

Drummings July 2026

Letter from the Editors*

*(The President's Letter is on a well-deserved vacation this month)



Next Meeting

July 9, 2026

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

Dear DBC members,

DuPage Birding Club has had an exciting year so far; we've hosted over 60 field trips (including an extensive trip to Magee Marsh, Ohio), had so many engaging speakers, and hosted special events such as our Wingspan game day (with more to come!). And our Drummings newsletter has brought us topics of particular interest from far and wide.

This month's issue alerts you to the ways to bird safely this summer, introduces our new book club selection, and welcomes our new members to the club. All the new field trips for the month are listed here and lets you know how birding can boost your brain power (who knew?).

The next six months bring us even more exciting events. Look for our photo contest winners, news of special events such as our Volunteer luncheon, Christmas Bird Count, more intriguing book club selections, and new information on bird migration and trends, along with new birding and outreach opportunities and other newsworthy features.

As always, we are here to serve you. And we value your opinion. So, if you have any suggestions for any information that you'd like to see in future issues—give us a heads up! Contact Diann Bilderback diann.bilderback@yahoo.com, Communications Lead, or Susan Lewis, who is assuming lead Drummings Editor role at singmeasong682@gmail.com.

And remember, this is your newsletter, and we want it to be of service to you!

"Hope is the thing with feathers

That perches in the soul

And sings the tune without words

And never leaves"

Trust Emily Dickinson to foretell what every birder knows. Birds can bring hope to this chaotic world of ours, if only we watch...and listen.

Diann and Susan

July 9, 2026 Meeting Program--Beyond Our Senses: Bank Swallows--Journey into a World Beyond Human Perception

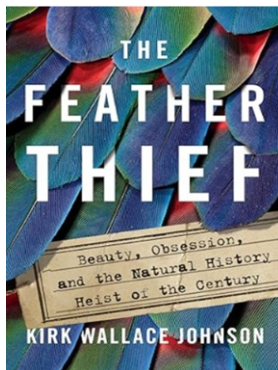
Presented by Filmmaker David Busse

Beyond Our Senses: Bank Swallows tells the story of how each spring, thousands of bank swallows return to the Lake Michigan bluffs to build colonies, mate, and raise their young. Guided by extraordinary senses, they navigate predators, rivals, and the relentless demands of survival in a hidden world beyond human perception. Following the film, the filmmaker shares the story of his obsessive quest to document the swallows, leading him to daily check-ins, deep research, and collaborations that spanned the globe – all while becoming a father. He discovers behaviors in the footage he had overlooked many times, culminating in a moment with his family at the dinner table that he never could have planned. Learn more at beyondoursensesfilm.com



David Busse is a 4x Emmy Award–winning filmmaker and video producer from Wheaton. By day, he works in advertising; by night, he pursues films driven by exploring the natural world and Lake Michigan's ecosystems. His previous work includes the nature documentary SNOWSTORM, and a photo series anchored by the lake's landscape. *Beyond Our Senses: Bank Swallows* represents his most ambitious project to date. He is currently submitting the film to festivals and hosting screenings throughout the Great Lakes region to connect with local communities.

DBC Book Club Next Read—*The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century*, by Kirk Wallace Johnson



DBC Book Club members unanimously gave thumbs up to *Among Penguins*, Noah Strycker's account of his months surveying Adelie Penguins at an outpost on Antarctica. Readers marveled at the extreme conditions Strycker cheerfully managed, the day-to-day rigors of life in a frozen world, and of course the endlessly enchanting penguins themselves.

Now let's get ready for a fascinating true-crime story as you journey into the underworld of plume peddlers and fanatical hobbyists obsessed with the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying as we read *The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson.

In 2009, a young American musician named Edwin Rist stole hundreds of rare bird skins from the British Museum of Natural History, many painstakingly collected 150 years earlier by a contemporary of Charles Darwin. The gorgeous feathers these rare birds sported were worth large sums of money to the men who shared Edwin's obsession: the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying.

Years later, Kirk Wallace Johnson, himself a fly fisherman, learned of the shocking theft and was consumed with questions about how Edwin pulled off the heist, what became of the feathers and the skins, if there was ever a reckoning. The quest for answers led to a years-long, worldwide investigation that reads more like a gripping novel than the bizarre true story it is. *The Feather Thief* details Johnson's relentless pursuit of the truth and explores the nature of obsession and man's destructive instinct to harvest the beauty of nature.

