



President's Letter

Hi all,

Given the time of year, this letter was originally going to boil down to something resembling "it's May – less reading, more birding." That said, Sherry pointed out that not everyone may be aware of BirdCast from Cornell Lab of Ornithology so instead I'll give you a short follow-up rundown of that migration alert email we forwarded a few days ago.

I've always loved seeing how modern technology can be used to benefit both us as birders and the birds themselves, and this is an amazing example of that in action. During peak migration, there's actually enough birds in the air at once for them to show up on weather radar!

For those of us who like looking at birds, this primarily serves as a heads up that the next day is likely to be a good one to go out. It is also used to help with conservation in various ways.

Next Meeting

May 14, 2026

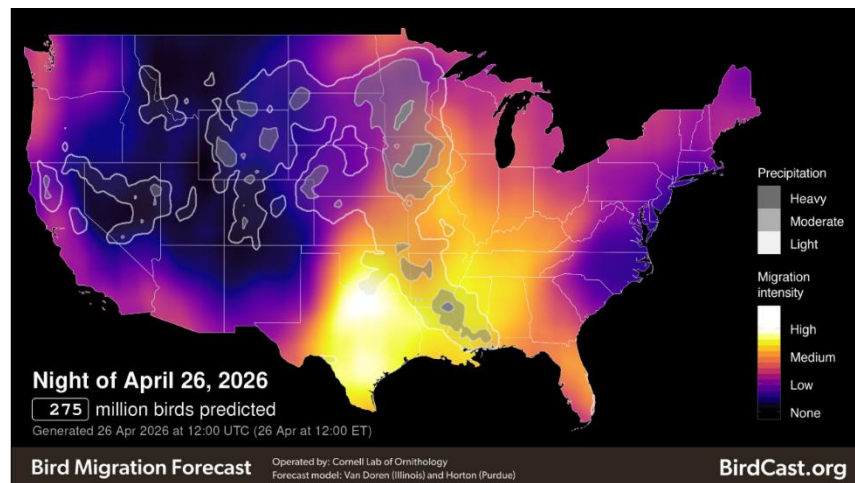
In person and via Zoom
Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

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

NOTE: May dinner option replaced with field trip at COD – see Field Trips listings



If you want to get your own alerts directly, you can subscribe [here](#). Otherwise, the main website is [here](#). Check it out – I'm sure there are still many more alerts to come and with that, good luck out there and hopefully you have a spectacular warbler season!

Matt Crisler
crislermj@gmail.com

DBC Meeting, May 14th, 7:00pm – In Person and via Zoom

Saving the Piping Plovers

Presented by: Dr. Sarah Saunders, Audubon Great Lakes, Michigan

Join Dr. Sarah Saunders as she speaks about current efforts to save Piping Plovers in the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Piping Plover, a federally endangered shorebird, has made a remarkable comeback from the brink of extinction thanks to decades of dedicated conservation efforts. Once reduced to just 12 breeding pairs in the 1980s, this population has now exceeded 80 pairs, with record-breaking breeding seasons in recent years. This success is a testament to the power of science-driven conservation and the collaboration of researchers, land managers, and community volunteers on the Great Lakes Piping Plover Conservation Team.

In this talk, Dr. Saunders will highlight the key strategies that have fueled this recovery, including nest monitoring and protection, predator management, annual banding, captive-rearing, and education and outreach. She will also showcase how long-term banding data have further strengthened these strategies, contributing to population growth.

Despite these gains, challenges remain, including increasing threats from climate change and human disturbance. Yet the resilience of the population and the dedication of the Conservation Team offer hope for continued success. The recovery of the Great Lakes Piping Plover serves as an inspiring example of how rigorous science, partnerships, and community engagement can drive meaningful conservation outcomes. **To register for the Zoom meeting, [click here](#).**

About Our Speaker

Dr. Saunders received her doctorate from the University of Minnesota, where she studied Great Lakes Piping Plovers with her advisor, Francie Cuthbert. After studying Francie's work with plovers, she knew she found her scientific calling. Sarah spent six summers leading the field banding crew and fell in love with the work. Now, as a scientist at Audubon, she investigates a range of important questions to help conserve many bird species, but she'll always have a special place in her heart for Great Lakes Piping Plovers. Sarah resides in Michigan, so she continues to contribute to Piping Plover recovery efforts by helping to band and monitor as needed during the summer.



