



President's Message

Greetings Fellow Birders!

I have had interesting conversations with two of our illustrious past presidents regarding the primary functions of the DuPage Birding Club. I expressed to them my belief that the DBC could be doing more to maintain and even expand good birding habitats here in DuPage County because if we don't have suitable habitats we won't have as many birds around to enjoy. It's not that my two predecessors disagreed with this, in fact they both work hard outside of DBC to support conservation efforts. However, they believe that the DBC was founded and has continued to operate all these years to help its members observe and appreciate birds, and that most of our efforts should be put forth to support birding activities like field trips. They point out there are other organizations here in DuPage (like the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County) that are dedicated to maintaining and expanding good habitats for birds.

In their support, the DBC bylaws do say, "The basic purpose of the club shall be to promote birding as an avocation..." but it goes on to state that "This purpose shall be served by ... projects designed to enhance opportunities for birding in the west suburban Chicago area" ([DBC Bylaws, Article 2](#)). The DBC board is currently reviewing our goals and it will be interesting to see if they would like to devote more of DBC's energies toward conservation.

Even if they don't, we all can do something at home to make our yards a better bird habitat. Here are some things you can do right now:

Plant Native Plants - Many of the shrubs in my backyard were originally non-native, like the Burning Bush. We added two native Serviceberry trees and an Arrowwood bush and the birds love them! You can search for native trees, shrubs, groundcover, vines, and perennials using the Morton Arboretum's website at [Search Trees and Plants](#). Be sure to click the [More Filters](#) button and select [Native Locale: Chicago Area](#) and/or [Illinois](#).

Next Meeting

May 11, 2023. 7:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church
41 N. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn

Also via Zoom.
See page 2 for details.

Pre-meeting Dinner
5:30 p.m.
See page 3.

Clean Your Feeders - A variety of bird diseases can be transmitted from bird to bird via feeders. The National Wildlife Health Center recommends cleaning out bird feeders and baths every two weeks with a 1:9 bleach to water solution.

Discourage Bird Strikes - It is estimated that there are 500 million birds killed in North America every year by window strikes. Turn off your outside lights during migration. Cover windows most prone to window strikes (the ones by feeders or bushes where birds perch) with stickers or netting.

Curbing Cats - It's estimated that cats kill 2.4 billion birds each year in the U.S. If you have an outdoor cat, put a bell on its collar, consider curbing its outdoor time, or making it a completely indoor cat. If you see an unknown cat hanging around your bird feeders, call DuPage County Animal Services at 630-407-2800.

Reduce Plastic Waste - Birds can ingest or get trapped in the plastic they encounter outside. Recycle your plastics and pick up plastic bags you find on the ground. Seek out products from companies that are trying to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic in their packaging.

We, the 383+ members of DuPage Birding Club, can support some of the habitats birds need to survive right in our own backyards. Then we can go out on one of the many DBC field trips and enjoy the beauty of the birds.

Mike Warner
President

P.S. - For more information on what you can do to help birds at home, check out these pages on Cornell's ([10 Ways to Help Birds](#)) and ABC's ([Bird-Friendly Life](#)) websites.

May Meeting: Prairie Ridge SNA and Greater Prairie-Chickens in Illinois

Did you know there is only one site in the state of Illinois that supports Greater Prairie-Chickens? Prairie Ridge SNA in Jasper County is a unique site that offers scientists and birders alike a chance to see this rare and endangered species.

For our May 11th meeting, IDNR Grassland Ecologist and Prairie Ridge SNA Site Manager Bob Gillespie will join us virtually to discuss the work being done at Prairie Ridge SNA, as well as an in-depth look at the history of Greater Prairie-Chickens and the ongoing conservation work to preserve this iconic grassland bird.

This meeting will be both in-person and on Zoom. To register for the meeting, click on the link [here](#). The in-person meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church (41 N Park Blvd, Glen Ellyn).

Although our speaker will be joining us via Zoom, we'd really like to see you in person! We will have a special DBC gift for all those who come to the in-person meeting. To further entice you, all are invited to a pre-meeting dinner at Ellyn's (940 Roosevelt Rd, Glen Ellyn) at 5:30 pm (attendees pay for their own meal).

