

Drummings August 2026

President's Letter



Hi all,

Hopefully, you've all had a chance to take a look at the proposed bylaws changes. We've gotten some great feedback so far, and more is always helpful, so make sure you get yours in by August 2nd! One of the major concerns the bylaws changes are supposed to tackle are the succession and recruiting issues we've had, which segues nicely into the next topic – leadership for 2027.

As it stands today, we have quite a list of Executive Committee roles to fill for next year:

- President
- Vice President
- Corresponding Secretary
- 2 Directors

The current Executive Committee is going to be out recruiting for this over the next several months, and we'd certainly appreciate it if you'd reach out to us if you're open to considering any of these roles. As a further note, for those who did not attend the July meeting, I want to bring you up to speed on where we stand as far as continuity. The future of the club's leadership is less certain than it should be. My term officially ends at the November annual meeting. Normally, the VP would take on the presidency at the election in November. We currently do not have a VP, however, which leads to a lot of ambiguity about what leadership will look like next year.

Those that are well versed in the bylaws may note that they provide a mechanism by which the current president can serve indefinitely if no successor is available. Unfortunately, I have had some things change in my life over the past couple of months, and I have had to come to the difficult conclusion that I can't adequately address my personal needs and my duties within the club simultaneously. With this in mind, I want to make sure everyone is aware of the fact that if no successor is available, I do intend to resign at the end of the calendar year.

Next Meeting

September 10, 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

To me, this means we all need to get this problem sorted sooner than later. As such, my pitch to everyone is this – No matter what happens, someone is going to need to step up for the presidency next year. If you step up now, you get the next 4-5 months to get settled in. The longer you delay, the less of a transition there's going to be, and the rougher it's going to be on all of us. Please consider reaching out—the future of the club depends on us solving this issue together.

Thanks,

Matt Crisler

crislermj@gmail.com

September Meeting, September 10, 7:00 pm - In Person and Via Zoom: Breaking the Cook County Big Year Record – Twice!

Presented by Birder Tarik Shahzad

The Big Year – one of the ultimate challenges for avid birders is to commit to finding as many species of birds as possible in a defined geographic area for one year. The area could be your yard, a local nature preserve, a county, or even the American Birding Association Area of Canada and the United States. Completing a Big Year requires commitment, planning, perseverance, lots of time, and a little luck. Hollywood even made a feature film about a big year several years ago.

Our September speaker will be Tarik Shahzad, a local Chicago birder who completed two big years in a row in 2024 and 2025. Not only did he complete two big years in Cook County, but he broke the record



number of birds seen in a year in 2024 and then broke his own record again in 2025. Tarik saw an amazing 296 species in Cook County in 2025 finishing with a flyover Whooping Crane in Northbrook to break the record for the second time.

Tarik will present a program documenting his record-breaking year which will be illustrated with photographs of the birds he saw during his Big Year journey. The program is sure to be informative and inspiring for all birders and may ignite a spark in someone to attempt a Big Year in DuPage County.

Tarik Shahzad is an avid birder in the Chicago area. When not birding, he works for The Nature Conservancy Chicago's office on conservation issues and natural areas preservation. He has indicated that one motivation for completing a Big Year is that it provides platform for him to promote the need for natural areas preservation and habitat management, as well as bird conservation.

Join us in person at College of DuPage or tune in via Zoom on September 10th at 7:00 pm.

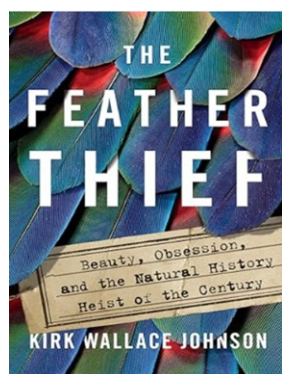
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/t2YS0GW9RLmG12277hNRgg>

In Case You Missed It: Bank Swallows—Journey into a World Beyond Our Senses

Filmmaker David Busse shared with us his fascinating documentary about the Bank Swallows that nest annually on the shores of Lake Michigan. This program was not recorded as the film is on tour. If you would like to see the film, check out upcoming screenings here:

<https://www.beyondoursensesfilm.com/screenings>

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.

