



President's Message

Karen and I just completed a nine-day Field Guides birding trip to Alberta, Canada (in fact I'm writing this as we fly home from Calgary). During our trip we saw over 165 species of birds in Alberta, and what struck me is that two-thirds of those you can find right here in and around DuPage County! Some newer birders may not realize how blessed we are to have such a wide variety of birds to observe in this region (325 species have been recorded in DuPage alone). True, we don't get many Grizzly and Black Bears, Badgers, and Pronghorns in DuPage County, like we saw in Alberta, but as far as birding goes, you couldn't ask to be in a better birding region than right here.

A great way to see many of the birds in and around DuPage is to sign up for a DuPage Birding Club field trip. Each month's field trip list is emailed to members near the end of the month and they're also [listed on our website](#) and right here in *Drummings*.

I've had the good fortune to be a participant on several of the recent field trips and I've enjoyed each one of them. The DuPage Birding Club is known for the number and variety of field trips it offers each year: we couldn't do them without volunteer leaders who step up regularly to guide a group around one of the various birding spots we are so fortunate to have here.

As I attended these field trips, I noted some ways participants can make them even more enjoyable for everybody. Here are some suggestions to keep in mind when attending one of DBC's field trips:

Promptness Counts! Try to get there on time (or let the leader know if you can't). Sometimes a group of 10+ people will stand around a parking lot waiting for that one person who hasn't yet arrived.

Birding Can Be a Social Activity, However... Field trips are a great opportunity to catch up with your birding buddies, but sometimes the birding takes a backseat to the socializing, which can distract others in the group. If you want to socialize, hang back near the rear of the group or catch up after the trip has ended.

Be a Birding Buddy The DBC has had many new birders join the past few years and they sign up for our trips to improve their skills. While on a field trip be on the lookout for those that are struggling to see that elusive bird or are unsure which bird they are looking at/listening to.

Next Meeting

July 13, 2023.
Doors open 6:30 p.m.
Meeting begins 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.
Ellyn's
940 Roosevelt Rd.
Glen Ellyn
See page 2.

Some groups can be too large for the leader to help every participant get on a bird, but you can help.

Let the Leader Listen The best birders identify and then find many birds by ear. Be aware of when the leader stops to listen, then become quiet to give him/her an opportunity to locate that next great bird for the group.

By following these suggestions, you just might find a Lifer on your next field trip.

Mike Warner

President

July 13 Meeting in Person and Via Zoom: Offshore and Nearshore Waterfowl and Waterbird Monitoring in Western Lake Michigan

Presenter: Bill Mueller, Director Emeritus of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory

Have you ever wondered what kinds of birds visit Lake Michigan in the winter? Bill Mueller, Director Emeritus of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, conducted offshore and nearshore waterfowl surveys between 2010 and 2015 to find out. His group flew parallel transects between the shoreline and 15 kilometers from shore, in rectangular survey blocks from Door County, Wisconsin, to the IL/WI state line utilizing a twin-engine, fixed wing aircraft.



Photo by Mike Warner

Through their surveys, they detected thousands of waterfowl of 10-16 species, including several species of loons and grebes, and 6-7 species of gulls. Bill will talk to us about how the project was implemented and the findings it generated.

How the hybrid meeting will work: To register for the Zoom call, link [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The in-person will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church (41 N Park Blvd, Glen Ellyn). Join us for the social hour 6:30-7:00 p.m. Although there is an online component to this meeting, 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.

Pre-meeting Dinner: To further entice you to join us in person, all are invited to a pre-meeting dinner at Ellyn's (940 Roosevelt Rd, Glen Ellyn) at 5:00 p.m. (attendees pay for their own meal). Make new friends and meet the speaker while you enjoy a burger or taco!

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

Announcing DBC's Summer 2023 Photography Contest Winners!

The DBC's Spring '23 photo contest was a great success! The 20 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 would like to thank all the photographers for their entries.

