



President's Letter

Hi all,

This month's letter stands as a follow-on to last month's, so if you didn't get a chance to read that, please do. I wanted to expand on what the future looks like, at least from my point of view. First off, just to answer a question I've gotten a few times based on that letter, I'll still be around after the end of the year, just in a more limited role. Second, feedback to the bylaws revisions has been very positive, so at this point I'm expecting that framework is what next year's Executive Committee (aka "the board") will have to work with. On the topic of next year's leadership, here's what we need still:

- President
- Vice President
- 2 Directors

The current board did a little bit of recruiting at the Birds & Breakfast event this past weekend, and something that came up is that there is some concern that if you take on any of these roles (especially the Presidency), you have to do everything you've seen myself or other presidents doing over the past couple of years. I'm planning to address that in detail via an email blast in the coming weeks, but for now we'll stick with an overview.

I can tell you from experience that doing everything here isn't sustainable, and that's something we're very much addressing with the bylaw changes. The new president's role is much more of an organizer than the current "sole authority on everything" that we currently require. The same goes for the VP, who is no longer strictly tied to the speaker's program but instead is allowed to choose where to focus attentions via the liaison concept.

Additionally, I'd also point out how much "unofficial" help there is from the club at large. A lot of the programs we all love run by way of some extremely dedicated volunteers in those areas. Traditionally, the only program the board actually planned and operated was the meetings and speakers. Functionally, due to the absence of a VP this year, we've actually moved that final program out from being solely operated by the board and into the hands of people who *want* to be doing it.

So, give it some thought – the ask here isn't to operate the programs, it's to make sure the people that do can continue doing so. It's not as hard as it sounds

Next Meeting

September 10, 2026

College of DuPage
Health Science Ctr
Rm 1234
425 Fawell Drive
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Premeeting Dinner

5:30 pm
Ellyn's Tap and Grill
940 Roosevelt Rd.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

and you'll have plenty of help along the way from myself and others who have been there before - we're all in this together!

Thanks,
Matt Crisler
crislermj@gmail.com

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

Presenter: 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 during a one-year period. 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 called “The Big Year” several years ago which starred Steve Martin and Jack Black.



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 who would like 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’s Chicago office on conservation issues and natural areas preservation. He has indicated that one motivation for completing a Big Year is that it provides a platform for him to promote the need for natural areas preservation and habitat management, as well as bird conservation.

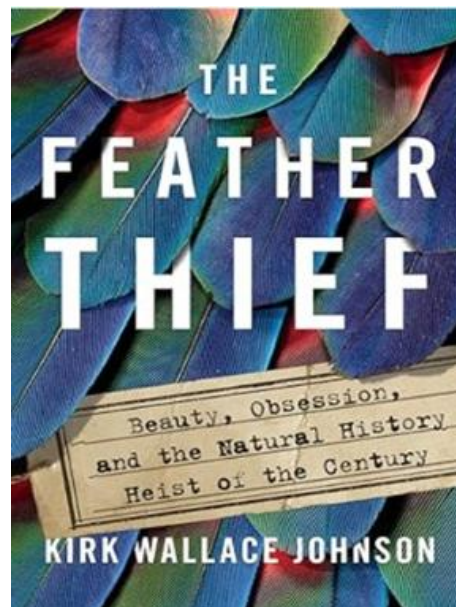
Join us in person at College of DuPage or tune in via Zoom on September 10th at 7 pm. Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/t2YS0GW9RLmG12277hNRgg>

DBC Book Club Meets September 8th

There's still time to join the DBC Book Club readers and explore a fascinating true-crime story as you journey into the underworld of plume peddlers and fanatical hobbyists in *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 the evening of Tuesday, September 8th. 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 hawk-watching on top of the Greene Valley FP landfill hill.

This 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 is closed to the public during the week. It is open on Saturdays and Sundays (through October) from 11 am to 6 pm. After that, it is closed to the public on weekends as well. Our team of regulars has that authorization to be present on the hill during the week and on weekends after all access is closed to the public.

Our starting 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.

Birding and Breakfast Fun!

DBC birders turned out in force on Saturday, August 22, for the annual Birding and Breakfast social. A few hardy members made the 7 am field trip, where we were treated to summer favorites like Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, and a barely awake Red-tailed Hawk. And when there weren't birds around, we admired



bonus finds including Monarch Butterfly, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, and a Banded Tussock Moth (aka bird food).

Breakfast was bountiful with yummy devilled eggs, homemade muffins, bagels, fruit, Starbucks, and good conversation! Mother Nature cooperated as well, delivering a cool and sunny morning.