The next book club meeting will be Tuesday, September 8. If you would like to participate, contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.

Wingspan Returns July 11th!

Too hot to enjoy birding outside? Let's get together and play Wingspan in cool comfort! 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 collect food, lay eggs, and draw birds from cards with stunning illustrations and interesting facts. It 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: Lenny and Elena

- When: Saturday, July 11th from 2-5 pm.
- Where: Georgi's Game Spot, 350 N York Street, Basement, Elmhurst, IL 60126
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6iPTF9BhafffvGvq9>
- Cost: \$5



you

Please let Elena know if you are coming, so we can know how many tables to reserve. Ladylena76@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE: Birding and Breakfast, August 22nd

Please join us for a bird walk and casual breakfast at the West Shelter at Blackwell Forest Preserve, Saturday, August 22nd. All birders and potential birders are welcome! This is a great time to get together

and relive highlights of your summer birding experiences with others who share your interest in birding and the outdoors.

The bird walk starts at 7:00 a.m. at the West Shelter located on the left side of the Main Drive south of the Mount Hoy Parking lot. Breakfast will follow at 9:00 a.m. and will consist of fresh fruit, bagels, donuts, juice, coffee, and more. You are welcome to come just for the walk or just for breakfast. If you'd like to bring a dish to share, contact Jim Mateski at the address below. Clean up is from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and as usual, your help is always appreciated. Please RSVP for the event here: <https://forms.gle/sRGRUmeJf684z67x5>.

Blackwell Forest Preserve has a variety of habitats so you might just be able to pick up one more bird for your summer list, spot a new dragonfly, or see a butterfly or two. It is located on the north side of Butterfield Road, a quarter mile west of Winfield Road. Any questions? Please contact Jim Mateski at jamesmateski@gmail.com.



Do You Have a Birding Brain?

Did you know that your favorite hobby may afford you a superior brain? A study published in the February, 2026, Journal of Neuroscience compared expert birders to novices, revealing significant structural and functional differences in the brain. According to researchers, birding helped develop brain function in three major areas.

Birding enhances neuroplasticity and brain density. Expert birders exhibit denser, more compact brain regions responsible for attention and visual perception. This increased density suggests more efficient communication between neurons, allowing experts to identify species rapidly even under challenging conditions.

Birding builds a “Cognitive Reserve” against aging. While brain complexity naturally diminishes with age, research shows this decline is less pronounced in experienced birders by creating a mental buffer that helps the brain remain resilient against aging and damage, potentially delaying the onset of dementia. Expert birders also use existing avian knowledge as “neural scaffolding” that makes it easier to learn and retain new information, such as unfamiliar species or even unrelated data like faces.

Birding increases mental health and emotional regulation. Birding triggers the release of BDNF (Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor), a molecule that supports the growth of new brain cells and improves mood. And listening to birdsong or simply viewing birds has been shown to improve mental well-being for up to eight hours after the encounter, easing symptoms of anxiety and depression.

So, the next time someone makes a derogatory comment to you or looks askance at you for being an enthusiastic and dedicated birder, you can tell them that you're developing your very own super-power with every flick of a feather you see and each bird song you're lucky to hear.

Spring Bird Count Results

From Compiler Joe Suchecki

The annual Spring Bird Count was conducted on Saturday May 9, 2026, when over 100 DuPage birders spread out across the county to participate in this statewide event. The weather during the count was just about perfect with mild temperatures and fair skies. With good conditions, our very skilled DuPage birders were expecting a good count for the day.

In all, birders tallied 180 species and over 25,000 birds for the count. The 180 species was slightly above the average number of species seen over the last 20 years and tied the results from last year. Our most commonly seen birds were the Red-winged Blackbird, American Robin, Canada Goose, Tree Swallow, and House Sparrow. That list of the five most common birds has pretty much stayed the same over the last few years. A complete list of the birds seen is attached.