Any questions, please reach out to Robert Perez at robertperez787@gmail.com.

Remember When?

Remember when we used to get together for dinner at Ellyn's before a club meeting? Remember when the doors at Faith Lutheran Church were open early so DBC members could meet and socialize? Remember when there was a table for New Members and there were treats for them? **Well we're bringing back those days! On May 11th (our next club meeting):**

- All DBC members are invited to join us for dinner at Ellyn's (940 Roosevelt Rd, Glen Ellyn) at 5:30 PM (attendees pay for their own meal).
- All DBC members are welcome to come to Faith Lutheran Church (41 N Park Blvd, Glen Ellyn) starting at 6:30 PM to meet old friends and make new ones.
- All attendees will be welcomed with some sweet treats and a special gift from DBC.
- Our meeting will begin at 7 PM.

We have missed these traditions over the past couple of years so we're bringing them back. Yes, it can be easy to watch a meeting using Zoom, but DBC is all about people and we want our members to have opportunities to get together again. Come join us!

In Case You Missed It: The Red-tailed Hawk in Illinois

The April meeting featured Illinois Wesleyan University's Steven Burkett and Dr. Given Harper presenting "Studies of the Red-tailed Hawk in Illinois." It was a great chance to learn more about this ubiquitous, and celebrated, high-flyer of our skies.

What is the size difference between male and female Red-tailed Hawks? Are our Red-tails migratory? What's the latest on distribution of this hawk's various subspecies? These and other interesting questions were answered as findings from two research studies were shared.



Photo by Mike Warner

The first study used equations to sex Red-tailed hawks via morphological measurements. During the study, 82 red-tailed hawks were live-trapped and sexed based on feather DNA samples. The other ongoing project determines if wintering Red-tailed Hawks in Illinois are year-round residents or if they are migratory as well as which subspecies are wintering where.

This research was funded by DBC in an IOS grant of \$1,000. View a video recording of the meeting here: <https://youtu.be/aakPZT-FTrk>.

Back by Popular Demand: Beginning Birder Course

DuPage Birding Club Members Only – Free Beginning Bird Watching Course with Denis Kania and Joe Suchecki

If you are a member of the DuPage Birding Club in good standing and are a beginning birder, we're offering you an opportunity to learn more about birds and increase your birding ID skills. As a service to its members, the Club is holding a second opportunity to take a free course for beginning birders taught by DuPage County birders Denis Kania and Joe Suchecki. The inaugural course offered last spring was a resounding success, receiving very positive feedback from those who took the course.

The Club-sponsored course will provide beginning birders with information, resources, and tips on how to become a better birder, find more birds, and hopefully increase the joys of birding for you. The class will cover topics such as:

- The basics about birds and identification
- Information on habitat and seasonal differences
- Selection and use of binoculars
- Tips on finding and identifying birds in the field
- Birding by ear
- Resources for birding
- Keeping track of your sightings and lists

The course will include three classroom sessions via Zoom and three field sessions at DuPage County birding locations. Denis and Joe will provide you much of the basic information on birds and birding in the classroom sessions and then reinforce those concepts and guide you through identifying birds during the field sessions. At the end of the course, you should have a good knowledge of the basics of birding and better skills that will allow you to more easily enjoy the great hobby of birding.

The Zoom classroom sessions will be held on May 31, June 7, and June 14 at 7:00 pm and will last about an hour. The field sessions will be held in the morning on Sunday June 4 and 18 and a third one in the early evening at a mutually agreeable date at a local DuPage County Forest Preserve, and will last about 3 hours. Field session locations will be announced during the preceding Zoom class.

Participation Is Limited

Enrollment is limited to 20 participants. The course is being offered as a benefit of your membership in the DuPage Birding Club, so you must be a current member of the Club to enroll in this free course.

Enroll by sending an email with your contact information to Joe Suchecki at DBCsec2020@gmail.com. In order to ensure a reasonable number of people on the field trips and to be able to give everyone some personal attention, enrollment is limited to the first 20 emails received. Deadline for enrolling is May 20.