Photos courtesy of Diann Bilderback

Calling All Volunteers: Volunteer Luncheon October 17th!

ATTENTION DBC Volunteers: We're celebrating YOU at the DBC Volunteer Luncheon October 17th at St. James Farm. The DuPage Birding Club would not exist if not for the many volunteers that give their time and talents. The DBC Board would like to acknowledge all our volunteers at this event, which will begin at 9 am with a two-hour long birding walk followed by a luncheon from 11 am to 1 pm.

The event is for everyone who has volunteered in any capacity on behalf of the club in the last year. This includes Board members, Committee members, field trip leaders, outreach volunteers, newsletter and website contributors, event coordinators, and any others who have contributed to our success in the past year. This is also a great time to socialize with fellow members.

Meet at 9 am at the St. James parking lot off Winfield Rd for the walk. Lunch will be served at the St. James indoor riding arena meeting space, located in the yellow building on the far right when looking

from the parking lot (the building where the restrooms are located). If you prefer, you may join us just for the luncheon at 11 am. Please help us prepare for this event by RSVPing by Wednesday, October 14th. Click here to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/1D1DXMr3J1E94ecs9>

If you have any questions, contact Jim Mateski at jamesmateski@gmail.com

Save the Dates: Upcoming Regional Conservation Events

The Urban Birding Festival, September 18th-20th

Registration is now open for Chicago's own birding festival, scheduled for 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>



Chicago Wilderness Congress, November 6th

Thirty+ presentations feature the best ideas and brightest minds doing environmental conservation, ecological restoration, land preservation, sustainable agriculture, and more, with a focus working within human and natural communities and connecting people to nature. There's plenty of time to network and build new connections with the people you'll meet at Congress 2026. For more information or to register, visit https://www.chicagowilderness.org/page/alliance_congress

Wild Things Conference 2027, February 27th

This year, 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. Be a part of the community of scientists, volunteers, conservationists, and natural resource professionals and more!

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>

Wingspan Game Day Goes Quarterly!

Our first two Wingspan board game days have been so successful that we've decided to make a regular, quarterly schedule! Enjoy an afternoon playing games with your DBC friends.

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.

For 2027, Wingspan months will be January, April, July, and October. They will take place on the second Saturday of the month from 1-4 pm. **Our next Wingspan Game Day is on October 10.**

This location is TBD.

The October newsletter will include a link to register and details for the October 10 Game Day.

Grants and Donations Update

In addition to direct use by the club, your membership dues are used to provide donations to local bird-related research and causes. So far this year we have donated \$1,000 to the Illinois Audubon Society Grants Program <https://illinoisaudubon.org/grants-program/> who uses these funds to provide grants that conserve habitat and study bird populations in Illinois. We also gave Illinois Audubon \$100 to support the Gull Frolic where we had an Outreach table. Additionally, DBC uses our donation funds for annual memberships of \$260 for the American Bird Conservancy and \$150 for the Bird Conservation Network.

We have \$3,627 remaining for this year and would like you to make suggestions on who you'd like to see us support as an organization. Current ideas include DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center, our local wild animal hospital that treats more birds than any other animal, and Chicago Piping Plovers, the volunteers that provide monitors at Montrose Point Beach to protect our celebrity endangered Piping Plover family.

Please email your ideas to Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com.

Thank you,

DuPage Birding Club Grants and Donations Committee:

Joe Suchecki

Carl Strang

Thelma Hulka

Elena Nelson

DBC to Sponsor Danada Fall Festival: Volunteers Wanted!

DBC will host a table at the Danada Fall Festival, which will be held October 11, 11 am-5pm, at the Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton. If you have a couple of free hours to join us at our table and talk with people, we'd love your help. This annual festival attracts up to 10,000 visitors so it promises to be a busy day! The festival includes equestrian shows with riders in costume, horse drawn hayrides, an art show of approximately 200 art and photo exhibits, activities for the children, and food and entertainment. If you'd like to volunteer, contact mwarner2543@gmail.com.

Here They Come!—Fall Migration Gets Underway

The DBC Education Channel library has several titles in its collection that can help you get ready for those fall warblers and close associates. Check these out so that you are at the top of your game as fall migration gets underway. First, let's focus on fall plumage identification:

- Vireos Without Wingbars - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbQG9MzNhD8>
- Three Fall Warblers: Tennessee, Orange-crowned, and Nashville - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WA30sG-AGIM>
- Four More Fall Warblers: Chestnut-sided, Pine, Blackpoll, and Bay-breasted - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftQutBEIJA>

If you need some help with those warblers up in the treetops, here are a couple of tutorials that will give you the upper hand. Hope to see you out there on the trails!