Below are the DBC Spring '23 Photography Contest Winners:



Best of Show - Caspian Tern

Photographer: Mark Levesque

Species of Bird: Caspian Tern

Where was the picture taken: Lincoln Marsh, Wheaton

Narrative - I was surprised to see a Caspian Tern fishing at Lincoln Marsh. I'd never seen one there before. I was even more surprised when I noticed the fish he caught seems for all the world to be a goldfish or a koi! Who knew they were in the marsh?



Love Is In The Air Award

Photographer: Tammy Caltagirone

Species of Bird: Great Blue Heron

Where was the picture taken: North Aurora, IL

Narrative - After weeks of looking at a rookery of large nests southeast of the Kirk/Butterfield intersection, I finally saw a Great Blue flying back. I called my husband to get his binoculars and my camera equipment and ran back to catch the last of the day's light. We were lucky to capture this couple through the mass of branches just as a shaft of sunlight broke through the clouds illuminating them.



Salton Sea Serenity Award

Photographer: Michael Davern

Species of Bird: Black-necked Stilt

Where was the picture taken: Salton Sea, California

Narrative - Always a treat to see these active birds with their strange backwards hinged knees go about their business.



Rowdy Birds Award

Photographer: Rick Roche

Species of Bird: Gila Woodpecker

Where was the picture taken: Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum

Narrative: Before our trip to Southern Arizona, I put the Gila Woodpecker at the top of my want-to-see list. I hadn't counted on it being on nearly every eBird report I made in the six days I was there. The three rowdy Gilas in this photo were part of a gang flying around the trails at the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum outside Tucson.



Japanese Print Look-Alike Award

Photographer: Tammy Caltagirone

Species of Bird: Long-Billed Dowitcher

Where was the picture taken: San Antonio, Texas

Narrative - A guided tour during our visit to Mitchell Lake found this little guy putzing along the shoreline of a pond. The reeds and his reflection had the unmistakable likeness to a serene Japanese print.



Best Backyard Bird Shot

Photographer: Cindy Duranceau

Species of bird: Northern Cardinals

Where was the picture taken: Naperville, IL

Narrative: Easter Sunday morning I looked out our kitchen window to see a Northern Cardinal pair. I grabbed my camera but the female was playing "hard to get" and flew into another tree. The male followed her and my camera caught their "courting" seed handoff. Nice start to the day!



Award for Best Portrait

Photographer: Jackie Tilles

Species of Bird: Common Yellowthroat

Where was the picture taken: Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary

Narrative: It is always a thrill to see the warblers when they arrive in the spring and this Common Yellowthroat did not disappoint. He emerged from the low-lying vegetation, not expecting to see an admirer nearby.



Outstanding In Its Field Award

Photographer: Sirimon Reutrakul

Species of Bird: Eastern Meadowlark

Where was the picture taken: Dixon Waterfowl Refuge

Narrative - We went to bird at a new place for us as a family during a spring break. It was a nice fresh spring morning. We walked on the path cutting through a grassland/prairie - with no one in sight as far as the eye could see. All of a sudden we heard a very sweet song - and were able to spot this Eastern Meadowlark on the ground where the grass had not grown yet. He briefly posed very nicely, and then flew away. Spring is really here!



Best Spring Warbler Award

Photographer: Laurel Ahlenius

Caption: Another Tennessee

Bird Species: Tennessee Warbler

Location: Elsen's Hill

Narrative: Another Tennessee? It seems that I saw a lot of them this spring, but WAIT! I had a close-up encounter with one in a low shrub in the early morning sunshine at Elsen's Hill. This little guy was loudly singing in a three foot shrub, foraging for breakfast close to the back pond. He was hard to find, but when he came to the edges, the sunlight changed his whole appearance - the feather edges shown like gold tipped and reflected brilliance. No longer was this bird - just another Tennessee Warbler, but sheer beauty in motion, singing to boot!