My thanks to everyone who participated in the count. Special thanks to the Area Captains who make our Spring Count a success. They are Dave Hodge, Kyle Wiktor, Nancy Allured, Dave Yeager, Urs Geiser, Diann Bilderback, Glenn Perricone, William Huebler, Dave Spleha, Jerry and Jodi Zamirowski, Susan Kaley, Linda Radke, Joe Suchecki, Mike Madsen, and Jim Green.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 8, 2027 for next year's Spring Bird Count.

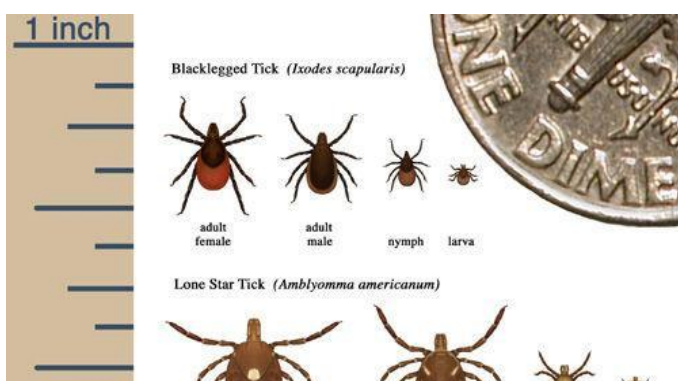
Area: ALL		Spring Bird Count - May 9, 2026			species not on this list must be documented		
	Snow Goose		Bonaparte's Gull	164	Black-capd Chickadee	56	Bobolink
1239	Canada Goose	19	Ring-billed Gull	21	Tufted Titmouse	75	Eastern Meadowlark
5	Mute Swan	6	Herring Gull	4	Horned Lark	73	Orchard Oriole
170	Wood Duck	45	Caspian Tern	181	Rough-wing Swallow	777	Baltimore Oriole
38	Blue-winged Teal		Black Tern	49	Purple Martin	4065	Red-wingd Blackbird
2	Northern Shoveler		Common Loon	835	Tree Swallow	556	Brown-head Cowbird
2	Gadwall	330	Dble-crtd Cormorant	25	Bank swallow	535	Common Grackle
	American Wigeon	1	American Bittern	325	Barn swallow	10	Ovenbird
832	Mallard		Least Bittern	3	Cliff Swallow		Wrm-eating Warbler
	Northern Pintail	199	Great Blue Heron	15	Ruby-crwn Kinglet	3	La Waterthrush
	Green-winged Teal	100	Great Egret	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	56	Northern Wtertrush
1	Redhead	36	Green Heron	169	White-breasted Nuthatch	17	Golden-wing Warbler
1	Ring-necked Duck	5	Blck-crwn Night-Heron	3	Brown Creeper	15	Blue-wing Warbler
	Lesser Scaup	166	Turkey Vulture	197	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	31	Bl-and-wt Warbler
	Bufflehead	26	Osprey	198	House Wren	9	Prothonotary Warbler
6	Hooded Merganser	5	Northern Harrier	9	Sedge Wren	211	Tennessee Warbler
	Common Merganser	2	Sharp-shin Hawk	49	Marsh Wren	9	Orange-crwn Warbler
	Red-brstd Merganser	33	Cooper's hawk	23	Carolina Wren	158	Nashville Warbler
	Ruddy Duck	18	Bald Eagle	725	Starling		Mourning Warbler
	Ring-necked Pheasant	3	Red-shouldered Hawk	308	Gray Catbird		Kentucky Warbler
4	Wild Turkey	8	Broad-winged Hawk	42	Brown Thrasher	388	Common Yellowthroat
13	Pied-billed Grebe	83	Red-tailed Hawk	3	Northern Mockingbird	3	Hooded Warbler
67	Rock Pigeon	15	Eastern Screech Owl	83	Eastern Bluebird	38	American Redstart
394	Mourning Dove	22	Great Horned Owl	10	Veery	1	Cape May Warbler
1	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	10	Barred Owl	3	Gray-chkd Thrush		Cerulean Warbler
	Black-billed Cuckoo	7	Belted Kingfisher	12	Swainson's Thrush	23	Northern Parula
	Common Nighthawk	2	Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	8	Hermit Thrush	13	Magnolia Warbler
129	Chimney Swift	85	Red-hdd Woodpecker	32	Wood Thrush	2	Bay-breastd Warbler
24	Ruby-t Hummingbird	397	Red-belld Woodpecker	2842	American Robin	20	Blackburnian Warbler
12	Virginia Rail	166	Downy Woodpecker	95	Cedar Waxwing	365	Yellow Warbler
44	Sora	69	Hairy Woodpecker	816	House Sparrow	36	Chestnut-side Warbler
	Common Gallinule	14	Pileated Woodpecker	35	American Pipit	4	Blackpoll Warbler
9	American Coot	251	Northern Flicker	187	House Finch	1	Blk-thrd Blue Warber

