DuPage Birding Club



Next Meeting

March 13, 2025

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

College of DuPage Health Science Ctr, Rm 1234 425 Fawell Drive Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Premeeting Dinner

5:30 p.m. Ellyn's Tap and Grill 940 Roosevelt Rd. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Drummings February 2025

President's Letter

Hello, DBCers,

Recently I heard about a rare bird seen in the area, and I was excited about the possibility of seeing it. Several days went by, and when I decided today was the day I'd go searching, I found out that this was no longer an option. So many birders had had the same idea, and so many were rude and disrespectful to the bird that the officials had been forced to close off the area to protect it from being stressed and possibly injured. Some people even boasted on social media of thinking they knew a secret way into the area that would evade the authorities' patrols.

This made me think about how our enthusiasm can sometimes get in the way of our good sense. (Not that I think any DBC members would be among this group.) It could be as simple as unwittingly stepping in front of or pushing aside another birder when out in a group or as egregious as climbing a tree to get a look at nestlings. (Oh, horrors, I hope not.)

So I thought at the start of the year, it would be a good time to review some birding etiquette:

- In a group, stay behind the leader—that's why they're called leaders.
- Keep voices down—you may chase away the very bird you're seeking.
- Be polite to fellow birders.
- Do not trespass on private property.
- Don't try to call in a bird with recordings, especially during mating and nesting season.
- Help new birders.
- Keep your distance so as not to scare off a bird.

In other words, just be a considerate human being, and all of us will have a better birding year. It wouldn't hurt to do a quick review of the ABA Rules of Birding Ethics just to make sure you're birding etiquette is up to snuff: https://dupagebirding.org/aba-code-of-ethics/

So, in the company of Miss Manners, I'm excited about upcoming events. No meeting in February, so plenty of time to get your presentation ready for our March Members' Night meeting and see what you've been up to in the last year. That meeting will be held in our new location at College of DuPage, just a few minutes from our current spot.



Finally, let's get ready for a great year of exciting field trips! On January 1, approximately 30 hardy DBCers kicked off the New Year with a field trip to the Morton Arboretum. We divided into two groups and traversed the grounds around

P13, the Big Rock area. It was chilly and a bit quiet, but the two teams found most of the usual suspects. Thanks to



Cullerton (rustic artwork). Our field trip team of Sherry Courtney and Stephanie Cullerton are already lining up a great season of field trips so stay tuned.

Birdingly yours,

Thelma Hulka, President scubabird@gmail.com



DBC Meetings Move to New Location

DBC will take up new digs in 2025 at the College of DuPage (COD). The Board has secured a large theatre-style room for our regular meetings at COD. The room includes upgraded audiovisual support to facilitate our hybrid meetings. The new address is 425 Fawell Drive, which can be accessed off Park Ave. from either Butterfield or Roosevelt Rds. Parking will be near Fawell D, Health Science Center (HSC). Enter through the main door to room 1234, which is on the first floor just past the stairs on the right.

Members' Night March 13: Call for Presenters

The DuPage Birding Club's annual Members' Night will be held on Thursday, March 13, in person* and via Zoom. All DuPage Birding Club photographers are invited to share their favorite bird photos and stories with fellow members. The photos can be from anywhere, and any level of photographic expertise is invited!

Presenters will have the option of presenting in person or remotely via Zoom. Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes, so please be selective and limit yourself to something you can cover in that window (typically 10-15 images is a good guideline). We will have time for up to 10 presentations, so it will be first-come, first-served for registration. If you've never presented live or in Zoom, don't worry! We'll have support available both leading up to and during the presentation. To keep things organized, here's the process from registration to presentation:

- Registration: Submissions are currently being accepted. Email Matt Crisler (<u>crislermj@gmail.com</u>)
 with the presenter's name, presentation title and/or topic, expected number of pictures/slides, and
 a brief summary of what you intend to talk about.
- Matt will confirm you are registered assuming space is still available.
- Once confirmed, put your slide show together. PPTX (PowerPoint) format is strongly preferred; coordinate with Matt if you need to use an alternative format.
- Practice your presentation and verify you'll stay within the 10-min limit! This is important to make sure we stay on schedule during the meeting.
- Presenters should expect to attend a short practice run sometime between 3/2 and 3/13. The date will be set based on when everyone can make it. We won't do full presentations but just make sure everything is ready to go on the technical side.
- If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to Matt. Thanks in advance to everyone who can participate, and we'll see you all on March 13th!

