



## President's Message

Hello DBC Members! As I sat down to write this message, a notification popped up on my phone. It was one of those, “look where you were a year ago” messages. Curious, I clicked on the message and was provided fond memories of my trip to Sax-Zim Bog exactly one year ago.

If you haven't been to Sax-Zim Bog, it's a magical place! Great Grey Owls, Pine Grosbeaks, and Boreal Chickadees abound! I was blessed to add five species to my life list when I was there. Of course, the best time to go would be in the winter months. It's one of the few places relatively close by that you can go to find a Great Grey Owl.

Let's be honest here—winter birding can be a drag at times. It's cold, boring, and the days are short. However, winter birding can sometimes be just as exciting as birding any other time of the year. Being so close to Lake Michigan, we are often blessed with some winter surprises. Snowy Owls along the lakeshore, Tundra Swans in the farm fields, and of course the overabundance of Bald Eagles along the Illinois River. Checking the Illinois Birding Discord, I see alerts out there for Red-necked Grebes, Ross's Geese, Eared Grebes, crossbills, kittiwakes, and more. You don't have to travel all the way to Sax-Zim Bog to have a decent winter birding day here in Illinois.

I know it seems like this cold snap will never end and the snow just keeps coming, but hang in there and find some time to get out and go birding. You never know what you'll run into!

Before I wrap up this letter, I just wanted to make a few announcements:

- If you haven't already renewed your membership, please do so! Without your support, DBC wouldn't be what it is today!
- Consider going on some of our great field trips this month (no pressure to go on mine...)
- There's still time to join the next DBC Book Club discussion, so check it out.
- Keep on reading for information on Members' Night in March.

I'd strongly encourage you to consider presenting at this meeting. In the meantime, here's to good winter birding!

Robert Perez

President

[robertperez787@gmail.com](mailto:robertperez787@gmail.com)

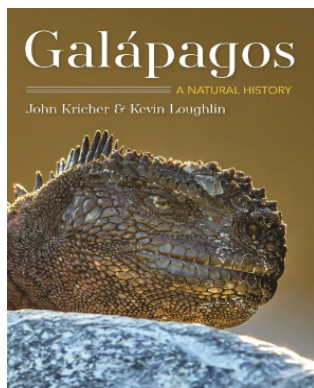
## Next Meeting

March 14, 2024

Faith Lutheran Church  
41 N. Park Blvd.  
Glen Ellyn

# In Case You Missed It—January 2024 Meeting: Galapagos—A Natural History

Presented by John Kricher and Kevin Loughlin

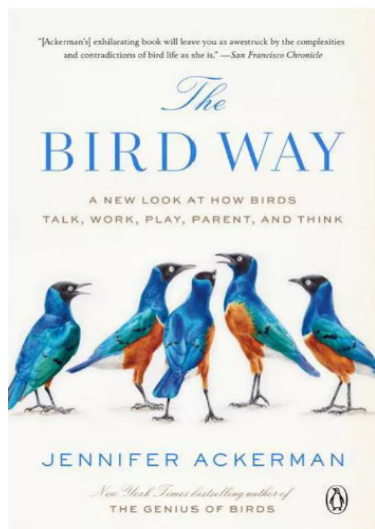


We heard a fascinating presentation on the unique wildlife of the Galapagos Islands from Kevin Loughlin, a professional photographer and owner of Wildside Nature Tours, and John Kricher, who taught ecology and ornithology at Wheaton College in Massachusetts for 48 years. Together they collaborated on the second edition of John's book, *Galapagos: A Natural History* (2022). The book includes over 600 photos provided by Kevin. View the full presentation here: <https://youtu.be/5yOhMmKqUXU>

## DBC to Sponsor Gull Frolic February 17

The annual Gull Frolic will be held February 17 at North Point Marina at the Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club. This popular event is a great way to hone your gull identification skills with experts on hand to teach you the subtle differences among these hard-to-identify birds.

Once again, DBC is a sponsor of this event. Managed by the Illinois Ornithological Society (IOS), the event often features specialties such as Iceland, Glaucous, Great Black-backed, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, plus an assortment of other waterfowl. Tickets are \$35 but sell out quickly. For more information and registration information, click <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/22nd-ios-gull-frolic-2024-tickets-692685459857>



## 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](mailto: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.

### **Members' Night Call for Presenters: Show Us What You've Seen!**

The DuPage Birding Club's annual Members' Night will be held Thursday, March 14, in person and via Zoom. All DuPage Birding Club photographers are invited to share their favorite bird photos and stories with fellow members. The photos can be from any birding location—and all levels of photographic expertise will be enjoyed by club members.

