

Drummings October 2025

President's Letter



Next Meeting

DBC AUCTION AND FUNDRAISER!

October 9, 2025

Drop off items 5:30-6:00p.m.
Checkin/cash bar 6:00 p.m.
Live Auction at 7:15 p.m.

DuPage County Historical
Museum
102 E. Wesley
Wheaton, IL 60187

Hello DBCers,

Do you sometimes feel like you're just a minnow in a huge ocean? A grain of sand on the California shore? Or a drop of water in a hurricane? A single note in an overture? Or a single leaf on an ancient oak tree? Or a single snowflake in a Canadian blizzard? Or an old holey sock at the bottom of your gym bag at the end of the season?

There. Have I got everyone? The point is, sometimes we feel all alone. That nobody listens to us or cares about our opinion. That everyone else thinks they're more important than us.

Well, kids, have I got a solution for you. Why don't you volunteer for a role in some capacity on the DBC Boards or one of its committees? It might be a temporary project like helping plan the auction or leading a single bird walk, or a two-year commitment like being a Board member. You'll have the chance to be heard, offer input, learn how the Club works, and get to know the others better. Be an influencer!

But hurry. Time is running out. Don't miss your chance to be on the ballot. Raise your hand for one of the opportunities listed in this issue of the Drummings and talk to any Board member today! (Their names are on the back page.)

Birdly,
Thelma Hulka
scubabird@gmail.com

NOTE: November Meeting Date Change

Please note that the date of the November meeting has been moved to Thursday, November 6, due to a scheduling conflict with COD. At this meeting, we will present the slate of officers for 2026 and elect new leadership. Speaker arrangements are TBD. Please check the website for updates.

In Case You Missed It: Everything eBird!

Presented by: Robert Perez and Matt Crisler

If you want to get the most out of eBird, this recording is for you! Join DBCers Robert Perez and Matt Crisler for a walk-through on the powerful eBird platform, the go-to tool for recording and sharing your birding records and a comprehensive source of birding knowledge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKIAveS-5yQ>

Celebrating DBC Volunteers October 18

ATTENTION DBC Volunteers: We're celebrating YOU at the DBC Volunteer Luncheon October 18 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 at this event, which will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a short birding walk followed by a luncheon at 11:30 a.m.

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, event coordinators, and any others who have helped out in the past year. This is also a great time to socialize with fellow members.

Meet at 10:00 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, 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 help us plan event with your RSVP by Wednesday, October 15 [Click here to RSVP](#). For questions, contact Jim Mateski at jamesmateski@gmail.com.

It's Auction Time!

The big night draws near and there's still time to register to attend the DBC Auction on October 9 at the DuPage County Historical Museum in Wheaton, 102 E. Wesley, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Don't miss this important opportunity to raise funds for club operations and our Grants and Donations program—and to enjoy a fun social event with members and friends of the club. Parking is available on Main and Wesley, with public parking 1.5 blocks away west of the museum.

Oh, What a Night!

Auction Night

5:30-6:00	Dropoff for auction items
6:00	Check-in opens, cash bar
6:15	Birders' Bazaar opens
7:15	Live Auction

What a night we have teed up for you! First up, there will be time to browse the **Birders' Bazaar**: 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." You'll also want to check out the **Raffle** table, loaded with goodies that birders are going to love. The **Live Auction** features 60+

items that include optics, special field trips, subscriptions and memberships, art and collectibles, feeders and garden items, and "birdy" gift baskets.

To add to the festivities, artist and teacher **Chris Cudworth will create a drawing** and frame it live during the event. The picture will be auctioned at the close of the event!

Registration Required

Registration is required to attend the auction. Get your free ticket for admission by linking here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/il--barrington/dupage-birding-club/>.

Extra incentive: The first 100 registrants receive a free gift of a Bird Bath Purification Disk (value=\$11). This American-made all-copper disk is the generous donation of **Erva Tool & Manufacturing Co.** Visit Erva's website at www.erva.com and explore their bird feeders, birdbaths, pole products, and other garden and patio items from this Chicago-based manufacturer and friend to DBC.



Last Call for Donated Items

If you still have items to donate, please bring them auction night for dropoff between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. along with a sheet of paper noting your name and contact info, name and contact info of third party who might have donated the item (if applicable), short description, and estimated value.

We're Counting on You

The DBC Auction is the first one we've held since 2019, and considerable energy has been invested in the planning to make this a successful event. But one critical element is still needed—and that's you, your friends, and your enthusiasm. The auction is open to nonmembers and the public at large so share the details with friends and family and let's fill the room with bidders. Proceeds from the auction fund club operations and our Grants and Donations program, which donates to bird-related conservation efforts.

