

Drummings April 2024

President's Message



Next Meeting

April 11, 2024

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Faith Lutheran Church
41 N. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, IL

Pre-meeting Dinner

5:15 p.m.
Ellyn's Tap and Grill
940 Roosevelt Rd.
Glen Ellyn, IL

Hello, birders! I hope you've been enjoying the unseasonably warm weather we've been having of late. It's crazy that crocus, daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips were already emerging from the ground in February! I've enjoyed being able to sit outside for lunch in short sleeves, watching cranes fly overhead and opening the windows to let in fresh air.

Although the unseasonably warm temperatures may make us happy in the moment, it makes the spring migration of some birds even more difficult than it already is. I came across an [article](#) on the Audubon website titled "As Spring Shifts Earlier, Many Migrating Birds Are Struggling to Keep Up". The article discusses how most migratory species are unable to keep up with the ever earlier onset of spring. If birds arrive too late in spring, they may not have enough food to complete their migration. With climate change causing our spring "green-ups" to be earlier and earlier, can our spring birds adapt quick enough?

The article concluded by pointing out that some species are already starting to adapt. Some birds are shortening the window of preparation before laying eggs, better lining up with periods of higher insect abundance once their chicks are born. With that said, additional research needs to be done to see how serious the situation is.

I don't want to be all doom and gloom though. There are things we can do to help birds on their migration. If you have a yard, make sure to fill it with native plants, shrubs, and trees. These plants provide homes for insects and birds alike. A lot of us forget that insects are critical parts of our ecosystem and are vital for birds' survival. Without insects, there wouldn't be birds! Other things we can do to help birds on their migration would include turning lights off at night and placing screens or decals on windows to help prevent window strikes.

Lastly, the most important thing we can do for the birds is continue birding! Appreciating them, learning about them, and getting others interested in them are incredibly important to the survival of birds. Without the power of us birders, bird conservation and advocacy would not be as strong as it is today. My parting message as we begin to welcome the spring is stay engaged and keep birding!

Robert Perez
President, DuPage Birding Club
robertperez787@gmail.com

April 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m. In-Person Only Meeting: Chicago Bird Collision Monitors—Protecting our Migrant Birds from a Deadly Threat

Annette Prince, Director Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

For our April Meeting, we welcome Annette Prince of the [Chicago Bird Collision Monitors](#) (CBCM).

CBCM is an all-volunteer bird conservation project that protects and recovers birds injured or killed in window collisions in downtown Chicago during spring and fall migratory seasons. Confusing lights and glass building design cause thousands of birds migrating along the lakefront to collide with downtown buildings. Volunteer teams spend the early morning hours to save the injured and document the fatalities that have occurred. CBCM is an advocate in conservation initiatives like Lights Out Chicago and bird-safe building initiatives, as well as providing educational programs to people throughout the Chicagoland area. Annette will share the work of CBCM and show how we can get involved and support the organization.



Annette Prince is the Director of CBCM and has been engaged in national and local conservation projects for over 35 years. She is involved with Chicago Bird Alliance (formerly Chicago Audubon Society), Bird-Friendly Chicago, and Bird Conservation Network. She has also diligently worked with the city of Chicago to implement bird-friendly building design policies for new and existing buildings. We hope that you can join us for this in-person only meeting on Thursday, April 11, at 7:00pm in Glen Ellyn! Note the meeting will be recorded and posted on the Education Channel but will not be broadcast via Zoom.

Join us for a pre-meeting dinner at Ellyn's Tap and Grill (940 Roosevelt Rd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137) from 5:15-7:00pm. Come mingle with your fellow birders before the official meeting.

In Case You Missed It: Members' Night March 14

What an entertaining evening Members' Night proved to be—as usual! We enjoyed great photos and fun stories from adventures near and far. See all the presentations here:

<https://youtu.be/L1WRHpWzN4E>

May 4 Spring Bird Count Fast Approaches

Not to worry, there is still time to join a team for the Spring Bird Count on May 4. This annual event provides valuable 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.

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 Suchecki at 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 County. 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.

DBC Book Club to Read *A Season on the Wind*

The DBC Book Club's next read is Kenn Kaufman's fascinating account of the science and magic of spring migration and its many perils as it is experienced at one key location familiar to many of us—the shores of Lake Erie in northwestern Ohio at the famed Magee Marsh and environs. This site attracts birders from all over the globe to witness close encounters with a stunning variety of colorful spring migrants. It also has become the site of one of the biggest birding festivals in the world. This is a timely read as spring migration approaches.