Dr. Sarah Saunders, Audubon Great Lakes

In Case You Missed It: Birding and Habitat Management at Fermilab

At our April 9th meeting, Wally Levernier, Senior Ecologist at Fermilab, and Glenn Perricone, Fermi Bird Monitor, shared fascinating details concerning Fermilab's continuing restoration and management of its many important ecosystems which began in 1975 and continues to preserve the area's unique and vital biodiversity. To view the full presentation, visit <https://youtu.be/LmmIDZI576w>.

During their talk, members learned about the preservation activities taking place in this 6,800-acre site in Batavia housing within its borders 2,600 acres which are wilderness areas open to the public. This acreage contains approximately 290 bird species within its five major habitats currently open to the public. These areas feature grassland, woodland, savannah, prairie and shrubland and are home to such diverse species as Lapland Longspurs, Short-eared Owls, Northern Shrikes, kinglets, flycatchers, Brown Creepers, vireos, tanagers, shorebirds, Osprey and even Bald Eagles.

Not only does Fermilab offer the general public a unique experience in birding, but it also maintains scientific data with its weekly Bird Species Occurrence monitoring and its 5-year survey mapping which captures the presence of species and offers a view of long-range environmental impact. This information is available in Fermilab's survey portal and is invaluable to those in the science community and of general interest to citizen scientists.

Access to Fermilab's public areas requires that you respect these rules:

1. To enter you must present a valid passport.
2. You must know how to access the public areas as those found in restricted areas will be escorted off the property. A second offense is punishable by permanent exclusion from all of Fermilab's grounds.
3. It's best to check out Fermilab's map link for definitive details on access to the property.
<http://www.fermilabbirds.com>

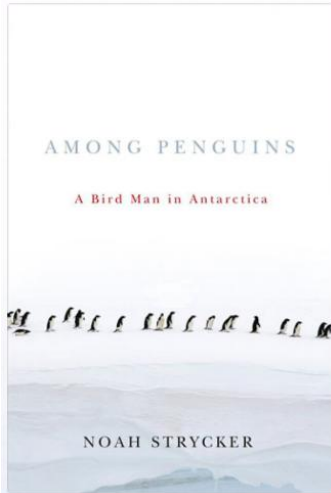
Welcoming Spring Migration and the SBC!

Spring migration is well underway, and DuPage birdwatchers have shared their sightings on [eBird](#). As of May Drummings close, 181 species have been reported. Mid-April reports include Yellow-throated Vireo (Seager Park, Naperville), Redhead (Fermilab), Purple Martin (College of DuPage), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (College of DuPage), and Brewer's Blackbird (Lake Lund, Warrenville). Late April reports include our first warblers, including Blue-winged Warbler (Elsen's Hill), Ovenbird (Morton Arb), Tennessee and Worm-eating warblers (Fullersburg Woods), Nashville (Maple Grove), Common Yellowthroat (Blackwell), and early arriving thrushes, vireos, and flycatchers, too.

A highlight of spring migration is always the **Spring Bird Count**, teed up for May 9th and coordinated in DuPage County by Joe Suchecki. A hundred or more birders will fan out across DuPage County to identify all the bird species they can find. A group of birders will be in the field somewhere near your home. Come join us; we need more birders to make it possible to cover as many locations within the county as we can. You don't have to be an expert birder to participate; all skill levels are welcome. Even

if you can only bird for part of the day, we can use you. And if that's your preference, you'll probably be able to look for birds close to home, since we divide the county into 16 areas, with teams scouring each area. To volunteer or find out more information, email Joe Suchecki 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 nonbirders 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.

Wingspan Fun!

We had a great turnout for the first DBC game day featuring Wingspan on April 11th! Twenty-four members played at five different tables. We enjoyed each other's company while learning the rules and delighted in the game featuring factual bird cards from around the world, mini eggs and a feeder station that spat out dice. We are hoping to repeat this event in the upcoming months. Keep an eye on future issues of Drummings for further details.



Photos courtesy of Stephanie Cullerton

DBC Member Exhibits Her Bird Paintings



Maria Ananieva is an artist and bird lover who recently showed off her talents at Gallery 200 in West Chicago. As a loyal DBC member she requested some of our membership brochures and bird checklists to be displayed at the entrance of her exhibit.

Mike Warner stopped by the gallery recently and reported that Maria's artwork was "wonderful!" He said he was impressed with the quality of her paintings and her interpretations of the birds in action. Her exhibit ended in April.



