

Drummings October 2024

President's Letter



Next Meeting

October 10, 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

Unfortunately, fall migration will be wrapping up soon. I hope everyone was able to get out at least a couple times to enjoy the birds. I was lucky enough to lead three DBC field trips in the month of September, much more than I usually do.

The first field trip I led was at St. James Farm. DBC partnered with the Conservation Foundation as part of their *Take a Hike Challenge*. This wonderful program encourages people to get out and enjoy nature. I was surprised when over 30 people showed up for the walk, most of them brand new birders. When I say brand new, I mean it. Some of them had never tried it before. We went slowly through St. James, taking time to look at nuthatches, jays, and flickers. It made me happy when someone would tell me they saw a lifer. Knowing that I had a group consisting of new birders, we skipped over some of the more challenging warbler flocks we encountered. Hopefully the new birders come back in the spring when warblers are easier to identify.

The second walk I led was much different. About 20 of us met at Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary in Chicago to look for fall warblers. We were not disappointed! American Redstarts, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, and even a Black-throated Blue Warbler showed off. Despite the group consisting largely of seasoned birders, some were able to nab lifers. Again, it was satisfying to be able to help someone add birds to their life list.

As I've talked about in previous letters, my grandma started a life list for me when I was 2. I've been aware of birds my whole life but didn't seriously start birding until I graduated college (and got my own car). That's not to say I didn't do any birding prior to graduation. Upon entering college, I had racked up nearly 150 species. For almost all of those species, it was up to me alone to identify them. Although my grandma started my life list, she has never been too good with bird ID. My parents and siblings aren't birders, so it was all on me to run with birding. I remember struggling to identify my first Ruby-crowned Kinglet in the backyard using only my binoculars and book. (I'm not that old, but this was prior to Merlin and eBird.) I remember getting very frustrated with fall warblers and shorebirds, as I didn't have anyone I could ask for help.

I finally found DBC when I was a freshman in college. Soon after, I signed up for eBird and downloaded Merlin. The first few DBC walks I went on were so helpful. People were very patient and knowledgeable. They were always eager to encourage me and went out of their way to talk to me. Although I

wasn't the best at bird ID, I could see the birds flitting around and would point them out. I often think about how fortunate new birders are nowadays. Merlin, eBird, DBC, and other resources can make learning the birds so much easier.

Another thing struck me during the Montrose walk. There was a section of the path near one of the water features that had a large flock of warblers present. I snapped a quick photo of around two dozen people standing there with binoculars and cameras. Every one of them was helping one another identify



the birds. There is a dichotomy of birding for sure. In many ways, birding is a solo hobby. For many, being alone in the woods with the birds is therapeutic. I know when I'm stressed and overwhelmed with things, I'll go birding for a couple hours to clear my head. On the other hand, birding has become a much more social hobby. Organizations, social media, technology, and festivals have brought birders closer together than never before.

I continue to be proud of the work DBC does and how important it is for so many people. It offers a welcoming, supportive space for people to hone their

knowledge and engage with others about their hobby. As fall migration ends and we enter the slow winter months, I'd encourage you to keep up with the birders you've met this year. Get together and chat about recent, upcoming, or wishlist trips. Talk about your favorite birds and favorite birding stories. Or simply, just enjoy the morning outside, alone, with the birds.

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

October 10 Meeting In Person and Via Zoom: Red-headed Woodpeckers and the Importance of Oak Systems Adriana Yoder, Ph.D. student at University of Missouri and Recipient of DBC Grant

Join us for our October DBC Meeting where we will hear from Adrianna Yoder, a Ph.D. student at the University of Missouri in St. Louis. Addy started her ongoing research at DePaul University two years ago studying Red-headed Woodpeckers and oak reproduction in the Chicagoland region. For this research, she was awarded an Illinois Ornithological Society grant funded by the DuPage Birding Club in Spring 2023.

Addy has presented her work at several conferences across the U.S. and Canada. Previously, Addy earned her bachelor's degree from Case Western Reserve University in Biology and Biochemistry, and during her time, she discovered her passion for studying animal behavior. We will hear the details of her

research, which centers on the woodpecker's tree cavity use and the role of acorns on their overwintering behavior in northeastern Illinois.

