



President's Message

2024—Here We Come!

As we wrap up a great 2023, we have already begun planning for an even better 2024! The DBC emerged from COVID bigger and stronger than ever because one of the positive outcomes of COVID was that many people discovered the great outdoors—and birding. Our membership almost doubled over the past two years and now stands at over 400. Also, as COVID concerns abated, we began inviting members back to our Club meetings at Faith Lutheran Church (and to Ellyn's for dinner beforehand). DBC will slowly move away from Zoom meetings and encourages members to meet and greet each other at Faith Lutheran.

Our success is a testament to the 52 people who volunteered their time and expertise on behalf of the organization. From picking up a box of coffee for the Birding Breakfast to leading a field trip, our volunteers help connect our members with birds and each other.

Speaking of Field Trips, DBC offered 110 of them this year, thanks to the scheduling skills of Karen Warner and Wally Levernier. Every one I attended had an excellent leader and lots of enthusiastic participants. Local organizations look to the DBC for information about birds, pollinators, climate change, and other topics, and our Outreach Committee, under the direction of Donna Kubik, offered 14 different programs over the year to meet their varied needs.

Recent initiatives expanded in 2024. The [DBC Education Channel](#) on You Tube now has 744 subscribers and has been visited by over 10,000 viewers. All Zoom meetings were recorded and can be found there, thanks to Steve Constantelos. Thanks to Denis Kania and Joe Suchecki for providing all of the informative mini-tutorials. Our photo contest receives submissions from many of our DBC bird photographers; the judges enjoy reviewing each photo and selecting the winners every quarter. Our Beginning Bird Class, again conducted by Denis and Joe, helped some of our new members learn about birds frequently found in DuPage County.

It's hard to single out just a few of our 52 volunteers to recognize, but I must thank our Executive Committee (aka the Board) for their support this past year. Robert Perez (VP). Natalie McFaul (Corresponding Secretary) and Jane Barnett (Treasurer) were so very helpful to me. The DBC is lucky to have them! Directors Pamela Martyn-Nemeth,

Next Meeting

January 11, 2024

Zoom Only!

See page 2 for details.

FIELD TRIP SHOUT-OUT

110 field trips
25 different trip leaders
40 unique sites
-- 25 in DuPage
-- 9 in adjoining counties
-- 6 further afield

Sirimon Reutrakul, Dennis Streicher, and Recording Secretary Angela Levernier were also very helpful, offering their ideas and opinions on how to move DBC forward. Although Steve Constantelos had no “official” role within the organization, I can’t thank him enough for all the advice, counsel and behind-the-scenes work he did to help keep me and the organization on track.

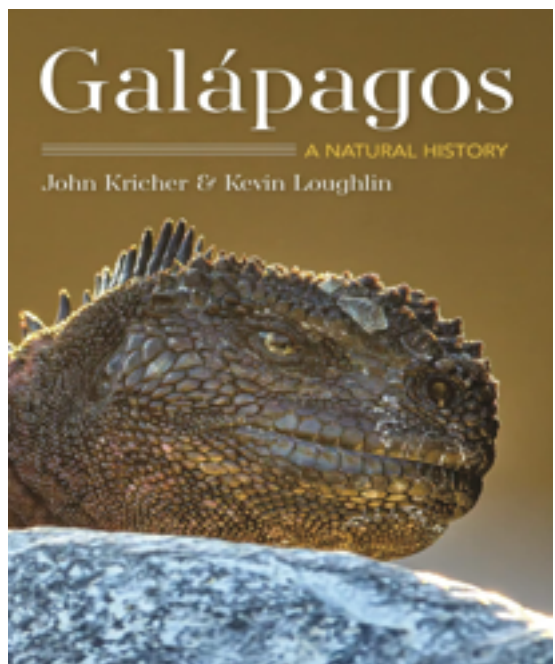
I detailed all the people involved in getting the Drummings and other communications out to our members and onto our website a few months ago. They are all top-notch! In particular see the article below on Diann Bilderback’s Distinguished Achievement Award.

2024 is going to be a great year under president Robert Perez’s leadership. It’s been an honor to be your president this year and I look forward to seeing you on the birding trail next year. Happy Holidays to all!

Mike Warner

President

January 11, 2024, Meeting via Zoom: Galapagos—A Natural History **Presented by John Kricher and Kevin Loughlin**



The DuPage Birding Club is partnering with the Will County Audubon Society to bring you an exciting presentation on the Natural History of the Galapagos Islands. Below is the description for the January 11th program from Will County Audubon. A registration link will be provided closer to the date of the meeting.

Please join us for this fascinating program featuring some of the world’s most unique and endemic species of flora and fauna and wonderful beaches that continually rank among the world’s best.

