



President's Message

Greetings, Fellow DBCers!

I HATE February. I really do. I don't care how many days there are (who came up with that "28 or 29" day idea anyway?). February always seems like the longest month of the year. Earlier this February we went to Iceland just to get out of Chicagoland. It was warmer there; we got 5 Lifers there; and no, we didn't see the Northern Lights.

In no small part I hate February because the birding is sooooo sloooow! Some days it's hard to get out (too cold, too snowy, too much "I don't want to leave the house"), so we bird the backyard—and get the same 11 species every time (Whoa! Canada Geese flying over for 12 species!). I was so bored this February I started to invent ways to make backyard birding more interesting. Here are some examples you can use next February:

- Who can count the most Cardinals in one minute? (Karen won with 19.)
- How many House Sparrows can fit in a heated birdbath at one time? (Our record was 18.)
- How long does it take for a Blue Jay to show up after putting peanuts in the feeder? (38 seconds.)
- Research why many Red-winged Blackbirds are showing up at our feeders in February.
- Give each of the White-breasted Nuthatches a name and make up stories about them.
- Try to make a male House Finch into a male Purple Finch by staring at it for a long time.
- Be the first to spot the Fox Sparrow among all the Tree Sparrows under the thistle feeder.

You get the idea—February birding can be boring. But wait! There's March!

Do you recall Richard Hoeg's presentation about Sax-Zim Bog? He said in his blog recently he's seen "hundreds" of Snow Buntings migrating through the Duluth area on their way back north! Migration has begun; I am so glad it's March now! Some of the species coming

Next Meeting

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

Faith Lutheran Church
41 N. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn

Also via Zoom.
See page 2 for details

Save the Date!

May 6, 2023
Spring Bird Count

our way include Northern Flicker, Green-winged Teal, Brown Creeper, Song Sparrow, Common Grackle, Eastern Towhee, Brown-headed Cowbird, Sandhill Crane and more! In fact, according to my eBird stats, over the years I've seen 101 species in Illinois during March.

So how do you find all of the birds coming our way? Well, it just so happens that the DuPage Birding Club has 14 Field Trips scheduled in March—from Elsen's Hill, to Palos, to the Mississippi River. Many thanks to our Field Trip Coordinators Karen Warner and Wally Levernier for arranging 100+ field trips every year! Sign up for them now because I bet lots of other birders were bored in February and are going to sign up for these trips fast. See elsewhere in this issue of Drumblings or the website for the list and registration information. See you out there!

Mike Warner, President

PS. If you'd like to do a little armchair traveling and see Mike and Karen's Iceland Travelogue, click here: [Mike and Karen's Iceland Travelogue](#).

Members' Night Coming Up March 9

The DuPage Birding Club's annual Members' Night will be held Thursday, March 9, in person and via Zoom. DuPage Birding Club photographers will share their favorite bird photos and stories with fellow members.

Don't miss an exciting lineup of pictures and stories from Costa Rica, Antarctica, Europe, DuPage County, and more! If you've been cooped up inside lately, you won't want to miss hearing about these birds from around the world.



The in-person meeting will take place at Faith Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn. For those of you wanting to watch the meeting via Zoom, click [here](#) to register for the meeting. Upon registration, you'll receive a confirmation and link to the meeting.

Green-crowned Brilliant in Costa Rica

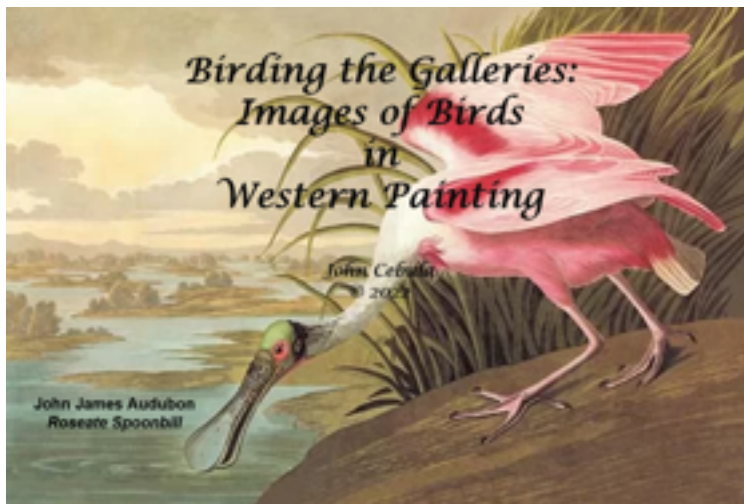
Outreach Corner

DBC Outreach is off to a great start this year!

