

# Drummings June 2024

## President's Letter



### Next Meeting

July 11, 2024

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church  
41 N. Park Blvd.  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

### Premeeting Dinner

5:30 p.m.

Ellyn's Tap and Grill  
940 Roosevelt Rd.  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Hello, birders! Spring migration will be winding down shortly and I hope you were able to go out and find some interesting migrants. In addition to the usual DuPage hotspots I frequent, I made a couple of trips to Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary in hopes of finding my nemesis bird: the Connecticut Warbler. After getting rare bird alerts, I made a couple of early, pre-rush hour trips downtown to try and see the elusive bird. Unfortunately, the closest I got was hearing one call from a thicket. My personal rule is that I can't add a bird to my life list unless I actually see it. Unless fall migration brings in some of these guys, I think the Connecticut Warbler will remain my primary nemesis for one year longer...

Nemesis birds are those species that have managed to elude you for some time. I was reviewing my life list as I wrote this letter thinking back to the other nemeses I've had in the past: Northern Shrike, Northern Waterthrush, and Philadelphia Vireo. It's fun to run through my life list, reminiscing about all the adventures I've been on and all the memorable first bird encounters I've had.

I keep three life lists actually—my eBird list, an Excel sheet, and the notes in my physical bird book. Whenever I see a species for the first time, I'll write the date and location underneath the description of the bird in my bird book, a practice that my grandma started for my siblings and me. Since I've been adding to my life list since I was very young, there are a number of sightings from zoos written in my bird book. Instead of erasing those from the book (because captive birds don't count), I've set a goal to see those species in the wild. The three big ones that remain are: Atlantic Puffin, American Flamingo, and Golden Eagle.

I guess that means I have four nemesis birds—Connecticut Warbler, Atlantic Puffin, American Flamingo, and Golden Eagle. Although we aren't likely to see any Puffins or Flamingos around here anytime soon (alas, I was in Washington when they were spotted near Milwaukee last year...), I'll just have to plan some future trips up north and down to the Caribbean.

Good luck to you all as the summer begins. I hope some of you were able to spot your nemesis bird this spring. If not, there's always fall migration!

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

## July 11, 2024 Meeting, 7:00 p.m., In-Person and Zoom: Recovery of Eastern Whip-Poor-Wills in the Midwest

Presented by Dr. Mike Ward

For our July meeting, DBC will be hearing from Dr. Mike Ward, who has been investigating the decline of Eastern Whip-poor-wills in the Midwest and how we can help the species recover. More often heard singing its namesake song than seen, this cryptic night bird has been steadily declining in the Midwest. Dr. Ward will share factors likely leading to their decline and will discuss work occurring on both breeding and wintering grounds to conserve the species.



Dr. Ward is currently the Stuart L. and Nancy J. Levenick Chair in

Sustainability at the University of Illinois and an Ornithologist at the Illinois Natural History Survey. He

conducts research on avian ecology and conservation throughout the Midwest as well as in Texas, Florida, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Cuba. He is a global leader in the use of automated telemetry to investigate the migration and behavior of birds and has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and won multiple awards for his research. Dr. Ward is also on many technical committees, most of which are charged with informing management and policy to better conserve the environment.



*Eastern Whip-poor-will. Photo by Mike Warner*

We hope that you can join us for this hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) on Thursday, July 11, at 7:00 p.m. To register for the virtual meeting, click [here](#).

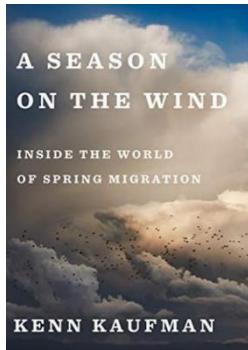
For those of you attending in person, doors open at 6:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church (41 N. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn) for a little socializing. Come mingle with your fellow birders before the official meeting at an optional premeeting dinner at Ellyn's Tap and Grill (940 Roosevelt Rd., Glen Ellyn) from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

## In Case You Missed It: May 9 Meeting The Fascinating World of Hummingbirds

Presented by Denis Kania

In case you missed our May meeting, the recording of Denis Kania's entertaining and richly informative presentation on hummingbirds is now available here: <https://youtu.be/kpLNKrpe28s>. Spend an hour and learn about this species' unique flight abilities, feeding strategies, and amazing tolerance of diverse habitats. Denis also shares many beautiful photographs of these little gems and a few amusing encounters with them on his world travels.

