

Drummings April 2026

President's Letter



Next Meeting

April 9, 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

Hello again!

First off, last time around I said I'd give a shoutout to all of our new volunteers. They are:

- Frederik Heller (Co-Webmaster)
- Susan Lewis (Communications/Drummings)
- Joe Suchecki (Speaker Coordinator)
- Lissette Jacobson (Instagram)
- Denis Kania (Speaker Coordinator)

If you get a chance, be sure to thank them!

I've said it many times already, but this club can only continue to be a great organization if we have people willing to pitch in. As always, if you've got the itch, we can find a place for you, so if you too want your name listed on the front page of the newsletter, reach out!

Continuing where we left off last month, I'm super excited to see what Lenny, Elena, Stephanie and Sherry have put together for their Wingspan social event on the 11th (and all credit to them, they were running with this before I mentioned anything about social events)! I hope you can join them—it's not terribly difficult to learn, and the bird cards are cool if nothing else. If you would be interested in it (or something similar) but can't make that date, reach out! With anything new like this it's always helpful to understand interest so we can determine where to go from here.

Otherwise, another food for thought item—this past month had a couple unusual things happen. First off, Denis Kania hosted a workday on his project at Fermi. I got a chance to go, and I have to admit there's something a little therapeutic about being given a saw and told to basically cut down everything in sight. Personal amusement aside, I think we've only done one other conservation workday in my tenure in the club, and it made me curious if people would be interested in more opportunities to contribute to similar causes in our community. Please share your thoughts.

The second unusual item was the wetlands political advocacy request on behalf of BCN, a group the club is a member of. Political advocacy isn't something that comes up much in the club's context, and there's certainly some potential for conflict there, so I'm curious how people felt about that. Would you prefer we "stay out of it" or would you prefer more opportunities to make your voice heard?

As always, if we're going to make changes, we'll need some folks to spearhead the effort, but both items here are at least mission-adjacent for us so I'm curious to hear the membership's thoughts.

Thanks,
Matt Crisler
Crislermj@gmail.com

In Case You Missed It: Members' Night! Proudly Presented by DBC Members

A wonderful time was had by all as DBC members Mike Warner, Robert Perez, Denis Kania, John Baker and Bonnie Graham gave their short presentations highlighting their stories and photos from adventures around the world. It was enlightening to be able to see birds from such far-away places as South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Australia as well as the Florida Keys and the American west. Members shared their sightings of such interesting birds as a Long-Tailed Widowbird, Roseate Spoonbill, the Cuban Pygmy Owl, a Junglefowl, Hyacinth Macaw, Berylline Hummer, Lazuli Bunting and even some tense encounters with lions and the American buffalo! For those of you who missed the fun, these presentations are available for viewing on the DBC YouTube Education channel at https://youtu.be/Qx_t8VXYizY.

DBC Meeting, April 9th, 7:00 pm - In Person and via Zoom

Fermi For The Birds – Birding and Habitat Management at Fermilab

Presented by: Wally Levernier, Senior Ecologist at Fermilab, and Glenn Perricone, Fermi Bird Monitor and staff member of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District

Fermilab is a 6,800 acres site in Batavia that is the nation's premier particle physics laboratory. But it also has been a premier birding area for DuPage County birders with over 290 bird species observed on site. With the assistance of the surrounding communities, Fermilab has been restoring and managing ecosystems since 1975 to help preserve biodiversity.

Join Wally Levernier and Glenn Perricone to learn about the significant bird habitats at Fermi. They will provide an overview of restoration projects aiming to improve habitat for grassland and shrubland breeding birds, a brief history of ecological restoration at Fermilab, and the areas currently open to the public. Information will be provided on the current status and success of Bald Eagles and Ospreys at Fermilab as well as species to look for in those areas open to the public.

Join us in person at College of DuPage or tune in via Zoom on April 9th at 7pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/sCwqz6kfQtiyikB5X6zz8Q>

Annual Spring Bird Count, Saturday, May 9th

Hold the date and participate in the 2026 Spring Bird Count in DuPage County on Saturday, May 9th.