*REMINDER: We are trying out a new meeting location at College of DuPage in the <u>Health Science</u> <u>Center</u> for the spring meetings. We are hoping this venue change will facilitate a better A/V experience and improve our ability to properly host hybrid meetings.

In Case You Missed It: A Visit to the Dixon Waterfowl Refuge

Peter Goodspeed, Restoration Program Director, Sue and Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge

The DuPage Birding Club hosted Peter Goodspeed from the Sue and Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge as our first speaker in 2025. Back In 2001, The Wetlands Initiative (TWI) began restoring Hennepin & Hopper Lakes in north-central Illinois along the Illinois River, transforming it from drained farmland back to high-quality native ecosystems.



Today, nearly 25 years later, the Dixon Waterfowl Refuge is a 3,000-plus-acre natural treasure containing more than a dozen rare, highly diverse habitat types. The Refuge is designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, and its large trail system is open to the public 365 days a year. Named for the hundreds of thousands of migratory waterfowl that visit the lakes in spring and fall, the Dixon Waterfowl Refuge is a popular birding destination with a checklist of 280 species.

Hear the whole story of this remarkable restoration <u>here</u>.

Annual Treasurer's Report for 2024

An accounting of the Club's finances is disclosed at the beginning of each year, per the bylaws.

DuPage Birding Club 2024 Treasurer's Report

INCOME		
Dues	\$7,210	
Donations Received	\$603	
Other - Refund from WP Forms	\$79	
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,892	
EXPENSES		
Donations Out (includes BCN membership)	\$1,950	
Grants (thru Illinois Ornithological Society)	\$1,750	
Liability Insurance	\$1,176	
Meeting Room Rent (church)	\$700	
Zoom	\$160	
Speakers	\$451	
Website (subscriptions & maintenance)	\$929	
PayPal	\$328	
Member Hospitality Events*	\$868	
Outreach Materials (includes new brochures)	\$945	
PO Box	\$166	
DBC merchandise for give-aways	\$70	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$9,493	
NET 2024 OPERATIONS	(\$1,601)	
TOTAL ASSETS AS OF JAN 1, 2024	\$10,890	
Net from 2024 Operations	(\$1,601)	
	(72,002)	
TOTAL ASSETS AS OF DEC 31, 2024	\$9,289	

^{*}Estimated \$500 for Xmas Count dinner not yet paid (reimbursement to Jeff Chapman)

Another Year of Generous Giving for the DBC

2024 continued the DBC's tradition of generously giving back to the birding community. Last year the Club issued an IOS grant for \$1,750 for research on the reasons why some species were more impacted by West Nile Virus than others and another \$1,950 in donations to bird-worthy causes. In the last five years, the DBC has issued Grants and Donations exceeding \$25,000. (NOTE: your dues help fund this philanthropy.)

DuPage Birding Club					
2024 Grants and Donations					
Cash Grants			Purpose		
Illinois Ornithological Society Grant to	o Carlos Calzada	\$ 1,750.00	Research at the Field Museum -		
University of Chicago graduate student			on bird vulnerability to West Nile Virus		
	Total Grants	\$ 1,750.00			
Cash Donations			Purpose		
Bird Conservation Network (BCN)		\$ 150.00	Annual membership		
Horicon Marsh Bird Club		\$ 100.00	In thanks for help with our Field Trip)
Chicago Bird Collision Monitors		\$ 500.00	Support their mission		
American Bird Conservatory		\$ 250.00	Annual membership at Tanager level		I
Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County		\$ 500.00	For Willowbrook Wildlife Center		
Newberry Library		\$ 250.00	Bob Dolgan's "Winging It" exhibit		
Illinois Ornithological Society		\$ 200.00	2025 Gull Frolic - Vendor table		
	Total Donations	\$ 1,950.00			
Total 2024 Cash Grants and Donations		\$ 3,700.00			
In Kind Donations					
Friends of the Forest Preserve District of Dupage County			9/24 fundraising auction		
Artwork by Jenny Vogt - Harrier Hawk Framed Print		\$ 290.00	Artist's estimated value		

IMPORTANT: Renew Your DBC Membership Now!