Hawkwatch, Are You Ready?

The official approval from the DuPage County Forest Preserve District is in process so that we can again carry out our 21st year of hawkwatching on top of the Greene Valley FP landfill hill.

If you'd like to join the Hawkwatch team, the commitment requires you to spend at least one day per week on the hill over a three-month season; the Forest Preserve District has a vetting process to authorize permission to be on the hilltop's Scenic Overlook when it's closed to the public during the week. It's open on Saturdays and Sundays (through October) from 11 AM to 6 PM. After that, it's closed to the public on weekends as well. Our team of regulars has that authorization to be present on the hill during the week, but otherwise it is closed to the general public on weekdays!

Our start date is Sunday, September 1st, and we'll be counting once again through September, October, and November, ending the 2026 Count on November 30th. Interested in joining our team of "regulars"? Contact Bob Fisher (bfisher928@aol.com) for details.

RSVP Now for *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.

Announcing: October 17th 2026 Volunteer Birding and Luncheon

Attention all DBC volunteers! Save October 17th for this year's Volunteer Bird Walk and Luncheon. We'll bird from 9:00—11:00 am and then enjoy lunch from 11:00 – 1:00 pm. Details will follow in future Drummings issues. If you want to help organize or have questions, contact Steve Constantelos at steve.constantelo@gmail.com.

BEWARE: Spoofing, Phishing, and Other Nefarious Scams

We've all experienced the impostor email pretending to be the IRS or UPS, the collections notice for a charge card you don't own, and the request from a "friend" to transmit funds due to an emergency. DBC leaders have been targeted in spoofing schemes in the past and again just recently, and we want to be clear: **DBC Executive Committee members, committee chairpersons, and field trip leaders will NEVER ask you to send money or divulge sensitive or confidential information in an email.**

Clues that a suspicious email is spam include time-sensitive threats or urgent requests, generic greetings, spelling and grammar mistakes, and an email address in the "from" field that contains a different email address or changed email address than the supposed sender. Never click on links or open attachments unless you're sure the sender is legitimate.

Returning Waterfowl and Shorebirds Kick Off Fall Migration

August marks the return of many waterfowl and shorebirds to our lakes and mudflats as fall migration gets underway. Now is the perfect time to refresh your identification skills with content from the DBC Education Channel on YouTube. These short videos led by Denis Kania will enhance your birding experience as you deftly ID female ducks and the shorebirds we don't get to see much of.

Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpiper, and Ruff

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tff6tqvOerE&list=PLQT3FeXShqcjPk6OxPE6_itOgRXvWWaKF&index=47
[Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpiper, and Ruff](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tff6tqvOerE&list=PLQT3FeXShqcjPk6OxPE6_itOgRXvWWaKF&index=47)

The Peeps

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miPkNqnmMkc&list=PLQT3FeXShqcjPk6OxPE6_itOgRXvWWaKF&index=48

Two Scaup and the Ring-necked Duck

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4u2QzKaZ9w&list=PLQT3FeXShqcjPk6OxPE6_itOgRXvWWaKF&index=26

Female Dabbling Ducks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MubkH3n9IPI&list=PLQT3FeXShqcjPk6OxPE6_itOgRXvWWaKF&index=23

Female Diving Ducks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gveXvMnZMqQ&list=PLQT3FeXShqcjPk6OxPE6_itOgRXvWWaKF&index=22

Save the Dates for Upcoming Birding Festivals

First up is Chicago's **Urban Birding Festival**, now in its third year, which will be held September 18th – 20th, 2026. Whether you're looking to explore local urban hotspots or join up for one of their highly anticipated boat trips, there is an adventure waiting for all birders of every experience level. There will also be an amazing slate of speakers giving presentations Friday through Saturday at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, which is the festival's hub. Check out the Festival Guidebook for deadlines and details at <https://www.theurbanbirdingfestival.org/festival-schedule>

Next up, the **Wild Things 2027 Conference** is being held February 27th, 2027, in Rosemont, Illinois.