Kevin Loughlin, a professional photographer and owner of Wildside Nature Tours has led photo excursions around the world since 1993, including 45 trips to the Galapagos Islands. Kevin’s photos and articles have appeared in publications such as *Wild Bird*, *Nature Photographer*, and *Audubon*, as well as many natural

history books, including the new *Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North American and the Caribbean*, by Scott Weidensaul.

John Kricher taught ecology and ornithology at Wheaton College in Massachusetts for 48 years. His quest to learn ecology and to watch birds has taken him to over 30 countries and to all the continents. He has authored ten books including *The New Neotropical Companion* (2017). His most recent book is *Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior* (2020).

The two recently collaborated on the second edition of John’s book, *Galapagos: A Natural History* (2022). The book includes over 600 photos provided by Kevin.

This presentation will be a Zoom-only presentation. It will be recorded for the YouTube Education Channel library of meeting presentations. Link information will be shared in the January Drummings and on the website.

In Case You Missed It: Daniel Hebreard on the Forest Preserve of DuPage County



Daniel Hebreard, President of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, spoke to the diverse initiatives managed by the Forest Preserve District, which manages 36 different forest preserves plus another 30+ properties it jointly owns or supports in addition to 7 centers such as Mayslake and Willowbrook Wildlife Center. The county boasts one of the highest concentrations of natural lands in the state, with approximately 13% of its lands under Forest Preserve stewardship, including 166 miles of trails.

Dan spoke to some of the habitat restoration programs that benefit birds as well as the bird monitoring and banding it does to assess bird populations. We are lucky indeed to live in DuPage with its expansive natural areas! If you would like more information about Forest Preserve initiatives, visit www.dupageforest.org.

2024 DBC Leadership Team Elected

At the November 9, 2023, Club Meeting, the members of the 2024 Executive Committee were elected unanimously. Congratulations to:

Robert Perez, President

John Hebert, Treasurer

Mark Freeburg, Recording Secretary

Natalie McFaul, Corresponding Secretary

Steve Mineck, Director

Rob Thomas, Director

Pamela Martyn-Nemeth, Director

Note that the role of Vice President remains open for consideration by any of you who might be so moved by a New Year's resolution or other inspiration to throw yourself into a volunteer role for the Club. Trust that you will have lots of support to help you be successful. Please contact Robert Perez if there's some interest.

The new Executive Committee officially begins their duties on January 1, 2024. Congratulations and thanks to all for volunteering to be on the leadership team.

Signup Deadline for Christmas Bird Count is December 1

The annual Fermi Christmas Bird Count is December 16 and if you act fast, you can still join the fun. The deadline for signing up was December 1. Data collected provides invaluable insights into winter bird populations plus it's a great opportunity to connect with fellow birders. If you participated last year, you're already on the list and will be contacted in early December regarding your counting areas. If it's been a few years, or you are new to the count and would like to participate, please contact the compiler, Jeff Chapman at jeffchapman948@gmail.com. Remember you'll be grouped with a team so no need to be an expert; there will be plenty of them on your team! This year's countdown dinner is TBD.

Distinguished Achievement Award to Diann Bilderback

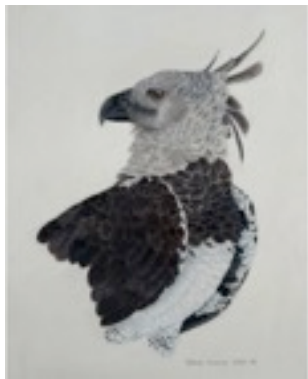


At the November 9, 2023, meeting of the DuPage Birding Club, the Executive Committee presented Diann Bilderback the Distinguished Achievement Award! This award is given to individuals “for outstanding service to the club.” Over the 39-year history of the DBC, this is only the 17th time the award has been given.

Diann is a past DBC President (twice) and currently leads the Communications team responsible for the DBC visual brand and messaging, the Drummings newsletter, and our digital channels. Every article that appears in the Drummings has been reviewed, edited or written by Diann. She works constantly with all those who write articles for the Drummings and those that turn the copy into the final PDF product, which is distributed to all our members. She also directed the redesign of our current website and works hand-in-hand with the members of the website team to keep it updated and easy to use. Diann also coordinates with our social media team to reach our digital audience.

Denis Kania created a hand-drawn image of her favorite bird, the Harpy Eagle, as a gift from the Board.

Congratulations, Diann, and thanks for all your hard work!



Welcome, New Members!

Ahna Severts

Hinsdale

John Nona

Naperville

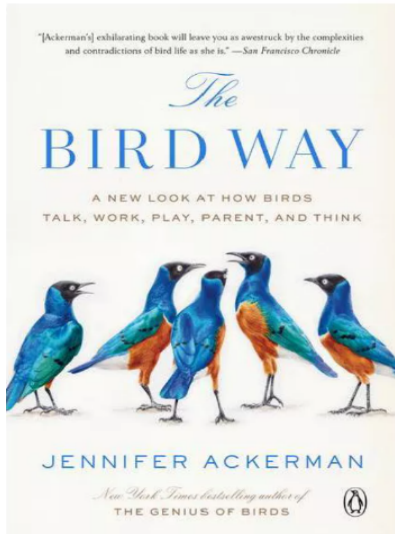
Julie and Bob Wetterman

Bloomington

DBC Book Club: We're Doing It!

