

Drummings August 2025

President's Letter



Next Meeting

September 11, 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,

Can it really be August already? The days are flying by way too fast. It seems like the cold, long spring just finished and now the signs of summer's ending are nipping at our heels. The migrating birds that just finished flying northward over our heads will soon be headed south again. And we will wait impatiently for them to return.

It sounds so boringly repetitious if it wasn't so darn exciting, challenging frustrating, and satisfying! What a crazy bunch we are. And the good news is that more are joining us every day. I hope more people are inspired by birds to fight to protect our environment.

Part of our responsibility and privilege as club members is to be vocal advocates for our feathered friends. So over this winter, while you're probably spending less time behind your binoculars, why not look around for ways to make things more hospitable for these amazing flyers when they return? DuPage Forest Preserve and other nature-directed groups are always looking for extra help on varying projects.

(I know it's August and I'm already talking about winter. Guess what my least favorite season is?) But I digress.

I look forward to the fall migration and months of great birding. See you in the woods!

Birdly,

Thelma Hulka, President
scubabird@gmail.com

September 11 Meeting, In Person and via Zoom: Everything eBird

Robert Perez and Matt Crisler

One of the most requested topics for a club meeting has been how to get the most out of eBird, which has become the go-to digital platform for recording and sharing your birding records. DBC's own Robert Perez and Matt Crisler will walk you through the website and app experiences, so stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the meeting date!

SAVE THE DATE: Birding and Breakfast August 23

One of life's great pleasures is birding. Another is eating. Put them together and you have a perfect start to your day, Birding and Breakfast! AND it is a great opportunity to socialize and get to know new club members and see some friends you may not have seen for a while!

Please join us for a bird walk and casual breakfast at the West Shelter at Blackwell Forest Preserve, Saturday, August 23. We will begin at 7:30 with a short bird walk followed by breakfast in the picnic shelter. The club will provide bananas, bagels, donuts, juice, and coffee. NOTE: if you would like to bring a dish to share, please contact Natalie McFaul at the address below.

All birders and potential birders are welcome! This is a great time to get together and relive highlights of your summer birding experiences with others who share your interest in birding and the outdoors.

The bird walk starts at 7:30 at the West Shelter located on the left side of the park drive opposite the boat rental parking lot. Breakfast is at 9:00 a.m. You are welcome to come just for the walk or just for breakfast.

Please help us out with planning, [RSVP HERE](#)

Blackwell Forest preserve has a variety of habitats so you might just be able to pick up one more bird for your summer list, spot a new dragonfly or see a butterfly or two. Blackwell Forest Preserve is located on the north side of Butterfield Road a quarter mile west of Winfield Road. [Blackwell Forest Preserve](#). Any questions contact Natalie at natcatcher7@gmail.com.

Full Steam Ahead on the DBC Auction

The DBC Auction, our first in six years, will be held at the DuPage County Historical Museum in Wheaton on October 9, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Auction Backstory: An Overview

A little back story for newer club members: in the past the auction was held every two years, but COVID put a wrench in that and our last auction was in 2019. Its purpose is to raise funds for club operations and our grants and donations program—and to provide a fun social event for members and friends of the club.

Auctioneers Denis Kania and Jeff Chapman will auction 50-60 items donated by members and businesses in the community, including gift baskets, artwork, birding optics and gear, feeders, garden items, special field trips, and more. In addition, the Birding Bazaar features tables of \$3, \$5, \$10, and \$20 of new or gently used member-donated items, which includes bird-related books, artwork, collectibles, and related items that members want to “rehome.” Finally, we run a raffle with additional items. The function includes a cash bar and a few munchies. Altogether, the auction will raise several thousand dollars we can use to manage club operations and our various programs.

Wanted: Your Donated Items

Here's how you can help build our inventory of items for the auction, raffle and bazaar tables:

- If you are an artist, crafter, or other creator and would like to donate your work, please speak to an auction team member to make arrangements.
- If you have close ties with a business that might donate a relevant item, please speak to an auction team member to make arrangements.
- If you have bird- or nature-related treasures you're ready to pass on, you have two choices for delivering them to the auction team:
 - Bring them to the August 23 Birding and Breakfast event or the September 11 meeting, where auction team members will collect them. (However, if you have a large number of heavy books and/or DVDs, we ask that you bring them 5:00-6:00 p.m. on auction night.)
 - Drop them off at the home of Jeff Reiter (Glen Ellyn) or Denis Kania (Naperville) by September 20. You can contact Jeff and Denis for address details at jreiter@wordsonbirds.com or djkan36@gmail.com.