Wild Things invites nature enthusiasts from across Illinois and neighboring states to learn about the flora, fauna, natural history, and management of the special ecosystems of the Midwest. Attending lets you be part of the community of scientists, volunteers, conservationists, and natural resource professionals who are making a difference for conservation in Illinois.

They are also calling for presentations so if you'd like additional information on that as well as information on the conference itself, all is available on their website at <https://www.wildthings@friendilnature.org>

Outreach News

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.



Photo Courtesy of Mike Warner

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.

Announcing DBC's Winter/Spring '26 Photo Contest Winners!

The winners of DBC's Winter/Spring '26 photo contest have been finalized! The entries were judged by Andie Duffy, Steve Constantelos, and Mike Warner. The committee would like to thank all the photographers for their entries. It was very difficult to narrow it down from 26 entries to these award

winners. We're on the lookout for more judges - if interested contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.

Best of Show

Photographer: Jackie Tilles

Species: Eastern Towhee

Location: Maple Lake Nature Preserve, Willow Springs, IL

Narrative: My friend Donna and I visit the Little Red School House and Maple Lake every January to see winter birds. Some of the nearby residents feed the birds in a wooded area near Maple Lake. We were very surprised to see this visitor taking part in the feast. He should have headed south. It was a mostly cloudy, windy January day with temperatures in the single digits. Most birders were viewing from their cars. But I felt it was worth the effort to step outside and wait for the sun to emerge in order to capture the color and detail of this beautiful bird.



Brightening A Gloomy Day

Photographer: Laurie Lasseter

Species: American Kestrel

Location: Lockport Prairie, Lockport IL

Narrative: It was a gloomy day and this American Kestrel posed against the darkness of the recently burned prairie. I thought his colors really shone through in that setting.



The Sparkbird Award

Photographer: Julie Wettermann

Species: Roseate Spoonbill

Location: Orlando Wetlands Park, in Christmas, FL

Narrative: I've been trying to capture a good Roseate Spoonbill shot since I started birding in 2021. This guy was my spark bird—beautiful and weird looking and so fun to watch wading and fishing on shore! Adding an extra day to a conference trip to Orlando provided the perfect opportunity. This man-made park provides 1650 acres of excellent wetlands habitat, and an amazing rookery that was full of Egrets, Herons, Ibises, Wood Storks, Night Herons, and of course Spoonbills. I'd highly recommend a stop at this park if you're ever in the Orlando area—it's worth the drive from wherever you are staying! You'll be rewarded by miles of pathways, boardwalks, (occasional gators along the path), and an amazing array of beautiful birds! Maybe even your own spark bird gotcha moment as well!



“An SBC First” Award

Photographer: Diann Bilderback

Species: Lapland Longspur

Location: Northside Park during the Spring Bird Count

Narrative: It was late morning of the Spring Bird Count when I parked my car at Northside Park in Wheaton. I decided to leave my camera in the car since it was heavy and I didn't have high expectations for this busy suburban park. I was dutifully logging the geese, robins, swallows, and other usual suspects when I noticed a sparrow-like bird foraging in the recently cleared edges along one of the lakes. It had a strong rufous nape, black head, wide buffy brow, white belly--WOW. I knew I was on to something but wasn't sure what exactly. I snapped a series of pictures with my phone and then hustled a mile back to my car for my camera. When I returned, he was gone--of course! I searched for a while but had to hightail it back to the car so as not to be late for the lunch with fellow counters.