Additional sessions of the course will be offered throughout the year if warranted by demand.

About Your Instructors

Denis Kania is a long-time member and past president of the DuPage Birding Club. He has been birding for over thirty years, has taught courses in birding at the Morton Arboretum and is the primary contributor to DBC's YouTube Education Channel videos. He regularly organizes and leads international birding trips. Joe Suchecki also has been an active member of the DuPage Birding Club for many years and is a veteran birder. He began his career as an ornithologist but is perhaps best known for his birding, conservation, and advocacy efforts locally at Springbrook Prairie in Naperville.

Refresh Your Warbler ID Skills on the DBC Education Channel

The DBC Education Channel library has multiple titles in its collection that can help you refresh your warbler identification skills just in time for the May 6 spring count and the busy migration season. Check it out!

Yellow Female Warblers – Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Yellow Warbler females can be somewhat difficult to tell apart. You'll find some useful tips in this tutorial.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpYh2FIdurY>

Thrushes - One tutorial will walk you through the finer points of visual identification and the other will help you to sort through the thrush vocalizations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIuC2VcGAi8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MX9Po8ZiWBM>

Connecticut Warbler vs. Mourning Warbler – With a bit of luck you will have an encounter with one of these skulking warbler species. Be ready to make a positive ID even if you only have a fleeting look. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tOnsZWWFX8>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tOnsZWWFX8

Vireos – Another group that can be a bit confusing both visually and by vocalization. Fortunately, there are two tutorials in our library that can answer many of your ID questions. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbQG9MzNhD8>

[v=NbQG9MzNhD8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbQG9MzNhD8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoznOErXUCU>

Spring Photo Contest Runs Through May

The DBC is looking for pictures of birds taken between March 1 and May 31, 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 predefined for award-winners so every entry has a chance to win! NOTE: The judges usually do not give out more than one award to the same author if they submit multiple images.

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 do not have a Google Account, email your image as an email 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 the July Drummings.

BCN Monitoring Team Needs YOU!

There's still time if you're considering joining the BCN Survey team. This important community science project relies on birders with at least three years of experience to record evidence of species presence during the June and early July breeding season in our natural lands.

DuPage's Forest Preserve has identified a number of sites where they would like to begin monitoring. Is one of these a favorite haunt? Why not spend a few hours this year surveying its breeding birds and add to two decades of data that is useful to land managers and researchers.

- Big Woods
- Dunham
- Fisher Woods
- Hawk Hollow
- McDowell Grove
- Pratts Wayne South
- Timber Ridge central route and north/south routes
- Wood Dale Grove
- Churchill Woods
- Herrick Lake North
- Waterfall Glen NE

Both Kane and Will County have lists of open preserves as well. Monitors new to the annual BCN Survey of breeding birds can sharpen their birding-by-ear skills and learn the ins and outs of being a monitor in a training tutorial offered twice this month. Led by Vicky Sroczynski, the tutorials will be offered on May 10 and May 17 via Zoom.

To learn more, register your interest at www.bcnbirds.org/monitoring.

Just Released: 2023 Member Directory

The 2023 Member Directory is now published and has been distributed with the May newsletter alert email. A big thank you goes to Susan Kaley for getting this done for the club. And thank you, DBC members for your loyalty, which supports our daily operations, speaker program, grants and donations, and more. You're helping us continue as a vibrant, member-centric club committed to providing quality birding experiences that help our members discover the joys of birding.

Outreach Corner

DBC Outreach continues to have a great year! In spite of inclement weather, April's Outreach events were delightful!

The scheduled bird walk for folks attending Garden Clubs of Illinois' convention in Naperville on April 16 was cancelled due to stormy weather. In lieu of that, we brought an *Introduction to Birding* and a presentation on *Bird Migration* to the hotel—migration was a perfect topic for the season! The presentation addressed the questions: “How do we know birds migrate?” and “How do birds find their way?”, both of which generated lots of lively discussion.