If you have questions about the auction, feel free to contact any member of the organizing committee: Diann Bilderback, Denis Kania, Jeff Reiter, John Baker, Jim Mateski, Lindsay Vacek, and Steve Mineck.

Nominating Committee Seeks Volunteers for Leadership Roles

Do you have a few hours a month to devote to DBC’s governance? The Nominating Committee is actively looking for new volunteers to fill important roles on the leadership team. This is a great opportunity to join a collegial group who makes it happen at the DuPage Birding Club. Contact Thelma Hulka at scubabird@gmail.com or any other Board member if any of the open roles interest you:

Vice President—serve as #2 on the Executive Committee, with primary duty to arrange speakers for member meetings and coordinate with COD for our meeting space. The VP will step in to lead if the President is unavailable and will actively participate in monthly Board meetings. The VP becomes President the following year, meaning this is essentially a two-year commitment.

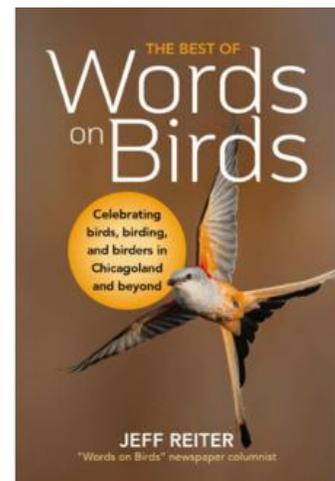
Director—represent the interests of all DBC members as an active member of the Executive Committee. Directors often take on other roles like Outreach or Hospitality to round out their contributions. This is a one-year term.

Communications—participate as a member of the Communications team responsible for the newsletter, website, and social media channels. Duties tailored to the individual’s skillset and interests.

DBC Book Club to Read *The Best of Words on Birds*

It’s probably no surprise that the DBC Book Club has chosen *The Best of Words on Birds* as its next read. Authored by our very own Jeff Reiter, the book selects favorite columns from his 30 years of publishing *Words on Birds* monthly in The Daily Herald. Columns focus on individual species, birding tips and know-how for beginners, interesting people or books in the field, and Jeff’s own personal experiences as a birder.

Jeff will join DBC Book Club members for the book discussion on December 11. This promises to be a lively and personal exchange. All members are welcome. For details on the meeting, contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com. To order your copy of the book, visit [The Best of Words on Birds | Eckhartz Press](#).



Welcome, New Members

James and Sarah Cain	North Aurora
Claire Costello	Glen Ellyn
Wes and Necia Craft	Warrenville
Jeanne Ewert	Wood Dale
Thomas Hogan	Winfield
Jennifer and John Izzo	Willowbrook
Velvet Siprian	Lombard
Joseph Siwak	Naperville

Susan and Bob Sullivan Carol Stream
Lisa Wolfanger Lisle

Share Your Birding Vacation in *Birding Adventures*

The perfect winter project awaits! Now you can share that cool birding vacation you took with interested armchair travelers among DBC members. This new offering of the DBC provides an opportunity to share your experience in all its fascinating detail, from the places you stayed, the people you met, the birds you saw, the tips and tricks you learned along the way, the frightful things to avoid, how much it cost, etc.—AND to highlight a cool destination.



Here's how it works: if you would like to participate, we ask that you put together a slide presentation sharing your photos, notes, and the like. We will then set up a ZOOM call and promote the date to members. The session will be recorded and posted on the DBC Education Channel.

To view the first two *Birding Adventures* featuring Costa Rica and Ecuador, visit [Birding Adventures](#). If you're ready to get started, contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.

DuPage Birding Club's Summer/Fall '25 Photo Contest Is Now Open!

The DBC's Photo Contest has changed from four times per year to two contests each year and is now looking for pictures of birds taken between **June 1, 2025, and November 30, 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 so no categories have been predefined — every entry has a chance to win!

Note: the judges ask that you limit the number of photos you enter to five or fewer. They usually do not give out more than one award to the same photographer when they submit multiple images.

If you would like to look at past DBC Photo Contest winners [CLICK HERE](#).



Photo by Jeff Swarens. A winner in the Spring '25 Photo Contest.

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 2026 Drumming.

October 2025 Field Trips

There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy. As always, nonmembers are welcome to register after the first of the month. 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/>

Saturday, October 4, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, Indiana Dunes State Park, Chesterton, IN

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 8 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on October 1.