In case the "holidaze" put you behind on renewing your membership in the Club, there's still time. Your annual membership dues for 2025 were 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.

The Year in Birds: A Look Back at 2024's Birding Highlights

As many of you know, DBC's own Jeff Reiter authors the popular Words on Birds column in the Daily Herald. Jeff's fun end-of-year review captures 2024's important local conservation successes and birding highlights. The latter included about a dozen rare bird sightings within DuPage County, including a very cooperative Sage Thrasher at Hidden Lake who stayed on sight for days, which prompted then President Robert Perez to ask members whether there was anyone in the room who hadn't seen the Thrasher! For the full story, visit Jeff's blog at https://wordsonbirds.blogspot.com/



At least 200 birders saw this Sage Thrasher at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve in Glen Ellyn. Photo by Randall Everts.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is On February 14-17!

If the Christmas Bird Count was just too cold and daunting for you, February 14-17 offers a more agreeable opportunity and a second chance to get involved in Community Science. The Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored by Cornell Labs and Birds Canada, invites you to sit back with a hot cup of Joe in your snuggly slippers and count the birds you see in your own backyard. Over the four days of the count, spend at least 15 minutes on one day to record what you see happening out your window. Share your Merlin Bird ID(s), eBird checklist(s), or photos, sounds, or videos and join hundreds of thousands of others to capture a global snapshot of what is happening with birds as they prepare for spring migration.

In 2023, more than half a million people globally participated from 200 countries. Their efforts identified 7,538 distinct species, more than two-thirds of the birds that exist. You too can be part of this amazing global phenomenon. Click here to learn more and join the fun: https://www.birdcount.org/about/

February 2025 Field Trips

Winter is an invigorating time to get out there and see birds. Bundle up and enjoy!

There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy. As always, non-members 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.

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

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.

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/.

Thursday, February 6, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Woodridge/Naperville Pre-registration with the leader is required, limit 15 participants

This morning trip will be oriented toward winter birds such as sparrows, finches, and raptors. We will walk at a leisurely pace to provide as much time as desired to look at each bird and to answer questions for any new birders. Please dress for the weather. Meet at Greene Valley Forest Preserve West entrance, near the Thunderbird Youth Camp Parking Lot. The entrance (Thunderbird Road) is on the south side of 79th, west of Greene Road in Naperville/Woodridge.

https://maps.app.goo.gl/nwLczvPZDP9FP3zF9

Leader: Bonnie Graham, 630-204-8750, Coye72112@gmail.com

Saturday, February 8, 2:30 pm – sunset, Centennial Trail, Lemont

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

On this field trip our main target will be looking for waterfowl and other winter residents. Spotting scopes can be useful here; trip leader will have one. We will meet at the bike trailhead on the east end of Canal Bank Road. If using navigation, search for 15112 Canal Bank Rd, Lemont. Feel free to ask questions on how to get there after you RSVP.

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Thursday, February 13, 7:00 am - 9:00 am, McKee Marsh, Warrenville

No registration required. No limit to the number of participants.

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us to check out winter birds. This approximately three-mile walk will be on crushed 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. Text or call Kyle for any additional information including questions regarding weather-related cancellation.