By now I had narrowed the possibilities and was pretty sure I had a Lapland Longspur. Despite my blurry and really awful pictures, my lunch companions thought so too. SO...I decided to return to the park after lunch with camera in tow. As I approached the location, my hopes cratered as I saw a picnicker had spread out his blanket and was lunching in the very spot where my bird had been. But as I approached, I saw a foraging sparrow-like bird...with a rufous nape! It was my bird and he had returned to the same spot, not 20 feet from the picnicker and where I'd seen him two hours earlier. I was able to get many good pictures of him, which was important since he is a bird rare enough on the SBC that he must be documented. Compiler Joe Suchecki said he is the first Lapland Longspur recorded on the SBC, and he was at Northside Park of all places. He was definitely worth the extra miles I walked that morning back and forth to my car!



Talk To The Tail

Photographer: John Obenland

Species: American Redstart

Location: Naperville, Illinois

Narrative: Many birds seem to be quite shy when it comes to having their picture taken. I have found this to be especially true of the American Redstart. Gorgeous color, but hard to capture in a photo. Why can't they be more like Red-winged Blackbirds, or Grackles, or Cardinals? I caught this guy at Seager Park in the spring singing his song but not really cooperating for a "headshot." So, I settled for what he gave me and counted myself fortunate to get that.



Scintillating Central America

Photographer: Sirimon Reutrakul

Species: Scintillant Hummingbird

Location: Costa Rica

Narrative: One of the smallest hummingbirds, weighing 2-2.3 grams



Free Lunch!

Photographer: Franz Burnier

Species: Brewer's Blackbird female

Location: Wild Winds Bison Preserve, Indiana

Narrative: A female blackbird feasts on a swarm of insects while a female bison rolls her eyes to see who's sitting on her head.



Spring Song

Photographer: James J. Goldsmith

Species of Bird in Photo: American Redstart

Where was the picture taken: The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois

Narrative: I am a Safety Patrol volunteer at the Morton Arboretum. This past May, while I was walking on the West Side, I first heard and then briefly saw a striking male American Redstart in some brambles by a small stream. I returned the next day with my camera to try to capture his image. After a while, I saw him deep in the brambles, darting from branch to branch. I waited several minutes for him to emerge, and when he finally did, I was able to capture this image before he disappeared back into the brambles.



Here's Looking At You

Photographer: Laurie Lasseter

Species: Canvasback

Location: Rock Run Rookery, Joliet IL

Narrative: I went to Rock Run Rookery in the winter hoping to spot a male Canvasback that had been seen there recently. I was on the boardwalk looking into the lake when suddenly it occurred to me to look behind me—and there he was! He stayed for a few minutes and allowed me to photograph him and then he slowly swam away.



“Billed” To Skim

Photographer: Daryl Kellenberger

Species: Black Skimmer

Location: Grand Isle State Park in Louisiana

Narrative: I was birding the beach looking at all the shorebirds. I was down on my knees in the sand and was focused on taking a photo of some plovers down near the water. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed some motion. I turned my head and was very surprised to see two Black Skimmers had landed on the beach 15-20 feet from me. I quickly turned my body and started snapping photos of them. They finally noticed me and took off in less than a minute. Fortunately, I was able to get some decent photos of them. I liked this one the best because its bill is open and you can really see the size difference between the top and bottom bill.



Master of Hide and Seek

Photographer: Mittman

Species: Common Yellowthroat

Location: Wheaton

Narrative: I have been chasing these little birds for a photo all spring. They always hop away, and as I am still learning how to use my camera, my pictures are always blurry. I could hear this one in the corner bush, and surprisingly I was able to "Pshh-psh-psh" it out! He was singing loud and hopping in and out of view for a good couple of minutes. Very fun to watch!



You can see all pictures posted to the DBC Website, including past Photo Contest Winners, by [CLICKING HERE](#).

DuPage Birding Club's Summer/Fall '26 Photo Contest Is Now Open!

The DBC's Photo Contest is now looking for pictures of birds taken between July 1, 2026, and December 31, 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, even if they submit multiple images.

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

The contest is open to DBC members only. Photos may be taken anywhere (not just DuPage/Illinois). If a picture includes people, the submitter must have permission from those people to publish their image on the DBC website. Photographs will be judged by a small team of DBC members.