On Earth Day, we gave a talk at The Growing Place (Naperville) on *How to Attract Hummingbirds with Native Plants* and hosted a DBC information table. It was snowing, sleeting, and raining, so we set up our table and presentation in a greenhouse, which turned out to be a perfect, friendly setting. The Growing Place kindly provided native plants and their cultivated version (nativars) to accompany the presentation, which included information on bird pollinators of the world, contemporary research on the comparative value of native plants and nativars, and plants to attract hummingbirds. We distributed information on the importance of keeping your cat indoors and how to prevent window collisions, for if you are going to attract birds, you want to be sure you are offering a safe haven!



Jane Barnett, Jackie Tilles, and Ron Skleney (photographer) hosted a table at The Growing Place.



Donna Kubik gave a presentation on How to Attract Hummingbirds with Native Plants in the greenhouse at The Growing Place.

Upcoming Outreach Events in May

Spring Birding: Two Events on a Sunday Afternoon

Sponsored by Darien Garden Club and Indian Prairie Public Library

Sunday, May 7, 1:30-3:30

Meeting Location: Indian Prairie Public Library

Talk on Spring Birding

1:30-2:45

Presenter: John Cebula

<https://ippl.libcal.com/event/10075335>

*Spring Birding Experience *Volunteers Still Needed!**

1:30-3:30

Learn about binoculars and other “tools of the trade” from Darien Garden Club & DBC members <https://ippl.libcal.com/event/10075507>

Explore More Day

Sponsored by Winfield Primary School PTA

Friday, May 12, 9:30-3:30

Meeting Location: Winfield Primary School, 0S150 Winfield Rd

Explore More Day is a day-long, PTA-sponsored event where students are given the opportunity to participate in different activities and consider new ideas by attending five 45-minute classes for a day that are taught by parents and other community members. DBC will present a class on *Feathered Friends*.

Club outreach programs can be viewed on our website: <https://dupagebirding.org/outreach/>. Please consider joining us for any or all events. It would be especially helpful to have more club members help with the May 7 *Spring Birding Experience* at Indian Prairie Public Library (see above).

If you are interested in helping with any planned outreach events or have suggestions for new events, please email Donna Kubik at Donnakubik@gmail.com.

Welcome, New Members!

Donna Chambers	Geneva
Dotty and Jose Ferrer	Streamwood
Jon and Rita Mueller	Naperville
Bhavani Prabhakar	Naperville
Fallon McDowell and	
Alexander Mortimer	Villa Park

May 2023 Field Trips

May is peak time for migratory birds. These field trips are designed to cover areas where we hope to see migrating passerines (especially warblers), waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, and returning species; **Migration gives way to grassland birding.** We are offering many and a variety of field trips this month.

There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season. Participants, please remember that the weather can be variable and trails can be muddy, so dress accordingly, and bring protection for biting insects, including ticks.

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 www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips.

2023 Monitoring Season with BCN

Date: Applications accepted through May 30 for season beginning June 1 through July 15, 2023

Location: Sites across the six-county Chicago region

This year's Bird Conservation Network Survey season kicks off on June 1. Start your summer strong by joining a corps of birding enthusiasts who contribute a few hours of their time each breeding season to monitor our breeding birds. This important long-running community science project relies on experienced birders to record evidence of species presence during morning visits to a local natural area in June or early July. To learn more, visit www.bcnbirds.org/monitoring and sign up through the "Become a Monitor" form.

Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

This morning trip will focus on woodland migrants passing through our area. This is a popular migrant hotspot in both spring and fall. If birds are on the move, we will be in a great location to view them. Meet in the first parking lot after entering the preserve. The entrance is at the intersection of Raymond Dr. and McDowell Rd. where there is a stoplight.

Leader: Denis Kania, djkan36@gmail.com

Thursday, May 4, 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. + lunch

Waterfall Glen Sawmill Creek Area, Lemont

We'll walk at least 3 miles searching this watershed for all the spring migrants, summer breeding birds, and a couple resident specialties. PLEASE be prepared for rocky, root-filled trails along the creek, and hills throughout. Bring lunch so we can eat together in the picnic shelter afterwards. Park in the large new parking lot just southeast of the intersection of Cass and Bluff (enter from Bluff Rd. and listen for nesting Pine Warbler singing.) No RSVP needed, but text any questions.

