



Next Meeting

March 12, 2026

In person and via Zoom
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

President's Letter

Hi all,

To be honest, we're a little bit behind where I wanted to be in terms of progress on some of the club updates, so I don't have much to discuss there. That said, one of the main drivers of that pacing continues to be the fact that **we're running rather lean on volunteers and putting a lot of effort into trying to resolve that issue.** Perhaps unsurprisingly, it's difficult to move forward when you're starting well behind where you wanted to. I do want to give a thank you to everyone who's reached out about pitching in across our various needs. I'll try to name names next time around but I forgot February was short so I'm hurriedly writing this on a flight and I don't have access to the list—I don't want to miss anyone!

On that note, in the interest of starting to move forward in areas besides the bylaws, we'll go with a question for your consideration. As many of you know, I'm a Pandemic birder, and as much as that feels like something from a long time ago, it does mean I don't know much about the pre-Pandemic days. One of my general thoughts is that we don't really have many large-scale social events on the calendar. While it's fantastic that we have 400 people in the club, I doubt I've crossed paths with more than half of you, and I at least like to think I'm pretty active around here. While I'm not sure where we'd find the bandwidth to plan them, would there be interest in more large-scale events where the primary purpose is more social than anything else? Are there other things besides something like the August breakfast that you think would be cool to have on the calendar? Let me know what you think!

Thanks,
Matt Crisler
Crislermj@gmail.com

P.S. Shameless plug - If you didn't catch it last time around, I'm leading a second edition of our trip to Magee Marsh in May. As of time of writing, it's only half full, so check it out!

March 12, Meeting—In Person and Via Zoom: Members’ Night! Presented by DBC Members

It's March, and that means it's time for our annual members night! We will feature short presentations from several of your fellow members showcasing their stories and photos from adventures around the world. With birds from South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, the U.S. and more, it's sure to have something for everyone! Join us in person at CoD or tune in via Zoom on March 12 at 7pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tCanUuazTL-HVYQeB2dJhQ>

Gull Frolic 2026 Enjoys Balmy Weather

Warm, sunny weather on February 15 guaranteed a good turnout for the annual Gull Frolic hosted by Illinois Audubon Society. DBC once again sponsored this event, held at the Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club. Most people spent time outside to enjoy looks at Glaucous, Lesser and Great Black-backed Gulls, and an Iceland/Thayer’s among other gulls and waterfowl. Inside, the food was tasty and the camaraderie was strong.

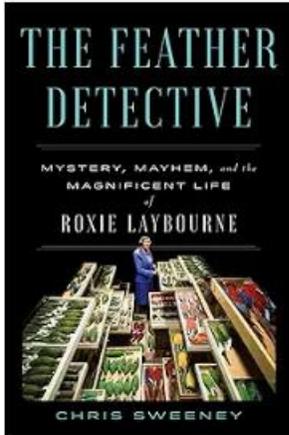
The guest speaker was Dexter Patterson, founder of BIPOC Birding (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), who is well-known for his mission to make birding known and enjoyed by all (well beyond those named by BIPOC): young, old, urban, suburban, disabled....and he actively organizes events to make this happen!



Dexter’s book, *Birds of the Great Lakes*, was for sale, along with *The Best of Words on Birds* by Jeff Reiter and *The Gull Guide* by Amar Ayash. And of course, Doug Stotz shared the Field Museum’s extensive collection of gulls. All in all, it was a great way to spend a winter morning!



DBC Book Club March 10—*The Feather Detective: Mystery, Mayhem, and the Magnificent Life of Roxie Laybourne*



Lauded by multiple sources as one of the best nonfiction books of 2025, *The Feather Detective: Mystery, Mayhem, and the Magnificent Life of Roxie Laybourne* by Chris Sweeney shares the fascinating biography of the world's first forensic ornithologist. Using nothing more than her microscope and bits of feathers, Smithsonian scientist Roxie Laybourne investigated deadly airplane crashes and helped prosecute murderers, kidnappers, and poachers. She broke down barriers for women in science and pioneered a new field in forensics. "A biography that reads like a novel," said The Wall Street Journal. This one promises to be a great read to start the new year!

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

Annual Membership Renewal Time: LAST CHANCE

Your annual membership dues for 2026 were due on December 31, 2025. For inclusion in the 2026 Member Directory, we must receive your dues by March 15. 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 2026 dues may now be paid in several 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.

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Spring Bird Count, Saturday May 9

Save the date and make plans to participate in the 2026 Spring Bird Count (SBC) in DuPage County on Saturday, May 9. The Spring Bird Count is held annually throughout Illinois around the first weekend in May and is intended to provide data on early spring bird migration throughout Illinois. It is also a great opportunity for birders of all skill levels to get out in the field and look for all those amazing and colorful spring migrants moving through northeastern Illinois.

