



President's Message

Happy New Year to all!

I hope you've been able to reconnect with friends and family during the holiday season as I was. One of my family's favorite things to do on Christmas is to bust open a board game and enjoy some friendly competition. This year, we played the bird-inspired game, *Wingspan*. The game consists of four rounds, each with a different goal. These goals include things such as the highest number of forest birds played, most eggs laid on an aquatic bird, highest number of fruit eating birds, and most species named after a person. That last one struck up quite a spirited conversation!

As bird cards were played, stories were told about each one. Some of these included the first time someone saw a Pileated Woodpecker, that time an American Goshawk nearly flew into my head, and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird that was saved by my grandma after it hit her window. It's times like these I reflect on how important birding has been to me and my family.

Although most of my family wouldn't consider themselves to be birders, I've literally grown up birding. My grandmother started a life list for me when I was two. (The first bird listed was, of course, the Canada Goose.) She would have me point out the birds that would come to her southern Indiana feeders using a "Common Backyard Birds" placemat. Tufted Titmice, Carolina Chickadees, Blue Jays, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and many others would grace our feeders. I remember mimicking the Titmice by creating their trademark crest with my own hair. My love of birding has only deepened with age. I've been lucky enough to travel around the country and Europe birding, most recently to Arizona and the Pacific Northwest last year. I hope to travel to the Lower Rio Grande Valley in southern Texas later this spring to continue adding to my life list.

Taking over as President of DBC is a daunting task if I'm going to be completely honest. However, I'm thankful to the leadership of last year's board, especially Mike Warner, Natalie McFaul, and Jane Barnett who have left the club on a strong organizational and financial footing. I also want to thank the other members of the board who are departing - Sirimon Reutrakul, Dennis Streicher, and Angela Levernier - for their hard work and contributions.

Next Meeting

January 11, 2024

Zoom Only!

See page 2 for details.

I am proud that DBC stands as one of the premier birding organizations in our area and I will strive to maintain its reputation. In 2024, members can look forward to all the usual DBC offerings, including field trips, monthly speakers, and bird-related events throughout the year. In addition to these, I've set a few goals for myself, including designing a strategy to engage younger generations in DBC, streamlining club communications by involving outreach in executive board meetings, gathering member feedback by an additional survey, and setting DBC up on a solid foundation by filling vacant positions for 2025. I hope you all can assist me in these goals throughout the year.

I strongly believe that the best leaders are those who have taken feedback from a wide range of opinions, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me with concerns or ideas. Although the executive board does a lot, DBC is strong because of its membership. Without you, there is no DBC. I look forward to seeing you out on the trails in 2024. Good luck birding!

Robert Perez
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. This is a Zoom-only meeting and here is the registration link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingId=98517396830&meetingName=Galapagos%20-%20A%20Natural%20History>

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.

Galápagos

A NATURAL HISTORY

John Kricher & Kevin Loughlin



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 America 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, *Galápagos: 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.

2024 DBC Leadership Team Takes the Helm

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

President: Robert Perez

Vice President: OPEN

Treasurer: John Hebert

Recording Secretary: Mark Freeburg

Corresponding Secretary: Natalie McFaul

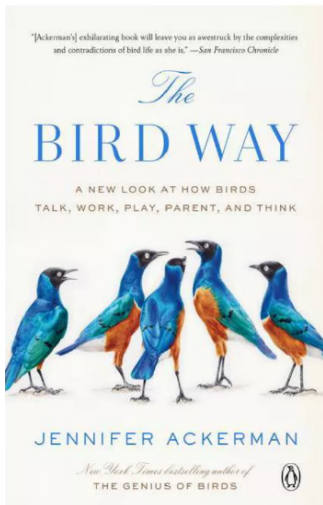
Director: Steve Mineck

Director: Rob Thomas

Director: Pamela Martyn-Nemeth

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.

DBC Book Club Meets February 27



As its next read, the newly formed DBC Book Club 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. It holds a treasure trove of learning that is sure to enhance your appreciation of our avian friends.