- Warblers from Below Part 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyWwHEaBZ9A>
- Warblers from Below Part 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI9dQTto5FLk>

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. A small team of DBC members will judge photographs.

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

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!

Karen and Paul Belling

Wheaton

Advocacy Opportunity: Chicago Bird-Friendly Building Design Ordinance

The Bird Conservation Network (BCN) issued an alert to the birding community who live and/or work in Chicago: on 9/22 the City Council Zoning Committee considers a draft Bird-Friendly Building Design Ordinance. Speaking in favor of this ordinance builds support for a positive vote. The goal: Ensure that Chicago City Council members hear from constituents. There's strength in numbers and this is an opportunity to help make Chicago a truly bird-friendly city.

If you live and/or work in Chicago, consider adding your voice at the [action site](#). Here you can send a message to your alderperson asking their support for this ordinance. The zip code in your city home or work address directs the message to the right alderperson. If you work in Chicago, enter your work

address. It's that simple. And please share this message and the link with friends and relatives who live or work in Chicago.

Upcoming Field Trips

We offer a variety of field trips throughout the year, with opportunities for birders of every experience level to participate and enjoy each season. Some trips offer special support for new birders. Participants are welcome to contact the trip leader with any questions.

Registration: 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. You will find each leader's preferred contact information within each listing below.

Guidelines for a Safe and Comfortable Experience

Field trips will observe the following guidelines to help ensure that our birding outings are safe, welcoming, and comfortable for everyone:

- Field trips are open to nonmembers — you don't need to be a DBC member to join us.
- Anyone not feeling well should stay home.
- Attendees under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- All participants should be aware of and follow the [ABA Code of Birding Ethics](#).
- Please arrive early so you're ready to bird at the scheduled start time.
- If you need to cancel, please contact the trip leader as soon as possible — we often have a waitlist of birders hoping to join.
- Most people bring their own binoculars or camera to use to view the birds. If you need to borrow binoculars, please let the trip leader know in advance.
- We strive to be inclusive of all birders. Please let us know if you have any special needs so we can plan accordingly.

Weather and Last-Minute Changes

Field trips will be cancelled in the case of severe weather. If registration was required, the field trip leader will contact you in case of cancellation. Whenever possible, last-minute changes or cancellations will be posted on the DuPage Birding Club Field Trips webpage, so please check back before heading out.

Our Commitment to Diversity

Our mission is to promote the appreciation of birds and all the native plants, animals, and habitats they depend on in DuPage County and surrounding areas. We welcome all birders to share in our principles of equity, accessibility, inclusion, and the opportunity for all to enjoy the wonder of nature.

We would like to acknowledge that we are birding on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Illinois (Illiniwek), Miami, Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Ojibwe people, and we pay respect to their elders past and present.

DBC Field Trips, fieldtripsDBC@gmail.com
Elena Nelson
Stephanie Cullerton
Sherry Courtney (Special Trips)

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

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 12 participants.

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. 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

Sunday, September 6, 7:30 am – 11:00 am, Elsen's Hill Area of West DuPage Woods Forest Preserve, Winfield

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

Elsen's Hill is known as one of the best birding hot spots in the county. We'll walk 1 - 2 miles on grass and crushed gravel trails looking for fall migrants and warblers. Be prepared for mud if it rains prior. Wear bug spray.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/dRsg2CmvRBaTDuat7>

Leader: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

September 13, 7:30 am – 12:00 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

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

We will be looking for migrating warblers, songbirds, and the usual year-round residents. Lyman's trails are uneven and almost always muddy regardless of weather. We will walk approximately 3 miles. If rain occurs ahead of the trip, expect areas with standing water. Be prepared with appropriate footwear. Insect repellent is recommended. Meet at the parking lot on 31st Street.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/2U8M5fbKUujLPyNj8>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Wednesday, September 16, 7:30 am – 9:30 am, Centennial Trail, Lemont

Registration with the leader is required.

