

Drummings July 2025

President's Letter



Next Meeting

July 10, 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

Hello, DBCers,

Well, it's July – real summer. Migration is pretty much over and the need for the birder to let everything else go in order to chase down every warbler sighting lets up a bit.

I had the good fortune to go to Magee Marsh this year and saw by the dozens warblers that I consider myself fortunate to see once or twice a year or maybe every other year. Parula, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, Prothonotary, and more – but I missed the Kirtland's so I'll have to go back.

Meanwhile our resident birds have settled into their nests and are busy with their nestlings, keeping them fed and teaching them how to fly. Because they're occupied with those chores, they're not singing as much and they're not as easy for us to find.

But the challenge remains. My goal this summer is to get a good look at a Yellow-breasted Chat. I had one brief, flying-away-in-the-distance look, but I need to do better than that. Do you have a target for the summer? You'd better get out there to find it. Pretty soon they'll be heading south as waterfowl, confusing fall warblers, then it's hawkwatch, and we'll be back to spring migration...

It's a good life when you're a birder.

Birdly,

Thelma Hulka, President

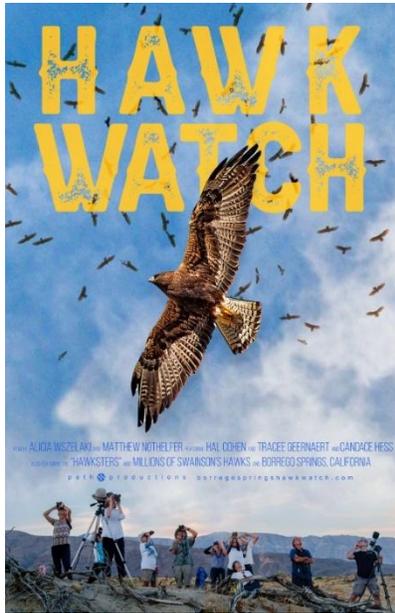
scubabird@gmail.com

July 10 Meeting, In Person and Via Zoom:

Movie Night—HAWKWATCH

Directed by Alicia Wszelaki, featuring Hal Cohen

We are excited to host a screening of the new documentary HAWKWATCH, featuring DBC and Borrego Springs Hawkwatch founding member Hal Cohen and directed by Alicia Wszelaki.



Revered raptors, dedicated citizen scientists, and a fragile desert environment—HAWKWATCH the film brings them all together. Watch as a passionate group works tirelessly to perpetuate their legacy: the support of the Swainson’s Hawk migration. This local team strives to inspire a new generation of “Hawksters” to continue the vital task of monitoring and protecting the migration through California. But aging, human-driven climate change, business development, and even Mother Nature create obstacles that threaten it all.

HAWKWATCH has been in production since early 2023. In addition to filming two full seasons of hawk migration through Borrego Springs, California,* the cast and crew traveled to Veracruz, Mexico; Antelope Valley, California; and Corpus Christi, Texas to capture on film the incredible spectacle of avian migration and nesting. This documentary showcases the intense beauty and sense of awe inspired by the annual hawk migration, and the efforts that the local

Hawksters are making to keep it alive. HAWKWATCH visually depicts the perilous existence of raptors during their 20,000-mile journey, and the power of individuals to try to make a difference for their world. Visit the website to watch the trailer at www.BorregoSpringsHawkwatch.com. Hal and Alicia will be available for Q&A after the showing. The runtime is about 45 minutes.

This meeting will be both in-person and on Zoom, but due to the showing of the documentary, there will not be a recording for later viewing. To register for the Zoom meeting, [CLICK HERE](#)

If you’re planning to attend in person, don’t forget to join us for a pre-meeting dinner discussion at Ellyn’s around 5:30 PM.

Big Fun at the 40th Birthday Bash!

DBC’s 40th Birthday Party was a big hit with the 60+ members who attended the event. Among them were many past presidents and board members. Several founders attended as well, including Jerry and Jody Zamirowski, Marscha Chenoweth, Dennis Streicher, and Dick Young.

Organizer Natalie McFaul kicked off the event with the “40 Birds in 40 Minutes” challenge wherein a dozen or so small



Photo by Jeff Reiter



randomized teams set out to find as many species as possible within a 40-minute window. Altogether the teams located 38 of 40 target species, missing only Kildeer and Great Crested Flycatcher.