We will meet to discuss the book February 27 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.

SAVE THE DATE: Members' Night is March 14

Mark your calendar for one of the most interesting and lively Club meetings of the year—Members' Night, March 14, when Club members get to share their photos of interesting bird encounters, birding trips to destinations near and far, and other birdy adventures. The photos are excellent and the stories behind them are guaranteed to entertain. There will be multiple presenters giving short (10-12 slides) presentations at this fast-paced fun event. Details on submitting your presentation for inclusion will be included in the February *Drummings*.

Start the New Year Right: Renew Your Membership Dues NOW

Your annual membership dues for 2024 were due December 31, 2023. Don't miss your opportunity for inclusion in the annual Member Directory, not to mention the many benefits of Club membership. 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!

“Birds in Art” Exhibition Comes to Will County January 2 – February 25

The Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum selected 60 pieces from its annual “Birds in Art” exhibition for a national tour, and the Will County Forest Preserve is its first stop! This prestigious show features an international team of artists interpreting bird themes in diverse styles and habitats. This free event will be held January-February at the Plum Creek Nature Center. Exhibit details available here: <https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/news-events/event-calendar/birds-in-art-exhibition/>

Welcome, New Members!

Kirk and Kate LaGory	Downers Grove
Mark Macaluso	Wheaton
Marianne Myrick	Glen Ellyn
Mark Swayne	Wheaton
Melodee and Jim Walker	Wheaton

Announcing DBC's Fall 2023 Photography Contest Winners!

The DBC's Fall '23 photo contest was a great success! We had the most entries ever in the contest - 36 beautiful bird photos. The 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.

Congratulations to Tim Duitsman for his **Best of Show** picture of a male Hooded Merganser "running" across Whalon Lake. Below are all the DBC Fall 2023 Photography Contest Award Winners:



Best of Show - Hooded Merganser

Photographer: Tim Duitsman

Species of Bird: Hooded Merganser

Where was the picture taken: Whalon Lake

Narrative: Just after dawn a male and female Hooded Merganser were along the eastern shore. I had to walk through the tall and frosty grass to get close enough to get this picture.



Rock Star Award

Photographer: Bonnie Graham

Species of bird: Rock Wren

Location: Cress Creek Farms Park

Narrative: This rare bird was hiding around the rocks next to the old red barn. I took some shots but it was partially hidden. After about 30 minutes I started to leave when it jumped up on a rock on full display! I got some great pictures of it, including this one.



Exotica Award

Photographer: Rick Roche

Species of Bird: Crested Caracara

Where was the picture taken: Pixaim River, Pantanal, Brazil

Narrative: From our boat our birding guide spotted a Jaguar stalking a Caiman on the right side of the Pixiam River near the SouthWild Pantanal Lodge in Brazil. We stopped close to the left bank to watch the Jaguar, who receded into the brush but was still visible. This Crested Caracara landed on a bush just five yards behind us and watched us watch the Jaguar for twenty minutes. A Jabiru, a Cocoi Heron, and a Little Blue Heron also joined our audience.



Best Portrait Award

Photographer: Name: Laurel Ahlenius

Bird Species: Nashville Warbler

Location: My patio pond, Wheaton, IL

Narrative: Just off my patio and down a steep slope is a large pond. Surrounding most of the pond is a variety of wild shrubs, trees and plants at the water's edge. The birds often pass quickly through the dense shrubs but this one paused in a clearing and I was able to get a clear shot. The blue background is the pond reflecting the sky that day. This fall I was surprised to have repeated visits from a few Nashville, Cape May, and Palm Warblers; even a Northern Parula stopped by for a quick visit. I never know who is going to show up next!



Say Ahhhhh! Award

Photographer: Laurel Ahlenius

Bird Species: Green Heron

Location: My patio pond, Wheaton, IL

Narrative: I watched this Green Heron walking along the pond's edge from the slope above and I was able to follow it quietly to the end of the pond without disturbing him. He stopped walking, stretched tall, and slowly opened his beak as if responding with a return call, though I heard none. What was most interesting was that I actually captured raising his tongue up in another photo, but decided to submit this one as the sunlight shone down his throat making part of his throat translucent. One can even see part of his tongue. I can just hear a doctor say, "Now, open wide and say "AHHHHHHHHHHH"!"