The Spring Bird Count is held annually throughout Illinois around the first weekend in May and is intended to provide some information and data on early spring bird migration throughout Illinois. The Spring Bird Count also is a great opportunity for birders of all skill levels to get out in the field and look for all those great and colorful spring migrants moving through northeastern Illinois. The DuPage Birding Club coordinates the spring count efforts in DuPage County under the able leadership of Joe

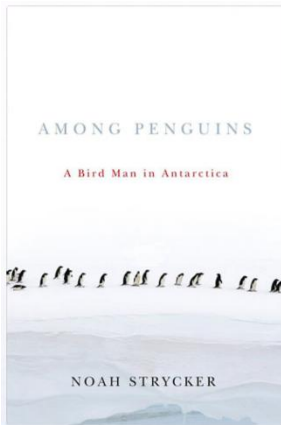
Suchecki. Last year we recorded 180 species on spring count day. Results from past counts can be found at <https://dupagebirding.org/bird-counts/>.

It's time to get ready for this year's count! If you have participated in the past, look for an email in mid-April from Joe with information about the count, your area captain, and your count area. If you have not participated previously and would like to join the fun this year, contact Joe at duplicatesbc@gmail.com, and he will put you in touch with an area captain for the count.

Finally, Joe is looking for a new captain for Area 5. This area includes West Chicago Prairie, the ponds and areas along Fabyan Parkway and DuPage Airport. If interested, please contact him.

Last year 137 participants counted birds on the spring count in DuPage County. We would like even more people to participate this year. So, don't miss out on the fun and excitement of the great Spring Bird Count on May 9th. Any questions? Contact Joe at duplicatesbc@gmail.com.

DBC Book Club: *Among Penguins: A Bird Man in Antarctica*



The DBC Book Club met last month to discuss **The Feather Detective** by Chris Sweeney. It was a biography of Roxie Laybourne, an expert in bird feather identification, who investigated feathers found at murder scenes and airplane-bird collision sites. The group found it to be interesting reading and would recommend it to birders and non-birders alike.

The group then selected **Among Penguins: A Bird Man in Antarctica** by Noah Strycker as their next read. From the publisher: "The year he graduated from college, 22-year-old Noah Strycker was dropped by helicopter in a remote Antarctic field camp with two bird scientists and a three months' supply of frozen food. His subjects: more than a quarter million penguins." This book chronicles his adventures.

The discussion will take place starting at 7 PM on Tuesday, June 9th (location TBA). If you are interested in participating, please email Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.

Welcome New Members!

Carl and Melinda Alston

Wheaton

Bill Cussen and Maria Gerapoulos

Itasca

Sebastian Gamboa and Bernadette Marbach

Westmont

Something NEW for DBC members: Let's Play Wingspan!

Quite a few members have mentioned wanting more time to connect socially within the club, so a few of us have decided to organize a Board Game Day to play Wingspan. Wingspan is a beautifully crafted game where each player has several wildlife habitats in which to attract a variety of birds with unique characteristics and abilities. Players learn about bird habitats, nest types, and wingspan as they balance limited food tokens (gained via a bird feeder dice tower) and eggs to play, feed, and breed birds. The game blends education with strategy, in an enjoyable atmosphere.

You do not need to know how to play. We will teach you. If you know how to play, you can help others learn. We will provide the game boards and teachers. Your teachers are Lenny Edgin, Elena Nelson, Stephanie Cullerton, and Sherry Courtney.

- When: Saturday, April 11th from 2-5 pm.
- Where: [Giorgi's Game Spot](#), 350 N York Street, Basement, Elmhurst, IL 60126
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6iPTF9BhaffvGvq9>
- Cost: \$5

Please let Stephanie Cullerton know if you are coming so we can know how many tables to reserve: stephcullert@yahoo.com. This could be the start of something fun!

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. DBC is a member of the BCN coalition of 20+ conservation organizations in the Chicago region.