Lunch was plentiful and more than delicious, with gourmet hot dogs and a range of tasty homemade salads and sides. Many thanks to our chefs Jane Barnett, Steve Minick, Bonnie Graham, Andi Duffy, Kathy Minick, Natalie McFaul, and Sherry Courtney.

And thanks to the DBC Executive Committee members for hosting this opportunity to recognize the club's success...and bring us together for some lively socializing.



Photos by Diann Bilderback

DBC's Milestone Birthday Makes News!

Jeff Reiter's popular Daily Herald column *Words on Birds* celebrated DBC's 40th birthday too! Jeff interviewed founders and presidents in the club's long history to explore the club's keys to success. It turns out the "secret sauce" has many ingredients, from bylaws that build in turnover at the leadership level to a philosophy that celebrates birding for all and a large base of volunteers that deliver programs, field trips, and more. Read this month's *Words on Birds* in the [Daily Herald](#) or view the column [here](#).

Mozart's Starling Is DBC Book Club's Next Read

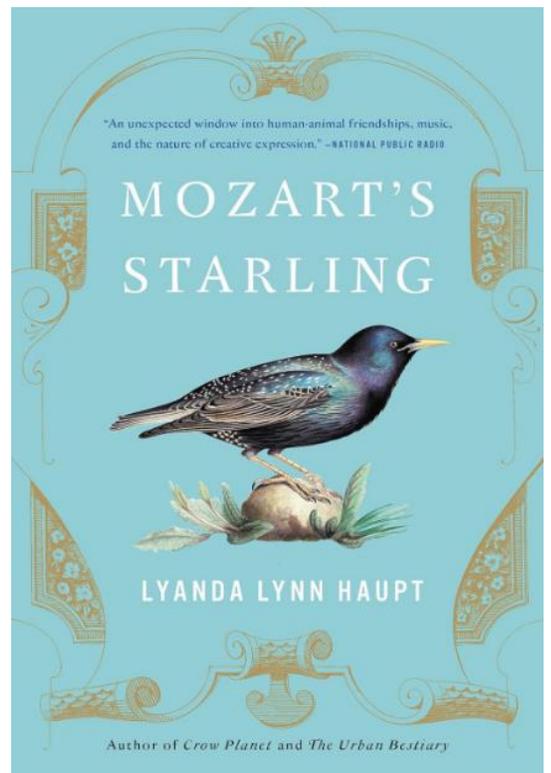
The DBC Book Club's next read is *Mozart's Starling* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt.

In 1784, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart encountered a caged starling who sang an improvised version of the theme from his Piano Concerto no. 17 in G major. Captivated, Mozart purchased the bird and for the next three years, the starling lived with him, influencing his work and serving as his companion.

Mozart's Starling explores the fascinating and unlikely bond between one of the world's great composers and this commonest of birds. Writer Lyanda Haupt intertwines her own experience with a rescued baby starling to explore the human-animal bond, the secret world of starlings, the nature of creative inspiration, and our place in the world.

You're invited to join a lively discussion of this book at our next meeting, which will be **Thursday, September 4**.

For details on the meeting, contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com



Birdies and Brews at the Arb on July 25

The Outreach Committee will sponsor the Morton Arboretum's upcoming Birdies and Brews event on July 25, 4:00-9:00 PM. Here's your chance to play mini-golf while enjoying a local craft beer. Tickets are available by going to [Birdies and Brews on the Arboretum Website](#). DBC Outreach Committee members scheduled to be present include John Cebula, Laurel Ahlenius, and Mike Warner. Hope to see you there!

Welcome, New Members

Christine and Mark DeLira Woodridge

A Busy May for DBC Field Trips!

May Field Trip Fast Facts

- 21 field trips over 31 days
- 173 participants
- 137 species, with high point of 65 at Lyman Woods on 5/24
- 24 species of warbler

The month of May has always been special to midwest birders--and the DuPage Birding Club—because of the many migrants passing through. We thought it would be fun to put together an eBird Trip List for the month that captured the excitement of all the Field Trip experiences.