On Tuesday, November 14, nine enthusiastic DBC readers got together to discuss the book *A Wing and a Prayer: The Race to Save our Vanishing Birds* by Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal. All the participants thoroughly enjoyed the book and each cited a different anecdote as their favorite.

The book detailed the Gyllenhaal's year-long road trip to visit bird conservation sites in the U.S. Living out of an Airstream trailer, they drove over 25,000 miles to see for themselves the people who are working feverishly to save endangered bird species. At each stop they chronicled the extraordinary efforts being used to prevent the loss of species such as the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow and the California Spotted Owl.



The group was eager to formalize ongoing book discussions in a DBC Book Club and selected *The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent and Think* by Jennifer Ackerman. This book explores the many strategies birds use to communicate, forage, court, breed, and survive, including fascinating behaviors like manipulation, deception, collaboration, altruism, teaching, and more. This book holds a treasure trove of learning that is sure to enhance your appreciation of our avian friends.

We will meet to discuss the book Tuesday, February 27, 2024, and all are welcome to join! If you would like more information about the DBC Book Club or would like to be notified about future books and meetings, please email Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.

Reminder: Annual Membership Renewal Time

Your annual membership dues for 2024 are due by December 31, 2023. Dues remain \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families and \$10 for students. Please note that any new member joining on or after September 1 is automatically registered for the following year.

Your dues fund our annual operations and support a broad range of activities, including field trips, interesting speakers, research grants, and proactive community outreach.

Your 2024 dues may now be paid in any of the following ways:

1. On-line 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

Thank you for your support and membership!

December 2023 Field Trips

This is the month we learn which birds have decided to spend the winter in our area, including waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds. There are opportunities for all types of birders to enjoy the season.

Please remember that the weather can be variable, so dress accordingly. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent.

Participants are welcome to contact the leader if they have any questions. Our field trip leaders can help you find the trip's starting location if you need additional directions. Situations can sometimes change, so please check our DBC website <https://dupagebirding.org> for the latest status information.

NOTE: For trips with a participant limit, registration with the trip leader is required. In those cases, you are NOT registered until you receive a confirmation from the trip leader.

Field Trips will observe a few guidelines to ensure that birding is safe and comfortable for all:

- It is expected that all field trip participants will follow the CDC's recommendations regarding masks and social distancing.
- Anyone not feeling well should stay home.
- Attendees of DBC field trips and other events under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- All field trip attendees should be aware of and follow the <https://dupagebirding.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>

NOTE: All last-minute changes are posted on www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips.

Saturday, December 2, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Fermilab, Warrenville

Pre-registration is required (please email), limit 8 participants.

Please note that Fermilab is a government research facility and has strict access requirements: All participants aged 18 and over must have a REAL-ID compliant state ID or passport to enter the site.

When on site, must remain in public areas at all times, have a visitor's tag visible, and leave the same way they came in. When arriving at Fermilab, present your ID and let the security guard know you are here for bird watching, they will provide a visitors tag for you to wear. Full details on public access to Fermilab can be found [HERE](#)

We will cover a variety of habitats, but will primarily look for wintering waterfowl and sparrows. We will cover about 2 miles - mostly on wide, but occasionally uneven mown grass trails – as we walk a loop around the AE Sea Nature Area. Depending on time and interest, we may drive elsewhere within Fermilab. We will meet at the 'Red Barn Area' located at the end of Sauk Circle [Google Map Link](#) If needed, Fermilab security can provide a site map and directions to this area when you arrive.

Leader: William Pixler, pillwixler@gmail.com or text 630-917-5419

Tuesday, December 5, 8:00 - 10:00 am

Fullersburg Woods, Oak Brook

Pre-registration with the leader is required.

This field trip will include some good winter birding in wooded areas as well as some open water sections. Join us to look for a good variety while walking about 2 miles on uneven trails. Prepare for possible snow and/or ice depending on current weather. Meet in the main parking lot on Spring Road.

Leader: Nancy Allured, nallured@comcast.net

Saturday, December 16, All-Day Event

Christmas Bird Count, Fermilab Circle

Cutoff for registration to assist in the count is December 1.

The DuPage Birding Club sponsors this Christmas Bird Count. Thousands of birds and over 100 species have been logged in previous Bird Counts. This opportunity to join almost 100 other birders is open to all skill levels. If you did not count last year, please contact the compiler, Jeff Chapman, for details or to volunteer and to be assigned to a location and area captain.