Good luck! Winners will be announced in the February 2027 Drumming.

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

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.

Welcome New Members!

Carol Woods and Bob Anders
Christina Huerta and Anthony Napoli
Samantha Sorenson

Oakbrook
Woodridge
Lisle

News from the Forest Preserve

Fullersburg Woods: President Daniel Hebreard announced that Fullersburg Woods recently received designation as a National Recognition of Historical Places. The area was first purchased in 1920 and included 65 acres. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was instrumental in constructing trails and bridges and timber that blend into the natural landscape. In the 1930 additional work done by CCC work of stone and timber improved trails and built the visitor's center. Today, Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve in Oak Brook offers a 220-acre prime wildlife haven in an urban setting.

Urban Steam Research Center: Mussels require a host fish for propagation of their young. The Shedd Aquarium and the FPDDC have agreed to a memorandum of understanding for raising of host fish at The Urban Stream Research Center. Ellipse Mussels are rare and Johnny Darter and Mottled Sculpin fish are

the specified species to host the rare mussels. The District is unable to harvest these specific fish from our streams now, so to propagate and reintroduce these species into our streams in DuPage, an agreement with the Shedd has been made to acquire the host fish. Collaboration between agencies provides important outreach for research and species protection and propagation. If you had attended the DBC's field trip to the Urban Stream Research Center, you would know this already!

Graue Mill: WTTW and producer Geoffrey Baer will feature Graue Mill in an upcoming episode of Chicago Tours. His show connects visitors with local history and helps viewers see familiar places in new and meaningful ways. Filming will take place soon and the District will announce when you can watch this "Ultimate Chicago Field Trip."

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 31, 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 1.

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

Saturday, August 8, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

Greene Valley Forest Preserve is a great spot to find resident species during the summer. We'll be looking for common species as well as early migrating shorebirds if the fluddle is in good shape. The hike will take place largely on gravel trails, but we will go off trail through tall grass to try our luck at the fluddle. Bug spray and sunscreen are recommended.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/QfbBV4RMchhciBr66>

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

Saturday, August 22, 7:00 am – 11:00 am, Birding & Breakfast at Blackwell Forest Preserve – West Shelter, Warrenville

Please RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/sRGRUmeJf684z67x5>

Join us for a bird walk and casual breakfast on Saturday, August 22nd at Blackwell Forest Preserve. All

birders and potential birders are welcome! This is a wonderful 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. Clean up is from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and, as usual, your help is always appreciated.

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. The forest preserve is located on the north side of Butterfield Road, a quarter mile west of Winfield Road.

Link to parking near West Shelter: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/TyeiVNrJWZus1UgJ6>

Please RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/sRGRUmeJf684z67x5>

Any questions? Please contact Jim Mateski at jamesmateski@gmail.com

Friday, August 28, 7:30 am – 10:00 am, Knoch Knolls Park, Naperville

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

A late summer walk to the DuPage River confluence, where the east and west branches meet. We'll go about two miles round trip, looking for resident bird families and early migrants in the water, fields, and woods. Trails are flat, with a mix of grass, dirt, and pavement. Meet at the parking lot on 336 Knoch Knolls Rd., Naperville. Bathrooms available at trail head.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/4Cb5LjmxwvbzZG6T6>

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

Sunday, August 30, 7:30 am – 9:30 am, Seager Park, Naperville

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

Kick off your Sunday in this 30-acre patch of woods, ephemeral wetland, and grass, with lots of edge habitat. New birders welcome! We'll be looking for early migrants and summer residents (including Red-headed Woodpeckers) in this little gem of a park. Trails are a mix of dirt, grass, and pavement. Bathrooms available. Meet in the parking lot at 1163 Plank Road, Naperville.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FJhBUMPEhmk5Bufj8>

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



2026 Meeting Schedule

January 8 July 9

March 12 September 10

April 9 October 8

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

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