Thanks to Field Trip Coordinators Sherry Courtney and Stephanie Cullerton, there were 21 field trips offered over those 31 days! One-hundred Seventy-three participants

attended the field trips (some individuals may have attended more than one) and our team of expert field trip leaders pointed out 137 different species of birds! Kudos to Matt Crisler and the participants on his May 24 field trip at Lyman Woods for finding 65 species! Over the month participants found some very interesting birds, including Black Terns (2), Black-billed Cuckoo (1), four types of Vireos (including 4 Yellow-throated), and of course Red-winged Blackbirds (470). We all watch for warblers during the month of May and DBC did pretty well with 24 species of warblers found!

If you would like to review the eBird Trip Report for the month of May [CLICK HERE](#).

As you know, 20 DBC members went to Magee Marsh in Ohio during May. If you would like to read about their trip you can read about it in last month's Drummings - [CLICK HERE](#).

The Magee Marsh group created their own Trip List on eBird (this data was not included in the above month-long Trip List) and if you would like to review that [CLICK HERE](#).

Thanks again to all who made May a month to remember!

July 2025 Field Trips

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.

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/>

Sunday, July 6, 8:00 am - 10:00 am, Fabyan Forest Preserve, Geneva

Registration with the leader is required, limit 15 participants.

Fabyan Forest Preserve, in Geneva, is located along the Fox River. Participants will explore both sides of the river utilizing the extensive trail system there. We will be looking for resident species as well as exploring the historic sites at Fabyan. We will mainly stick to crushed limestone trails, but may venture off into grassy areas. New and experienced birders are welcome.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/qdfhMs2KhyPFVo3f8>

Leader: Robert Perez, robertperez787@gmail.com, (630) 724-7534

Friday, July 11, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Danada Forest Preserve (East), Wheaton

Registration is not required for this evening birding trip.

Start the weekend off with a casual evening of birding. This trip is planned with the after-work/school crowd in mind, but anyone interested is welcome! We will stick to well-maintained, gravel trails and walk approximately two miles. Danada East (Danada House) is located at 35501 Naperville Road, on the east side of the road, south of Butterfield Rd. and north of I-88. Plan to meet at the north end of the parking lot near the entry kiosk with the benches and bike racks. This trip may be cancelled due to weather. Please email the leader if you plan to attend to receive updates.

Leader: William Pixler, pillwixler@gmail.com

Tuesday, July 15, 7:30 am - 10:30 am, McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Registration for this trip is not required.

Join us for a morning walk at one of DuPage County's premier birding hotspots to look for resident and breeding species. The walk will be approximately three miles on limestone and earthen trails. Wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Road, located east of Rt. 59, and west of Winfield Road. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/KXCPRk4BFnszuntK7>

Leader: Kyle Wiktor, (708) 506-5186

Tuesday, July 15, 6:15 pm - 9:00 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

Registration with the leader is required, limit 15 participants.

Birding after work! Meet at the parking lot on 31st Street. We'll conclude the trip with some dusk birding looking for the resident owls. A red flashlight or headlamp is recommended. Lyman's trails can be muddy if we get rain – be prepared with appropriate footwear. Insect repellent is highly

recommended. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/anx9bjWV6JG4MTaQ9>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Saturday, July 19, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Bike & Bird, Greene Valley, Naperville

Registration with the leader is required, limit 10 participants.

Greene Valley has a lot of great habitats in it, but you can't really cover more than one in a typical field trip due to distance. We will bike around the preserve to hit as much as possible in one run. Expect to ride about five miles with a few light hills (no overlook). We will be sticking to the limestone/paved trails. Meet at the north end of the Greene Road parking lot near the information sign and trailhead.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/nrYDHkpd3n5BtXb86>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Friday, July 25, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Danada Forest Preserve (East), Wheaton

Registration for this trip is not required.

Start the weekend off with a casual evening of birding. This trip is planned with the after-work/school crowd in mind, but anyone interested is welcome! We will stick to well-maintained, gravel trails and walk approximately two miles. Danada East (Danada House) is located at 35501 Naperville Road, on the east side of the road, south of Butterfield Rd. and north of I-88. Plan to meet at the north end of the parking lot near the entry kiosk with the benches and bike racks. This trip may be cancelled due to weather. Please email the leader if you plan to attend to receive updates.

