

Drummings October 2026



Next Meeting

October 8, 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

President's Letter

Hi all,

There's only one more newsletter after this before the annual club meeting, but there's an awful lot we still need to sort out in advance of that, so here's our current situation:

Executive Committee Positions

We've got enough volunteers for the Director roles. That said, we still need:

- President
- Vice President

Bylaws Revisions

Thanks to everyone who provided detailed feedback on the outline we sent out earlier in the year, I'm excited to release a full draft of the revised Bylaws, which you can find [here](#). Clauses without highlight have not changed. If you wish to compare the changes to the current version, you can find that [here](#). Per Article 12 (Amendments), the final draft that we'll put up for a vote must be finalized and in our Recorder's hands by 10/29. As such, I'm going to ask if you have feedback, please make sure to get it back to us by 10/23, which will give us enough time to make any final adjustments. Thanks!

Committee Chair Positions

While Committee Chair roles (which would become Program Chairs under the new Bylaws) are not elected at the annual meeting, general precedent is that changes in this area also occur roughly around the calendar year. As such, based on feedback from our existing volunteers, here are the positions we need to fill for next year:

- Field Trip Coordinator (co-chair w/ Elena Nelson)
- Hospitality

Additionally, there are a few slots that the current volunteer has expressed a willingness to step aside if there's another member who wants to take over:

- YouTube/Education Video Uploader
- BCN Representative (one of 4)

These positions are equally important to keeping the club running the way everyone's used to, so if the Executive Committee isn't your cup of tea, please give some consideration to these roles – you'll have plenty of people around who can support you through the learning curve. Thanks in advance to everyone for your help getting us over the finish line for this term and helping us keep the club going strong for the future.

Matt Crisler
Crislrmj@gmail.com

October Meeting, October 8, 7:00 pm - In Person and Via Zoom

From Calumet to Lincoln Park and Beyond: The Black-crowned Night Herons of Chicago



Photo courtesy of Amy Lardner

Presenter: Amy Lardner, Founder, the Chicago Black-crowned Night Heron Project

In 1992, more than 1,600 Black-crowned Night Herons were counted in Chicago's Calumet region and in other breeding sites across Illinois. Today, the species is Illinois-endangered with declining populations and breeding colonies across the Great Lakes and the Northeast. Lincoln Park Zoo is now home to Illinois' largest remaining breeding colony.

Amy Lardner, founder of the Black-crowned Night Heron Project, will explore the history and future of Chicago's herons, including research on tracking, migration and conspecific attraction, as well as the creative collaboration that has produced life-size 3D decoys and the project's 20-volunteer Heron Ambassador program at the rookery and elsewhere. She'll share how outreach and education can build awareness and support for research and long-term conservation.

In 2027, the Zoo colony enters its 20th nesting season, while Illinois marks 50 years of listing the species as endangered.

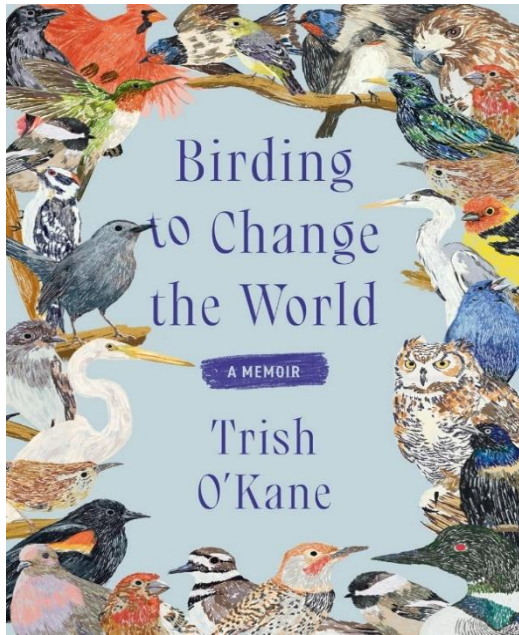
About our Presenter

Amy Lardner grew up in Davenport, Iowa, in a family that loved nature and birds. As a grade-schooler, she learned about the bald eagles decline due to the use of DDT and organized her class to write letters advocating for its protection. After earning her MDA and spending much of her career in the auto industry, she found her way back to nature through the organizations Cook County Master Naturalists, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, Openlands TreeKeepers and Chicago Piping Plovers.

When Amy learned about a 2021 Chicago construction project that caused the destruction of a Lincoln Park Black-crowned Night Heron nesting site, she got involved and stayed with it. Today, she is founder of the Chicago Black-crowned Night Heron Project, bringing together the public, scientists and conservation efforts around these Illinois-endangered birds.

