



## President's Message

Hello, birders! If you're not familiar with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's monthly magazine, *Living Bird*, I would highly recommend it. The magazine is not only full of interesting articles, but it also has a wide array of travel suggestions. One of the things that jumped out to me in the latest edition was a letter from Ian Owens, the Executive Director of the Cornell Lab. His letter, titled "What's in a Name?" discusses the controversial AOS decision to rename 152 species that have eponymous names, or are named after a person.

I may be opening up a can of worms here, but to be honest, I've had a lot of mixed feelings about this decision. I've followed the news on this topic quite closely since the decision was made official last year. As someone who studies and appreciates history, I can't help but feel we're going to lose something when some species' names change. I'm a bit worried that people like Georg Wilhelm Steller (of which there are three bird species named after him), will be forgotten. The story about his expedition to Alaska and Siberia is incredibly interesting and harrowing.

For a lot of us, adopting the new names of birds that we've grown up with will be hard. A lot of you have been birding far longer than I have, so I can only begin to imagine how hard it will be to start calling species such as Cooper's Hawk, Wilson's Warbler, Bell's Vireo, and other species by a different name. Owens addresses this directly in his article saying "At the same time, I'm keenly aware that people feel a strong attachment to certain species names. I suspect I'll pine a little for Blackburnian Warbler—yes, it's eponymous!—although I can easily see the charm of a new name like Fire-throated Warbler."

Personally, I think Fire-throated Warbler sounds a lot cooler than Blackburnian Warbler. This letter actually did a lot to sway me to the side of supporting these name changes. Imagine some of the other cool names that can be created! Next time you're out birding and see a species that has an eponymous name, try thinking of the most unique name you can come up with.

Change can be hard, but as birders we adapt. No one calls the Long-tailed Duck by its old name—a change that was made in only 2000. Instead of dwelling on the past, I think we should embrace the future and the new bird names that will come along with it!

Robert Perez  
President, DuPage Birding Club  
[robertperez787@gmail.com](mailto:robertperez787@gmail.com)

### Next Meeting

March 14, 2024  
Doors open at 7:00 pm

Faith Lutheran Church  
41 N. Park Blvd.  
Glen Ellyn

Pre-Meeting Dinner  
5:15 pm

Ellyn's Tap and Grill  
940 Roosevelt Rd.  
Glen Ellyn

## 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. The doors open at 7:00 pm and the meeting will also be available via Zoom. To register for Zoom click on the following link. <http://tinyurl.com/dbcmembers>

Check out the lineup of presentations at this fast-paced, fun event:

- Sirimon Reutrakul - Birds of Vietnam
- Lisa Gaylord - Birds of Colombia
- Rick Roche - Birding Brazil's Northern Pantanal
- Joe Suchecki - Birding New Zealand
- Julie Waterman - Beautiful Birds of Belize and Guatemala
- Bonnie Graham - Birds of the Rio Grande Valley

## Gulls and Getting Together at the Gull Frolic



The annual Gull Frolic at North Point Marina was a sold-out success in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year. Sponsored by Illinois Ornithological Society (IOS), the event featured lots of camaraderie with birding friends old and new, delicious food, and birds! Highlights included Iceland Gull, Ring-billed and Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Horned Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Red-breasted Merganser.



DBC sponsored this event and hosted a table staffed by President Robert Perez and Board member Pamela Martyn-Nemeth. DBC members were well represented at this event, with a dozen or more people, including Urs Geiser, Jane Barnett, and Bob Fisher featured in our photo.



## **SAVE THE DATE: Spring Bird Count May 4**

Spring is almost here and it's time to plan your participation in the 2024 Spring Bird Count in DuPage County on Saturday, May 4.

The Spring Bird Count is held annually throughout Illinois around the first weekend in May and is intended to provide some information and data on early spring bird migration throughout Illinois. The Spring Bird Count also is a great opportunity for birders of all skill levels to get out in the field and look for all those great and colorful spring migrants moving through northeastern Illinois. The DuPage Birding Club coordinates the spring count efforts in DuPage County, and last year we recorded 171 species on spring count day. Results from past counts can be found on the DBC website: <https://dupagebirding.org/bird-counts/>.

It is not too early to start getting ready for this year's spring count. If you have participated in the past, look for an email in mid-April from Joe Suchecki with information about the count, your area captain, and your count area. If you have not participated previously and would like to join the fun this year, contact Joe at [dupagesbc@gmail.com](mailto:dupagesbc@gmail.com) and he will put you in touch with an area captain for the count.

Last year we had 148 participants counting birds on the spring count in DuPage. We would like even more people to participate this year. So, don't miss out on the fun and excitement of the great Spring Bird Count on May 4. Any questions? Contact Joe Suchecki who is coordinating this year's count at [dupagesbc@gmail.com](mailto:dupagesbc@gmail.com).

