

Drummings July 2024

President's Letter



Next Meeting

July 11, 2024

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Presentation at 7:00 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! Summer is finally upon us, which means our feathered friends are going quiet to raise their young. Traditionally, the summer is a slower time for us birders and many of us take a break from birding to pursue our other hobbies.

Despite summer months typically being slow birding periods, rare bird alerts don't necessarily stop. As some of you may have heard, an incredibly rare Brown Booby was spotted in southern Indiana. This was only the second time the bird had ever been recorded in the state. The bird was at Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell, Indiana, located about an hour south of where my grandma lives. After about two weeks of watching the rare bird alerts (work commitments kept me from immediately going down), I decided the time was right to go for it.

In a spur-of-the-moment decision, I called up my grandma on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. and told her I'm leaving in an hour and would see her that evening. She lives about four hours south of me, so I was gambling the bird would stick around at least one more day. I arrived around 9:00 p.m. and after a quick Scrabble game, we both got to sleep. Waking up early on Sunday, we drove through the rolling hills of southern Indiana to Mitchell.

Arriving at Spring Mill State Park, we asked the gate attendant where the Booby had been spotted and were directed towards the nature center. My grandma, who is slowing down but a trooper, accompanied me down a steep hill next to the nature center to the shore of a beautiful lake. We were the only birders there. The Booby had been reported the previous day, so I was anxious to find it.

After walking around for 15 minutes, we ventured out to the middle of the lake via a concrete pier. About halfway out, I glimpsed a large, brown, gull-like bird fly from a tree around the corner of the lake. I exclaimed, "There it is! There it is!" We rushed out to the pier and waited patiently.

And boy, was that wait worth it! The Brown Booby really put on a



Photo by Robert Perez

show for us. He circled back and flew over the pier, a mere eight feet above us, six or seven times before deciding to take a break in a tree. The bird dive-bombed the water, catching a few fish along the way. What a treat it was to see this incredibly rare bird, and what an extra special treat to be able to share it with my grandma. By the time we left, four additional birders joined us for what may be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for us all.

See? Despite summer traditionally being a slow time for birding, you never know what you'll end up chasing! Best of luck to all of you this summer and I hope you're able to find some extraordinary things!

Robert Perez
President, DuPage Birding Club
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. Doors open at 6:30 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.

Another Record Participation Rate Set in 2024 Spring Bird Count!

By Spring Bird Count Compiler Joe Suhecki

Go, DuPage Birders!

Participants	165
Party Hours	407
Species	170
Birds	28,553

DuPage birders and the DuPage Birding Club once again set a new record for participation and effort on the 2024 Spring Bird Count (SBC). After setting a new record of 148 participants in 2023, we surpassed that record with a total of 165 participants for this year's count. In addition, DuPage birders also set another record for the number of hours spent looking for birds on May 4 – 407 party hours. DuPage Birders have always supported the SBC and it great to see that enthusiasm and participation continues to grow.

With so many birders in the field, you might think that we were able to find a record number of species as well. But that was not the case. All your efforts resulted in finding 170 species and 28,553 birds on this year's SBC. The number of species is below the long-term average of 177 while the number of birds found is slightly above average. We did not challenge the record of 188 species set in 2018.

We did not add any new species to the count this year, and nothing exceptionally rare or unusual was reported on this year's SBC. In fact, no birds reported required documentation this year. Among the more interesting birds was a Snow Goose seen flying over Naperville. It is only the second time a Snow Goose has been recorded on the SBC.

The top five birds reported according to abundance were – Red-winged Blackbird (4475), American Robin (2784), Canada Goose (1425), Mallard (1074), and Blue Jay (853). We hit new high counts for several species including Killdeer (202), Turkey Vulture (129), Pileated Woodpecker (13), Warbling Vireo (233), Song Sparrow (740), Brown-headed Cowbird (810), and Common Yellowthroat (430). Continuing their long-term trend upward in DuPage County were Bald Eagle (17) and Osprey (28). It is nice to see those raptors continuing to become more common in the county.