The DuPage Birding Club coordinates the Spring Bird Count efforts in DuPage County, and last year we recorded 170 species on spring count day. Results from past counts can be found on the DBC website. So, don't miss out on the fun and excitement of the great Spring Bird Count on May 9. More information will be forthcoming in the April Drummings. Joe Suchecki coordinates the spring count in DuPage County. If you have any questions, email Joe at Dupagesbc@gmail.com.

Make a Difference for Birds: Become a BCN Monitor

The Bird Conservation Network (BCN) is recruiting new monitors for the annual BCN Survey. Here's a chance to make a difference for birds by joining the dozens of other birders who spend a few mornings each summer monitoring our breeding birds.

Now in its 27th year, this important community science project provides land managers and researchers data on bird presence and abundance trends to inform restoration and management decisions. **It relies on birders who can reliably identify our resident birds by sight and sound during the June and early July breeding season.** Training tools are available to learn the simple protocols and help enhance your skillset for birding by ear.



Photo courtesy of Bird Conservation Network

Have some favorite birding spots? Chances are good that one or more of them is an open monitoring site opportunity. Help BCN expand its coverage, add to the bigger picture of what is happening in our region, and provide further insights for our land managers and researchers.

To learn more, visit www.bcnbirds.org/monitoring. To request more information or express interest in signing up, click the "Become a Monitor" button.

Welcome, New Members!

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| April Campbell | Ann Arbor |
| Carol and Jim Gresens | Downers Grove |
| Lisette Jacobson | West Chicago |
| Tony Manos | Arlington Heights |
| Twiggy Mendenhall | Naperville |
| Grace Palacio | Chicago |
| Bella Sezonov | West Chicago |

Outreach

Darien Garden Club, “Spring Gardening Inspiration” Event March 7, Chuck’s Chateau Orleans Banquets, Darien, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

DBC will host an exhibit table at this event, which features multiple speakers, a luncheon, and exhibits. Natalie Mc Faul will represent the club. Darien Garden Club has more than 100 members. To register or learn more information about this event, visit: <https://dariengardenclub.com/events>.

Learn About Chicago Bird Advocacy and Conservation Projects

In case you missed it, this “lightning round” webinar on February 11 reported on various bird conservation advocacy issues, both here in the Chicago area and across Illinois. It also provided information about volunteering for a number of local, ongoing bird conservation projects. The Chicago Bird Alliance organized this important event. [Watch the recording here.](#)

DBC Magee Marsh Trip May 7-10—Registration Closes March 8

Matt Crisler has generously offered to lead another trip to Magee Marsh, Ohio, this spring for three nights, arriving Thursday, May 7, and leaving Sunday, May 10. This trip is part of our “Special Trips” program, and all registrants must have a current membership with the club. There is no fee for members, but lottery winners (see below) will be responsible for their own travel, food, and lodging. We do have a block of rooms, with discount, reserved at a local hotel. We can also arrange for carpooling for those interested.

Magee Marsh is known around the world as one of the best places to experience the spring warbler migration, but it is also notable for the variety of other habitats close by that allow us the opportunity to see much more.

This trip will be less structured than last year’s. We will be following the birds the group wants to see. We plan to have a main group who will bird from around 7am to sunset, and beyond if the Woodcocks are there. Each member will choose their interest and activity level. We will run the trip with one leader; however, if we have a second leader step up, we will expand the options.

We will be arriving on the first day of the “Biggest Week in American Birding” Festival, so members who would like to register to attend any part of those events can do so. Here’s the link. [BWIAB - Home](#)

The lottery drawing is open until March 8. All entrants will be notified of their status on March 9. Itineraries will be sent out with details of the trip at that time. To register, send this information for you (and your guest, if applicable): name, email address, and phone number to Matt Crisler at crislermj@gmail.com.

Any questions, feel free to contact Sherry Courtney, Special Trip Coordinator, at sherrycourtney10@gmail.com.

March 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/>

Sunday, March 8, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

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

We will be looking for common woodland wintertime residents. Meet at the parking lot on 31st Street. We will conclude the trip with a brief search for the resident Great Horned Owls around and after sunset. Dress warmly as we may be stationary at times. A red flashlight or headlamp is recommended. Note that DST kicks in on the day of the trip - check your clocks!

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/vUbvGeMD7Kyb2mHq6>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Friday, March 13, 9:00 am – 11:00 am, Urban Stream Research Center Tour and Blackwell Forest Preserve

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 10 participants. Registration for members only.