Award For Best Action Shot

Photographer: Laurel Ahlenius

Bird Species: Bald Eagle

Location: Rt. 52, Iowa - Scenic Overlook - Savanna-Sabula Bridge, Iowa. (Mississippi River)

Narrative: Ahhhhh - the end to a beautiful day for the DBC Mississippi birding trip, so expertly led by Jeff Chapman. We saw so many species along multiple stops and great company. I was secretly hoping to get a few good shots of Bald Eagles. For the last stop of the day: it had warmed up, the wind died down, the sun was low in the sky highlighting the eagles! Being on the scenic overlook on the bridge gave a distinct advantage to all of us. We were so close to the eagles, more like eye level with them as they perched in the trees and then dove down along the slough to fish. I like this shot as one can see the power in the eagle's take-off as small pieces of the dead limb fly through the air. Thanks again, Jeff! Looking forward to next year!

You can see all pictures posted to the DBC Website, including past Photo Contest Winners, by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Summer '23 Photo Contest Now Open!

The DBC is looking for pictures of birds taken between June 1 and August 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:

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

[DBC Photo Contest Entry Form](#)

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 October Drummings.

August 5 Birding and Breakfast

The DuPage Birding Club invites all members to join us for our annual Birding and Breakfast event on Saturday, August 5, at Blackwell Forest Preserve. After some morning birding around the forest preserve, DBC will serve breakfast to all attendees. We will meet at 7 AM at the South Shelter. After turning in to Blackwell off of Butterfield Road continue North on the main drive about a quarter of a mile. Make the first right at the South Shelter sign and meet in the parking lot.

If you are interested in attending please send an email to mwarner2543@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Beginning Birder Class Earns Kudos

Lucky participants in the Beginning Birder class led by Denis Kania and Joe Suchecki this June learned how to become better birders, find more birds, and increase their joy in birding.

The course consisted of three Zoom sessions interspersed with three field experiences covering the basics about birds and identification, habitat and seasonal differences, how to use binoculars, birding by ear, resources, and more.

The course is offered annually and may be offered again in the fall if there is demand. Just let Denis or Joe know of your interest.



Birding-by-Ear Tools Available through BCN

The Bird Conservation Network, of which DBC is a member, has released tools that will enhance birding-by-ear skills for our summer and resident birds. These tools were developed to help BCN's breeding bird monitors improve their identification skills but are generally useful for anyone that wants to learn our resident bird songs.

The links below are four guides to vocalizations organized by habitat type in which the bird species are likely to be found. The four habitat-specific study aids contain links to appropriate Xeno-canto audio recordings for species songs and/or calls for each of the species listed in the BCN Trends Analysis as breeding within the Chicago six-county area where BCN's 22-year database was compiled. Also linked/attached are the PowerPoint slides from new-monitor trainings led by Vicky Sroczyński in May. Finally, here's a link to [mnemonics for a wider list of bird species](#) that you may find useful from the Roanoke Valley Bird Club.

[BCN Grassland Bird Vocalizations 1.0](#)

[BCN Shrubland Bird Vocalizations 1.0](#)

[BCN Wetland Bird Vocalizations 1.0](#)

[BCN Woodland Bird Vocalizations 1.0](#)

[BCN Monitor Training Slides 5-17-23](#)

Balancing these tools are the seven DBC tutorials on Birding by Ear, which are designed to develop your birding-by-ear skills. Check them out here: [Birding by Ear Playlist](#).

News from the DuPage Forest Preserve

Progress continues on West Branch DuPage River Trail. Agreements were made with the wastewater authority of West Chicago and Winfield providing for easements on portions of the West Chicago/Winfield Wastewater Authority Property for the West Branch DuPage River Trail.

The West Branch DuPage River Trail is a 26-mile regional trail, roughly paralleling the DuPage River-West Branch that, when complete, will connect the North Central DuPage Regional Trail on the north to Naperville and into Will County on the south, where it will intersect with the East Branch DuPage River Trail and continue south as the DuPage River Trail to Channahon.

The Forest Preserve District has been working with DuPage County, local municipalities and park districts to implement this trail for decades. With the completion of the trail segments through downtown Winfield and along Fair Oaks Road from 2016-2018, the only unfinished trail segment is the segment located between Blackwell and West DuPage Woods. This segment is approximately 0.7 miles in length and includes a bridge crossing the West Branch DuPage River and Roosevelt Road (IL-38). As this trail has been in the works forever, it is good to see planning and permitting in progress.

Welcome, New Members!