For any donated items, we need the following information: your name and contact info, name and contact info of third party who might have donated the item (if applicable), short description, estimated value.

Auction Planning Team

Thanks to the volunteers who are leading the planning of this special event: Diann Bilderback, Jeff Reiter, Denis Kania, John Baker, Jim Mateski, Lindsay Vacek, and Steve Mineck. Feel free to contact any member of the team with questions.

Newberry Library Exhibit Focuses on Birds



Winging It: A Brief History of Humanity's Relationship with Birds explores humanity's complex relationship with birds through the centuries. The exhibit runs through September 27 at the Newberry Library in downtown Chicago.

Birds have been viewed as sources of inspiration and meaning across many cultures but have also been regarded as pests, resources to be exploited, and threats to our well-being. The exhibition examines this complex relationship and the resilience of birds in spite of the many threats they face.

The DuPage Birding Club is a proud sponsor of this exhibit and helped fund its development through our 2024 giving program. For more information, visit [The Newberry Library](#).

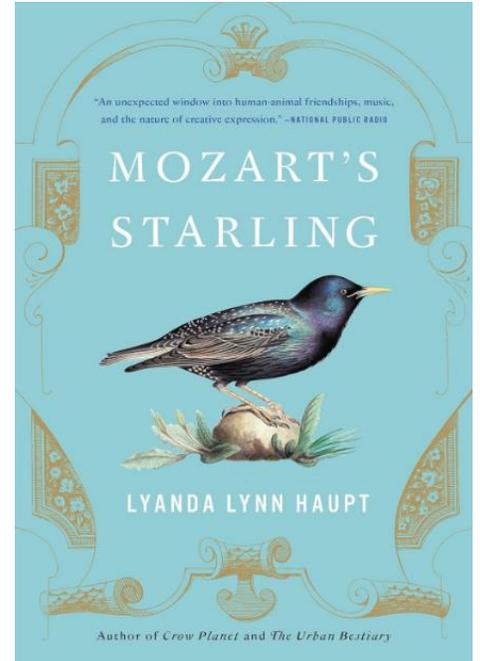
DBC Book Club Meets September 4th

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. 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

DBC Education Channel Hits the 1,000 Subscriber Mark!

The DBC Education Channel on YouTube just added its 1000th subscriber, a significant milestone. This popular resource is a bonanza for birders who want to bone up on birding basics, improve their birding-by-ear skills, and explore the finer points of bird identification—and a lot of people have discovered just how helpful it is. Some of the more popular videos include the following:

- Basic Bird Identification—1,200 views (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTn6n372iXY>)
- Bird Topography—2,500 views (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ9oUSNVjzA>)
- Birding by Ear: Empidonax Flycatchers—1,800 views (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErTc_WH45CU)
- Birding by Ear: Vireos—1,400 views (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoznOErXUCU>)

With more than 100 videos, most created by Denis Kania with help from Joe Suchecki, this fantastic resource can up your birding game fast. The site also includes recordings of guest speakers at club meetings, Members' Night presentations, and our new Birding Adventures series. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/dupagebirdingclub>.

An Opportunity to help our Birds and The Forest Preserve District

DBC members can help support the restoration and management of habitat for birds in our DuPage County Forest Preserves while having fun at the same time. The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the 501 (C) (3) charitable organization that raises private donations to support District programs, is holding two fundraising and fun events in August and September. All monies raised will be used to restore and manage wildlife habitat in the County.

The first event is a **Duck Race at the Fullersberg Woods Forest Preserve Preserve, which will be held on August 9th at 3:00 pm**. Purchase some rubber ducks to enter the race down Salt Creek for a chance to win \$500 or other prizes. Racing ducks are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. Find more information and to buy a duck go to [Duck Race](#).