Photos courtesy of Mike Warner

If you'd like to see some of Maria's work, you can visit the West Chicago Library or contact Maria about her at art@mariaananieva.com.

Welcome New Members!

Daniel and Sandra Bretz
Christoper and Nina Casey
Deb Daniel-Wayman
Maria Hanzlik
Barb Leonard
Linda Lu
Camela Luangdilok
Rebecca Minardi
Mike Wileman

Woodridge
Naperville
Lombard
Westmont
Warrenville
Clarendon Hills
Westmont
Naperville
Naperville

More than feeders: Attracting hummingbirds to your landscape

Many of us put up hummingbird feeders to attract these jeweled beauties to our yards in summer. But there are more natural ways to make your space attractive to hummingbirds, including planting the flowers they like to frequent, offering the right kind of water source, and limiting pesticide use. This article from the University of Illinois explains just what hummingbirds need to make your landscape a daily stop.

<https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2026-04-10-more-feeders-attracting-hummingbirds-your-landscape>

Get Free Shipping On DBC Gear!



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/>



Village of Warrenville Announcement

A section of the West Branch DuPage River Trail at Blackwell Forest Preserve will close starting April 8. Crews will install a water main under the trail near McKee Marsh as part of a new Grounds and Natural Resources Management and Maintenance Campus. The trail will be closed for one month.

What to know:

- Closure is near the McKee Marsh parking lot and trail crossing
- Other trails in the area remain open
- Please follow posted detours and signs

For project updates, visit:

<https://www.dupageforest.org/.../blackwell-grounds...>



Plan ahead if you use this trail and allow extra time for your visit.

Refresh Your Warbler ID Skills on the DBC Education Channel

The DBC Education Channel library has multiple titles in its collection that can help you refresh your warbler identification skills just in time for the May 10 Spring Bird Count and the busy migration season. Check it out!

Yellow Female Warblers – Hooded Warbler, Wilson’s Warbler, and Yellow Warbler females can be somewhat difficult to tell apart. You’ll find some useful tips in this tutorial.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpYh2FIdurY>

Thrushes – One tutorial will walk you through the finer points of visual identification and the other will help you to sort through the thrush vocalizations. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLuC2VcGai8>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MX9Po8ZiWBM>

Connecticut Warbler vs. Mourning Warbler – With a bit of luck you will have an encounter with one of these skulking warbler species. Be ready to make a positive ID even if you only have a fleeting look.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tOnsZWWFX8>

Vireos – Another group that can be a bit confusing both visually and by vocalization. Fortunately, there are two tutorials in our library that can answer many of your ID questions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbQG9MzNhD8>,

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

DBC Connects with the Community through Outreach



At the Warrenville Arbor Day event on April 25, Mike Warner talks with DBC members Jill and Brent Richardson. Photo courtesy of Diann Bilderback

A variety of organizations reach out to the DuPage Birding Club in search of presentations and programs about birds. The Outreach Committee’s members try to fulfill as many requests as possible but find **we are always in need of volunteers**. You don’t have to be a birding expert or a polished public speaker to play a role in Outreach activities. Many activities are field trips where a second helpful person would improve the experience for participants. Others give you a chance to engage with the public and share information about the club and the joys of birding. Check out Mike Warner at left: he’s engaging with DBC members Jill and Brent Richardson at the April 25 Warrenville Arbor Day event.

Discover what others already know: outreach programs can be fun and rewarding—give it a try! If you would like to volunteer to assist on one of the opportunities below, please contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.

Current Outreach Opportunities

May 7th - Birding Field Trip on the Naperville Riverwalk. Presented to the Naper Settlement active seniors by Mike Warner. 8:00 am – 10:00 am.

May 9th - Green Garden Fair. Presented at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Elmhurst from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Vendor table available with Andie Duffy.

May 15th - Field Trip at McDowell Forest Preserve for 4H Group. Presented by Bob Fisher, 2 pm -- 4 pm.

May 18th - Field Trip at St. James Forest Preserve. Presented by Mike Warner, 9 am -- 11 am. Part of the Winfield "Move it Mondays" program.

June 4th - Birding Field Trip on the Naperville Riverwalk. Presented to the Naper Settlement active seniors by Mike Warner. 8 am -- 10 am.

October 10th through 11th – Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Fall Festival, Danada East Forest Preserve. Lisa Gaylord, Donnalynn Quint volunteering.

October 20th - Birding DuPage. Bloomingdale, Roselle, Itasca Public Library, 7 pm. Tie-in to the book *Comfort in Crows*. Mike Warner to host.