The next book club will meet June 4, at 7:00 p.m. All members are welcome! Please contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com if you'd like details on participating.

P.S. Jennifer Ackerman's *The Bird Way* was enthusiastically reviewed by DBC Book Club members who marveled at the remarkable studies showing how birds communicate, source food, play, court, parent, and think. Here's an example: a Black Manakin, a bird of South America, was filmed doing its flashy dance moves in an effort to impress a female. When the film was slowed down, it was observed doing a complete 360-degree flip so fast that it was not visible to the human eye. Outrageous! Check it out at minute 51 in this video interview with Ms. Ackerman. <https://youtu.be/gNVehT5vy-8?si=8LW8zHDG0E4YOntS>

Announcing DBC's Winter 2024 Photography Contest Winners!

The DBC's Winter '24 photo contest was a great success! We had many excellent photos submitted. The entries were judged by Andie Duffy, Steve Constantelos, Natalie McFaul, and Mike Warner (we're looking for another judge so contact Mike at mwarner2543@gmail.com if interested).

Because of the variety and quality of the submissions, the committee had a very tough time deciding on which pictures to recognize; the committee would like to thank all the photographers for their entries. Below are all the DBC Winter 2024 Photography Contest Award Winners.

Best of Show

Photographer: Henry Meade

Species of Bird: Reddish Egret

Where was the picture taken: South Padre Island, TX

Narrative: Reddish Egret, a staple of the south Texas coastline, with a freshly caught fish just after sunset.



Best BIF (Bird in Flight) Award

Photographer: Mark Levesque

Species of Bird: Red-tailed Hawk, Juvenile, Light Morph

Where was the picture taken: Hidden Lakes, Bolingbrook

Narrative: I had never seen a fairly rare Red-tailed hawk, light morph before! Although I was pretty sure it was a hawk, I had no idea it was a variation of the ubiquitous Red-tailed hawk. It wasn't until I checked with Merlin that I found out what it was. I haven't seen it since!



Walking In A Winter Wonderland Award

Photographer: Laurel Ahlenius

Species of Bird: Canada Goose

Where was the picture taken: Wheaton, IL

Narrative: This winter there seemed to have been a lot of sightings of Snow Geese around Cook and DuPage Counties. Back in early January with all the heavy snow coming down, I just couldn't resist taking this picture as these Canada Geese were patrolling the street where I live. One can literally say that this is an authentic "Snow Goose Patrol"!



Best Holiday Card Award

Photographer Name: Rick Roche

Bird Species: American Robin

Location: Morton Arboretum, Lisle

Narrative: Many of my non-birdwatching friends are surprised whenever I mention seeing an American Robin in winter. This photo, taken on a January day when dozens of robins were enjoying the warmth of the sun on the Morton Arboretum Visitor Center parking lot, is evidence.



Friendly Face Award

Photographer: John Obenland

Bird Species: Red-bellied Woodpecker

Location: Lake Buena Vista, FL

Narrative: It was Florida, it was February, and there were birds everywhere. I could find this species in Illinois at this time of year, but this Florida cousin seemed to be a little more laid-back. The red-bellies are hard workers - flying, chopping away, screeching out their song, but this relational female seemed to be a little more friendly and was displaying that famous southern hospitality - taking a break from work and giving me a little facetime. There is more to life than work!



The Emerging Merg Award

Photographer: Laurel Ahlenius

Species of Bird: Common Merganser

Where was the picture taken: My backyard, Wheaton, IL

Narrative: Looking out of the patio door, I thought - those Mallards are awfully white. Got out my bins - wait - those are Common Mergansers! Grabbed the camera and stepped out on the patio, and they headed to the other end of the pond. It was useless to follow them. They finally returned, and I was able to sneak outside, and as I did one Merganser dove underwater heading straight towards where I was standing! I kept the camera shutter going, until he had surfaced and swallowed his catch of the day! I love being able to see the rest of his body and legs under the water as he surfaced. What makes this shot so special is that this is the 70th species that I have seen in this location since moving here two years ago!



© L Ahlenius

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

Spring 2024 Photo Contest Now Open

The DBC is looking for pictures of birds taken between March 1, 2024, and May 31, 2024, for the Spring 2024 Photo Contest. 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! Submit your entries by June 6. Winners will be announced in the July Drummings.