## Reminder: *A Season on the Wind* at DBC Book Club June 4

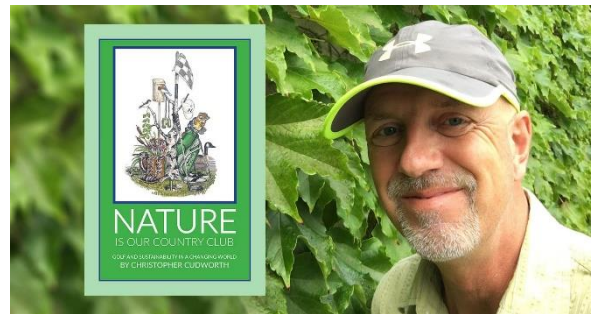


There's still time to join the discussion if you've read the DBC Book Club's current selection, *A Season on the Wind*, Kenn Kaufman's fascinating account of the science and magic of spring migration and its many perils as it is experienced at one key location familiar to many of us—the shores of Lake Erie in northwestern Ohio at the famed Magee Marsh and environs.

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](mailto:mwarner2543@gmail.com) if you'd like details on participating.

## More Book Talk: *Nature is Our Country Club*

All are invited to Cantigny on Wednesday, June 19, for a presentation by local author, artist, educator and naturalist Christopher Cudworth. He will discuss his latest book, *Nature is Our Country Club*, which focuses on the environmental impact of golf and golf course sustainability. More broadly, it's about nature appreciation and the many positive aspects of spending time outdoors. Books will be available for purchase and signing.



Whether you play golf or not, all birders will appreciate Chris's important message. His talk begins at 7:00 p.m. inside the Cantigny Visitor Center. It is free to attend and parking is also free if you [register in advance](#) at Cantigny.org. If you wish, come early for a casual bird walk. Meet behind the Cantigny Visitors Center at 5:30 p.m., no sign up necessary!

## Spring Photo Contest Submissions End June 6

If you captured an interesting photo between March 1 and May 31, there's still time to enter it for consideration in the Spring Photo Contest. Submit your photo(s), taken anywhere not just locally, by June 6 in one of two ways:

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](mailto: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.

## Trip Report: A Great Time at Horicon Marsh

*Contributed by Natalie McFaul*

The first DBC field trip to Horicon Marsh was a great success! It was two days of good birds and good company. A friendly group of 17 people participated in the DBC field trip and had some pretty exciting birding experiences.

Friday evening, we took a leisurely two-hour pontoon ride into the marsh. We watched White Pelicans fly in as Troy Kirchoff and Rick Vant Hoff from Blue Heron Landing pointed out birds and shared stories and a little history of Horicon Marsh.



*Photo by Sherry Courtney*

Saturday morning there was a field trip led by Jeff Bahls from the DNR and President of the Horicon Marsh Bird Club with help from Brad Webb VP of the Horicon Marsh Bird Club. We started our trip at the Horicon Education & Visitor Center. And what a start we had! As we began a short walk behind the center, Jeff suddenly stopped and pointed out a female Wood Duck sitting very still with just her head peeking out of a nest box. He explained that this was a strong indication that the fledglings were ready to emerge. Sure enough, within 15 minutes the female dropped down, called to the fledges, and one by one a dozen fluffy little creatures wiggled out of the box and plopped to the ground! Needless to say, we stood in awe at this rare and magical birding moment. We all felt very fortunate to witness it.



*Wood Ducks Fledging. Photos by Laurel Ahlenius*

After that marvelous beginning, we traveled to several areas of the marsh and were able to see some great birds. Highlights were good looks at Black-bellied Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Dunlin, Short-billed



*Black-bellied Plover and Black-necked Stilt. Photos by Lisa Gaylord*

Dowitcher, and Black Tern in the mudflats at Palmary Street Overlook. Along Highway 49 at the north end of the marsh, we spotted a Yellow-headed Blackbird and Redhead ducks. And on the Auto tour section of the National Wildlife Refuge, we saw Bobolinks and many, many Great Egrets. It was a fantastic morning of birding.



*Photo by Natalie McFaul*

Horicon Marsh is a great place to visit as a weekend trip. The Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor's Center [LINK](#) is a good first stop. It has information about the marsh, maps, and a list of recent bird sightings. The Horicon Marsh Bird Club [LINK](#) also has an excellent website with information on birding Horicon Marsh.