We'll start from the Wilson Shelter parking lot and make a loop of trails 10 & 2 through woods and the marsh boardwalk, about 5 miles. We will not be climbing sand dunes. Should get some late migrants and fall colors. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Bring a sack lunch and bug spray.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Parking+lot,+Tremont+Rd,+Chesterton,+IN+46304>

Leader: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Tuesday, October 7, 7:30 am – 9:30 am, Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 10 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on October 1.

Springbrook Prairie Fall Sparrow Trip. Join Joe Suchecki at Springbrook Prairie in Naperville to look for fall sparrows and other migrants. Targets for the trip include Nelson's and LeConte's sparrows. We will search along wetland areas for these elusive sparrows and will go off trail through some wetter areas, so waterproof footwear is recommended. Use insect repellent for ticks and mosquitos. Meet at the Model Aircraft Field Parking Lot on Plainfield-Naperville Road about 0.5 miles south of 75th Street.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, dbcsec2020@gmail.com, (630) 842-4921

Saturday, October 11, 7:30 am – 10:00 am, Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 10 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on October 1.

Springbrook Prairie Fall Sparrow Trip. Join Joe Suchecki at Springbrook Prairie in Naperville to look for fall sparrows and other migrants. Targets for the trip include Nelson's and LeConte's sparrows. We will search along wetland areas for these elusive sparrows and will go off trail through some wetter areas, so waterproof footwear is recommended. Use insect repellent for ticks and mosquitos. Meet at the Main Parking Lot on 83rd Street between Route 59 and Book Road.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, dbcsec2020@gmail.com, (630) 842-4921

Saturday, October 11, 7:30 am – 12:00 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 10 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on October 1.

Our targets will primarily be southbound warblers, but we'll be exploring Lyman in detail and trying to find as much as possible in the heart of fall migration. Expect a longer walk than typical. Lyman's trails are almost always muddy regardless of the weather. If rain occurs ahead of the trip, expect areas with standing water. Be prepared with appropriate footwear and bring bug/tick spray. Meet at the parking lot on 31st Street.

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Monday, October 13, 7:30 am – 10:30 am, McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Registration with the leader 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 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/T7aiJKAA2FoLWUYo8>

Leader: Kyle Wiktor, (708) 506-5186

Thursday, October 16, 7:30 am – 10:30 am, Mallard Lake Forest Preserve, Hanover Park

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 8 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on October 1.

The 85-acre Mallard Lake is the District's largest recreational lake. Mallard Lake has 4 miles of trails, including a 2.5-mile trail system that winds around the lake and over two bridges plus a boardwalk that is ideal for birdwatching. The lake is a beautiful place to spend a fall day.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Mallard+Lake+Shelter+Parking/>

Leader: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Tuesday, October 21, 8:00 am – 10:30 am, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 15 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on October 1.

This morning trip, oriented toward fall/early winter 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.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/AGV527igwEnVudDd7>

Leader: Bonnie Graham, coye72112@gmail.com, (630) 204-8750

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.

Upcoming walks include the following:

Wednesday, October 8, 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 23, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 12, 9:00 a.m.

Area Forest Preserves may have birding opportunities. Check out DuPage at <https://www.dupageforest.org/calendar-of-events>, Cook County at www.fpdcc.com/events, and Will County Forest Preserves District at <https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/>. Area bird clubs also offer additional opportunities, for example, check out Kane County Audubon at <https://kanecountyaudubon.com/>.

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

News from the Forest Preserve

Cricket Creek Forest Preserve

An easement agreement has been reached between the Forest Preserve District and the City of Elmhurst to link the trail from the east side to the west side via a bridge over busy Rt. 83. The project is in the design phase.

West DuPage Woods and Blackwell Forest Preserve

For about 35 years there has been a vision for a trail over both the West Branch of the DuPage River and Roosevelt Rd., connecting West DuPage Woods to Blackwell Forest Preserve. Final engineering is complete and a joint funding agreement for federally funded construction with the Illinois Department of Transportation is approved. The .7-mile-long path that will connect to existing trails in Blackwell and West DuPage Woods. A 752 Ft long bridge will span diagonally crossing both Roosevelt Rd and the River. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring of 2026 with completion in the Spring of 2027.



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
YouTube Ed Channel: Denis Kania, Steve Constantelos

2025 Meeting Schedule

January 9 July 10
March 13 September 11
April 10 **October 9 (Auction)**
May 15 **November 6 (note date change)**