In this first-of-its-kind event, DBC members will get a private, behind-the-scenes tour of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's Urban Stream Research Center (USRC). This 60-minute tour will help participants better understand the work done at the USRC and the importance that freshwater mussels provide to DuPage County's ecosystem. The USRC was opened in 2012 and is the cornerstone of the Forest Preserve District's commitment to preserving aquatic habitats. To this date, nearly 38,000 subadult mussels have been propagated, reared, and released into area waterways to boost declining populations.

After the tour, participants will go for a short birding walk around Mount Hoy in Blackwell Forest Preserve. Targets will include resident species and early spring migrants. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and will have the opportunity to change into warmer clothes after the tour. We will meet at the Urban Stream Research Center in Blackwell Forest Preserve, next to the archery range.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Urban+Stream+Research+Center>

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

Saturday, March 14, 8:30 am – 11:00 am, Fermilab Workday, Batavia, IL

Registration with the leader is required.

Join a morning workday to restore a degraded shrubland at Fermilab and make a difference for birds. We will help clear invasives and restore habitat for Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Brown Thrashers, and other shrubland birds. All that is required for Fermilab entry is a REAL ID or passport for each person in the vehicle. Further meet-up instructions will be provided at registration. All supplies will be provided as well as snacks. Bring your favorite work gloves and water. Activities will include using hand saws or loppers to cut down invasive shrubs with a maximum diameter of 3 inches, hauling brush, and stacking brush. No experience is necessary and there will be Fermilab wildlife specialists on hand to answer questions and advise us. Let's turn out in force and show how DBC members put their love of birds to work!

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/qq45tw31Geoztq59>

Leader: Denis Kania, djkan36@gmail.com

Sunday, March 15, 7:30 am – 9:00 am, Seager Park, Naperville

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

Get an early, birdy start to your Sunday. New birders welcome! We'll be looking for some of our "basic" resident birds (and hopefully a few spring surprises) in this 30-acre patch of woods, ephemeral wetland, and grass, with lots of edge habitat. Trails are a mix of surfaces, and there could be mud. Bathrooms available. Meet at Seager Park at 1163 Plank Road, Naperville.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Seager+Park/>

Leader: Steve Constantelos, steve.constantelos@gmail.com

Friday, March 20, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Knoch Knolls Park, Naperville

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 12 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on March 1.

The first day of spring! A morning walk to the DuPage River confluence, where the east and west branches meet. We'll look for migrants and residents emerging from the doldrums of winter in the water, fields, and woods. Trails are a mix of surfaces, and it could be muddy, so wear boots. Meet at the parking lot on 336 Knoch Knolls Rd., Naperville. Bathrooms available at trail head.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Knoch+Knolls+Park/>

Leader: Steve Constantelos, steve.constantelos@gmail.com

Saturday, March 21, 6:30 am – 7:00 pm, Mississippi River Trip, Fulton, IL

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 12 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on March 1.

Waterfowl, cranes, eagles, and pelicans will be sought on this all-day trip exploring spots along the Mississippi, both in Illinois and Iowa. In addition to the river, Lost Mound National Wildlife Refuge will be visited to search for Western Meadowlark and Northern Mockingbird. We will meet in Woodridge in the Jewel-Osco parking lot and caravan together.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/dFzsVPsMrSN6XXee8>

Leader: Jeff Chapman, jeffchapman948@gmail.com, (847) 456-2784

Wednesday, March 25, 8:00 am – 10:30 am, DuPage River Greenway Trail, Bolingbrook, Will County

Registration with the leader is required. Registration for nonmembers opens on March 1.

We will meet at the DuPage River Greenway Trailhead parking lot. It is just off Royce Road, as soon as you make the turn west off Rt 53. It is a nice asphalt path and we will follow that along the DuPage River to Whalon Lake and back. We will look for returning migrants—both passing through and the ones sticking around. Just text me if you are interested in joining.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/DuPage+River+Greenway+Trail>

Leader: Mark Freeburg, freebs59@sbcglobal.net, text (630) 661-1521

Friday, March 27, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

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

We will be looking for early migrants and woodland residents. Meet at the parking lot on 31st Street. We will conclude the trip with a search for the resident Great Horned Owls and/or migrating Woodcocks around and after sunset. Dress warmly as we may be stationary at times. A red flashlight or headlamp is recommended. 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.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/vUbvGeMD7Kyb2mHq6>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Saturday, March 28, 8:00 am – 11:00 am, Van Patten Woods – Sterling Lake, Zion, IL

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

Van Patten Woods is a Lake County Forest Preserve off I-94 just below the Wisconsin border and features Sterling Lake and the Des Plaines River. Grab your cameras and we'll stroll a couple miles on crushed gravel trails around the lake to see Common Loons, Horned Grebes and other migrating waterfowl. There will also be plenty of other returning migrants like Song Sparrows and Red-winged Blackbirds establishing their territories. If you just want to relax and enjoy the view, there is also a wheelchair accessible floating dock with benches.