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

Fermilab Workday a Big Success



The March 14th Fermilab Workday drew an impressive 25 participants, with DBC members, Fermilab ecologists, and Fermilab Natural Areas volunteers wielding loppers and handsaws to clear a shrubland section of east Fermilab of trees and invasive species. “We made GREAT progress on the restoration of the shrubland,” said organizer Denis Kania, “and it seemed like everyone had a good time as there was a lot of chatter and laughter while we worked.”

The workday was part of a multiyear project to clear a 43-acre section of shrubland overrun by invasive plants like honeysuckle, buckthorn, black cherry, and others. To date, 17 acres have been cleared. The restoration effort will support habitat for Yellow-breasted Chat, Bell’s Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Yellow Warbler, Gray Catbird, and other shrub-loving species.



Work will continue until April 15th, when efforts will pause for the bird breeding season. If you have a free morning and would like to help Denis continue to restore the shrubland, message him at djkan36@gmail.com. If he has someone assisting, Denis can use a chainsaw to fell larger shrubs and trees. For obvious safety reasons, he can’t use the chainsaw solo. “While I cut, you could be hauling and stacking downed material,” says Denis, “and we can make an even larger dent in the thicket!”



Denis says more work-days will be scheduled in the fall so that DBC can continue to participate and contribute in a very meaningful way to our threatened birds.

If you'd like to see more pictures of the Fermilab Workday, visit the Member Photo Gallery at <https://dupagebirding.org/member-gallery/>. Scroll past the Photo Contest Winners to see DBC Event Photos. Above photos courtesy of Diann Bilderback.

Learn About Chicago Bird Advocacy and Conservation Projects

In case you missed it, this "lightning round" webinar on February 11th 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.](#)

Get Free Shipping On DBC Gear!



Full Front Imprint

Available Colors

Did you know DBC members can celebrate and show off their DBC pride with apparel and accessories delivered right to their door? Our club's online store has just added new shirt designs and eco-friendly water bottles to its selection of items, all featuring our venerable, adorable Downy Woodpecker logo.

The free shipping code is **DBC-FREESHIP**. It is not case sensitive and is valid until **6/30/26**.

Our shirts, outerwear, bags, and bottles make great holiday gifts for your bird-loving friends too. Get started with your shopping here: <https://hyperstitch.com/category/clubs/dupage-birding-club/>



DuPage Forest Preserve March 2026 Report

Land Acquisition Funding: A grant was approved from Prairie State Conservation Coalition for land acquisition for \$300,000 providing funds that must be spent within 1 year on acquiring acreage for the Forest Preserve District.

Herrick Lake: A motion was approved for the Herrick Lake Master Plan. There were public comment periods, staff input, and commissioner overview during the past 30-day review period. Herrick Lake consists of 887 acres and is one of the top three visited preserves in the District. Areas for improvement include

- Water quality and harmful algal blooms mitigation as a priority
- Shoreline improvements and dredging
- Trail improvements
- Accessibility improvement including paving the loop trail and accessible fishing piers
- Nature Play Space
- Address overcrowding of north lot and directed use of the west parking lot
- Provide flush washrooms

April And Early May 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/>

Friday, April 10th, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

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

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/zLxxAF1AM4WPMCS37>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Sunday, April 12th, 8:30 am – 11:00 am, Greene Valley Bike & Bird, Naperville

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

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 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/ZB9rGJRvgfAHamTT6>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Wednesday, April 15th, 7:30 am – 10:00 am, Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

Early Spring Field Trip for migrants, waterbirds, and early grassland species. Meet at the model aircraft field parking lot on the west side of Plainfield-Naperville Road about 0.5 miles south of 75th Street in Naperville. We will bird in wetland, grassland, and some forest patches for migrants and early-returning summer residents. Dress for the weather and wear waterproof boots since we will be going off-trail to look for some species. Use insect repellent for ticks and mosquitos. Field Trip to last about 2.5-3 hours.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/25ZqUpfN1DUrcrB48>