In early January, we celebrated National Bird Day with kids at Aurora Public Library, learning how to bird-by-eye and bird-by-ear. We arranged for bird feeders to be donated to the library's Children's Garden from Wild Birds Unlimited, Lisle, so the kids could enjoy birds all year round.



Bird feeders donated to Aurora Public Library's Children's Garden



In early February, John Cebula's Woodridge Library presentation, *Birding the Galleries, Images of Birds in Western Paintings*, was spectacular! 100 people registered for the event! John has become quite a celebrity at Woodridge; he has given several presentations for the library. The presentation was recorded and is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNkEmT0wglc>

We would love to have more volunteers for our monthly bird counts with the students at Prairie School of DuPage: <https://prairieschoolofdupage.org/>. Through all four seasons, Prairie School students begin every day with outdoor observations on their campus: an expansive 42 acres of open fields, woods, and water in downtown Wheaton. They conduct a bird count on the third Wednesday of each month.

The next bird count is **Wednesday, March 15, from 8:00 am - 9:00 am**. They have a wonderful tradition: the day the first spring migrant is sighted, all classes are canceled, and they go birding in a nearby park. Perhaps you can help the students spot their first migrant this year!

Next month in Outreach Corner, we'll discuss the outreach activities scheduled for 2023. Until then, if you have any outreach questions or ideas or would like to join us at our next meeting (the first Monday of every month), please contact me, Donna Kubik at: donnakubik@gmail.com.

Save the Date: Spring Bird Count is Saturday, May 6, 2023

The annual Spring Bird Count in Illinois will be held on Saturday, May 6, this year. The event is held throughout Illinois, and the DuPage Birding Club organizes the count for DuPage County. Birders will spread out throughout DuPage County to identify and count all birds seen or heard on May 6. We usually tally well over 150 species throughout the county on the Spring Bird Count.

More information about the count will be forthcoming in the April Drummings and on the DBC website. Joe Suchecki will again serve as the County Compiler. So circle May 6 on your birding calendars and hold the date open for this fun birding day.

The DBC is for the Birds at Wild Things

On February 25, 2,000+ nature enthusiasts spent a day attending sessions, visiting exhibits, and networking with like-minded others at Wild Things, sponsored by Chicago Wilderness.

DuPage Birding Club sponsored an exhibit and shared information about birds and birding in DuPage County. Our new exhibit backdrop was a show-stopper, according to Corresponding Secretary Natalie McFaul, and garnered many compliments. Thanks go to Diann Bilderback and Mike Warner for the new exhibit and to our booth staff who worked hard to tell the DBC story. They included Natalie McFaul, Angela Levernier, Jane Barnett, Joe Suchecki, and John & Kathy Hebert.



Also at Wild Things, DBC members Bob Fisher and Eric Secker presented a session titled *The Chicago Region: A Critical Migratory Bird Corridor*. This session was presented by the Bird Conservation Network (BCN) of which DBC is a member, and attended by 120 people. Later in the day, Eric presented a second session on behalf of BCN titled *Protecting Our Stronghold for Birds: Management Priorities in the Chicago Region*.

We made a strong showing for the birds, that's for sure!

The DBC on Instagram

Are you looking for another way to stay in touch with breaking news from the DBC and the birding community at large? If so, check out DBC's newest social channel on Instagram. Visit the site at <https://www.instagram.com/dupagebirdingclub/> and add yourself as a follower to stay abreast of news. The Insta team of Keri Myslinski and Maddie Olivieri are posting pics from recent DBC events and following 190 birding and conservation influencers, including individuals and organizations. DBC photographers are invited to share their pics to our Instagram site too!