BCN Presents: Chicagoland as a Critical Migratory Bird Corridor

One-quarter of North America’s nocturnal migrating birds move north through the Chicago Wilderness region in the spring; then they do it again, heading south in the fall in even larger numbers that include birds born that summer. This twice a year round-trip transect makes the region a critical migratory corridor. And the numbers don’t lie: most of these migrants are experiencing significant population declines!

On April 4, Eric Secker, Vice-President of the Bird Conservation Network (BCN), and Bob Fisher, Communications Chair of BCN, will host a session sponsored by the Chicago Wilderness Alliance to explore how to make our region more bird-friendly and safer for stopover migrants. If we can lower the mortality risks from human sources by better land management practices, bird-friendly building design, and other tangible steps, we can make a huge difference for birds.

There is no charge for registration. Register with the Chicago Wilderness Alliance here: <https://www.chicagowilderness.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1830147&group=>

DuPage Birding Club is a member of the Bird Conservation Network, a regional coalition of conservation and birding groups dedicated to protecting birds and preserving the habitats they need to survive.

News from the DuPage Forest Preserve

Butterfly, Dragonfly and Fungus Monitoring Opportunities. Though DBC is “all about the birds,” DBC member Kathy Lech of DuPage Forest Preserve is looking for volunteers to monitor for Dragonfly and Butterfly Monitoring plus Fungus Monitoring. Required training classes will prepare you for the field work. Contact Kathy at klech@dupageforest.org.

Health Status of Local Aquatic Species Now Available. The Urban Stream Research Center (USRC), the only one of its kind in Illinois, gave a well-received presentation at a recent DuPage Forest Preserve Board meeting on the status of aquatic wildlife in the county. Six different species of mussels totaling nearly 29,000 have been released in our streams and rivers, and recent field surveys show the presence of the rare Mapleleaf Mussel, which has probably migrated upstream after dam removal. The USRC also reported on their propagation of native fish species and their rearing program for endangered Blandings Turtles. To view the presentation, go to minute 22:30 in the timeline here: <https://www.dupageforest.org/about-us/our-board/board-meetings>

Improvements at Willowbrook Wildlife Haven. In other news, Willowbrook Wildlife Haven will restore five redevelopment zones in the “Back 40,” including wetlands, prairie, savannah, woodlands and the creek. Interpretive signs will assist visitors in traveling along nodes, accessible to all, where signage and seating will be available for educational presentations and signage for each habitat. Explanation of the impact of effective restoration vs. invasive plant communities will be a feature.

Willowbrook is also planning new exhibits in the Visitor Center to feature building energy efficiency, staff work behind the scenes, patient release process for the wildlife that is rehabilitated, and the actual rehabilitation process. An example of the featured information will be migratory patterns and bird species passing through DuPage County. The exhibits should be installed in the fall of 2024.

Welcome, New Members

Dawn and Mike Harrington	Winfield
Loretta Lawrence	Bartlett
Wendy Russell	Indian Head Park
John Seyman	Naperville
Roberta Vassilakis	Naperville

April 2024 Field Trips

Wow! We have some great spring birding trips planned. Come and join us! This month's walks have us listening for spring songbirds and spotting early grassland migrants, woodcocks, loons and grebes, as well as raptors. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy.

As always, nonmembers are welcome. There are no fees for birding trips.

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. 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.

Thursday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. Woodcocks, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Woodridge
No registration required.

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

Saturday, April 13, 7:30 a.m. Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville
Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 15 participants.

This is a trip to look for wetland birds and early grassland and spring migrants. Meet at the Model Airplane Field Parking Lot on Plainfield-Naperville Road about 0.5 miles south of 75th St. Wear appropriate footwear and bring insect repellent since we will likely go off trail.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, dbcsec2020@gmail.com

Sunday, April 14, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., West Branch Forest Preserve, Bartlett
Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 12 participants.

This morning trip is designed to focus on waterfowl such as Common Loons and Horned Grebes, but we will also search for songbird migrants alongside the lake. We will most likely go onto smaller trails, which could be muddy depending on recent conditions, so boots are highly recommended. We will meet in the parking lot off Army Trail Road.

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

Tuesday, April 16, 7:30 p.m. Woodcocks, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Woodridge

No registration required.

