud Boulton, Ornithologist and Spy

Rud Boulton was born in 1901, became a member of the American Ornithological Union in his teens, and attended Amherst and the University of Pittsburgh. Immediately after college he became a research associate with the ornithology departments of the American Museum of Natural History and later the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. His work took him on numerous African expeditions to Angola, Uganda, Kenya, and Malawi.

Rud was a well-regarded ornithologist and came to work for the Field Museum in Chicago from 1931 to 1946, primarily as the Field’s curator of birds. While curator he took part in several expeditions returning to Africa and also traveling to Panama, the West Indies, and the Galapagos Islands. He identified and named a new warbler species, Laura’s Woodland Warbler, after his wife. In addition to building The Field Museum’s collections, Boulton was instrumental in developing the museum’s hall of birds display. And he even wrote a children’s book on bird migration, *Traveling with Birds*.

In 1942, with the outbreak of war, the U. S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) recruited Rud to work as head of its Secret Intelligence unit’s Africa department. One of his most important projects involved the then Belgian Congo.

In 1939, Albert Einstein had written President Franklin D. Roosevelt, warning him of the importance of uranium from Africa in Nazi Germany’s efforts to develop an atomic bomb. The Congo’s Shinkolobwe mine became a critical resource for the U.S.’s Manhattan Project, and Boulton’s role was to ensure the safety of the supply of that material and avoid any diversion of uranium to Axis countries. Jim Chapin, who worked for Boulton on this uranium assignment, was also a prominent ornithologist before signing on with the OSS. As far as is known no uranium reached Germany from this mine.

Another important assignment which Boulton oversaw for the OSS in Africa was preventing the diversion of industrial diamonds to Axis countries from mines in Angola.

Boulton resigned from the Field Museum in 1946 to continue his work in the intelligence community though he did participate in later field expeditions to Africa as a research associate. He retired from the CIA in 1958.

In retirement, Boulton and his wife moved to Rhodesia and established the Atlantica Foundation, a philanthropic organization funded primarily by the couple’s personal wealth and the sale of portions of their art collection which included works by artists such as Picasso, Klee, Kandinsky, and Chagall.

The Atlantica Foundation’s mission was to support education, humanities, science, and the arts in Rhodesia. Its activities included providing books and a library for local schools and universities, supporting students and visiting researchers, performing scientific research, and establishing educational programs. Through the

Foundation, Rud equipped himself with a mobile research vehicle, a large parabolic recording device, and map-making equipment.

The question of whether Boulton worked on CIA assignments after his official retirement is an open one. Some of the funding for the Foundation's activities (e.g., its Books for Africa program) received financial support funneled from the CIA. And, of course, the type of equipment he was using on his expeditionary forays during this period would lend itself to both intelligence as well as scientific information gathering. But there's no direct evidence of any intelligence work during this time, and Boulton was always adamantly tight-lipped about his CIA activities.

Despite the increasing racial tensions and anti-colonialism atmosphere of the time, Rud Boulton chose to remain in Rhodesia after his wife died in 1974 and lived there until his own death in 1983.

Bob Blake, Ornithologist, Adventurer and Spy

Emmet Reid "Bob" Blake (aka, Snakey) was another Field Museum scientist who served in the U.S. military's intelligence operations during World War II.

Blake was born in South Carolina in 1908 and developed a fascination with birds and nature, often carrying reptiles in his pockets, a habit which earned him the boyhood nickname of "Snakey." He wanted to be an explorer, explaining to his mother "I love travel, excitement, outdoor life, and the beauties of nature."

Pursuit of those dreams led Blake to grad studies in zoology at the University of Pittsburgh, and a spot on a yearlong National Geographic-sponsored field trip led by Ernest Holt to the previously unexplored Brazil-Venezuela border along the Rio Negro. Later he participated in expeditions to Honduras for the Carnegie Museum and to Venezuela for the Field Museum. He joined the Field Museum on a full-time basis in 1935, and with the outbreak of war joined the army in 1942.

Although he started out as a stretcher bearer, an intelligence officer soon recognized the value of his education, language fluency, and foreign expedition experiences, and he was transferred to military intelligence assignments in Africa and in Europe. His activities included ferreting out German spies who had infiltrated U.S. armed forces as well as commandeering Gestapo-held gold bullion while in Bavaria. He received the Bronze Star for "heroism and meritorious service" while apprehending four SS men in Wuerzburg, which resulted in the gathering of valuable counterintelligence information.

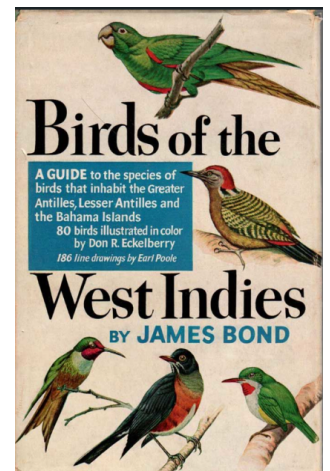
Unlike Boulton, Blake returned to the Field after the war, participating in many treks to Central and South America. In 1953 he published *Birds of Mexico*, which remained the standard field guide to the area through seven publication runs. Blake retired in 1995 after more than 60 years with the museum and died in 1997.