Updates from the DuPage County Forest Preserve

Blanding's Turtle Population: A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is being developed between the [Phillips Park Zoo](#) in Aurora and the District. This MOU will establish the Phillips Park Zoo as a partner in the [Blanding's Turtle Recovery](#) Program. The zoo will assist the district in its effort to raise hatchlings to a larger size suitable for release back into DuPage Forest Preserves or other appropriate habitats.

Springbrook Prairie: A quarter-mile long regional connection between Brighton Ridge homes and the Songbird Trail will be built this year. It is partially funded by a bicycle riders grant. A \$135,000 bid was accepted, and construction will begin early spring 2023 and end by summer 2023.

Interactive Map: District staff are creating an interactive map to be posted on the new district website to be up and running later in March. It should help the public find information in several different ways of searching including:

- **Find a preserve** where maps, trails, parking, and amenities are displayed. All points are live links to be clicked on and share further details.
- **Trail names** are another way to use the app. Attributes such as their surfacing, how they are groomed, and who their uses are planned for is an example of the information available.
- **Find a preserve near me** also leads to the district information for that location. A circle with a circumference of the user's choice can be drawn for a specific distance in miles to see the local preserves. There are plenty of live links to check out the many features of the preserves.
- **Help section** has a video on how to utilize this application.

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage: The friends recently authorized the appointment of DBC member **Joe Suchecki** to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Board of Directors. Congratulations, Joe!

The Friends also appointed David Stang and Mike Dyer to the Board of Directors and reappointed Ashley Guest.

Welcome, New Members!

Dave and Christine Alexander
Emil Baumbach
Adam Bitner
Ron Doerfler

Lemont
Oak Park
Downers Grove
Schaumburg

Len Edgin
Larry Larson
Vince Moxon
Mary Stolz

Lombard
Naperville
Wheaton
Naperville

March 2023 Field Trips

These early spring field trips target migrating waterfowl, raptors, passerines, and shorebirds plus some returning breeders. This month in addition to local trips we have two weekend day trips to some unique birding sites in Illinois.

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/>

Saturday, March 11th, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Elsen's Hill/West DuPage Woods, Winfield

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 20 participants.

New birders welcome! This trip will focus on resident birds and early migrants, as well as waterfowl. Bring appropriate footwear, as trails could be muddy or flooded. Take Winfield Road to Gary's Mill Road west to the preserve parking lot entrance on the north side of the road.

Leader: Robert Perez, 630-724-7534, robertperez787@gmail.com

Sunday, March 12, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Centennial Trail, Lemont

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

On this field trip our main targets will be early returning spring migrants. Northern Shovelers and Redheads, along with a large array of waterfowl are all possible. We will also be on the lookout for songbirds such as Rusty Blackbirds, Eastern Towhees, and many more, on the wooded side of the trail. 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.

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

Wednesday, March 15, 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The DuPage Greenway Trail, Bolingbrook

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

We'll explore riverside habitat looking for resident birds and early spring migrants. New birders welcome. The DuPage Greenway Trail is a paved trail in Bolingbrook that runs alongside the East Branch of the DuPage River. The trailhead is on Royce Rd just west of Rt. 53. It is about a mile and a half walk to Whalon Lake.

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

Friday, March 17, 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Seager Park, Naperville

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

New birders welcome! We'll be looking for some of our "basic" resident birds (and hopefully a few spring surprises) in this 30-acre patch of woods, ephemeral wetland, and grass, with lots of edge habitat. Trails are a mix and we have an option to descend into the beautiful ravine down a somewhat steep slope. Meet at Seager Park at 1163 Plank Road, Naperville 60563. Google Maps link [here](#).

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

Sunday, March 19, 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Seager Park, Naperville

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

New birders welcome! We'll be looking for some of our "basic" resident birds (and hopefully a few spring surprises) in this 30-acre patch of woods, ephemeral wetland, and grass, with lots of edge habitat. Trails are a mix and we have an option to descend into the beautiful ravine down a somewhat steep slope. Meet at Seager Park at 1163 Plank Road, Naperville 60563. Google Maps link [here](#).

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

Sunday, March 19, Time to be announced at registration.