Each presentation is limited to 10 minutes, so please be very selective and limit yourself to 10 to 15 images to share. We will only have time to show approximately 10 presentations. To make sure the evening goes smoothly, we ask that presenters adhere to the steps below. If you have never presented live or on Zoom, don't let that stop you! It is actually pretty easy and we can help you through it.

#### **STEP 1**

**Submissions will be accepted starting on February 12th.** Coordinate submission with Robert Perez by email at [robertperez787@gmail.com](mailto:robertperez787@gmail.com). Please include the Presenter's Name, Presentation Title, Number of pictures or slides (not including titles and separators), and a few words describing your presentation.

#### **STEP 2**

After approval from Robert, **put your pictures in a slide show format.** It can be any slide show format you choose: Google Slides, Keynote, PowerPoint, etc. For those presenting via Zoom, you'll be using your own computer. For people presenting live, you'll be using the host's computer. Practice and time your presentation—remember you are limited to 10 minutes!

#### **STEP 3**

Presenters will be invited to a session the first week of March (on a date we can all agree on), where we will do a quick practice run via Zoom. If you are confident and comfortable doing a Zoom presentation, you can skip this. If you are new to presenting on Zoom, you will have a chance to practice sharing your screen and presenting.

Please email Robert at [robertperez787@gmail.com](mailto:robertperez787@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Thank you and see you March 14!

## **Serious Final Absolute Last Call: 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!

## **DBC Continues Tradition of Generous Giving**

The DBC funded donations and grants totaling \$2,517, including \$2,267 in cash and \$250 in in-kind donations, continuing its long-standing tradition of funding bird-worthy research and projects. Recipients in 2023 included the following organizations:

\$153 Bird Conservation Network

\$214 Wild Things

\$250 American Bird Conservancy

\$500 Friends of the Forest Preserve of DuPage County

\$150 Illinois Ornithological Society

\$1000 IOS Research Grant to Adriana Yoder for Research on Red-headed Woodpecker cavity usage

**Over the last five years (2019-2023), DBC has donated \$21,417 to fund a range of regional bird-related projects—pretty impressive!**

## **Welcome, New Members**

John Hiltz Naperville

Marlene Kuypers Burr Ridge

Patricia Moran Elmhurst

Jennifer and Chris Perry Naperville



## 2023 Fermilab-Batavia Christmas Bird Count Results

On December 16, 2023, 90 birders and 2 feeder watchers counted every bird they could see and hear within the 15-mile circle during the 48<sup>th</sup> Fermi-Batavia CBC. Eighty-five species were observed in the count, above our 10-year average despite consistent rain. We had high counts for Pileated Woodpecker (3), Merlin (3) and White-throated Sparrow (401). Thank you to all the area captains and counters in making this year another successful count!

3	Cackling Goose	8	American Kestrel
11,385	Canada Goose	3	Merlin
2	Mute Swan	1	Eastern Phoebe
1	Trumpeter Swan	1	Northern Shrike
4	Wood Duck	289	Blue Jay
50	Northern Shoveler	79	American Crow
9	Gadwall	293	Black-capped Chickadee
2,743	Mallard	5	Tufted Titmouse
3	American Black Duck	5	Horned Lark
7	Northern Pintail	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
2	Green-winged Teal	8	Golden-crowned Kinglet
1	Ring-necked Duck	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch
30	Common Goldeneye	141	White-breasted Nuthatch
30	Hooded Merganser	34	Brown Creeper
3	Common Merganser	2	Winter Wren
1	Wild Turkey	3	Carolina Wren
225	Rock Pigeon	3600	European Starling
869	Mourning Dove	1	Gray Catbird
3	Killdeer	67	Eastern Bluebird
29	Sandhill Crane	4	Hermit Thrush
1	Wilson's Snipe	1,609	American Robin
45	Ring-billed Gull	209	Cedar Waxwing
18	Herring Gull	856	House Sparrow
34	Great Blue Heron	233	House Finch
20	Northern Harrier	17	Purple Finch
2	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Red Crossbill
15	Cooper's Hawk	22	Pine Siskin
6	Bald Eagle	427	American Goldfinch
68	Red-tailed Hawk	2	Lapland Longspur
1	Eastern Screech-owl	1	Snow Bunting
13	Great Horned Owl	655	American Tree Sparrow
4	Barred Owl	22	Fox Sparrow
13	Long-eared Owl	917	Dark-eyed Junco
1	Short-eared Owl	11	White-crowned Sparrow
13	Belted Kingfisher	<b>401</b>	<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>
5	Red-headed Woodpecker	47	Song Sparrow
3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	16	Swamp Sparrow
159	Red-bellied Woodpecker	151	Red-winged Blackbird
161	Downy Woodpecker	5	Rusty Blackbird
40	Hairy Woodpecker	4	Brown-headed Cowbird
<b>3</b>	<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>	9	Yellow-rumped Warbler
36	Northern Flicker	387	Northern Cardinal