Sharon Cline	Wheaton
James and Karen Hudson	Wheaton
Bill and Agnes Kovacs	Winfield

Bird News from the Net

Birds sometimes hitch rides on ships—and it's changing the way they migrate

Traveling across the ocean is a hard journey, but stowing away is pretty easy.

Read in Popular Science: https://apple.news/AAN4eCBeeSMip4y-Yf_9S0Q

Rare Night Parrot's Unique Lopsided Ears Give It Keen Hearing

CT scans reveal unique asymmetrical cranial anatomy, similar to an owl, may be key to the survival of Australia's critically endangered night parrot

Read in Forbes: <https://apple.news/AnFKJC3e2S7CAPTvuHrHjaw>

Vanishing falcons: The mysterious decline of the American Kestrel, North America's smallest falcon

North America's smallest falcon, the American Kestrel, has been at the center of a perplexing scientific mystery for some time now. Researchers across the continent have confirmed a worrying decline in kestrel populations, but identifying the exact cause has proved to be a challenging task.

Read in Earth.com: <https://apple.news/AAkYqVAufRD6pZUqNJowUEg>

July 2023 Field Trips

Now is the time for birds to nest, raise their young, molt feathers, and prepare for the fall migration. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the month. Non-members are welcome.

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 www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips.

Monday, July 3, 8:00a.m. - 10:30a.m.

Wood Dale Reservoir

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

On this trip to the Wood Dale Reservoir complex, we will be searching for shorebirds along with birds that breed at this site, including Savannah Sparrows and Dickcissel. The leader will go in to depth about the basics of shorebird identification in the field, in hopes that participants will feel confident identifying shorebirds. Meet in the parking lot at the end of School Street at 8am.

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

Friday, July 7, 7:00a.m. - 9:30a.m.

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

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

We hope to see summer residents, grassland birds, and raptors. 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. Bring bug spray. The trip will be cancelled if there is inclement weather or temps higher than 90 F. (It is a long, hot walk in the open fields).

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

Saturday, July 8, 11a.m. – 1p.m. (Rain date: Sunday July 9)

Greene Valley Overlook

Pre-registration with the leader required.

Meet at the second-highest point in DuPage County for grassland birds and lunch.

At 11:15, we'll gather and walk on grass around the parking lot and up to the glider hill in search of grassland birds. Bring your own lunch and a chair so we can eat together around 12 or 12:30pm. RSVP so you can get a drink and dessert.

The driveway to the overlook can be found on the west side of Greene Road, just south of the parking lot on the west side of Greene Road. The overlook opens at 11am. Drive 75th street either from the east or west, and turn south on Greene Rd, proceeding past 79th Street and the trailhead parking lot on the west.

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, VSroczynski@comcast.net, call 630-297-9512 with any questions.

Wednesday, July 12, 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m.

Bird Sit at Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Pre-registration with the leader required, limit 10 participants

NOTE THE LATE START TIME! This trip will be a little different. Sagawau Environmental Learning Center is known for its hummingbirds with a viewing area to sit and watch them at the feeders. There are also other feeders set up in the area and a small pollinator garden. We will sit near the feeders and observe the birds as they come and go. As always 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 at the Sagawau Parking lot. There is a longer walk than usual into the park, however, arrangements have been made to allow us to drive from the parking lot to the seating area using the park's service road. Sagawau Environmental Learning Center's address is 12545 West 111th St., Lemont. (West 111th street is also known as Calumet Sag Road and 83.) The park is located less than ¼ mile east of the intersection of Archer Ave and Calumet Sag Road (83), on Calumet Sag Road (West 111th Street). [Sagawau Environmental Learning Center Website](#) Feel free to contact me with any questions about the location.

Dress for the weather, bring bug spray, drinking water and a folding chair.

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Wednesday, July 19, 7:30a.m. – 10:00a.m.

Morton Arboretum, East Side

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

We will meet at parking lot 8 and explore this area. Depending on where birds have been seen we may also move to another spot. Although birds are nesting and may be quieter we may see some young birds. If you don't have an arboretum membership, let us know and if you can follow us in. It will cost \$5.00.

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

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>, 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