We hope that you can join us for this hybrid meeting on Thursday, October, 10, at 7:00 pm. Adrianna will speak to the group via Zoom. To register for the virtual meeting, click [here](#).

When: Thursday, October 10, from 7:00-9:00pm

Where: Faith Lutheran Church (41 N Park Blvd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137)

Doors open at 6:30pm.

Please join us for a premeeting dinner at Ellyn's Tap and Grill (940 Roosevelt Rd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137) from 5:30-6:30pm. Come mingle with your fellow birders before the official meeting!



In Case You Missed It: Illinois Peregrines—From Decline to Recovery

Presented by Mary Hennen, Director, Chicago Peregrine Program, Bird Division, The Field Museum

We heard the fascinating story of the recovery of Peregrine Falcons in the Chicago area. Once on the Endangered Species List and extirpated in Illinois from 1951 until 1986, the Peregrine Falcon population is now past historic levels. Listen to the full presentation and learn how this now urban bird has adapted to living among us:

https://youtu.be/euHcxwbq_yI

For more information on Illinois Peregrines, be sure to check out the Illinois Peregrine [Website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#)!



ATTENTION DBC Volunteers: Celebrating YOU at the DBC Volunteer Luncheon November 16 at St. James Farm

The DuPage Birding Club would not exist if not for the many volunteers that give of their time and talents. The DBC Board would like to acknowledge all of our volunteers with a luncheon Saturday, November 16, at St. James Farm. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a short birding walk followed by a luncheon at 11:30.

The event is for everyone who has volunteered in any capacity on behalf of the club in the last year. This includes Board Members, Committee members, field trip leaders, outreach volunteers, newsletter and website contributors, and any others who have helped out in the past year. This is also a great time to socialize with fellow members and possibly win a prize!

Meet at 10 a.m. at the St James parking lot off Winfield Rd for the walk. Lunch will be served at the St. James indoor riding arena meeting space at 11:30. Located in the far right yellow building when looking from the parking lot (the building where the restrooms are located). If you prefer, you may join us just for the luncheon at 11:30. [\(Link to St. James Farm\)](#)

Please let us know you will be attending by emailing Natalie McFaul at natcatcher7@gmail.com

2025 Leadership Opportunities at the DBC

Speaking of volunteers, as fall weather arrives, we turn to the future and planning for 2025. Do you have a few extra hours a month to give back to the DBC? Our continued success depends on volunteers who are willing to serve. Holding a Board position or chairing a committee is fun, stimulating and social. Why not give it a try? We have openings for the following volunteer positions:

- **Vice President:** Arranges for presenters for member meetings. Becomes President the following year. This is a most critical role to ensure the club's continuity as an organization.
- **Treasurer:** Oversees the club's finances, makes donations, pays bills and speakers, and provides monthly financial reports. Managing the club's money is obviously very important!
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Sends new members greeting letters. Publicizes meeting speakers and field trips in various news outlets. Help us welcome new members and spread the good word on our programs.
- **Director:** Provides valuable input to the Exec Committee and assists with various DBC functions. This is your chance to act as the voice for all club members.
- **Outreach Coordinator:** Works with the Outreach Committee to coordinate programs in response to requests from local organizations. Engage with the community to educate and share our love of birds.
- **Field Trip Coordinator:** Contacts potential field trip leaders and assembles monthly calendar of field trips. This vital role is shared with another volunteer. Field trips are among our strongest benefits to members.
- **Webmaster:** Applies monthly updates to website and handles incoming email from general DBC mailbox. This role is shared with another volunteer. NOTE: No prior website management experience required; training is provided. Learn a new skill and keep our excellent website current.
- **Audiovisual Coordinator:** Ensures that hybrid meetings relying on Zoom and in-person presentation work smoothly. Put your tech skills to work!

If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions or want more information, please email Robert at robertperez787@gmail.com. DBC cannot function without the help of volunteers serving in leadership positions. Your organization needs you!

Annual Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew your dues for next year! Your annual membership dues for 2025 are due by December 31, 2025. Dues remain \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families and \$10 for students. Please note that any new member joining on or after September 1 is automatically registered for the following year. Your dues fund our annual operations and support a broad range of activities, including field trips, interesting speakers, research grants, and proactive community outreach. Help us stay strong! Your 2025 dues may now be paid in any of the following ways:

1. On-line through our website using PayPal or credit card, at this link:
<https://dupagebirding.org/renew/>
2. By mailing a check to: DuPage Birding Club P.O. Box 3381 Glen Ellyn, IL 60138
3. Giving cash or a check in person to a board member Thank you for your support and membership.