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, 630-297-9512

Saturday, May 6

Spring Bird Count, DuPage County

A hundred or more birders will fan out across DuPage County to identify all the bird species they can find. A group of birders will be in the field somewhere near your home. Come join us; we need more birders to make it possible to cover as many locations within the county as we can. You don't have to be an expert birder to participate; all skill levels are welcome. Even if you can only bird for part of the day, we can use you. And if that's your preference, you'll probably be able to look for birds close to home, since we divide the county into 17 areas, with teams scouring each area. To volunteer or find out more information

Email Joe Suchecki at DuPagescb@gmail.com

Thursday, May 11, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

St. James Farm Forest Preserve, Warrenville

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

This morning's walk will take us through some prairie and woods. We'll be looking for resident birds as well as migratory birds. We'll be walking approximately 2 miles on mostly easy terrain. We will meet in the parking lot off on Winfield Rd, just north of Butterfield Rd.

Leader: Denis Kania, djkan36@gmail.com

Thursday, May 11, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

Meet at the Model Airplane Field Parking Lot on the west side of Plainfield-Naperville Road about 0.5 miles south of 75th Street. Field trip to look for marsh, grassland, and migrant birds in the various habitats at Springbrook Prairie. Wear footwear suitable to go off trail and bring insect repellent for ticks and mosquitos. Email the leader to reserve a spot on this field trip and be sure to receive a confirmation regarding your participation.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, dbcsec2020@gmail.com

Friday, May 12, 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Lambert Lake Nature Preserve, Glen Ellyn

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

This walk will be geared towards new birders, but any level of birder is invited. Lambert Lake is a hidden gem surrounded by shrubby woodland and a small lake to see an assortment of ducks and waders. Our walk will focus on migratory birds, including warblers, orioles, and vireos. A wood chip trail encircles the lake, but spots can be muddy. A few trails to the south can be a good spot for warblers. Those trails can also be muddy and some have an incline. Please wear appropriate footwear.

We will meet in the parking lot off of Lambert Rd., just south of Roosevelt Rd.

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

Saturday, May 13, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

Meet at the parking lot for McDowell Grove Forest Preserve on Raymond Road just south of I-88. Field trip to look for migrants, especially warblers. Bring insect repellent for ticks and mosquitos. Email the leader at to reserve a spot on this field trip and be sure to receive a confirmation regarding your participation.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, dbcsec2020@gmail.com

Monday, May 15, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Elsen's Hill/West DuPage Woods, Winfield

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

Elsen's Hill is known for spring migrating birds and is a traditionally an excellent spot for warblers. Take Winfield Rd. to Gary's Mill Rd. Go west on Gary's Mill Rd. to the Preserve parking lot entrance on the north side of the road. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing and boots for muddy trails.

Leader: Mike and Karen Warner, mwarner2543@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 17, 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Lincoln Marsh, Wheaton

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

Between 1979 and 1992 more than 100 parcels of land were assembled to form the core of this park. Today it is one of the most accessible natural areas in DuPage County, having wood chip trails and a floating boardwalk. There is a small prairie and an oak forest besides the marsh. The walk should be between one hour fifteen minutes and two hours and cover approximately a mile.

Directions: The entrance to Lincoln Marsh is on the west side of the park, at the corner of Harrison St. and Pierce Ave. From County Farm Rd., turn east on Harrison St. and proceed one mile to the parking lot. If entrance gate is locked, be prepared to park along the street. (People who use their GPS are misdirected to the Lincoln Marsh Office).

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

Sunday, May 21, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Elsen's Hill/West DuPage Woods, Winfield

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

Elsen's Hill is known for spring migrating birds and is a traditionally an excellent spot for warblers. Take Winfield Rd. to Gary's Mill Rd. Go west on Gary's Mill Rd. to the Preserve parking lot entrance on the north side of the road. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing and boots for muddy trails.

Leader: Diann Bilderback, 630-272-5746, diann.bilderback@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 21, 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Bird Sit: Lyman Woods Nature Center & Preserve, Downers Grove

Pre-registration with the leader required, limit 10.