Jeff Bahls, our fabulous guide, said to contact him at the visitor's center if you are planning a trip and have any questions.

Thank you, Sherry Courtney, for all your help planning the trip. A big thanks to Jeff, Brad, Rich, and Troy for sharing their knowledge of Horicon Marsh. And thank you to all the participants for making it such a pleasant adventure!

## June 2024 Field Trips

In June, migration gives way to the breeding season when many birds will be singing in all landscapes, from grassland to water to woods. We are offering a variety of field trips, including two-day trips, to remote locations in Will County and McHenry County. 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](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.



*Brad, Natalie, and Jeff. Photo by Sherry Courtney*

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).

**Sunday, June 2, 8:00-10:00 am, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Will County**

Pre-registration is not required.

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is one of the premier grassland birding spots in the area. The area is littered with abandoned munitions bunkers, as well as fantastic grassland species such as Henslow's Sparrow, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Blue Grosbeak. This walk will primarily take place on old asphalt roads but may venture into tall grass. Dress appropriately and bring bug spray and sun protection. We will meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead on Route 53 in Elwood, Illinois. The entrance to the trailhead parking lot is about two miles south of Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and the intersection of Hoff Road and Route 53. Coordinates: [41°22'44.0"N 88°07'24.8"W](https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.369444,-88.125000/@41.369444,-88.125000,15z) Google maps: [link](#) Although there is no limit to registration for this walk, please reach out to leader if you want to attend.

**Leader: Robert Perez, [robertperez787@gmail.com](mailto:robertperez787@gmail.com)**

**Wednesday, June 5, 7:30-9:30 am, Centennial Trail, Lemont**

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

On this two-mile field trip our main target will be looking for late migrant warblers and returning summer 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](#). Feel free to ask questions on how to get there after you RSVP.

Please call if you have any problems with directions.

**Leader: Mark Freeburg, [freebs59@sbcglobal.net](mailto:freebs59@sbcglobal.net) or call or text 630-661-1521**

**Friday, June 7, 7:00-10:30 am, Waterfall Glen/Poverty Prairie, Lemont**

Pre-registration is not required.

We'll be looking for shrubland/grassland birds on a walk of 2.5-3 miles on limestone trails only, through the prairie and savanna. Optional continuation through the oak woodland-kettle pond area for later migrants. Hat, water bottle and snack highly recommended. Meet at the Lemont Rd parking lot at 101st Street (Google Maps Waterfall Glen Parking Lot #3.) No reservation is needed but please text or call leader with any questions.

**Leader: Vicky Sroczynski 630-297-9512**

**Sunday, June 9, 9:00-11:00 am, Goose Lake Natural Area, McHenry County**

Pre-registration is not required.

This unique spot in northern McHenry County is a great spot for sought after marsh birds. The walk will focus on finding the site's nesting Yellow-headed Blackbird population, as well as species such as Black Tern, King Rail, Marsh Wren, and others. There is roughly a mile walk on a straight gravel path before we hit the marsh area. We may venture off trail into tall grass, so dress appropriately and bring bug spray and sun protection. The parking lot is behind the Hebron Township Building in Hebron, Illinois (10206 Seaman Rd, Hebron, IL 60034). Although there is no limit to registration for this walk, please reach out to leader if you want to attend.

**Leader: Robert Perez, [robertperez787@gmail.com](mailto:robertperez787@gmail.com)**

**Friday, June 14, 7:00-9:00 am, Seager Park, Naperville**

Pre-registration is not required.

New birders are welcome on this trip at a modest, but sometimes mighty, preserve! We'll see who's decided to take up summer residence in this 30-acre patch of woods, ephemeral wetland, ravine, and grass, with lots of edge habitat. Trails are a mix of grass, wood chip, dirt/mud, and pavement. Meet in the parking lot at 1163 Plank Road, Naperville 60563. No reservation is needed but feel free to email the leader with any questions.

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

**Saturday, June 15, 7:30-10:30 am or so, Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, Wheaton**

Pre-registration is not required.