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

Saturday, February 15, 10:30 – afternoon. Chautauqua/Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge

<u>Pre-registration is required.</u> No limit to the number of participants

The Snow Geese in February can number in the hundreds of thousands in the lakes surrounding the Illinois River south of Peoria! It is an amazing sight to see them all take off and land. Join Bob Fisher in witnessing this spectacle. There will likely be an opportunity to view eagles, Trumpeter Swans, Greater White Fronted Geese, and a variety of other waterfowl and resident birds as well.

Bob will lead us in a caravan car trip among several locations in the area. The nearby town of Havana offers spots to grab lunch, use a bathroom, and stay the night if you want. This is a park and view type trip, with limited trail walking.

This trip location is approximately three hours south of the I-55 and I-355 junction. We will meet at the center dike at Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge at 10:30 am. Participant information will be shared for those who want to coordinate carpooling. https://maps.app.goo.gl/7ANewvP99fhnoDGq5.

* The trip is dependent on weather conditions and arrival of the Snow Geese! Bob will be in touch several days prior to confirm the trip. An alternate field trip may be planned if the geese are not present.

Leader: Bob Fisher, 630-985-2956, bfisher928@aol.com

Saturday, February 22, 8:00 am – 11:00 am, Centennial Trail, Lemont

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

On this field trip 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 it 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.

On this field trip our main targets will be waterfowl. Common Goldeneye and Redhead, along with many others, are all possible. We will also be on the lookout for songbirds on the wooded side of the trail.

Leader: Henry Meade, henrymm21@icloud.com

SAVE THE DATE!

DBC Field Trip Registration Lottery Open* for Magee Marsh, Ohio, May 7-11.

Organizers: Joe Kubal, Sherry Courtney, Matt Crisler

Matching DBC member interest for the field trip to Magee Marsh with available resources has been a challenge in planning this trip. Due to the high demand anticipated, we have decided to initiate a lottery system for participation. This seems to be the most equitable and fair way to enroll potential attendees.

Right now, we only have room for 10 participants due to only having 1 hike leader. We would like to expand this to 20, so we are looking for a second hike leader to volunteer. If you are, or someone you know is, interested, please reach out to Sherry Courtney at sherrycourtney10@gmail.com.

*The lottery is open now until February 10th, 2025. You are asked to include only <u>two participants</u> in your email request to enroll. In this request, please include only the names and email addresses of "active birders." Do not include spouses and significant others who are coming with you but not participating in the actual hikes themselves.

The lottery drawing will be held mid-February, and all individuals that requested enrollment will be notified of the results shortly thereafter. If you are selected to attend the trip, the field trip coordinators will forward a packet of materials concerning lodging (we have reserved a block of rooms) and other details. There is also the possibility of having a pre-trip orientation meeting.

Requests to enroll should be sent to Joe Kubal at jdrk4715@aol.

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

Stephanie Cullerton, stephcullert@yahoo.com

Finally, It's Official: The Bald Eagle Is America's National Bird

Most everyone recognizes the Bald Eagle as America's national bird. It first appeared in 1782 on the Great Seal, a symbol of American strength and sovereignty as a nation. But the fact is that it just officially became our national bird on Christmas Eve 2024, when President Biden signed a bipartisan bill designating the Bald Eagle as the official bird of the United States. We can all heartily endorse this acknowledgment, notwithstanding one of our forefather's objections—Ben Franklin thought the Bald Eagle was "a bird of bad moral character" since it is known to steal food from other birds. Franklin preferred instead the Wild Turkey. It is a respectable native, of course, but somehow it just wouldn't convey the same image...



Photo by Mike Warner

For more details, click here.

News from the Forest Preserve

Avian Flu: Avian Flu incidents are being monitored carefully by the District. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has advised citizens to report any sightings of five or more dead birds to their local IDNR representative and to avoid handling any sick or deceased birds. In DuPage, contact Nicky Strahl at nicky.strahl@illinois.gov.

Pratt's Wayne Woods-Southeast: During closed session the DuPage County Forest Preserve Board discussed the acquisition through negotiation or condemnation of a parcel known as "Pratt's Wayne Woods-Southeast" by the Forest Preserve District. This parcel is 43 acres with over 200 oak trees, some exceeding 200 years old and is contiguous to high quality areas of Pratt's Wayne Woods.