It's an easy, hour-long drive up the tollway. Let me know if you want to meet at the Sterling Lake parking lot or carpool.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/7ULnk9kqBmx5fvWR7>

Leader: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 31, 8:00 am – 10:30 am, Centennial Trail, Lemont

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 12 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on March 1.

We will walk along the canal looking for waterfowl and returning songbirds. 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. Feel free to ask questions on how to get there after you RSVP.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CCXDNzB5SbTQjdKY6>

Leader: Karen and Michael Warner, mwarner2543@gmail.com, (630) 640-2450

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 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:

Stephanie Cullerton, stephcullert@yahoo.com

Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Sherry Courtney (special trips), sherrycourtney10@gmail.com

More Birding Opps: Openings in the IAS Adventure Field Trip Series

One more field trip opportunity to consider is the Illinois Audubon Society Adventure Field Trip series. As of this writing, two trips that are good for birding and bike fun still have openings. They are low impact and taken at a leisurely pace with frequent stops for birding. This year they will be co-led by Greg DuBois and IAS staff member Brian "Fox" Ellis.



Photo courtesy of Illinois Audubon Society

Adventure Birding by Bike on the Rock Island Trail 5/28/26, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Enjoy a fun day of bicycling on the paved Rock Island Trail from Dunlop into Peoria. Several large habitat areas exist along the route, which includes restored prairie, wetlands and an old growth forest. This will be a leisurely ride (all downhill) where we will stop to explore and identify both late spring migrants and area breeding species. Lunch will be held at Fox Pub and Café. A shuttle will be provided to get you back to your car.

Maximum trip capacity is 12.

Cost is \$40 which pays for lunch, snacks, water and return shuttle. (Participants are responsible for any alcohol purchases at the Café.)

Adventure Birding by Bike at Orland Grasslands 6/4/26, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. Orland Grasslands contains 960 acres of restored prairie, sedge meadow and is dotted with ponds and upland savannah. It offers 5 miles of paved bike trails which will give us the opportunity to see nesting grassland species including Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Grasshopper sparrows and Dickcissels. Plan to be at the parking lot at the junction of 167th and Highway 45/LaGrange Road before 7:30 am. Lunch will be provided at the end of the trip. Maximum trip capacity is 12.



Photo courtesy of Illinois Audubon Society

Fee: \$40 which includes lunch, snacks and water.

Here is the link where you can read about and register for each of these trips. <https://illinoisaudubon.org/programs/field-trips/>

DBC’s Winter/Spring ‘26 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 January 1, 2026, and June 30, 2026. 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 less. They usually do not give out more than one award to the same photographer 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.

Good luck! Winners will be announced in the August Drummings.

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.

*** We're always looking for more Photo Contest Judges. If you might be interested, email Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com. No experience necessary!**



2026 DBC Executive Committee Members

President: Matt Crisler
Vice President: OPEN
Treasurer: Rich Gaul
Recording Secretary: Robert Perez
Corresponding Secretary: Donnalyn Quint
Director: Jim Mateski
Director: Steve Constantelos
Director: Elena Nelson

2026 Committee Chairs

Bird Conservation Network: Glenn Gabanski, Jim Green, Diann Bilderback, Glenn Perricone
Christmas Count Coordinator: Jeff Chapman
Communications: Diann Bilderback
DBC Apparel: Steve Constantelos
DBC Book Club: Mike Warner
Drummings: Diann Bilderback, Susan Lewis
Email Distribution: Bob Fisher
Facebook: John Cebula
Field Trips: Stephanie Cullerton, Elena Nelson, Sherry Courtney (special trips)
Flickr: Urs Geiser
Forest Preserve Liaison: Dennis Streicher

2026 Meeting Schedule

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| January 8 | July 9 |
| March 12 | September 10 |
| April 9 | October 8 |
| May 14 | November 12 |

Grants and Donations: Joe Suchecki, Carl Strang, Thelma Hulka, Elena Nelson
Hospitality: Bonnie Graham
Instagram: Henry Meade
Membership Directory: Susan Kaley
Outreach/Youth Education: Mike Warner
Photo Contest: Mike Warner
Spring Bird Count: Joe Suchecki
Webmasters: Barb Dougan, Frederik Heller
X: Vera Miller
YouTube Education Channel: Denis Kania, Steve Constantelos