Welcome, New Members!

Finn Geissal

Nicole and Joe LaFevre

Brandon Massey

James Rotramel

Glendale Heights

Bartlett

Naperville

October 2024 Field Trips

It's October and the weather is cooler; leaves are changing color; and flocks of geese, ducks, and other waterfowl, along with raptors, shorebirds, and songbirds, continue their migration south. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy our field trips. As always, non-members are welcome. There are no fees for birding trips. Participants are welcome to contact the leader if they have any questions.

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.



Photo by Diann Bilderback from a recent field trip to Elsen's Hill.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Field trip photo by Nicole LaFevre.

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.

Wednesday, October 2, 7:30 am – 10:00 am, Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

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

Join Joe Suchecki for a trip to Springbrook Prairie in Naperville to look for later fall migrants and ducks. Meet at the Model Aircraft Field Parking Lot on Plainfield-Naperville Road. Please contact the trip leader at dbcsec2020@gmail.com to reserve your spot on the trip. Ensure that you receive confirmation from the trip leader that you are registered for the trip.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, DBCsec2020@gmail.com

Friday, October 4, 8:00 am-10:00 am, Whalon Lake Sparrow Search, Naperville

No need to RSVP but email leader with any questions.

Let's spend an hour near the wetlands searching for Nelson's and Leconte's Sparrows, and then head to the big quarry pond for waterfowl and other birds. Please watch DBC Mini tutorial on Nelson's and Leconte's Sparrows to prepare. Meet at the picnic shelter at the wetlands-this is the first big parking lot you'll see, between the dog park on the north and the shallow wetlands to the south.

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski vsroczynski@comcast.net

Sunday, October 6, 8:00 am - 10:00 am, Bird Sit at Herrick Lake West Shelter, Wheaton

No Pre-registration necessary. (Send me an email if you want to be notified should the trip be canceled.)

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 be birding at the Herrick Lake West Shelter. Meet at the parking lot located on the east side Herrick Road south of Butterfield (Hwy 56). Drive all the way to the end of the parking lot, the shelter is on the right. The lot for the **West** shelter is located on the east side of Herrick Road south of Butterfield. [Herrick Lake Forest Preserve](https://www.dupageforestpreserve.org/) Dress for the weather, it feels much colder when you are sitting! Bring drinking water or hot tea!

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Saturday October 12, 4:00 pm – Sunset, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

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

We will be looking for late migrants and remaining residents. Lyman's trails are almost always muddy regardless of weather. If rain occurs ahead of the trip, expect areas with standing water. Be prepared with appropriate footwear, and insect repellent is recommended. Meet at the [parking lot on 31st Street](#).

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Tuesday, October 15, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville/Woodridge

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

This morning trip, oriented toward early fall and late summer birds, is especially designed for new birders and will be at a leisurely pace to provide as much time as desired to look at each bird and to answer questions on equipment or bird identification. Meet at the Thunderbird Youth Camp Parking Lot. From Greene Road, 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

Tuesday, October 22, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Morton Arboretum, West Side, Lisle

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

Let's see what we can find among the sparrows, waterfowl, and wintering residents. We will meet at Thornhill parking lot, P21. *Please note that a timed-reservation entry is required for all NON-members. Timed entry tickets can be obtained at the following link: <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.

Leaders: Mike and Karen Warner, mwarner2543@gmail.com, 630-640-2450

Friday, October 25, 8:00 am - 9:30 am or later, if desired, 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. More info here: <https://www.dupageforest.org/places-to-go/forest-preserves/fullersburg-woods>

Leader: Kathy and Steve Mineck, cell: 630-254-4077 (day of), kmineck@yahoo.com (RSVP to email)

Saturday, October 26, 10 am - 1:00 pm 'LAST CHANCE' Hawk Migration, Greene Valley Forest Preserve's Scenic Overlook, Woodridge (Sunday, October 27, will be the 'rain date').

No limit on number of participants, but RSVP to Bob so you can get an email update on weather conditions and receive the handouts.