The Friends is also holding their annual fundraising event—A Night For Nature—on Thursday, September 18 from 5-8:30 pm. This year, The Night for Nature event will be held at the newly renovated and reopened Danada House at Danada Forest Preserve in Wheaton. You won't have to worry about the weather since we will be inside in a beautiful new setting for a fun night where you can mingle with other supporters of the Friends and enjoy some great food and music. Tickets for the event are \$100 and you can find information and purchase your tickets at [A Night for Nature 2025](#).

All proceeds will benefit habitat restoration and wildlife preservation in our DuPage County Forest Preserves. As birders in DuPage County, we know that the forest preserves provide essentially all of the areas where we can go to enjoy our hobby and find birds. Without continued management and care, bird habitat in DuPage will decline and there will be fewer birds for us to see. Please consider supporting our local forest preserves by purchasing Duck Race entries and A Night For Nature tickets today or by making a donation to the Friends.

In Case You Missed It! HAWKWATCH Q&A with Hal Cohen

The July 10, 2025 meeting of the DuPage Birding Club featured a screening of the new documentary HAWKWATCH, featuring DBC and Borrego Springs Hawkwatch founding member Hal Cohen and directed by Alicia Wszelaki. 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.

Although the video has not yet been released, here is the Q&A session after the viewing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2ptPE2hv3A>

View the trailer for HAWKWATCH and support the effort here: www.BorregoSpringsHawkwatch.com

Welcome, New Members

Dick Davis Oswego

Lynn Nash Downers Grove

August 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/>

Monday, August 11, 5:45 pm - 8:30 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-time 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/sWWxHJ9QeDQPS7rRA>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com.

Wednesday, August 13, 8:30 am - 11:00 am, McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Registration for this trip is not required.

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us, approximately 3.25 miles, to check out resident species and early fall migrants. Most of our walk will be on the 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. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/6bWV27h75kFfnAe57>

Leader: Kyle Wiktor, (708) 506-5186

Wednesday, August 20, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm, Wood Dale Reservoir, Wood Dale

Registration with the leader is required, limit 15 participants.

Shorebirds after work! Wood Dale Reservoir offers great viewing opportunities for several species of migrating shorebirds. Spotting scopes can be useful here; the trip leader will have one. Shorebird IDs can be difficult at times — the trip leader will be happy to help people who may be new to it, but it will help to review field guides, eBird/Merlin, and/or some of the DBC YouTube content ahead of time (Yellowlegs and Similar Waders, Peeps). We will meet at the parking lot at the end of School Street.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Tatkdr6CcoYbqrV6>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com.

Saturday, August 23, 7:30 am - 11:00 am, Birding and Breakfast, Blackwell Forest Preserve (West Shelter), Warrenville

To help us with planning, [please RSVP here](#).

Please join us for a bird walk and casual breakfast at the West Shelter at Blackwell Forest Preserve. We will begin at 7:30 with a short bird walk followed by breakfast in the picnic shelter at 9:00. The club will provide bananas, bagels, donuts, juice, and coffee. You are welcome to come just for the walk or just for the breakfast. All birders and potential birders are welcome! This is a great time to get together and relive highlights of your summer birding experiences with others who share your interest in birding and the outdoors. Blackwell Forest Preserve is located on the north side of Butterfield Road a quarter mile west of Winfield Road. The West Shelter is located on the left side of the Main Dr. opposite the boat rental parking lot. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Bh1Hxwvcz92dJmA8>

Leader: Natalie McFaul, natcatcher7@gmail.com

Saturday, August 30, 8:30 am - 11:00 am, Greene Valley Bike Trip, 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 the distance. We will bike around the preserve to hit as much as possible in one run. Expect to ride about 5 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/yTA7dZtMT1zL98of7>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com.

Additional birding opportunities:

Accessible Bird Walks at Cantigny are open to birders of all levels and abilities. If you enjoy a leisurely walk on beautiful grounds, there is plenty of capacity! Check the Cantigny calendar every month for dates at <https://cantigny.org/events/>. A parking fee of \$6.00 will apply; no fee for the walk itself.

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.

Will County Forest Preserves District offers birding events: <https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/>

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



2025 Meeting Schedule

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

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

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

ouTube Ed Channel: Denis Kania, Steve Constantelos