Best Owl I'd Like to See Award

Photographer: Dick Yamasaki

Species of Bird: Barn Owl (Tyto alba)

Where was the picture taken: Villa Park, California

Narrative: This photo was taken at a friend's house in Villa Park, California. The owl had been there for several weeks and had been returning to his yard for several years. I suspect that the orange tree in the yard, with ripe fruits on the ground, is attracting prey for the owl. The owl never opened her eyes, even with five adults standing just below her and me taking photographs! The heart-shaped face with her eyes wide-open would have made an even better photo! To the prey the face probably looks very murderous.



Welcome To the Neighborhood Award

Photographer: Jeanne Rosone

Species of Bird: Great Egret

Where was the picture taken: Army Trail Nature Center in Addison

Narrative: While this Egret was hanging out on a tree stump, a turtle started making its way out of the water. I'm not sure if the egret thought it was a fish at first because it was staring into the water. The Egret seemed surprised to see a turtle.



Local Color Award

Photographer: John Obenland

Species of Bird: Eastern Towhee

Where was the picture taken: Springbrook Forest Preserve, Naperville

Narrative: On an early October hike at Springbrook, this late migrant was caught performing his "act" alongside the trail, following the script perfectly with his alternating hopping and scratching in the leaves. Not only were his actions "natural" and "convincing" but the costuming was perfect as well - black and orange in October! Just enough color and action to draw attention, while blending in with the shades of autumn in the background. A big surprise that I had not anticipated, and I hope he received rave reviews at all the stops on his tour!



Tranquil Reflection Award

Photographer: Micheal Regan

Species of Bird: Great Egret

Where was the picture taken: Lincoln Marsh

Narrative - Linoln Marsh is a place I go to find tranquility. Finding this reflection reminds me of why I enjoy birding.



Best Story Award

Photographer: Vicki Sroczynski

Species of Bird: California Condor

Where was the picture taken: Grand Canyon South Rim - El Tovar

Narrative: My husband and I were walking to take the bus to a vantage point where we were told a condor nest was visible-we knew the birds weren't nesting now, but hoped they'd be in the area. It was our last chance to see a condor after three days of NOT seeing them. As we were walking I saw two large birds with upswept wings and a lot of white underneath. Woohoo, California Condors! So we hurried to the Lookout Studio to try and find them from the terrace.

The chick is one year, nine months old (they're considered rather independent at age two).

Nonetheless, it could not stop tugging on his mom's wing tag, probably begging for food according to a park ranger we talked with later. It just made us laugh, the chick was so pesty, just like a toddler.

Condor #123 was hatched in captivity on 5/20/95 at the Los Angeles Zoo, but he raised a wild-born chick in 2005. He's raised 4 chicks so far, I think, 3 with Condor #297 (she was hatched on 4/10/03 at the World Center for Birds of Prey, Boise). We were simply delighted to see this family, along with a lot of other happy visitors, with whom we shared our binocs and later, photos.



Award For Best Backyard Bird Shot

Photographer: Photographer: Lana Pedersen

Species of bird: Mourning Doves

Location: My yard in unincorporated Lombard

Narrative: On a cold, dreary afternoon this November these Mourning Doves were huddled together, trying to keep warm in their puffy down jackets. Our Ohio Buckeye tree is a favored perch for the doves year-round; at daybreak, you can count on them congregating at the very top of the tree to soak up the first rays of the rising sun.

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

DuPage Birding Club's Winter '24 Photo Contest Now Open!

The DBC is looking for pictures of birds taken between December 1, 2023, and February 29, 2024. 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 April *Drummings*.