Mississippi River - Waterfowl Trip

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

Waterfowl, cranes, eagles, and pelicans will be sought on this all-day trip exploring spots along the Mississippi, both in Illinois and Iowa. In addition to the river, Lost Mound will be visited to search for Western Meadowlark and Northern Mockingbird. Please contact the leader for meeting time and location. We will caravan from the western suburbs.

Leader: Jeff Chapman, jeffchapman948@gmail.com

Monday, March 20 - 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Blackwell Forest Preserve, Warrenville

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

We will look for the possible ducks and land birds, some early migrants and the variety of year round birds. Meet at Blackwell off of Butterfield Road, drive to the back parking lot by the campground and a picnic shelter. Plan to walk a couple miles at this location. Some trails may be muddy so wear appropriate shoes or boots.

Leader: Nancy Allured, nallured@comcast.net

Tuesday, March 21, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Bird Sit at Whalon Lake Preserve, Royce Road, Naperville

Pre-registration with the leader required, limit 10

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

Whalon Lake Preserve is located on Royce Rd. west of Route 53/Bolingbrook Drive in Naperville. (It is across the street from Lissen Rd.) Drive all the way to the boat landing. We will meet there. Dress much warmer than you think necessary, as it is harder to stay warm while sitting, especially if the weather is chilly. [Whalon Lake Preserve](#)

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.

Woodcocks, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Woodridge

Greene Valley Forest Preserve is known for its Woodcock displays, which begin shortly after sunset. Join us this spring on one of our walks. Meet at the west entrance parking lot: west on 79th St. from Greene Rd, then Thunderbird Rd. south, approx. 1/2 mile to the campground entrance. The walk will NOT be canceled due to weather.

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

Friday, March 24, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

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

Join another morning walk to the marsh to check out early migrating birds. We hope to see migrant waterfowl. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd., located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville. Most of our walk will be on limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and warm clothing.

Leaders: Steve and Kathy Mineck, 630-254-4077 (day of), kmineck@yahoo.com

Saturday, March 25, 8:00 a.m. – noon

Palos Area-McGinnis Slough: Waterfowl and More

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

This location is an Audubon “Important Bird Area.” Loons, grebes, and other waterfowl are targeted on this trip. Meet at McGinnis Slough, on the west side of LaGrange Rd. (US45), approximately 1/2 mile south of 131st St. Finding waterfowl is associated with open water conditions. Bob will monitor conditions and may change the starting location in order to see more birds. This trip might extend past the noon hour. Wear appropriate clothing.

Leader: Bob Fisher, 630-985-2956, bfisher928@aol.com

Sunday, March 26, 8:00 a.m.

Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin & Hopper Lakes

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 20 participants

Meet at the Bolingbrook Park & Ride lot, 120 E. Old Chicago Drive, Bolingbrook, IL 60440 (Behind Ramada Inn) before 6:30 a.m. We can carpool from there or you can meet the group at the observation tower where we will start the trip by scanning for waterfowl. We will also scan from the boat launch lot before hiking the trails. Lunch will be on your own. Pack a sandwich if you plan to stay past noon. Leader will stay until 5:00 p.m. for those who want to “make a day of it.” Bring a scope if you have one. Bring plenty of water and snacks. More information: <http://www.wetlands-initiative.org/dixon-waterfowl-refuge-hh>

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

Wednesday, March 29, 8:00-10:30

Danada East/Rice Lake Forest Preserve

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

Danada is located at 3S507 Naperville Road, south of Butterfield Road and north of I-88 on the east side of Naperville Road. Meet in the parking lot by the horse corrals. We will walk the woods looking for passerines and scan the lake for waterfowl.

Leaders: Karen and Mike Warner, mwarner2543@gmail.com 630-640-2450

Friday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.

Woodcocks, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Woodridge

Greene Valley Forest Preserve is known for its Woodcock displays, which begin shortly after sunset. Join us this spring on one of our walks. Meet at the west entrance parking lot: west on 79th St. from Greene Rd, then Thunderbird Rd. south, approx. 1/2 mile to the campground entrance. The walk will NOT be canceled due to weather.

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