New High Counts for Species

Killdeer	202
Turkey Vulture	129
Pileated Woodpecker	13
Warbling Vireo	233
Song Sparrow	740
Brown-headed Cowbird	810
Common Yellowthroat	430

To view the complete list of birds in the SBC, click here: <https://dupagebirding.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/202405-SBC-Dupage-Species.pdf>. In addition to the 2024 SBC results, there also is historical information on the SBC results included in two tables on the DBC website – one for the period 1973-2000 and another from 2001 to the present. You can explore the data on your own to look for long-term trends in our DuPage County Spring birds: <https://dupagebirding.org/bird-counts/>.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Area Captains who do the all work to organize and assure coverage of all the birding areas in the county for the SBC. They are Liza Gray, Kyle Wiktor, Nancy Allured, Dave Yeager, Mike Kalscheur, Urs Geiser, Diann Bilderback, Jeff Reiter, Glenn Perricone, Jim Huebler, Dave Splea, Jodie and Jerry Zamirowski, Susan Kaley, Linda Radtke, Joe Suhecki, Mike Madsen, and Jim Green. I very much appreciate all of their efforts and prompt reporting which makes my job as compiler much easier.

Not too early to plan for next year's count - keep open Saturday May 20 for the 2025 Spring Bird Count!

Welcome, New Members!

Patricia Davidson	Wheaton
Lori Gaspar	Glen Ellyn
Anna Johnson	Glen Ellyn
Jeff Wilcox	Naperville

Outreach: Call for a Very Special Volunteer

If you have some organizational and people skills and a few hours a month, we have the job for you! The Outreach team is in search of a leader. The role entails responding to requests for presentations from the public, which may include libraries, garden clubs, schools, or scouting groups. You'd then match their interest with one of a dozen volunteers who are willing to "go on the road" for DBC, which means representing the organization at an event or speaking to a group about birding. Leading the team is pretty easy and gives you a chance to share your love of birding with the general public. You never know when you might open someone to the wonderful world of birding that we all enjoy. If you would like to learn more, contact Mike Warner, who has graciously stepped in on an interim basis, at mwarner2543@gmail.com.

Upcoming events include the following:

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.

DBC's Spring 2024 Photography Contest Winners!

The DBC's Spring '24 photo contest was a great success! We had over 50 photos submitted, and as a result, (unfortunately) some very good shots did not receive an award. The entries were judged by Andie Duffy, Steve Constantelos, Natalie McFaul, Thelma Hulka, and Mike Warner. Because of the number 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 the DBC Spring 2024 Photography Contest Award Winners:

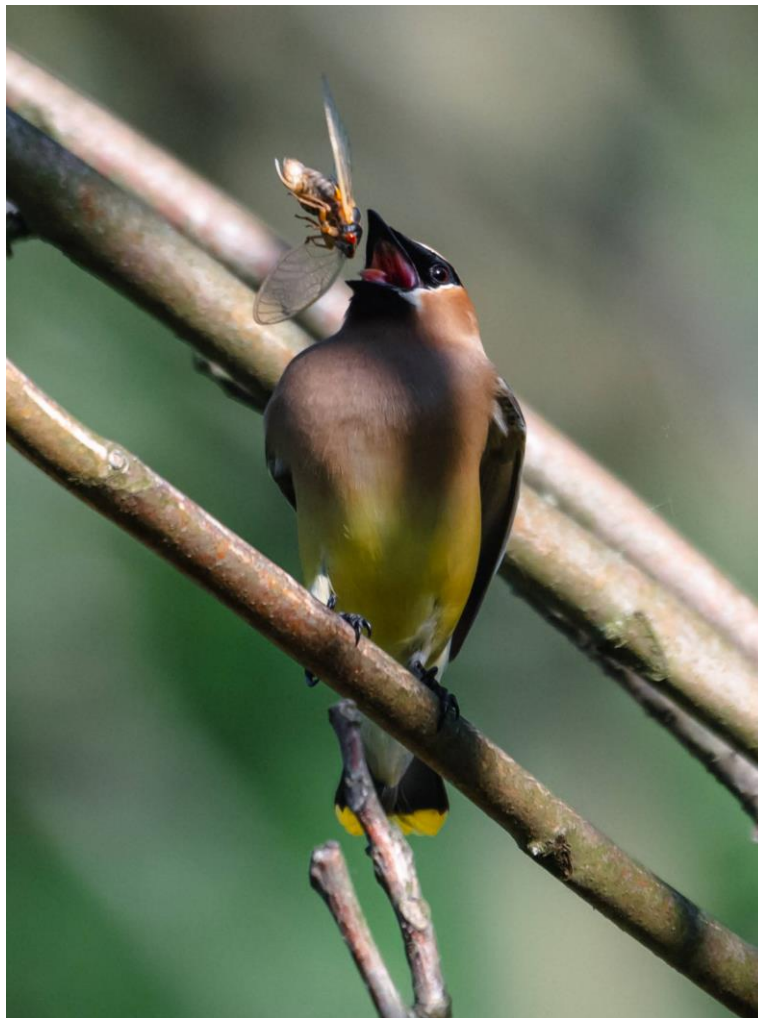
Best of Show

Photographer: Tim Duitsman

Species of Bird: Cedar Waxwing

Where the picture was taken: Waterfall Glen FP

Narrative: This is one of the first days where the cicadas were emerging in large numbers. Several Cedar Waxwings were waiting in the trees, then would fly out and catch cicadas in flight. This Waxwing caught one and just couldn't get it in the right position, so it threw the cicada up and caught it again. I also saw the fattest cedar waxwing I've ever seen that day; not sure how it was going to fly!



A Rare Study in Gray Award

Photographer: Erik Long

Species of Bird: Townsend's Solitaire

Where the picture was taken: McDowell Forest Preserve, Naperville

Narrative: As I was walking the trails at McDowell, I noticed a Townsend's Solitaire on the edge of a field 30 feet away through a patch of trees. It was very active, going back and forth from the ground to a perching spot on a lower branch of a small tree. I was able to walk a little off the main trail toward where it perched and captured this photo. Truth be told, I wasn't exactly sure what it was, so I submitted the photo to the ABA's *What's this Bird* Facebook page and received confirmation that it was indeed a Townsend's.



Flower Power Award

Photographer: Hal Cohen

Species of Bird: Western Tanager

Where the picture was taken: Borrego Springs, CA

Narrative: Taken in April during a wonderful Palo Verde bloom. The bird worked the flowers probably for insects, nectar and petals. My yard attracts several tanagers each season along with over 40 other bird species.



Leap of Faith Award

Photographer: Name: Laurel Ahlenius

Bird Species: Wood Duck

Where the picture was taken: Horicon Marsh, WI

Narrative: At 7:00 a.m., the group on a DBC Field Trip showed up for a bird walk with Jeff at the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center, Horicon, WI. He pointed out a nest box with a mamma Wood Duck sticking out her head and remaining motionless. About 15 minutes later, she looked around and then out she flew! Our whole group was able to watch something that is not often seen—in less than 2 and-a-half minutes we watched 12 Wood Ducklings make their entrance into the big wide world! I was able to photograph each one jumping out. For me, this was the best part of the trip! Thank you, Natalie and Sherry for arranging the trip!



This Is My Best Side Award

Photographer: Kent Jager

Bird Species: Dickcissel

Where the picture was taken: Morton Arboretum

Narrative: Looking for a mate (or a cicada).



Redwings on a Stick Award

Photographer: Colleen Schmidt

Species of Bird: Red-winged Blackbird

Where the picture was taken: Peck Farm

Narrative: I try to get good pictures of birds on evening walks. This time I captured a male and female Redwing at the same time.



Sound of Spring Award

Photographer: James J. Goldsmith

Species of Bird: Grasshopper Sparrow

Where the picture was taken: Dunham Forest Reserve, Wayne

Narrative: At the end of May I participated in a “Forest Preserve District of DuPage” Bird Walk at Dunham. I had been hoping to see a Grasshopper Sparrow for quite some time and, happily, on this excursion my patience was rewarded.



Best Portrait Award

Photographer: Rick Roche

Species of Bird: Barn Swallow

Where the picture was taken: Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, WI

Narrative: This Barn Swallow would not tell me where to find the Bittern, but it did agree to pose nicely for me.