One Last Discovery...*Birds of the West Indies* in Chicago

If you have any doubt that there's a real link between James Bond and Chicago you need look no further than the Chicago Public Library (CPL).

After I read Wright's book, I thought it would be interesting to explore James Bond's *Birds of the West Indies* since this work had been the bible for birders visiting the region for over seven decades. When I looked online, CPL not only had a copy, but one volume appeared to be a first edition published in 1936. On opening that guide I was shocked to see that the inside cover contained a bookplate illustrated with a map of southern Africa, a wattled crane, and the inscription:

"Ex Libris RUDYERD BOULTON"



Apparently, CPL's copy of the field guide had been in Rud Boulton's personal library! He likely would have used this same volume when prepping for an expedition to the West Indies, studying the knowledge compiled by James Bond...the ornithologist.

So, the next time you're explaining the lure of your birding avocation to a non-birder, maybe you'll want to slip in a reference to the link between the adventures of birding and the excitement of being a spy!

Other Related Links and References

More information about **Rudyerd Boulton** is available in Jim Wright's book: *The Real James Bond*, and from --the Field Museum's website:

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/science/research/area/birds/birds-history>

--Boulton's obituary in *The Auk*: <https://academic.oup.com/auk/article/103/2/420/5191369?login=false>

--much more information about Boulton's role in the Congo during WWII: *Spies in the Congo, America's Atomic Mission in World War II*, by Susan Williams

--an interesting in-depth article investigating whether Boulton was a spy during his time in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe: "Marriage, Science, and Secret Intelligence in the Life of Rudyerd Boulton (1901–1983): An American in Africa": https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317449475_Marriage_Science_and_Secret_Intelligence_in_the_life_of_Rudyerd_Boulton_1901-1983_An_American_in_Africa/fulltext/609d96cda6fdcccac516bd8/Marriage-Science-and-Secret-Intelligence-in-the-life-of-Rudyerd-Boulton-1901-1983-An-American-in-Africa.pdf?origin=publication_detail

You can learn more about **Bob Blake** both in his profile in Wright's book as well as in this obituary which was published in *The Auk* in 1999: <https://sora.unm.edu/sites/default/files/journals/auk/v116n02/p0536-p0538.pdf>. Another option for more info on Blake is this article from a Field Museum publication written around the time of the publication of *Birds of Mexico*: <https://archive.org/details/bulletin24chic/page/n27/mode/2up?view=theater>

For more about **James Bond**: *The Real James Bond, A True Story of Identity Theft, Avian Intrigue & Ian Fleming*, by Jim Wright (2020), Schiffer Publishing; an excellent summary of the book is contained in Julia Zarankin's review on the ABA website: [Ode to an Unsung Ornithological Hero](#)

Jim Wright's website: <https://www.realjamesbond.net/>

For more info on the James Bond ornithologist/spy connection, an article Jim Wright wrote for Smithsonian Magazine: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/who-was-the-real-james-bond-180978746/>

Where it all began: *Birds of the West Indies*, by James Bond (1936), The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia

...and if you really are intrigued by this intersection of ornithologists and spies: *The Bird Skinner*, by Alice Greenway, a novel in which the main character is an ornithologist who spied on the Japanese during WWII in the south Pacific...inspired by the author's grandfather, James Greenway, who was an eminent ornithologist and WWII spy! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Greenway

February 2023 Field Trips

This month is the time to see winter birds, especially waterfowl, raptors and owls, and many other species are only seen this time of year.

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 <https://dupagebirding.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>

NOTE: All last-minute changes are posted on <https://dupagebirding.org/events/category/trips/>

Friday, February 3, 7:30 am – 9:30 am

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Registration not required

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us to check out winter birds. Most of our walk will be on preserve limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd., located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville.

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

Tuesday, February 7, 8:00 am

Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Woodridge/Naperville

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

This morning trip will be oriented toward winter birds, sparrows, finches, raptors. 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. Please dress for the weather. Meet at the Thunderbird Youth Camp Parking Lot. Go west on 79th about 1/2 mile, the entrance is on the south side of 79th Street, west of Greene Road in Naperville/ Woodridge.

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

Saturday, February 11, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Knoch Knolls Park, Naperville

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

A winter afternoon walk to the DuPage River confluence, where the east and west branches meet. We'll look for birds in the woods, fields, and on the water. New birders welcome. Trails are basically level and are grass/dirt, with some paved. Meet at the parking lot on 336 Knoch Knolls Rd., Naperville. [Google Maps link](#).

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

The Great Backyard Bird Count (February 17-20) is an opportunity to contribute from the comfort of your own home. Check out their website at: www.birdcount.org

Sunday, February 26, 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Centennial Trail, Lemont

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 12 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 Redhead, along with many others are all possible. We will also be on the lookout for songbirds on the wooded side of the trail.

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

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: 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