Root for N/NW winds! This will be our last opportunity in 2024 to see migrating raptors from the Scenic Overlook, aka Fisher Point, at Greene Valley (the overlook is closed to the public after this weekend). The Broadwings are long gone, but some of the later migrating raptor species may sail by—Northern Harriers, Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks, and if we're lucky, maybe a goshawk or Golden Eagle! Plus, of course, Redtails (sometimes we get those dark morph westerns) and TVs. Plus, pipits, Lapland longspurs and maybe a Snow Bunting or two may be hanging around the hill.

Bring a chair, hat, water, and a lunch or snacks, binocs, camera, and a scope, if you have one. It will be much cooler than at ground level, especially with N winds; so please bring layers.

We suggest you review the DBC [Hawk Watch/Buteos](#) talk. A 2nd club talk on the other families of hawks-[accipiters](#), [falcons](#), [eagles](#) is also helpful. We'll have raptor field guides on hand as well. Check out and consider installing the free Cornell Lab/HawkWatch International [Raptor ID mobile phone app](#), worthwhile for descriptions, photos, and, especially, videos that show flight styles of different hawks.

Gather at the top of the overlook at 10 am (come earlier if you wish - the gate opens around 9 am). We'll have a brief site orientation, explain hawk watching techniques, plus do a quick review of the Hawk Migration Association of North America's Hawk ID sheet. [HMANA](#) is the place where you can find all the [data](#) from the GV hawkwatch, as well as the multitude of hawkwatches dotting the north American landscape. (NOTE: If you're unable to join us on this date, you can still visit the hawk watch any weekend during October, from when it opens around 9 am.)

Leader: Bob Fisher, bfisher928@aol.com

Tuesday, October 29, 7:30 am - 10:30 am, or so. McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Pre-registration 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 and fall migrants. 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.

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

THE TRIP TO NYGREN WETLAND PRESERVE, ROCKTON, IL, NOVEMBER 15/16 IS FULL. Thanks to all of you who registered for this trip led by Dan Williams and organized by Lenny Edgin.

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

Announcing DBC's Summer Of '24 Photo Contest Winners!

The winners of DBC's Summer 2024 photo contest have been finalized! The entries were judged by Andie Duffy, Steve Constantelos, Natalie McFaul, Thelma Hulka and Mike Warner.

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.

Best of Show

Photographer: Julie Wettermann

Species of Bird: House Wren

Location: Holland, MI - Outdoor Discovery Center

Narrative: This summer I had several hours of leisurely wandering in the delightful Outdoor Discovery Center. On one trail, a wooden railing dividing the boardwalk from the surrounding underbrush was just enough protection to embolden this plucky little wren to come out and scold me face to face. It had been telling me off for several minutes as I consulted Merlin to find out what bird was so upset by my presence.



“I have called you here today...” Award

Photographer: Tom Kubica

Species: Great Blue Heron, Red Breasted Mergansers

Location: Bensenville Ditch

Narrative: The Bensenville ditch is a pretty hot birding spot for both land and water birds. This reservoir fills up with many different species throughout the spring migration.

The spillway into the reservoir often has a high water output resulting in a very turbulent area. The mergansers were diving into this turbulence coming up with fish. The heron, I believe, was supervising their work!



Summer Romance Story Award

Photographer: John Obenland

Species: Cedar Waxwing

Location: Berrien County, MI

Narrative: It was early summer, love was in the air and the event was planned to perfection. Both birds were positioned just right on the swaying branch, the lighting was perfect, and a photographer was present to record the moment! When all seemed ready, he turned to her and communicated in his special Cedar Waxwing way, "Will you accept this cottonwood seed as a token of ... ?" (You know the rest of the line). As you can see by her response, she was not impressed. Her reply in waxwing body language was, "What I really wanted was something a little more fashionable and current - like one of those nice fresh cicadas everyone is raving about." Sometimes you just gotta go the extra mile.



Baby Bird Award

Photographer: Elena Nelson

Species: Green Heron

Location: Mallard Lake

Narrative: Three Green Heron babies were hanging out on a log next to the trail with mom keeping watch from the shade of a nearby tree. I took several shots as we headed toward our target trail, but they were all backlit with all the light reflecting off the water. The shots that came were taken on the way back to the parking lot an hour later with the help of a cloud.