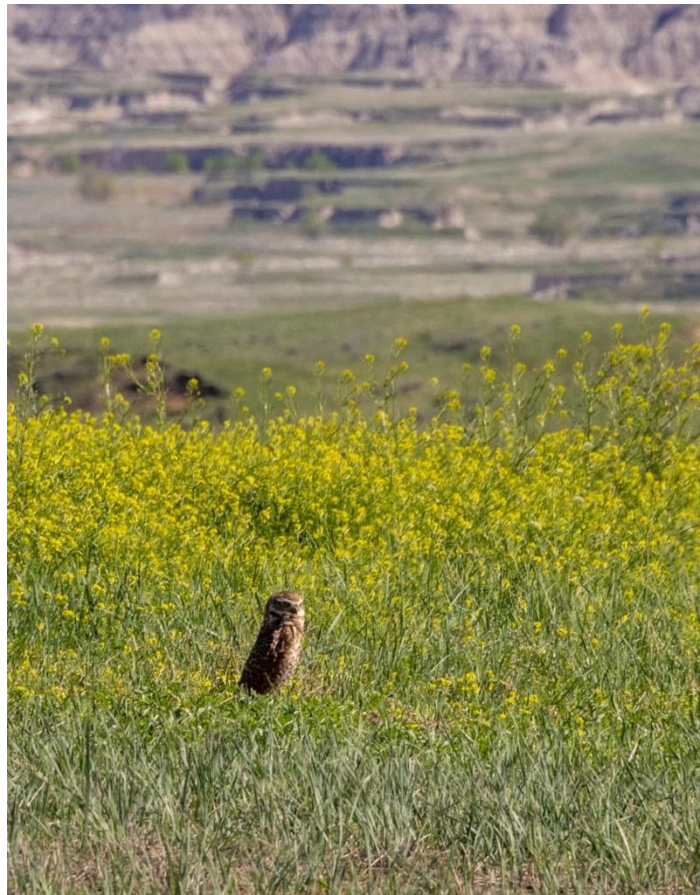
Outstanding in Its Field Award

Photographer: Julie Wettermann

Species of Bird: Burrowing Owl

Where the picture was taken: Badlands National Park, SD

Narrative: I was told I might find Burrowing Owls on the Badlands National Park's Sage Creek Rim Road, but to watch out for bison in that area. Sure enough, we saw many bison, then lots of prairie dogs, and finally I was thrilled to get to see two owls. I accidentally flushed the first one as I walked alongside the road, but a few hundred feet farther this one popped up out of its abandoned prairie dog hole as if appearing out of thin air. It checked me out, watched a passing car or two, then flew back into some low grass and disappeared as suddenly as it had appeared. I must say it picked a really spectacular place to live. Great backyard buddy - thanks for sharing it with me!



Mother's Day Award

Photographer: Mark Levesque

Species of Bird: Sandhill Crane

Where the picture was taken: Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

Narrative: I watched two Sandhill Cranes construct their nest in the middle of a shallow pond. I was lucky to get a shot of momma (?) straightening things out while the egg was visible. Presently, I'm awaiting the hatching!



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

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

The DBC is looking for pictures of birds taken between June 1, 2024, and August 31, 2024. All photos are welcome: amateur, funny, imperfect, high-quality. The “story behind the shot” is 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 ask that you limit the number of photos entered to five or less. They 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. We are looking for another judge—if you are interested (no experience necessary), please contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.

There are two ways to enter your bird photographs:

If you have a Google Account (you have one if you use Gmail) click the link below:

[DBC Photo Contest Entry Form](#)

If you do not have a Google Account, email your image as an email attachment to dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com. In the body of your email include:

- a) Your name.
- b) The species of the bird(s).
- c) Where the picture was taken.
- d) A Catchy Caption - Enter a caption or title you would like displayed with your pictures (optional).
- e) Narrative - Tell us about your picture - what's the story behind the shot? Include any information the judges might need to fully appreciate your shot.

Good luck! Winners will be announced in the September Drummings.

Fun Exchanges at the DBC Book Club Meeting

There's a new way to connect with fellow members in addition to meetings and field trips. It's the DBC Book Club, which has established a core group of 12-15 readers under Mike Warner's leadership. Members are invited to read a book selection and share their feedback.