## **SAVE THE DATE: May 18-19 DBC Horicon Marsh Field Trip**

Join DBC members on a field trip to Horicon Marsh May 18 and 19. Located in southeastern Wisconsin, Horicon Marsh covers 32,000 acres and is the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States. It has been recognized by the Ramsar Convention of the United Nations as a Wetland of International Importance. More than 300 species of birds have been sighted at the marsh. We are hoping to see as many of them as we can! Possible birds are: herons, least bittern, marsh wren, white pelicans, yellow-headed blackbird, rails and terns.

There are several planned activities for the weekend. You may pick and choose what you would like to do. **Just register for any activities you choose by April 1, so that we have firm numbers to give our hosts.**

**Saturday, May 18**, at 12:30 we will meet at the Horicon Education & Visitor Center (Wisconsin DNR) for a history and introduction to the marsh. This is a great place to get to know Horicon and learn about the trails and birding options. Director Liz Herzman will guide us through the exhibits and answer all our questions.

**Saturday afternoon**, we have made arrangements for a special boat tour for those who want to explore the marsh on the water. Blue Heron Landing will take us on a two-hour birders' charter boat from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. The boat trip will include an expert local guide from the Horicon Marsh Birding Club who tends to keep track of where the most interesting sightings are located any given day.

**This is the only event with a fee. There is a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 16 participants for this boat tour. The cost is \$38 per person, and we require a firm commitment with payment by April 1.**

**Saturday evening, before sunset**, drive through the three-mile paved Autotour road at the northwest corner of Horicon Marsh to the Egret Trail and floating boardwalk. Many of the waterfowl fly over the one-quarter mile long boardwalk en route to the middle of the marsh for the night, so this should be a good opportunity to see them. The Autotour also boasts five miles of hiking/biking trails.

**Sunday morning, May 19**, we will meet at the Horicon Education & Visitor Center parking lot at 7:00 a.m. for a field trip led by local birder Jeff Bahls from the Wisconsin DNR, who is also President of the Horicon Marsh Birding Club. This will be about a five-hour trip in which we will carpool to different birding hot spots and walk the trails. The trails are level and most are gravel. There will be opportunities for restroom stops as we move from area to area. We will also have transportation back to the Nature Center should anyone want to return early. This is a great opportunity to bird the marsh with someone who knows it intimately. You may choose to join us on any or all of the above planned activities. There is no fee for the Saturday afternoon visit to the Horicon Education and Visitors center with Liz Herman and there is no fee for the Sunday morning field trip with Jeff Bahls, **but you must register for them by April 1.** There is a \$38 fee for the boat ride on Saturday and, again, **you must register by April 1.**

There is a scenic three-mile paved Autotour road at the northwest corner of Horicon Marsh which takes you to the Egret Trail and floating boardwalk. Many of the waterfowl fly over the one-quarter mile long boardwalk en route to the middle of the marsh for the night so this would be a good evening or early morning activity if you have the time. The Autotour also boasts five miles of hiking/biking trails.

Horicon Marsh is one of the most diverse birding areas in the Midwest. Don't miss this opportunity to explore it with some very knowledgeable locals as your guides!

Please note: If you are planning to spend the night in the area, be aware there are limited lodging options and they fill up fast in May. We strongly suggest you make your lodging reservations now! Natalie has a list of lodging options.

This trip has been organized by Natalie McFaul and Sherry Courtney.

Contact Natalie McFaul at [natcatcher7@gmail.com](mailto:natcatcher7@gmail.com) to register, for details, and to answer any questions.

## **Learn More: Region's Black-crowned Night-Heron Project**

Did you know that the largest colony of Black-crowned Night-Herons in the state of Illinois exists on the grounds adjacent to the urban Lincoln Park Zoo? And that a major project is underway to relocate some of the colony to protect it should a natural or other calamity befall it?

Illinois Audubon Society, Lincoln Park Zoo, Bird Conservation Network (of which DBC is a member), Chicago Black-crowned Night-Heron Project, and the University of Illinois are partnering to sponsor a series of Zoom programs to raise awareness and to support ongoing research. The first program was held January 23, and two more are scheduled in the coming months. To register for either, go here: <https://illinoisaudubon.org/bcnh-project/>

**February 27, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

### **Chicago's Black-crowned Night-Herons: A Story of Demise... and Recovery?**

Presented by: Michael Avara and Dr. Michael Ward, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Brad Semel, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

**March 27, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

### **Tracking the Endangered Black-crowned Night-Heron Across Chicagoland**

Present by Sarah Slayton, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign



## February 2024 Field Trips

Well, the arctic blasts hampered a few of the field trips in January. The forecast for February 3rd predicts daytime temps of 51, and we have some nice walks scheduled for everyone. Lots of us have seen, and heard, the large numbers of Sandhill cranes flying south along the DuPage river. This time of year is also good for spotting waterfowl, raptors, owls, and winter songbirds. We've all been a bit cooped up lately, so get ready to head out for a nice trek through the forests. Thank you to all of the field trip leaders who volunteer to help us enjoy time in the company of birds.