## **Outreach Team Connects with the Community**

On February 20, Natalie McFaul and Andie Duffy presented a children's program at the Lemont Library called *Birds Can Fly, Why Can't I?* The focus was "5 Reasons Why Birds Can Fly." After an interactive lesson with Andie accompanied by great slides from Natalie, the 10 participants, first- through third-graders and one four-year-old, made a paper bird that could flap its wings. Afterwards there were other activities: observing feathers with magnifiers, matching their "wingspan" to various birds' spans, playing bird sounds on an Identifier device, and finding familiar birds among picture cards.

Natalie and Andie report that the group size made everything very manageable and the children were very well-behaved and participated enthusiastically. Kudos for your creativity, Natalie and Andie.

Also at the Lemont Library the same week, Bob Fisher presented *What a Tweet - Winter Birding Chat* to adults interested in learning more about the birds found in our area during the winter months.

If you'd like to be on the Outreach team, please contact Mike Warner at [mwarner@gmail.com](mailto:mwarner@gmail.com). We need people willing to respond to community requests for information about birds. There are lots of existing presentations and materials to support these kinds of requests. We just need your time and your enthusiasm!

# Announcing the Monty and Rose Wildlife Habitat



On Valentine's Day 2024, the board of the Chicago Park District approved a new name for the 3.1-acre expansion of the natural areas at Montrose Point, commonly known to date as "the old volleyball area," adjacent to the Cliff Swallow nesting colony. In 2021, thanks to efforts led by Leslie Borns, this area was removed from recreational use and added to the natural

areas. Moving forward, it will be officially known as **The Monty and Rose Wildlife Habitat** and signs will go up this year with the new name. This is a fitting tribute to Piping Plovers Monty and Rose who made Montrose their breeding ground for three consecutive seasons, stole the hearts of Chicagoans, and created strong conservation awareness among their followers. Here is a [link](#) to the press release.

## News from the DuPage Forest Preserve

### Forest Preserves Considered a Good Value by Residents

Responses on a county-wide survey for the Forest Preserve District were collected from nearly 1,000 household residents in DuPage. Among these, 82% were favorable of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County with only 4% containing negative viewpoints. The remaining percent were neutral. The ratings for DuPage FP District came out much higher than the average state rating and were comparable to the nearby Lake County scores on a similar survey. Given that only 2% of a household's property taxes contribute to the district, general opinion was that the preserves are a very good value.

### Habitat Improvements Planned for Early 2024

**Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve:** The Sawmill Creek Pedestrian Bridge Replacement will be completed in spring with the laying of asphalt. (Winter is an unfavorable time of year for such projects.)

**Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve:** A trail connection project of .2 miles of concrete trail will link the Lake Trail to West Trail Connector Trail in Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve. This project was funded by a statewide grant. The project should begin in spring of 2024 and will be completed in the summer.

**Willowbrook Forest Preserve:** A contract was awarded for clearing 10 acres of invasive trees and shrubs in the back area of Willowbrook Forest Preserve. Any native trees and shrubs that should not be removed will be flagged prior to the project. The project will begin in early 2024 and be completed by the end of spring.

## Welcome, New Members

Maria Ananieva  
Maria Forth  
Nancy Gahn  
Joan Johnson

Bloomingtondale  
North Aurora  
Montgomery  
Wheaton

John and Kathy Redding  
Kathleen and Daniel Sachs  
Craig and Leslie Wiedder

Naperville  
Elmhurst  
Bloomingtondale

## March 2024 Field Trips

Spring is just around the corner. Come and join us for an early spring field trip. This month's trips target migrating waterfowl, raptors, passerines, and shorebirds plus some returning breeders.

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 OR SUNDAY, MARCH 2-3 - Chautauqua Snow Geese spectacular (maybe)**

Sometime between late February and early March, Snow Geese can be present at Chautauqua, in 10's, even 100's of thousands - a true wildlife spectacular! If that happens, DBC will organize a trip on short notice, so watch your email...

**Sunday, March 10, 8:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Centennial Trail, Lemont**

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

On this field trip our main targets will be early returning spring migrants. Northern Shovelers and Redheads, along with a large array of waterfowl are all possible. We will also be on the lookout for songbirds such as Rusty Blackbirds, Eastern Towhees, and many more, on the wooded side of the trail. 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.

**Leader: Henry Meade, [henrymm21@icloud.com](mailto:henrymm21@icloud.com)**



**Thursday, March 14, 7:45 am – 11:00 am**

**Morton Arboretum, West Side**

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

We will meet at Thornhill parking lot, P21, and take a long walk around much of the west side, including the river and Lake Marmo, but excluding the prairie.

\*Please note that a timed-reservation entry is required for all NON-members. Timed entry tickets can be obtained at the following link below. <https://mortonarb.org/visit-the-arboretum/>. If you don't have an arboretum membership, let us know and you can follow us in. It will cost \$5.00.