22	Sandhill Crane	7	American Kestrel	8	Purple Finch	272	Palm Warber
	Black-bellied Plover	1	Peregrine Falcon	4	Pine Siskin	13	Pine Warbler
	Amer Golden Plover		Olive-sided Flycatcher	655	American Goldfinch	434	Yellow-rump Warbler
	Semipalmated Plover	12	Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	Grasshopper sparrow		Yellow-thrd Warbler
128	Killdeer	1	Acadian Flycatcher	60	Chipping Sparrow	64	Bl-thr Green Warbler
1	Dunlin	4	Willow Flycatcher	3	Clay-colored Sparrow	1	Canada Warbler
17	Least Sandpiper	10	Least Flycatcher	120	Field Sparrow	5	Wilson's Warbler
	White-rump Sandpiper	48	Eastern Phoebe	2	Dark-eyed Junco	12	Summer Tanager
15	Pectoral Sandpiper	123	Great- Crstd Flycatcher	199	White-crowned Sparrow	45	Scarlet Tanager
	Semipalm. Sandpiper	95	Eastern Kingbird	165	White-throated sparrow	626	Northern Cardinal
	Short-bill Dowitcher	2	White-eyed Vireo	1	Vesper Sparrow	304	Rs-brstd Grosbeak
7	Amer Woodcock	1	Bell's Vireo	164	Savannah Sparrow	168	Indigo Bunting
9	Wilson's Snipe	25	Yellow-throated Vireo	9	Henslow's Sparrow	1	Dickcissel
3	Wilson's Phalarope	14	Blue-headed Vireo	603	Song Sparrow	3	Whip-poor-will
53	Spotted Sandpiper		Philadelphia Vireo	2	Lincoln's Sparrow	1	King Rail
81	Solitary Sandpiper	225	Warbling Vireo	136	Swamp Sparrow	5	Long-bill dowitcher
9	Greater Yellowlegs	71	Red-eyed Vireo	70	Eastern Towhee	41	White Pelican
85	Lesser Yellowlegs	600	Blue Jay	3	Yellow-breasted Chat	33	Monk Parakeet
		63	American Crow		Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	Loggerhead Shrike
						1	Western Meadowlark
32	Species Count	46	Species Count	51	Species Count	1	Western Tanager
						1	Blue Grosbeak
						1	Lapland Longspur
3423	Number of Birds	3425	Number of Birds	9678	Number of Birds	51	Species Count
	Party Hours Foot		Party Miles Foot			9583	Number of Birds
	Party Hours Car		Party Miles Car				
	Hours Owling		Miles Owling				
	Party Hours Other		Party Miles Other			180	Total Species Count
						26109	Total Bird Count

Playing It Safe During Tick Season

Has it seemed to you that there are more ticks around this spring than we've ever had before? Unfortunately, your observations are correct. According to the National Weather Service, last year's mild winter has brought on a bumper crop of ticks this spring and summer. And where there are ticks, there is the chance of Lyme disease. Now it's more important than ever to take careful precautions against the tiny critters. As usual, when walking through underbrush where ticks can hide, make sure to pull your socks up over your pants and wear closed-toed shoes.

As added protection, spray the cuffs of your pants, socks, and shoes with the appropriate repellent. If you don't care to use anything chemically based, try using a natural repellent using essential oils in a carrier solution. One that you could try: Put 4 oz. of water in a spray bottle and add 20 drops of eucalyptus oil and 20 drops of lemongrass oil and shake thoroughly before spraying this liberally on your pants, socks, and shoes. Also consider wearing a hat as some ticks can drop from trees on occasion.