At the last meeting, members highly recommended their last read, *A Season on the Wind* by Kenn Kaufmann. Participant Stephanie Cullerton highly recommends this book for new birders. "This book answered all the questions I had when I first started birding," said Stephanie, "from how



birds migrate, when and in what order they arrive, and so much more." Other members of the group pitched in their accolades for the book as well, citing Kaufmann's passion for his subjects, the interesting history of the Magee Marsh, and the fight to keep wind turbines off this important stopover place for migrants.

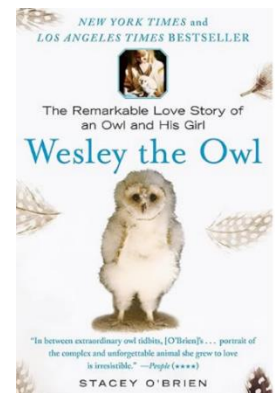
In addition to talking about the book, members shared some of their peak birding experiences, which included Sandhill Cranes and Prairie Chicken viewing

in Kearney, Nebraska, listening to the dawn song at McKee Marsh, and being a new birder at Starved Rock with a bonanza of birds in the trees. What was their best warbler sighting this spring? Our favorite answer—Alice Smeed won hands down: "The one I can see!"

DBC Book Club's Next Read: *Wesley the Owl*

Wesley the Owl by Stacey O'Brien is the DBC Book Club's next read. Widely lauded by the nature community and a New York Times Bestseller, *Wesley the Owl* tells the story of the special relationship that developed between an injured Barn Owl and the woman who adopted him and committed two decades of her life to his care when it was determined he could not live as a wild bird.

The next book club will meet September 10, at 7:00 p.m. All members are welcome! Please contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com if you'd like details on participating.



July 2024 Field Trips

Now is the time for birds to nest, raise their young, molt feathers, and prepare for the fall migration. 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 ABA Code of Ethics found here: <https://dupagebirding.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>

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

Tuesday, July 9, 8:00 am - 10:30 am, Wood Dale Reservoir

Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 20 participants.

On this trip to the Wood Dale Reservoir complex, we will be searching for shorebirds along with birds that breed at this site, including Savannah Sparrows and Dickcissel. The leader will go into depth about the basics of shorebird identification in the field, in hopes that participants will feel confident identifying shorebirds. Meet in the parking lot at the end of School Street at 8am.

Leader: Henry Meade, henrymm21@icloud.com

Thursday, July 11th 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Danada East, Wheaton

Registration is not required, but please email the trip leader if you plan to attend so you can receive any trip updates.

A more casual evening trip, perfect for anyone hoping to beat the summer heat and who cannot get out in the mornings. This trip is planned with the after-work crowd in mind, but anyone interested is welcome! This trip may be cancelled due to weather and will not be rescheduled. Danada East is located at 3S501 Naperville Road, on the east side of the road, south of Butterfield Road and north of I-88. Those using GPS can set navigation to the Danada House. Plan to meet at the north end of the parking lot near the entry kiosk and area with benches and bike racks.

Leader: William Pixler, pillwixler@gmail.com

Saturday, July 13, 7 am to 9 am, Dean Nature Sanctuary, Oak Brook

Pre-registration required, limit 12 participants.

We'll be looking for summer residents (including youngsters!) as we explore the fields and wetlands of this compact preserve along Salt Creek. New birders are welcome as we will take a fairly leisurely pace to see (and listen to) the birds and to answer questions. Meet in the parking lot at 115 Canterbury Lane, Oak Brook.

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

Sunday July 14, 7:00 - 9:00 am, Bird Sit at McDowell Grove, Naperville

No registration required. If you would like an email if the trip should be canceled email Natalie and let her know you are planning to come.

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. McDowell Grove has mature woodlands and the West Branch of the DuPage River runs through the park. We will be looking for any birds that come our way! McDowell Grove is on the east side of Raymond Drive, south of Interstate 88. The [main entrance](#) is south of Diehl Road, approximately 1 mile north of Ogden Avenue (Route 34). Meet in the parking lot near the Information Kiosk. **Dress for the weather and bring bug spray (sitting, we are easy targets for mosquitoes!) and drinking water.**

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Wednesday, July 17, 7:30 am – 10:00 am, Morton Arboretum, east side

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

We will meet at Big Rock parking lot and explore this area. We are looking for summer resident birds including summer tanagers and possibly some grassland birds. If you don't have an arboretum membership, let us know and if you can follow someone in. It will cost \$5.00.