Leader: **Mike and Karen Warner**, [mwarner2543@gmail.com](mailto:mwarner2543@gmail.com), 630 640-2450

**Friday, March 15, 7:30 am - 9:30 am**

**Fullersburg Woods, Oak Brook**

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

Beginning birders welcome. We'll explore the woodlands along Salt Creek on pretty easy, level trails, as well as the feeders around the visitor's center and other buildings. Meet in the main parking lot at 3609 Spring Road. If conditions are good, we might do a quick side-trip at the end to nearby Dean Nature Sanctuary. More info here: <https://www.dupageforest.org/places-to-go/forest-preserves/fullersburg-woods>

Leader: **Steve Constantelos**, [steve.constantelos@gmail.com](mailto:steve.constantelos@gmail.com), 630-890-8956

**Saturday, March 16, 7:45 am – 10:45 am**

**McKee Marsh, Warrenville**

Registration not required.

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us to check out winter and incoming spring 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, March 17, 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, you 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 waterfowl, sparrows, and early migrants. 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](mailto:pillwixler@gmail.com) or text 630-917-5419

**Saturday, March 23, 8:00 am- 10:00 am**

**Bird Sit at Whalon Lake Preserve, Naperville**

Pre-registration suggested so you can be contacted in the case of bad weather.

Our first sit of the year! 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 comradery of fellow birders. Bring your folding lawn chairs, binoculars, and field guides and join us at Whalon Lake Preserve. If you have a scope it can be helpful for spotting birds on the lake. We will meet and sit as a group and look for early spring migrants, waterfowl and any birds that come to us! Birders of all levels are welcome. Whalon Lake Preserve is located on Royce Rd. west of Route 53/Bolingbrook Drive in Naperville. (It is across the street from Lissen Rd.) Drive all the way to the boat landing area, we will meet there. Dress much warmer than you think necessary as it is harder to stay warm while sitting, especially if the weather is chilly. [Whalon Lake Preserve](#)

**Leader: Natalie McFaul, [natcatcher7@gmail.com](mailto:natcatcher7@gmail.com)**

**Saturday, March 23, 8:00 am – noon**

**Palos Area-McGinnis Slough: Waterfowl and More**

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

This location is an Audubon “Important Bird Area.” Loons, grebes, and other waterfowl are targeted on this trip. Meet at McGinnis Slough, on the west side of LaGrange Rd. (US45), approximately 1/2 mile south of 131st St. Finding waterfowl is associated with open water conditions. Bob will monitor conditions and may change the starting location in order to see more birds. This trip might extend past the noon hour. Wear appropriate clothing.

**Leader: Bob Fisher, 630-985-2956, [bfisher928@aol.com](mailto:bfisher928@aol.com)**

**Sunday, March 24, Time to be announced at registration.**

**Mississippi River - Waterfowl Trip**

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

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. Please contact the leader for meeting time and location. We will caravan from the western suburbs.

**Leader: Jeff Chapman, [jeffchapman948@gmail.com](mailto:jeffchapman948@gmail.com)**

**Tuesday, March 26, 7:15 pm**

**Woodcocks, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Woodridge**

Greene Valley Forest Preserve is known for its Woodcock displays, which begin shortly after sunset. Join us this spring on one of our walks. Meet at the west entrance parking lot: west on 79th St. from Greene Rd, then Thunderbird Rd. south, approx. 1/2 mile to the campground entrance. The walk will NOT be canceled due to weather.

**Leader: Jeff Smith, 331-481-3362, [mrqmagoo13@gmail.com](mailto:mrqmagoo13@gmail.com)**

**Wednesday, March 27, 7:45 am - 10:30 am**

**Danada East/Rice Lake Forest Preserve**

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

Danada is located at 3S507 Naperville Road, south of Butterfield Road and north of I-88 on the east side of Naperville Road. Meet in the parking lot by the horse corrals. We will walk the woods looking for passerines and scan the lake for waterfowl.

**Leaders: Karen and Mike Warner, [mwarner2543@gmail.com](mailto:mwarner2543@gmail.com) 630-640-2450**

**Horicon Field Trip; May 18 & 19: FULL!**

**The Horicon field trip is full.** If you would like to be put on a waiting list in case there are any openings send Natalie an email.

Natalie at [natcatcher7gmail.com](mailto:natcatcher7gmail.com)

**Additional birding opportunities:**

**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.

**Area Forest Preserves** may have 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).

**Questions/Comments:** 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](mailto:sherrycourtney10@gmail.com)

Karen Warner, [k\\_warner@comcast.net](mailto: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: Jane Barnett

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,  
Donna Kubik

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

Field Trips: Karen Warner, Sherry Courtney

Flickr: Urs Geiser

Forest Preserve Liaison: Dennis Streicher

Grants and Donations: Vera Miller

Hospitality: Bonnie Graham

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