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

Friday, April 17th, 7:30 am – 10:00 am, DuPage River Park, Bolingbrook

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

We'll explore grassland, edge, and riverside habitat along the east branch of the DuPage River, looking for resident birds and, of course, spring migrants. New birders welcome! Trails are mostly grass with some blacktop. Meet in the parking lot east of Braddock Drive at 808 Royce Road.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/kkmoXY6N3KFrPUWH7>

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

Saturday, April 18th, 7:30 am – 11:30 am, Deer Grove, Palatine

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

Deer Grove, Cook County's first forest preserve, features nearly 2,000 acres of diverse habitat such as rolling upland forest, wooded ravines, wetlands and prairie. Following years of dedicated restoration work, two areas within Deer Grove are recognized by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission as some of the highest quality natural areas in the state. We'll start by walking to the bottom of the sledding hill

to check out the waterfowl and rookery on Deer Grove Lake. Then we'll walk over 3 miles on dirt trails with roots through Deer Grove West Woodland and Wetland Nature Preserve looking for early migrants and returning breeders.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/kHRaa6GYLJSubWe9>

Leader: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Sunday, April 19th, 7:30 am – 9:30 am, Seager Park, Naperville

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

Get an early, birdy start to your Sunday. New birders welcome! We'll be looking for birds settling into and birds passing through 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 1163 Plank Road, Naperville.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/wah4DsoWXksaSfRv5>.

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

Tuesday, April 21st, 7:30 am – 10:30 am, Lyman Woods Forest Preserve, Downers Grove

Registration with the leaders is required. Limit 12 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on April 1st.

Lyman Woods has many habitats which attract a wide variety of birds. At the time of the trip we would expect to find spring migrants, including some early warblers and woodland birds. The lake area usually attracts a variety of waterfowl while the marsh areas have several different species of sparrows. Up to two miles of walking; expect to walk on some muddy paths. Meet in the parking lot for a fun and informative morning.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/EvuYT9k2hvAtpH2E6>

Leaders: Mike and Karen Warner, mwarner2543@gmail.com, (630) 640-2450 Please register via email.

Wednesday, April 22nd, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Greene Valley Thunderbird Area, Naperville

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

We will be looking for migrants and returning residents. Easy walking on a gravel road and a mulch trail. It will about 2 hours. Meet at the Thunderbird parking lot.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/oc7GWihKD4pHKiZC8>.

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

Friday, April 24th, 5:45 pm – 8:30 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

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

Warblers (and other spring migrants) after work! Meet at the parking lot on 31st Street. We'll conclude the trip with some dusk birding looking for the resident Great Horned Owls. 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/zLxxAF1AM4WPMCS37>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Saturday, April 25th, 7:30 am – 10:00 am, Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

Field trip to Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve in Naperville to look for a variety of spring migrants with the long-time Steward and Bird Monitor, Joe Suchecki. We will bird in wetlands, grasslands, and patchy forest habitats. Good opportunity to find rails, waterfowl, several grassland sparrows and migrants such as vireos and warblers. We will be going off-trail on this trip so footing will be unlevel and possibly wet. Wear water-proof shoes or boots and dress for weather. Use insect repellent since ticks and mosquitos will be active. Expect field trip to last 2-3 hours depending on whether migrants are present. Meet at the model aircraft field parking lot on the west side of Plainfield-Naperville Road about 0.5 miles south of 75th Street in Naperville.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/25ZqUpfN1DUrcrB48>.

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

Saturday, April 25th, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Lambert Lake Nature Preserve, Glen Ellyn

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

This walk will be geared towards new birders, but any level of birder is invited. Lambert Lake is a hidden gem surrounded by shrubby woodland and a small lake to see an assortment of ducks and waders. Our walk will focus on early migratory birds, including warblers, thrushes, and waterfowl. A wood chip trail encircles the lake, but spots can be muddy. A few trails to the south can be a good spot for warblers. Those trails can also be muddy and some have an incline. Please wear appropriate footwear. We will meet in the parking lot off of Lambert Rd., just south of Roosevelt Rd.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/7gwJZxABdXEkG9LH8>

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

Sunday, April 26th, 8:30 am – 10:30 am, Goose Lake Natural Area, Hebron, McHenry County

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

This unique spot in northern McHenry County is a great spot for sought after marsh birds. The walk will focus on finding the site's nesting Yellow-headed Blackbird population, as well as species such as Black Tern, King Rail, Marsh Wren, and others. There is roughly a mile walk on a straight gravel path before we hit the marsh area. We may venture off trail into tall grass, so dress appropriately and bring bug spray and sun protection. The parking lot is behind the Hebron Township Building in Hebron, Illinois (10206 Seaman Rd, Hebron, IL 60034).