Contact: Jeff Chapman, jeffchapman948@gmail.com

Sunday, December 17, All-Day Event

Christmas Bird Count, Lisle-Arboretum Circle

Cutoff for registration to assist in the count is December 8.

Birders of all skill levels are welcome on the Lisle-Arboretum CBC. The Chicago Ornithological Society (www.chicagobirder.org) sponsors this count where sub-teams are assigned to various locations. Even if you cannot go out in the field, there is another way to contribute: DBC members who live in the count circle can participate as a feederwatcher. For details and signup: <https://www.chicagobirder.org/events/2023/12/17/lisle-christmas-bird-count#:~:text=WHEN%3A%20The%20Lisle%2DArboretum%20Christmas,circle%22%20on%20the%20count%20day>.

Thursday, December 21, 4:10 pm

Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

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

Join Joe Suchecki at Springbrook Prairie in Naperville to look for Short-eared Owls. Short-eared Owls frequently winter at Springbrook Prairie and can be seen as they come out to hunt over the preserve at dusk. Meet at the Model Aircraft Field Parking Lot on Plainfield-Naperville Rd., south of 75th St. in Naperville. We will walk a short distance off-trail to wait for the owls to appear. Dress very warmly since we will be standing in one place as the sun goes down. Note that the owls are generally pretty far away and often appear just as the light is failing, so this trip does not offer a photo-op. The trip will last about 30-40 min. Contact Joe if you plan on attending. The owls do not always winter at Springbrook and the trips will be canceled if they are not around or in the event of inclement weather.

Leader: Joe Suchecki. Register via email: dbcsec2020@gmail.com. Phone: 630-369-5570.

Tuesday, December 26, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Knoch Knolls Park, Naperville

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

We'll enjoy the winter quiet and explore a few spots that highlight the park's variety of habitats, staying within about 1/3 mile of the parking lot. New birders welcome. We'll look and listen for woodpeckers and whoever else has decided to spend the holidays in our area. Trails are level and are grass/dirt/paved. Meet at the parking lot on 336 Knoch Knolls Rd., Naperville.

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

Friday December 29, 2023, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Southeast DuPage and Southwest Cook, Waterfowl Search

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

We'll look for waterfowl, gulls, and other birds at the Borrow Pit (Waterfall Glen/Canalbank Rd.), Lemont Quarries, and Saganashkee Slough. Depending on ice conditions and sightings, we may stop at Sag Quarries, Longjohn Slough at Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, and Maple Lake too.

Meet at Waterfall Glen, Lemont Rd entrance for Poverty Prairie (Google Maps Parking Lot #3) so we can gather and caravan to the Borrow Pit.

Leader: Vicky Sroczyński, vsroczyński@comcast.net

Saturday, December 30, 8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Whalon Lake F.P., Bolingbrook/Naperville

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

The goal of this trip will be to help participants get last minute additions to their year lists. Whalon Lake can have great diversity of waterfowl, so we will be looking for goldeneye, mergansers etc. Please meet in the parking lot off of Royce Road that is east of the dog park.

Leader: Henry Meade. Please register with henrymm21@icloud.com

Monday, January 1, 2023, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

New Year's Day Birding at the Morton Arboretum, Lisle

A reservation with the Morton Arboretum is required (see below).

There is no limit to the number of participants.

You do not need to register with the DBC Organizers listed below, but they are available to answer questions.

Come one, come all to Morton Arboretum to start the new year right! Gather parking lot P33 on the west side <https://mortonarb.org/visit-the-arboretum/maps-guides/>. We will split into several groups to look for birds across the Arboretum. There will be several Organizers that will give a hand with the various groups. We can rendezvous back at the parking lot to compare our sightings.

- Non-members (aka, guests) can't enter the Arb until 9:00 am, so we will start gathering at 9:00 am and begin birding at about 9:15.
- We are not planning a lunch; bring your own water/snacks. Bathrooms will be open. And dress warmly!

Here is the link for reserving an entry pass: <https://buy.acmeticketing.com/events/480/list>

Please read the details below on how to obtain an entry pass to the Arboretum:

- Every attendee must reserve their own entry pass online.
- This must be done well in advance (days).
- Non-members (aka, Guests) will need to pay for their pass.

- Entry passes are sent via email.
- The pass must be shown at the entry gate.
- Entry is only allowed at the selected entry time.

If you have questions, feel free to contact any of the Organizers:

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, vsroczynski@comcast.net

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, would like to lead a trip, or have an idea for a trip. Leaders do not have to be birding experts, just familiar with the location.

Field Trip Coordinators:

Sherry Courtney, sherrycourtney10@gmail.com

Karen Warner, k_warner@comcast.net



2024 Meeting Schedule

January 11	July 11
March 14	September 12
April 11	October 10
May 9	November 14

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, Donna Kubik

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