Illinois is home to over 15 tick species, but you will typically encounter only three to four major types. The most common are the

Black-legged Tick (aka Deer Tick), American Dog Tick, Lone Star Tick, and Brown Dog Tick. (Chart courtesy of the Illinois Department of Public Health)

If you do find a tick feasting on you (or your dog or cat), the best way to remove it is to use a sharp pair of tweezers and grasp it just behind the head. Pull steadily up and away from the skin so that when the tick lets go you can be sure to also obtain its mouth parts. Take the tick, tape it to a 3x5" card or heavy piece of paper and write the date you removed the tick and stow it in a drawer somewhere. Watch for symptoms of Lyme disease which can include an expanding rash around the bite area which does not cause itching or pain, or fever, headache, and tiredness. If any of these symptoms appear, take the tick card to the doctor who can test it for the presence of Lyme disease antibodies. This is a more expedient method of testing for serum antibodies.

Bird safely this summer! Let's keep those ticks at bay!

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County May 2026 Report

The Native Plant Sale held over three days in May drew a record 2,662 people. Thousands of plants were sold with only 100 plants left over at the end of the weekend. President Daniel Hebreard commented that it is encouraging to see this meaningful action that residents are undertaking in their own backyards in support of plants and animals.

West Branch Trail plans have been in the works for years and appear to now be finally coming together. Details between the FPDDC and West Chicago/Winfield Wastewater Authority continue to be adjusted for the building of the trail, which will cross both Roosevelt Road and the West Branch of the DuPage River just east of Rt. 59. The trail will cross over the property owned by the Wastewater Authority which is north of Roosevelt Road as the trail enters West DuPage Woods.

Birding Season is Heating Up!

The National Weather Service is predicting dangerously elevated temperatures for numerous regions of our country this summer and are urging citizens to take special precautions when engaging outdoor activities. Here are some precautions you take to beat the heat and stay healthy as you do your birding (or any outdoor activities) this summer.



in
can

1. Stay hydrated. Carry plenty of water with you and remember to drink it.
2. Wear light-colored natural fibers, such as cotton and linen.

3. Wear a hat and sunglasses. This helps to ward off sunstroke.
4. Use sunscreen liberally, one that contains an SPF of 25 or more.
5. Try to bird (and do other activities) in the shade.
6. Plan your activities early morning before temperatures tend to heat up.
7. Take regular breaks. Birding can be a mentally intense sport. Be sure to slow down and rest occasionally.
8. Look for the signs of heatstroke or sunstroke; a body temperature of above 104, feeling faint or hyperventilating, a strong rapid pulse, dry flushed skin, lack of sweating and severe headache. If you have these symptoms, go immediately to your local ER. Either one of these conditions can lead to brain damage or organ failure.

Heatstroke is an extremely dangerous condition (and it isn't fun) so take these precautions to heart and have a happy (and healthy) birding summer.

Welcome New Members!

Kayley Dimond	Winfield
Jaime Juda	Lombard
Les and Janet Horne	Naperville
Michael and Annette Kossifologos	Bloomington
Izzy Mages	Woodridge
Claire Mittman	Wheaton
Rhonda Schorle	Wheaton
David and Faith Slowinski	Naperville
Kim Talbott	Clarendon Hills
Adam and Canielle Zapfel	Oswego

Outreach News

DBC hosted a table at the Green Garden Fair on May 9th. Sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Elmhurst, the fair was a great chance to educate the community on living sustainably and learning to connect with nature. Many thanks to Andie Duffy and Mike Warner for representing DBC.

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



Photo Courtesy of Mike Warner

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.

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

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](#).

Whenever 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 in winter, 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.

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

Friday, July 3rd, 7:30 am – 9:30 am, West DuPage Woods Forest Preserve – Rt. 59, West Chicago

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

Join me for a short, leisurely, 1/2 mile loop around this wooded area to check in on the summer residents. Beginner birders are welcome. This is a crushed limestone trail with some slight elevation changes. Note this is the same patch of land as Elsen's Hill, but on the west side. The entrance to the park is off Rt. 59. in West Chicago, just south of Forest Ave.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/m6Sr6DQNNdtBTj6f6>

Leader: Stephanie Cullerton, stephcullert@yahoo.com

Saturday, July 11th, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Wingspan Game Day at Giorgi's Game Spot, Elmhurst

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 25 participants.