Best Artistic Portrait Award

Photographer: Henry Meade

Species: Cedar Waxwing

Location: Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve

Narrative: This summer I've really gotten into wandering around a local forest preserve with no birding expectations, no target species, and with an open mind and my camera. This "style" of birding is relatively new but it's grown on me. Thus far I've spent many hours in the evening wandering the trails of Fullersburg Woods, trying to tap into the creative part of my brain in attempts to create images that are different and unique from what you typically see. I feel like I met my goals with this shot of a Cedar Waxwing, one of my personal favorite photos I've ever taken. Enjoy.



Peek-A-Boo Award

Photographer: Kathy Burns

Species: Green Heron (immature)

Location: Carriage Way Park, Burr Ridge

Narrative: I was walking along the path and this guy was flushed out so I walked around the pond to where he settled in and took a few photos with my 400mm telephoto lens. Notice the cute fluff of hair on his crown. He thought I did not see him. He was a bit hard to ID.



Backyard Bird Award

Photographer: Cindy Duranceau

Species: Great Horned Owl

Location: My backyard in Naperville, IL

Narrative: We had not seen any of the neighborhood resident Great Horned Owl family all winter, spring, or summer until August 24th when "who" should appear in the Locust tree overhanging our back patio. One of our cats saw it fly in and went ballistic. A chipmunk on the patio was being observed by the owl. I am guessing it was a younger Great Horned. I have since found two small Owl feather "calling cards" it has left behind in our side yard.



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

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

The DBC is looking for pictures of birds taken between September 1, 2024, and November 30, 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.

There are two ways to enter your bird photographs:

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

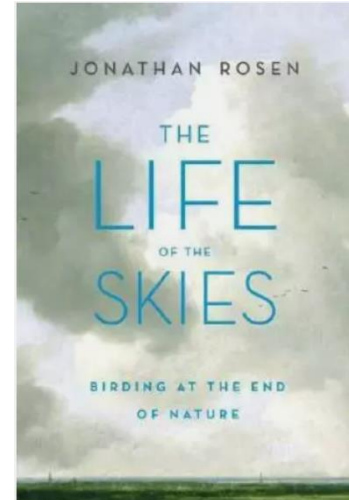
[DBC Photo Contest Entry Form](#)

2. 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 January 2025 Drummings.

Life of the Skies by Jonathan Rosen Up Next for DBC Book Club

Attention, readers! The DBC Book Club will next be reading *Life of the Skies* by noted author Jonathan Rosen. Described as part birding history, part travelogue, and part exploration of man's relationship to nature, this much acclaimed book is sure to delight, stimulate your thinking, and give you much to ponder. Join fellow DBC members on Tuesday evening, December 3, to share some holiday cheer and talk about the book. For details on the meeting, contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.



News from the Forest Preserve

Two recent acquisition targets are good news for DuPage nature lovers.

Negotiation for the acquisition of "Danada-East," aka the Bolger property, by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County was approved on August 6. The 35 acres held by the Bolger family is a candidate for restored for flora and fauna and will establish a link between the Morton Arboretum and Danada Forest Preserve. Jeff Gahrts offered comments with gratitude that this will be a "fantastic acquisition."

A small parcel informally referred to as "Willowbrook North" was acquired by the Forest Preserve to add to the buffer zone protecting the quiet and natural habitat for the animals in rehabilitation at the newly renamed DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center. Commissioner Gahrts commented that this acquisition would also benefit neighbors in the area.

WHEN YOU VOTE: The Forest Preserve of DuPage County has a referendum on the November ballot that asks voters to consider a tax levy that will expand forest preserve funding to maintain and preserve high-quality habitat, acquire land, and develop recreational opportunities for residents. The last referendum was in 2006 when the district served 3 million people; in 2023 the district served 5.5 million people, an 83% increase. Additional funding will help them maintain the high quality of our natural areas for both wildlife and people. If you own property in DuPage County, the referendum would cost you \$11.67 per \$100,000 more per year in taxes. For more information, go to:

www.dupageforest.org/referendum2024

Other Good News

In other good news, McCormick Place has followed through with the installation of bird-friendly glass designed to deter bird deaths in time for our fall migration. This action was stimulated by the tragic and needless deaths of almost 1,000 birds in a single night last October and the ensuing birding community response, including a petition with more than 10,000 signatures demanding corrective action. Our voices count! [McCormick Place Responds](#)



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