Join us for a longer (4+ mile) hike around a forest preserve that has a wide variety of habitat types and a diverse selection of breeding birds to go along with it. Meet at the secondary parking lot that is off of Herrick Rd. about a quarter mile south of Butterfield Rd. [Herrick Lake FP](#) (not the main entrance on Butterfield Rd.) **Leader: Kyle Wiktor, cell: 708-506-5186**

**Sunday, June 16, 7:00-9:00 am, Seager Park, Naperville**

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

New birders welcome on this trip at a modest, but sometimes mighty, preserve! We'll see who's decided to take up summer residence in this 30-acre patch of woods, ephemeral wetland, ravine, and grass, with lots of edge habitat. Trails are a mix of grass, wood chip, dirt/mud, and pavement. Meet in the parking lot at 1163 Plank Road, Naperville 60563.

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

**Monday, June 17, 7:30-10:00 am, Danada East/Rice Lake Forest Preserve**

Pre-registration is not required.

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 be looking for passerines, grassland birds and scan the lake for waterfowl. This is an approximately 2 mile walk mostly on limestone paths with some dirt paths.

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

**Saturday, June 22, 7:00-10:30 am, Fermilab, Warrenville**

Pre-registration is required (please email), limit 10 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 you 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 look for summer residents that favor shrubland and grassland, as well as any lingering migrants, as we explore the "Sparrow Hedge" and AE Sea natural area. We will cover about two miles, mostly on wide, but occasionally uneven, mown grass trails. 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: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/aaAdwsv846nb6xvc8> ). 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)**

**Sunday, June 30, 7:30-10:30 am, or so. McKee Marsh, Warrenville**

Pre-registration is not required.

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us, approximately 3.25 miles, to check out resident species. We hope to see Red-headed Woodpeckers, Henslow's Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, and some marsh and woodland species. 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. ALSO: see link below to DBC Education Channel video on birding McKee in the summertime.

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

## SAVE THE DATE!

FUTURE FIELD TRIPS—more information to come as it is available!

We are in the process of organizing a fall trip to **Nygren Wetland Preserve, Rockton, IL**. Nygren is a waystation for Sandhill Cranes as they migrate south for the winter. Many species of waterfowl are expected as well as gulls and raptors. This trip will be an overnight, in the late fall. Tentative dates are Friday and Saturday, November 15 and 16, 2024. Stay tuned for more plans as they develop.

**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)

## Wanted: Cantigny Bird Walk Leaders

Organized birding at Cantigny Park, in partnership with DBC, started in 2008. Cantigny employee and DBC Past President Jeff Reiter and Cantigny Volunteer Joan Campbell have kept the monthly walks going ever since. With Jeff’s retirement next month, Joan needs some helpers! Cantigny wants to keep offering a monthly walk, and ideally an “Accessible Birding” session every month, too. This is an opportunity to become an official Cantigny volunteer, which comes with nice perks. And, of course, leading bird walks is the absolute best volunteer job at the park! If you are interested, please send an email to Liz Omura, Cantigny Volunteer Manager: [lomura@cantigny.org](mailto:lomura@cantigny.org).

## Summer Fun at the DBC Education Channel

With migration season behind us, it’s time to give our resident birds some attention. June is a great month for sparrow watching, as the birds are singing and active. And of course, it’s nesting season, so young birds in varied plumage may confuse us. The following four recommendations are excellent summer viewing at the DBC Education Channel on YouTube.

**Three Grassland Sparrows:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYuSIX9dxU&t>

**Birding By Ear: Grassland Birds:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm-0a9xHF4w&t>

**Summertime Birding at McKee Marsh: (helps to recognize habitats and what birds you might find where)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJoEapOO-dA&t>

**Confusing Backyard Juveniles:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jgz0geU980s&t>



*Henslow’s Sparrow. Photo by Mike Warner*

## Welcome, New Members!

Welcome to our newest DBC members:

Lori Gaspar     Glen Ellyn

Anna Johnson     Glen Ellyn

## Upcoming Outreach Events

Share with friends or join in at these upcoming Outreach events.

**July 22** - Birds of DuPage County: Four Habitats, Four Seasons. Presented for the Wheaton Public Library by Mike Warner.

**August 2** - Birding the Morton Arboretum. A booth as part of the Arboretum's "Birdies and Brews" event.

**October 1** - Attracting Wild Birds in The Winter. Presented to the Crestview Garden Club by Mike Warner.



## 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: Thelma Hulka  
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: Henry Meade  
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