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

Thursday, April 18, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., The DuPage Greenway Trail, Bolingbrook

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

The DuPage Greenway Trail is a paved trail in Bolingbrook that runs alongside the East Branch of the DuPage River. The trailhead is on Royce Rd just west of Rt 53. We will be looking for early migrants and returning residents, maybe a warbler or two. We will walk to Whalon Lake and see if anything is on the water and maybe spot a bald eagle.

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

Sunday, April 21, 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Bird Sit : Lyman Woods Nature Center & Forest Preserve, Downers Grove

No registration required.

Join us at this new location to look for early spring migrants. This is a field trip for anyone who finds the long walks of our regular field trips too difficult or who would just like a less vigorous birding experience, but still share the camaraderie of fellow birders. Bring your folding lawn chairs, binoculars, and field guides. We will meet in the parking lot off 31st Street and sit near the Nature Center. Lyman Woods is located at 901 31st St. Downers Grove, about one block east of Highland Ave. [Lyman Woods Website](#)
Dress for the weather, bring bug spray, drinking water and a folding chair.

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Monday, April 22, 7:30 a.m. Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

This is a trip to look for wetland and grassland birds. Meet at the Main Parking Lot on 83rd Street west of Book Road. Wear appropriate footwear and bring insect repellent since we will likely go off trail.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, dbcsec2020@gmail.com

Tuesday, April 23, 7:30 a.m. Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Woodridge/Naperville

Pre-registration with the leader is required.

This morning trip will be more oriented for new birders, but experienced ones are welcome. We will walk at a leisurely pace to allow for all to see any birds. We will search for early migratory birds. Meet at the Thunderbird Youth Camp Parking Lot. Go west on 79th about 1/2 mile, the entrance is on the south side of 79th Street, west of Greene Road in Naperville/ Woodridge.

Leader: Bonnie Graham, 630-204-8750, coye72112@gmail.com

Thursday, April 25, 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. St. James Farm Forest Preserve, Warrenville

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

We'll be concentrating on early woodland migrants as we explore some of the excellent trails through this preserve. We will meet in the main parking lot which is accessed off of Winfield Road just north of Butterfield Road.

Leader: Denis Kania, djkan36@gmail.com

Friday, April 26, 7:00 a.m. Lyman Woods Forest Preserve, Downers Grove

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

This morning trip will be oriented toward early spring migration. We will be at a leisurely pace to provide as much time as desired to look at each bird and to answer questions for any new birders. Meet in the parking lot in front of Lyman Woods Interpretive Center, located one block east of Highland Avenue on 31st Street. Boots are HIGHLY recommended.

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

Saturday, April 27, 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. McKee Marsh, Warrenville

No registration required.

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us to check out resident species and spring migrants. 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

Saturday, April 27, 7:30 a.m. McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

Fieldtrip to look for early spring migrants. Meet at the main parking lot on Raymond Road just south of Diehl Road.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, dbcsec2020@gmail.com

Sunday, April 28, 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Short Bird Walk: Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, Wheaton

No registration required.

Beginning birders and seasoned birders welcome! This is a shorter field trip lasting from an hour to an hour and a half and covering a shorter distance. We will be looking for early spring migrants. Meet at the

Herrick Road Parking lot located on the East side of Herrick road about a quarter mile south of Butterfield Rd. [Herrick Lake FP](#) Dress for the weather, bring bug spray, and drinking water.

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Friday, May 3, 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

This morning trip will focus on woodland migrants passing through our area. This is a popular migrant hotspot in both spring and fall. If birds are on the move, we will be in a great location to view them.

Meet in the first parking lot after entering the preserve. The entrance is at the intersection of Raymond Dr. and McDowell Rd. where there is a stoplight.

Leader: Denis Kania, djkan36@gmail.com

Horicon Field Trip: May 18 & 19: FULL!

The Horicon field trip is full. Thanks to all of you who registered. If you would like to be put on a waiting list, in the event of an opening, send Natalie an email at natcatcher7@gmail.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.

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

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: Jane Barnett
Recording Secretary: Mark Freeburg
Corresponding Secretary: Natalie McFaul
Director: Rob Thomas
Director: Steve Mineck
Director: Pamela Martyn-Nemeth

2024 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
DBC Book Club: Mike Warner
Drummings Newsletter: 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, Maddie 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 Ed Channel: Denis Kania, Steve Constantelos