January 2024 Field Trips

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Although overall there are fewer birds around in the winter months, it is still fun to go out and see what we can find. Waterfowl such as mergansers, goldeneye, bufflehead, swans, and others that winter here may be found in some of the unfrozen lakes or rivers. We also may see raptors, winter songbirds and some of the northern boreal forest birds such as crossbills, purple finches, and pine siskins. So, why not join us for a January field trip.

We'd also like to give a big THANKS to the field trip leaders who volunteer their time even in the winter.

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. Non-members are always welcome. We do not charge fees for birding trips. Field trip information is also found at: www.dupagebirding.org.

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.

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:

- 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: When possible last-minute changes are posted on www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips.

Monday, January 1, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

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

A reservation with the Morton Arboretum is required if you are a nonmember. (see below).

There is no limit to the number of participants.

You do not need to register with the DBC Organizer listed below, but she is available to answer questions.

Come one, come all to Morton Arboretum to start the new year right! Gather at parking lot P33 on the west side <https://mortonarb.org/visit-the-arboretum/maps-guides/>. 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.

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 nonmember/guest 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.

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski: vsroczynski@comcast.net

Sunday, January 7, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

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

We will be looking for winter resident birds. 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. The trip will be cancelled if there is inclement weather.

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

Saturday, January 13, 2:30 pm – 5:00 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 meet at the 'Red Barn Area' located at the end of Sauk Cir [Google Map Link](#) (If needed, Fermilab security can provide a site map and directions to this area when you arrive) for a short trip through the Sparrow Hedge before heading over to the Buffalo Field to look for winter resident Short-eared Owls and other raptors which are typically active in this area around sunset.

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

Sunday, January 14, 9:00 am

Des Plaines River Tour

Pre-registration suggested so you can be contacted if the trip is canceled due to bad weather. Meet at the Bolingbrook Park & Ride lot, 120 E. Old Chicago Drive, Bolingbrook, IL 60440 (Behind Ramada Inn). We can carpool from there. We will travel downstream along the Des Plaines River looking for waterfowl. The trip will end in the Channahon area. We can stop for lunch along the way. A scope would be helpful, but not necessary. Hope to be back late afternoon or you can return earlier. Trip may be canceled if roads become hazardous.

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

Monday, January 15, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Centennial Trail, Lemont

Pre-registration suggested so you can be contacted if the trip is canceled due to bad weather. On this field trip our main target will be looking for waterfowl and other winter residents. 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](#). Please call if you have any problems with directions.

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

Friday, January 19, 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. New birders welcome. We'll visit a few spots that highlight the park's variety of habitats, staying within about 1/3 mile of the parking lot. Trails are level and are grass/dirt/paved.

Meet at the parking lot on 336 Knoch Knolls Rd., Naperville.

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

Sunday, January 21, 8:00 am - 9:30 am

Seager Park, Naperville

Pre-registration suggested so you can be contacted if the trip is canceled due to bad weather. New birders welcome. A short walk to see what birds have settled in for winter in this 30-acre patch of woods, ephemeral wetland, and grass, with lots of edge habitat. We'll keep our eyes and ears open for woodpeckers, raptors, crows, etc.

Trails are mostly level, although we have an option to descend into the beautiful ravine down a somewhat steep slope.

Meet in the parking lot at 1163 Plank Road, Naperville.

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

SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE FIELD TRIPS – more information to come
SUNDAY, MARCH 24 Mississippi River - Waterfowl Trip
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MAY 18 & 19 Horicon Marsh in Wisconsin

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.

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

2024 DBC Executive Committee Members

President: Robert Perez

Vice President: **OPEN**

Treasurer: John Hebert

Recording Secretary: Mark Freeburg

Corresponding Secretary: Natalie McFaul

Director: Rob Thomas

Director: Steve Mineck

Director: Pamela Martyn-Nemeth

2024 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

Field Trips: Karen Warner, Sherry Courtney

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: **OPEN**

Spring Count Coordinator: Joe Suchecki

Twitter: Vera Miller

Webmasters: Barb Dougan, Nancy Allured

YouTube: Denis Kania, Steve Constantelos