Leader: William Pixler, pillwixler@gmail.com

Tuesday, July 29, 6:15 pm - 9:00 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

Registration with the leader is required, limit 15 participants.

Birding after work! Meet at the parking lot on 31st Street. We'll conclude the trip with some dusk birding looking for the resident owls. A red flashlight or headlamp is recommended. Lyman's trails can be muddy if we get rain – be prepared with appropriate footwear. Insect repellent is highly

recommended. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/anx9bjWV6JG4MTaQ9>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Announcing DBC's Spring '25 Photo Contest Winners!

The winners of DBC's Spring '25 photo contest have been finalized! The entries were judged by Andie Duffy, Natalie McFaul, and Mike Warner. As always, the committee would like to thank all the photographers for their entries. It was very hard to narrow it down to these seven award winners.

Best of Show

Photographer: Tim Duitsman

Species: Black Skimmer

Location: The Celery Fields, Sarasota, Florida

Narrative: I arrived at dawn and parked by the south observation deck. First time at the Celery Fields and wasn't sure what to expect. What a great day it turned out to be! The Black Skimmers arrived shortly after it started to warm up. Four of them swooped close to the observation deck. This Skimmer flew right past, barely breaking the calm water and leaving a path of droplets in its wake. It was so calm and in control—just steady, precise flight inches above the surface.



“Cedar Throne” Award

Photographer: John Swarens

Species: White-throated Sparrow

Location: DuPage County

Narrative: Without my bins I wasn’t sure which sparrow was rummaging under the nearby cedar trees. Finally it popped up into clear view, posing perfectly to show off the namesake white throat in a cedar throne. Glad I waited!



“Best Portrait” Award

Photographer: John Obenland

Species: Eastern Meadowlark

Location: Naperville, IL

Narrative: Springbrook Prairie seemed like a logical place to go to search for Eastern Meadowlarks on a beautiful late April day and we were not disappointed. However, they seemed somewhat shy and stayed far away from us while proudly serenading us with their melody. They preferred perching on tops of shrubs, sturdy grass, or even a steel fence post, keeping their distance, rather than a more intimate setting for their performance. Who needs a microphone and sound system?



“Best Dressed” Award

Photographer: James J. Goldsmith

Species: Gray Catbird

Location: The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois

Narrative: I am a Safety Patrol Volunteer at the Morton Arboretum, and over time, I have had a chance to explore many of the Arboretum’s trails. In early May I discovered a little used path by Sterling Pond and decided to investigate. After navigating the brambles at the start of the path I emerged into a quiet glade. There to greet me was a handsome Gray Catbird, decked out in its natural formal attire.



“A Study In Gray” Award

Photographer: Franz Burnier

Species: Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher

Location: Danada Forest Preserve

Narrative: I watched this Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and its mate working on the nest, flying in and out with various materials and mud, sitting in the nest and forming it to their shape. Finally this bird rested on the branch, as if posing to show off this amazing work of art. Notice how the nest is secured to the branch with spider silk.



“Awwww” Awwward

Photographer: Bonnie Graham

Species: Canada Geese (Goslings)

Location: Lake Katherine Park

Narrative: I almost missed these cute little goslings. My attention was on another bird and for some reason I turned around and saw two adult Canada Geese shepherding their little ones to the water. They were moving fast, a bit close for my telephoto lens, and the sun was in front of me (I prefer the sun behind me). Usually a bad mix of circumstances when taking photos, but once in a while, bad luck turns into a nice photo.



“Right Time, Right Place” Award

Photographer: Kristine Wiltjer

Species: Red-bellied Woodpecker

Location: My Backyard, Darien IL

Narrative: I was sitting in my backyard enjoying the woodpecker, going through photos, I discovered this one!



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



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
Bird Conservation Network: Glenn Gabanski, Jim Green, 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: Sherry Courtney, Stephanie Cullerton

2025 Meeting Schedule

January 9	July 10
March 13	September 11
April 10	October 9 (Auction)
May 15	November 13

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: Mike Warner
Photo Contest: Mike Warner
Spring Bird Count: Joe Suchecki
Twitter: Vera Miller
Webmasters: Barb Dougan, Nancy Allured
YouTube Ed Channel: Denis Kania, Steve Constantelos