Upcoming Field Trips

We offer a variety of field trips, with opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy each season. There is special support for new birders on some trips. Participants are welcome to contact the trip leader if they have any questions.

Guidelines

NOTE: For trips with a participant limit, registration with the trip leader is required. In those cases, you are NOT registered until you receive confirmation from the trip leader.

Field Trips will observe a few guidelines to ensure that our birding is safe and comfortable for all.

- Field trips are open to nonmembers after the first of the month.
- Anyone not feeling well should stay home.
- Attendees of DBC field trips and other events who are under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- All field trip attendees should be aware of and follow the [ABA Code of Birding Ethics](#).

When possible last-minute changes or cancellation of field trips will be posted on the website.

Field Trip Participants

Participants, please remember that the weather can be variable, and trails can be muddy, slippery, or even snow covered, so dress accordingly. Also, depending on the weather, bring protection for biting

insects, ticks, sun, rain, or winter cold. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner. Visitors are always welcome! We do not charge fees for birding trips.

Field Trip Coordinators

Stephanie Cullerton and Elena Nelson manage the DBC calendar of trips. Contact them at fieldtripsdbc@gmail.com if you have questions or if you would like to lead a trip. Leaders do not have to be birding experts, just familiar with the location.

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 May 1st.

Moraine Hills State Park is comprised of 2,200+ acres of glacier-formed parkland nearly half of which are wetlands and 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 waterfowls, 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 May 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 May 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

Monday, May 4th, 7:45 am – 11:00 am, McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Registration with the leader via text or call is required, but there is no limit to the number of participants.

Join us for a morning walk around one of DuPage County's top birding hotspots. Going through multiple habitat types at this time of year should result in finding a large variety of bird species. Most of this 3.25 mile walk will be on limestone or earthen trails. Make sure to dress according to the predicted weather conditions. Meet in the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd. located west of Winfield Rd. and east of Rt. 59.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/nXtgY54hNjHBZ1u39>

Leader: Kyle Wiktor, (708) 506-5186

Wednesday, May 6th, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, Wheaton

Registration is not required.

We will meet at the boat rental building, near the bathrooms off the Butterfield Road lot and will walk on the gravel paths checking for spring migrants and seasonal and year-round resident birds.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Venm2bxegr5ZW6vE6>

Leader: Laurel Salvador, laurelsalvador@yahoo.com, (630) 534-0734

Thursday, May 7th, 7:00 am – 10:00 am, Elsen's Hill West DuPage Woods, Winfield

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

Early morning field trip to Elsen's Hill for spring migrants including warblers, vireos, and sparrows. Elsen's Hill is often a very good location to find numerous species of migrants as well as some nice DuPage County specialties such as Tufted Titmouse and Pileated Woodpecker. We will walk the grass trails so wear appropriate footwear for the weather and use insect repellent. Meet at the parking lot off Gary's Mill Rd.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6VM62zEK2msELL9S6>

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

Saturday, May 9th, 12:00 am – Sunday, May 10, 12:00 am, Spring Bird Count, DuPage County

Registration is required.

A hundred or more birders will fan out across DuPage County to identify all the bird species they can find at the Spring Bird Count on Saturday May 9th. A group of birders will be in the field somewhere near your home! There's still time to join us if you act fast. We need more birders to make it possible to cover as many locations within the county as we can. To volunteer or find out more information, email Joe Suchecki by April 30. You must sign up ASAP to participate.

Coordinator: Joe Suchecki, dupagesbc@gmail.com

Tuesday, May 12th, 7:30 am – 10:00 am, McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

Registration with the leader is required.

This trip will focus on woodland migrants and resident birds. We will walk on limestone paths and some dirt paths along the river, through the woods, and fields. Meet in the first parking lot after entering the preserve. The entrance is off Raymond Rd, south of Diehl Rd.

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

Thursday, May 14th, 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm, College of DuPage, Russell R. Kirt Prairie, Glen Ellyn

Registration is not required. All are welcome.

This pre-meeting walk will replace our normal pre-meeting dinner. During this time, we will explore the Russell R. Kirt Prairie just south of the Health Science Center building where we have our club meetings. The area features three ponds in addition to grassland and trees. We will begin and end the walk outside the entrance to HSC. The May club meeting will follow at 7:00pm.