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

Friday, July 19, 7 am to 9:30 am, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Bolingbrook

No pre-registration required.

We'll be looking for summer residents (including youngsters!) as we explore the fields and woods along the Thunderbird Trail. New birders are welcome as we will take a fairly leisurely pace to see (and listen to) the birds and to answer questions. If conditions are good, we'll do a little bonus walk at the end. Meet at the Thunderbird Youth Camp Parking Lot at the south end of Thunderbird Road. The entrance is located on 79th Street, about 0.5 miles west of Greene Road.

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

Saturday, July 20th, 7:30 am – 10:00 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, 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 visitor's tag for you to wear. Full details on public access to Fermilab can be found [HERE](#).

We will cover a variety of habitats while looking for summer residents but will focus on birds that favor shrubland and grassland. 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

SAVE THE DATE!

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

Friday & Saturday, November 15 & 16, Nygren Wetland Preserve, Rockton, IL.

Led by Dan Williams. Organized by Lenny Edgin and Sherry Courtney.

Nygren is a beautiful wildlife refuge located in Rockton, Illinois, owned by the Natural Land Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit land trust which was created in 1958 by George Fell, one of the founders and first executive director of The Nature Conservancy. It covers over 700 acres of pristine wetlands, woodlands, and prairies, making it a diverse and important ecosystem in the area. It is a waystation for Sandhill Cranes as they migrate south for the winter.

On this field trip, between the evening and daytime walks, we hope to see a variety of waterfowl and raptors, including Northern Harrier and Rough-legged Hawks and early migrants like Lapland Longspurs and late sparrows. We will also look for Northern Shrike and Barred and Short-eared Owls.

We may also be visiting **Ferguson Forest Preserve and Sugar River Forest Preserve** during this trip.

*This trip will be led by **Dan Williams**, who has lived in Winnebago County for over 50 years and has been birding for more than 45 years. He is currently a member of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. He has been the President and past board member of the Natural Land Institute, the owner of the Nygren Wetland Preserve, and a former member and past chair of the Land Advisory Council, a citizens advisory committee of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District. The purpose of the LAC was to advise the Forest Preserve Commission regarding land acquisition opportunities.*

Additional birding opportunities:

Cantigny Park in Wheaton posts Accessible Birding 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.

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

Your Help Requested in Red-headed Woodpecker Research

Do you know where Red-headed Woodpeckers nest in the Chicago region? If so, you can support a research project led by Adrianna Yoder, a DePaul University graduate student engaged in ongoing RHWO research within the Chicago metro area via the IOS Grants program. Last year, the DBC funded the initial phase of her research with an IOS grant.

Adrianna's thesis research delves into what habitat characteristics sustain Red-headed Woodpeckers (RHWO) year-round. In the Chicagoland region, in some areas Red-headed Woodpeckers use cavities year-round and others only use them in the summer breeding season. Last summer Adrianna located RHWO tree cavities that were being used across Cook, DuPage, and Lake county forest preserves. As summer came to a close, she looked further. Here's what Adrianna found, in her own words.

Come August, I measured habitat characteristics around them, i.e., what were the characteristics of the cavity, cavity-tree, and immediate habitat including what other tree species were present, the canopy cover, etc. Then I also got an acorn estimate within their territory space by conducting "30-second acorn counts" on oak trees, because as you may or may not know, acorns serve as one of their main winter food sources.

I then monitored those same cavities over winter (December-March) using trail cameras and was able to determine which cavities were still being used by RHWO and which ones weren't. With those two groupings, I compared the measured habitat characteristics between them, and from current analysis, we are seeing that in areas with high acorn quantities, RHWO will always continue to use a cavity through winter. There are also other characteristics that we may be missing or trends that will become clearer with more years of data, hence the continued fieldwork. As well, oaks don't produce consistent acorn crops across years – some years may have a TON (which we call a "mast year") and will be followed by a few years of low-moderate production, and so we wanted to test this effect on RHWO across multiple years.

If you'd like to contribute to Adrianna's ongoing research, keep your eyes open for RHWO activity at cavities and email her at AYODER7@depaul.edu.



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