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](http://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](http://www.dupagebirding.org/field-trips).**

**Saturday, February 3, 7:30 am – 9:30 am**

**McKee Marsh, Warrenville**

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 20 participants. Call or text only to register.

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us to check out winter birds. Most of our walk will be on preserve limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd., located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville.

**Leader: Kyle Wiktor, cell: 708-506-5186**

**Sunday, February 4, 9:00 – 11:30am**

**Little Red Schoolhouse**

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

Currently the grounds are open from 9am to 5pm. Nature Center exhibit buildings remain closed.

Drinking fountains may not be available; please bring your own water. **Please dress warmly and in layers.** We will walk mostly on natural trails, so hiking boots with solid treads are advised. We can expect to see Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Nuthatch, Sparrows, Juncos, and Waterfowl. The walk will be approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours.

The Little Red Schoolhouse address is 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs 60480. Directions: From LaGrange, I usually take LaGrange Rd South, turn right on to W 95<sup>th</sup> St, and then turning left (south) on Flavin Rd. The entrance is about a half mile further on the right. For directions from other locations, I recommend using a GPS or contacting the nature center at 708.839.6897.

**Leader: Alan Seelye-James, Cell: 954-708-4804 with any questions.**

**Saturday, February 10th, 9:00 – 11:00 am**

**Morton Arboretum**

There is no limit to this walk, but please let the field trip leader know if you plan on attending.

This field trip will focus on winter migrants, specifically Red and White-winged Crossbills, which have been seen at the Arboretum in the past. We will start at the Visitor Center and walk through some of the pine forests looking for Crossbills. We'll then wander around a bit looking for other winter birds and waterfowl. We will meet in front of the visitor center.

\*Please note that a timed-reservation entry is required for all NON-members. Timed entry tickets can be obtained at the link below. Please reach out if you have any questions.

<https://mortonarb.org/visit-the-arboretum/>

**Leader: Robert Perez, 630-724-7534 or [robertperez787@gmail.com](mailto:robertperez787@gmail.com)**

**Sunday, February 25, 8:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Centennial Trail, Lemont**

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

On this field trip we will meet in the gravel parking lot at the end of Canal Bank Road. Coming off of Lemont Road this turnoff is called Old Lemont Road, and is unmarked, so turn at this pin: 41,683840, -88.003541. [Google Map link](#). Feel free to ask questions on how to get there after you RSVP.

On this field trip our main targets will be waterfowl. Common Goldeneye and Redhead, along with many others are all possible. We will also be on the lookout for songbirds on the wooded side of the trail.

**Leader: Henry Meade. Please register with [kathleenreeves22@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenreeves22@yahoo.com)**

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## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**FUTURE FIELD TRIPS    More information to come as it is available!**

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 - Mississippi River - Waterfowl trip**

Waterfowl, cranes, eagles and pelicans will be sought on this all day trip exploring spots along the Mississippi, both in Illinois and Iowa. In addition to the river, Lost Mound will be visited to search for Western Meadowlark and Northern Mockingbird. We will caravan from the western suburbs. Registration and more trip info will be added next month.

**Leader: Jeff Chapman**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 18 & 19, 2024 - Horicon Marsh Field Trip!**

**Organizers: Natalie McFaul and Sherry Courtney**

**Pre-Registration is required for this trip. There is no limit at this time, subject to resources (see page 7).**

**To register and for more detailed information contact Natalie McFaul at [natcatcher7@gmail.com](mailto:natcatcher7@gmail.com)**

Horicon Marsh covers 32,000 acres and is the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States. It has been recognized by the Ramsar Convention of the United Nations as a Wetland of International Importance. More than 300 species of birds have been sighted at the marsh. We will be looking for waterfowl, terns, rails, late spring migrants, and cranes including possible whooping cranes! Last year they even had a loon visit them in May.

**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](http://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:**

Karen Warner, [k\\_warner@comcast.net](mailto:k_warner@comcast.net)

Sherry Courtney, [sherrycourtney10@gmail.com](mailto:sherrycourtney10@gmail.com)



Horicon Marsh



## 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 Herbert

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