We will meet at the trailhead. We will walk the trail, with the Des Plaines River streaming along beside us. We will be looking for waterfowl, eagles, migrants, and residents. Easy walking on both paved and gravel trails. Insect repellent is recommended. Drive to the end of Canal Bank Road and park on the street, near the truck parking.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/vgpTVLG1Y4L1m8eK8>

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

Friday, September 18, 7:30 am – 11:00 am, Whalon Lake and DuPage River Greenway Trail, Naperville

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

We'll meet at Whalon Lake and walk down to the trout ponds, then walk along the DuPage River Greenway trail looking for warblers and other fall migrants, in total about 3 miles on mostly paved trails. Meet at the Whalon Lake Boat Parking Lot. Wear bug spray.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/TuB4JrsySSxS8or26>

Leader: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Tuesday, September 22, 8:00 am – 10:30 am, Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Naperville

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

This morning's walk will take us through some prairie and woods. We'll be looking for resident birds as well as migratory birds. We'll be walking approximately 2 miles on mostly easy terrain. We will meet in the parking lot off of 79th St., just west of Greene Rd. (The Thunderbird Campground area)

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/EbBMm3tN1Ris752Y6>

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

Saturday, September 26, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve, Hampshire

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

Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve is fast becoming one of the most promising birding sites in Kane County. Formerly farmland, Muirhead has undergone quite a transformation in the past few years, hosting a wide range of grassland birds. Fall migrants, sparrows, waterfowl, as well as pipits, longspurs, and Snow Buntings will be the main targets of this trip. If you haven't been to Muirhead yet, this is a great opportunity to do so. New birders are always welcome to join. The parking lot entrance is on Bahr Road, off Plank Road. Please note that we may trek through tall grass, so dress appropriately. Insect Repellent is recommended.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/5mfY2Q9gU23R1yfg7>

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

Saturday, September 26, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Hawkwatch at Greene Valley Overlook, Bolingbrook
Registration with the leader is required for updates on weather conditions, and to receive hawk ID handouts.

Bring a chair, lunch, and a hat to the Greene Valley Hawkwatch, where we will quickly review how to ID hawks in flight and then join the team counting migrating raptors. Park on top of the Greene Valley Scenic Overlook and join us about 100 feet away on the grass lawn. If winds are good, we can see many migrating Broad-winged Hawks in late September. It is a good idea to bring a hoodie or jacket as it can be colder up top than at ground level. Watch the Greene Valley Hawkwatch and Hawk ID talks on the club's You Tube channel to fully prepare for this experience. *Raindate Sunday 9/27

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/tAw2xRHbFJ4QFSgf7>

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, vsroczynski@comcast.net, (630) 297-9512

Wednesday, September 30, 8:00 am – 10:30 am, Morton Arboretum, West Side, Lisle
Registration with the leader is required. Limit 12 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on September 1.

We will be looking for fall migrants and local birds. We'll take a walk approximately 2 miles around some of the west side, including the river and Lake Marmo. (The arboretum is only open to members before 9am. If you don't have an arboretum membership, email to let us know and we can meet up so you can enter in our car; cost is \$10.) Meet at Thornhill parking lot, P21.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Aqd17HJdJ4yPP3Jc8>

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

Saturday, October 3, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, St. James Farm, Warrenville
Registration with the leader is required. Limit 10 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on September 1.

DuPage Birding Club will be partnering with the Conservation Foundation to lead a bird walk as part of the Take a Hike! Challenge. The walk will be held at St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/NvDRYmk3qqBPoUHh8>. We will meet in the parking lot off Winfield Road and will traverse St. James Farm's limestone trails at a leisurely pace, taking our time to identify tricky fall migrants. The walk will cover a couple of miles over relatively flat terrain. Our targets will include fall warblers and other migrant species. New and experienced birders are always welcome. The Conservation Foundation and Endeavor Health have partnered to create the Take a Hike! Challenge. For eight weeks, from Sept. 2 to Oct. 28, people of all ages are encouraged to rediscover the health benefits of being active and spending time outdoors.

People interested in participating in this free challenge can follow the directions below to sign up.

1) Sign up online at theconservationfoundation.org/take-a-hike/

2) Get out and hike from Sept. 2 to Oct. 28!

3) Turn in the Take a Hike! Tracker with 6 completed hikes to earn the Take a Hike! Trail Blaze Award* (commemorative pin or medallion. First time participants can earn a hiking stick + medallion).

*Must register individually to be eligible. Supplies are limited. Offer is valid while supplies last.

To learn more and sign up, visit theconservationfoundation.org/take-a-hike/.

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! The walks are planned to last for 90 minutes but can be extended beyond that time. 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. Here are Cantigny's upcoming accessible walks:

Thursday, September 10th at 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 14th at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 5th at 10:00 a.m.

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/>.



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