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/BENbuwH9mN7e6rHe7>

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

Saturday, May 2nd, 8:00 am – 11:00 am, Moraine Hills State Park – McHenry Dam Loop, McHenry, IL

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

Moraine Hills State Park is comprised of 2,200+ acres of glacier-formed park nearly half of which are wetlands & lakes. The McHenry Dam trail is an easy two-mile crushed gravel loop through forest and wetlands with two observation decks. We can expect to see waterfowl, shorebirds, warblers, and returning summer residents. Bring bug spray.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/rEkc1xaJkhekfN6y6>

Leader: Elena N Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Sunday, May 3rd, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary, Chicago, Cook County

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 20 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on April 1st.

Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary is one of the premier birding hotspots in the state. Located next to Montrose Beach along Lake Michigan in Chicago, Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary offers a variety of habitats for a large number of birds. The group will explore the entire sanctuary, including wooded areas, prairie, beachfront and dunes area. Some trails may be muddy, so dress appropriately. Targets will include migrating warblers and shorebirds. Meet at the main entrance.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/BZjWnjUSN1y1r6Wh9>.

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

Sunday, May 3rd, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Wood Dale/Itasca Reservoir, Wood Dale

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

Wood Dale Reservoir offers great viewing opportunities for several species of migrating shorebirds. Spotting scopes can be useful here; trip leader will have one. Shorebird IDs can be difficult at times - 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 (Yellowlegs and Similar Waders, Peeps) ahead of time. We will meet at the parking lot at the end of School Street. (298 School Street in Wood Dale if using GPS).

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/mtUwQ3eaf1niFCeAA>

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 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

DBC Members Field Trip to Magee Marsh, Ohio on May 7-10th is full!

Thank you to all the DuPage Birding Club members who registered for this year's May trip. We are taking names for a waitlist, if anyone else is interested. We actually did have an opening come up last year.

To be added to the waitlist, send your name, email address, and phone number to Matt Crisler at crislermj@gmail.com. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sherry Courtney, Special Trip Coordinator, at sherrycourtney10@gmail.com.

More Birding Opps: Openings Still Available 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 do 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.

Openings are still available, so here is the link where you can read about and register for each of these trips. <https://illinoisaudubon.org/programs/field-trips/>

March 13th USRC Tour Recap

A dozen members of the DuPage Birding Club had the unique opportunity to tour the Urban Stream Research Center on Friday, March 13th. The USRC was opened in 2012 by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and is its cornerstone in preserving aquatic habitats. To this date, nearly 38,000 subadult mussels have been propagated, reared, and released into area waterways to boost declining populations. DBC members saw all stages of the mussel rearing process, as well as turtles, fish, and dragonflies also reared at the facility.

A special shoutout to Andres Ortega, the Aquatic Resources Supervisor at USRC, for leading the presentation and tour for our group. The weather did not allow for a post-tour walk, but no matter. Keep your eyes out for other facility tours in the future!



Photos courtesy of Robert Perez

DBC's Winter/Spring '26 Photo Contest Is 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 and are subject to the July 7, 2026 deadline.

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: Lissette Jacobson
Membership Directory: Susan Kaley
Outreach/Youth Education: Mike Warner
Photo Contest: Mike Warner
Speaker Programs: Joe Suchecki, Denis Kania
Spring Bird Count: Joe Suchecki
Webmasters: Barb Dougan, Frederik Heller
X: Vera Miller
YouTube Education Channel: Denis Kania, Steve Constantelos