Wingspan Returns! Learn to play this engaging birding game with DBC friends! See story above for the full details.

Georgi's Game Spot, 350 N York Street, Basement, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Entrance is on the north side of the building; additional parking on Grantly Ave.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6iPTF9BhaffvGvq9>

Leaders: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com, Len Edgin

Sunday, July 12th, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm, Swainson's Hawk- Kane County, Burlington Township, IL

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

Meet at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve where we will carpool to nearby Chapman Rd. in search of our local Swainson's Hawks. We'll also spend some time exploring the grassland birds at Burlington FP and may venture to Muirhead Springs FP dependent on the conditions. Insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended. There are bathroom facilities at Burlington FP. Meet up location: Take Engle Rd. Go west on Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve Drive (located between Plank Rd. and L'enschow Rd) and follow to the end.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Parking+lot,+Burlington+Township,+IL>

Leader: Bob Fisher, bfisher928@aol.com

Friday, July 17th, 7:30 am – 9:30 am, Dick Young Forest Preserve, Batavia (Kane County)

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

This will be a leisurely walk through quality prairie habitat (wildflowers are part of the experience) which is mostly flat with one short hill. Typical birds during breeding season include Dickcissels (lots of them seen and heard this June), Bobolinks, Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows, Common Yellowthroat, and Sedge Wrens. The preserve is separated into a prairie side and a forested marsh side, so if we have enough time, we could walk over to the marsh too. We will meet in the parking lot off of Main St. on the north side of the preserve. Unfortunately, the bathrooms are located on the east side off of Nelson Lake Rd. if you want to stop en route. We'll likely cancel in the event of rain.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/zyeavk4PmKraZsj8>

Leader: Vince Sherwin, vince1230@comcast.net

Sunday, July 19th, 7:30 am – 9:30 am, Dean Nature Sanctuary, Oak Brook

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

This is a mile walk at a charming nature sanctuary along Salt Creek. New birders welcome! We'll peek into the creek and then continue looking for summer residents (including young birds!) in pond, savanna, wetland, and some woods. Trails are basically level and are grass/dirt, with some gravel/pavement. Meet at the parking lot on 115 Canterbury Lane, Oak Brook.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/F93jCgHbqXjggU6B7>

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

Saturday, July 25th, 7:30 am – 11:00 am, Bemis Woods North Grove, Westchester

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

We'll take a leisurely walk in the shady forest on crushed gravel and dirt trails looking for summer woodland residents like Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and all the woodpeckers. Enter from Wolf Road between Ogden and 31st Street. Park in the lot near the Kayak Launch. Meet by the bridge over Salt Creek. Wear bug spray.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/vqoPZE8mKBFZpsZu7>

Leader: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Monday, July 27th, 8:30 am – 10:00 am, Wood Dale Reservoir, Wood Dale

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

On this trip we will be exploring one of the premier shorebird spots in DuPage County. We will focus on finding and identifying migratory shorebirds such as Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers and both

species of yellowlegs. There's even the chance for something rarer like a Stilt or Baird's Sandpiper. Please meet in the parking lot at the end of School Street.

https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZfkBcqu6p8jo9c869?g_st=ic

Leader: Henry Meade, meadehenry21@gmail.com

Friday, July 31st, 7:30 am – 10:00 pm, Greene Valley Forest Preserve (Thunderbird), Bolingbrook/Naperville

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

We'll be looking for summer residents (kingbirds, thrashers, etc.) and avian youngsters as we explore the western part of Greene Valley: the fields and woods along the Thunderbird Trail. New birders are welcome as we will take a fairly leisurely pace to see (and listen to) the birds. If conditions are good, there will be a little bonus walk at the end. Meet at the Thunderbird Youth-Group Campground parking lot aka "West Entrance." From Greene Road, go west on 79th about 1/2 mile, the entrance is on the south side of 79th Street.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Greene+Valley+Forest+Preserve+West+entrance>

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

DBC's Winter/Spring '26 Photo Contest Last Call!

The DBC's Photo Contest closed on June 30 and we are accepting photos until July 7, 2026. All photos are welcome: amateur, funny, imperfect, high-quality. The "story behind the shot" is taken into account when the entry is judged. 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

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

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