Join us at this new location to look for spring migrants. 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 camaraderie of fellow birders. Bring your folding lawn chairs, binoculars, and field guides. We will meet in the parking lot off 31st Street and sit near the Nature Center. Lyman Woods is located at 901 31st St. Downers Grove, about one block east of Highland Ave. [Lyman Woods website](#) **Dress for the weather; bring bug spray, drinking water and a folding chair.**

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Tuesday, May 23, 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Bird/Bike Herrick Lake, Wheaton

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 6 participants.

Bird the 8 miles of trails by bike. We will cover most of the Herrick Lake Forest Preserve with stops in different habitats along the way. Bring your bike, helmet and binoculars. You must be able to bike a minimum of 8 miles. We will cover grassland, woodland, savannah, and scrub habitats looking for a wide variety of migrants in each. Meet at the parking lot off Herrick Road on the west side of the preserve.

Leader: Nancy Allured, nallured@comcast.net

Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Goose Lake Natural Area, McHenry County

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

This unique spot in northern McHenry County is a great spot for sought after marsh birds. The walk will focus on finding the site's nesting Yellow-headed Blackbird population, as well as species such as Black Tern, King Rail, Marsh Wren, and others. There is roughly a mile walk on a straight gravel path before we hit the marsh area. We may venture off trail into tall grass, so dress appropriately and bring bug spray and sun protection. The parking lot is behind the Hebron Township Building in Hebron, Illinois (10206 Seaman Rd, Hebron, IL 60034).

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

Saturday, May 27, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

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

Meet at the Main Parking Lot for Springbrook Prairie on 83rd Street just west of Book Road. Field trip primarily to look for grassland birds at Springbrook. Wear footwear suitable to go off trail and bring insect repellent for ticks and mosquitos. Email the leader to reserve a spot on this field trip and be sure to receive a confirmation regarding your participation.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, dbcsec2020@gmail.com

Monday, May 29, 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve, Bartlett

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

On this trip we will be searching for returning breeding birds, such as Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Yellow-breasted Chat. We will also keep a lookout for some of the warblers that move through our region later in the month, such as Blackpoll Warbler, Canada Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and possibly even Connecticut Warbler. Meet on the southern side of the Pickerel Lake parking lot off of Powis Road, approximately here: (41.9632891, -88.2412360) at 8 am. After birding around here, we will likely head to the nearby model airfield, and James Pate Philip State Park for more birding.

Leader: Henry Meade; please register with kathleenreeves22@yahoo.com

Tuesday, May 30, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

Meet at the gravel parking lot on the east side of Plainfield-Naperville Road about 0.5 miles south of 75th Street. This will be a field trip to look for late migrants such as Mourning and Connecticut warblers as well as some grassland and shrubland birds. Wear footwear suitable to go off trail and bring insect repellent for ticks and mosquitos. Email the leader to reserve a spot on this field trip and be sure to receive a confirmation regarding your participation.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, dbcsec2020@gmail.com

Friday, June 2, 7:00 a.m. – noon + lunch

Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, Lemont

This will be a long, 4-mile walk to the kettle ponds, and then out through Poverty Prairie to the overlook (Borrow Pit) and back. We'll be on mostly level limestone trails and a couple dirt shortcuts so prepare for mud if it's rained. Hat, water bottle, and snack highly recommended. If you'd like to bring a lunch we can eat together afterwards on site. Meet at the parking lot off Lemont Road. No RSVP needed but text any questions.

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, 630-297-9512

Sunday, June 4, 8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie, Will County

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

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie is one of the premier grassland birding spots in the area. The area is littered with abandoned munitions bunkers, as well as fantastic grassland species such as Henslow's Sparrow, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Blue Grosbeak. This walk will primarily take place on old asphalt roads, but may venture into tall grass. Dress appropriately and bring bug spray and sun protection. We will meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead on Route 53 in Elwood, Illinois. The entrance to the trailhead parking lot is about 2 miles south of Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and the intersection of Hoff Road and Route 53. Advanced registration required, max of 20 participants.

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

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

For additional birding opportunities, check out the **DuPage and Cook County forest preserves**: <https://www.dupageforest.org/calendar-of-events> and 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