<https://www.google.com/maps/College+of+DuPage,+Health+and+Science+Center>

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

Friday, May 15th, 5:45 pm – 9:00 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 15 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on May 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/j9GZWCC2SPn2zvbK6>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Sunday, May 17th, 7:00 am – 12:00 pm, Morton Arboretum – West Side, Lisle

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

Arboretum members only, due to start time We'll meet at P19 and do a three-mile loop along the river to the prairie and back on mulched trails looking for warblers and residents. (I can bring one additional person in with me if you're not a member and want to join us).

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/b9WaVCSwBadmuU876>

Leader: Elena N. Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Tuesday, May 19th, 7:00 am – 10:00 am, Meacham Grove Forest Preserve, Bloomingdale

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

This walk will cover approximately three miles of trails through woodland groves, meadows, wetlands, and along open edges. Woodland trails can be wet and/or muddy. Meet at main parking lot on Circle Avenue, just north of Lake Street (Rt 20).

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ThvY3hM35h1iWHUV9>

Leader: Nancy Allured, nallured@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 20th, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, St. James Farm, Warrenville

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

We will meet at the horse statue in the main parking lot. We will walk mainly crushed limestone paths, looking for spring migrants and returning summer residents. Please text or email me if you are

interested. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/zyWMqPuvEjvJmndH8>

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

Saturday, May 23rd, 7:30 am – 10:30 am, Elsen's Hill, Winfield

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

Elsen's Hill is a premier birding spot for spring migrants and summer residents, with a mix of woodland, shrubland, grassland, and wetland. We will target late migrating warblers such as Nashville, Bay-breasted, Magnolia, and Golden-winged warblers as well as newly arrived summer residents. These include the vireos and flycatchers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, among others. With luck, we'll find Red-headed Woodpeckers and Wood Ducks to top off the day.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/West+DuPage+Woods+Forest+Preserve+-+Elsen's+Hill+Area/>

Leader: Diann Bilderback, diann.bilderback@yahoo.com, (630) 272-5746

Saturday, May 23rd, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Volo Bog State Natural Area, Ingleside, IL

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

Volo Bog State Natural Area is home to the only open water quaking bog in Illinois. Formed in an ancient glacial kettle hole lake, Volo Bog features a floating mat of sphagnum moss, cattails and sedges surrounding the open pool of water in the center of the bog. We'll hike about 3 miles on the Tamarack Trail loop stopping at the observation areas. We can expect to see marsh birds, warblers, and summer residents. There are some moderate hills. Bring a sack lunch and we can picnic afterwards. If you've never been here before I highly recommend that you do the interpretive trail before you leave, as this rare ecosystem is very cool! Bring bug spray.

We'll meet in the parking lot by the trail head to the public toilets.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/QyW4FRvGGBxe9kay7>

Leader: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Sunday, May 24th, 7:00 am – 12:00 pm, Lyman Woods Big Morning, Downers Grove

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

Join us for an extended outing where we'll attempt to rack up as many species as possible at Lyman Woods in one morning! Think you can help us beat last year's score of 65 species? This will be a long outing, and we'll go until we run out of birds to find (the end time is a best guess and not firm). Meet at the parking lot on 31st Street. 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/j9GZWCC2SPn2zvbK6>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Monday, May 25th, 7:00 am – 10:00 am, Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

We will be looking for late spring migrants and summer resident grassland birds. Targets are Mourning and Connecticut Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bell's Vireo and Clay-colored Sparrows. We will be walking on gravel or grass trails but may go off trail to find some specialty birds. Wear long pants and appropriate footwear and use insect repellent since ticks are common in Springbrook in the spring. Meet at the gravel parking lot on the east side of Plainfield -Naperville Road about 0.5 miles south of 75th St.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/z36cKxBjAjM4kXym7>

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

Friday, May 29th, 5:45 pm – 9:00 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 15 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on May 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/j9GZWCC2SPn2zvbK6>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Saturday, June 6th, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Elwood, Will County

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

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is one of the premier grassland birding spots in the area. The area is littered with abandoned munitions bunkers, as well as fantastic grassland species such as Henslow's Sparrow, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Blue Grosbeak. This walk will primarily take place on gravel trails but may venture into tall grass. Dress appropriately and bring bug spray and sun protection. We will meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead on Route 53 in Elwood, Illinois. The entrance to the trailhead parking lot is about a mile south of Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and the intersection of Hoff Road and Route 53.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/a8YuSYkEgV1XUG5s7>

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

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/>.

Field Trip Coordinators:

Stephanie Cullerton, stephcullert@yahoo.com

Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

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

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