Greene Valley: The District has been awarded a \$600,000 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the state of Illinois to fund significant improvements at Greene Valley Forest Preserve in Naperville. The grant, part of a statewide initiative supporting 100 local parks projects, will help fund key projects outlined in the preserve's master plan.

Welcome, New Members!

Sara Heinlein LaGrange Mary and Bruce McLeod Lombard John Rodd **Naperville** Vincent Sherwin Warrenville Jan Smallwood Lisle

Good News from McCormick Place



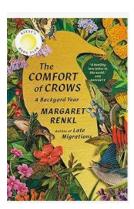
We can wrap up this issue of Drummings with a bit of good conservation news. The deadly night in October of 2023 during which almost 1,000 birds crashed into the glass walls of McCormick Place remains one of the most sad and tragic events to befall our city in recent memory. The carnage roused the region's conservation groups, civic leaders, and ordinary citizens to mobilize. The US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Field Museum, and Chicago Bird Collision Monitors negotiated a

solution with McCormick Place to install bird-safe film on the Convention Center windows in a \$1.2 million investment—all in time for fall migration.

The good news is good indeed: only 18 dead birds were found this fall at McCormick Place. This represents a 90% decrease in bird fatalities, according to Dave Willard of the Field Museum, writing in the Chicago Tribune. The bird-safe film has a series of small dots that help birds recognize that the reflections they see in the glass are not through passages. Let's celebrate this small victory and hope it sets a standard for other buildings throughout the city and for the ongoing efforts to enact ordinances mandating bird-friendly building design.

The Comfort of Crows is DBC Book Club's Next Read

Join fellow DBC members on Tuesday evening, March 11, to share insights from *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year*. Written by Margaret Renkl, the book's 52 chapters follow the creatures and plants in the author's backyard over the course of a year. Reviewer's call it "a luminous book" that celebrates the natural world. Each chapter is beautifully illustrated with original color artwork. For details on the meeting, contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.



There's Still Time to Enter DBC's Winter '24-'25 Photo Contest

The DBC is looking for pictures of birds taken between December 1, 2024, and February 28, 2025. 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 <u>every entry</u> has a chance to win!

Note: the judges ask that you <u>limit the number of photos entered to five or less</u>. 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:

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

DBC Photo Contest Entry Form

If you <u>do not</u> have a Google Account, email your image as an email attachment to <u>dupagebirdingclub@gmail.com</u>. 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 April Drummings.



2025 DBC Executive Committee Members

President: Thelma Hulka Vice President: Matt Crisler

Treasurer: Rich Gaul

Recording Secretary: Mark Freeburg Corresponding Secretary: Donnalyn Quint

Director: Rob Thomas Director: Lindsay Vacek Director: Jim Mateski

2025 Committee Chairs

Audio-Visual Coordinator: Robert Perez Flickr: Urs Geiser Bird Conservation Network: Glenn Gabanski,

Donna Kubik, Diann Bilderback, Glenn Perricone

Christmas Count Coordinator: Jeff Chapman Communications: Diann Bilderback, Steve Constantelos Instagram: Henry Meade

DBC Apparel: Steve Constantelos DBC Book Club: Mike Warner

Drummings Newsletter: Diann Bilderback

Email Distribution: Bob Fisher Facebook: John Cebula

Field Trips: Sherry Courtney, Stephanie Cullerton

2025 Meeting Schedule

January 9 July 10

March 13 September 11

April 10 October 9

May 15* November 13

*Date change

Forest Preserve Liaison: Dennis Streicher

Grants and Donations: Vera Miller

Hospitality: Bonnie Graham Lending Library: Jeff Smith

Membership Directory: Susan Kaley Outreach/Youth Education: Mike Warner Spring Count Coordinator: Joe Suchecki

Twitter: Vera Miller

Webmasters: Barb Dougan, Nancy Allured

YouTube Ed Channel: Denis Kania, Steve Constantelos