Location: College of DuPage and Zoom.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/WtatvI6kSZSiXJDgk3o7yg>



DBC Book Club Next Read—*Birding to Change the World*, by Trish O’Kane

In this uplifting environmental memoir, a professor and activist shares what birds can teach us about life, social change, and protecting the environment.

Trish O’Kane is an accidental ornithologist who, in her nearly two decades writing about justice as an investigative journalist, had never paid attention to nature. But then Hurricane Katrina destroyed her New Orleans home, sending her into an emotional tailspin.

Enter a scrappy cast of feathered characters—first a cardinal, urban parrots, and sparrows, then a catbird, owls, a bittern, and a woodcock—that cheered her up and showed her a new path. Inspired, O’Kane moved to

Madison, Wisconsin, to pursue an environmental studies PhD. There she became obsessed with birds—logging hours in a stunningly biodiverse urban park, filling field notebooks with the drama of local urban wildlife, and teaching ornithology to college students and middle-school kids.

When Warner Park—her daily birdwatching haven—was threatened with development, O’Kane and her neighbors mustered a mighty murmuration of nature lovers, young and old, to save the birds' homes. Through their inspiring community activism, she learned that once you get outside and look around, you're likely to fall in love with a furred or feathered creature—and find a flock of your own.

In *Birding to Change the World*, O’Kane details the astonishing science of bird life, from migration and parenting to the territorial defense strategies that influenced her own activism. A warm and compelling work of nature writing that weaves science and social engagement, this is the story of an improbably band of bird lovers who saved their park. And it is a blueprint for muscular citizenship, powered by joy.

The next book club meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to participate, contact Mike Warner at mwarner2543@gmail.com.

Welcome New Members!

Ian Carrus Naperville

Lalith Chintam Naperville

Volunteering is Good for You!



Photo courtesy of Diann Bilderback

Have you ever thought about the many benefits of volunteering? The DuPage Birding Club offers its members a wide range of volunteering opportunities that don't just enhance the value of the Club, it also gives its members many chances for improvement on many levels.

It can enhance your mental wellbeing by reducing stress, increasing life satisfaction, and boosting self-esteem. Engaging in purposeful activities shifts focus from personal worries to meaningful action, which can lower anxiety and depression levels and strengthen your sense of identity and confidence. It also provides a sense of purpose, helping individuals feel part of something larger than themselves, which is particularly valuable during life transitions such as retirement, job loss, or bereavement.

Many volunteer roles involve light physical activity, which can improve physical health by increasing daily movement and keeping you active. For example, tasks like assisting in hospitals or community events can contribute to better overall fitness and mobility.

Volunteering fosters social connections and reduces loneliness by connecting you with people who share your values and interests. It helps build friendships, strengthens existing relationships, and encourages community engagement, creating a supportive network that enhances life satisfaction and a sense of belonging.

It provides opportunities to develop new skills, gain experience in different sectors, and fill gaps in your resume. It can improve employability by offering training, transferable skills, and networking opportunities. Impressing supervisors during volunteer work can also lead to references for future job applications. For those considering a career change or entering a new field, volunteering offers practical exposure and insight into different roles.

Volunteering allows you to support causes you care about, giving a sense of fulfillment and the opportunity to "pay it forward" by helping others. This altruistic engagement not only benefits the community but also enhances your own sense of meaning and satisfaction.

Overall, volunteering is a win-win activity: it benefits the community while improving your mental and physical health, expanding your social network, enhancing career prospects, and providing personal fulfillment. Even small commitments of time can have a meaningful impact on both the volunteer and those they help.

There are many volunteer opportunities with DuPage Birding Club. Please consider lending your time and talents to one of our open Board or committee roles and keep your club strong.

Hawkwatch, Come on Along!

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.

This commitment requires you to spend at least one day per week on the hill over a 3-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'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 public on weekdays!

Our start date was Sunday, September 1st, but we'll be counting once again through the end of 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.

Cornell Lab FeederWatch

What is FeederWatch?

Are you looking for a way to turn your casual winter feeder watching into something that helps scientists keep tabs on winter bird populations? Then FeederWatch was made for you! Project FeederWatch is a joint research and education program run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. Each year, FeederWatch engages tens of thousands of people in counting birds in their neighborhoods November–April. Researchers use this data to track trends in winter birds and learn about bird ecology and conservation during the nonbreeding season. Participants choose where, when, and how long to count birds. They submit their observations online or using the FeederWatch app.

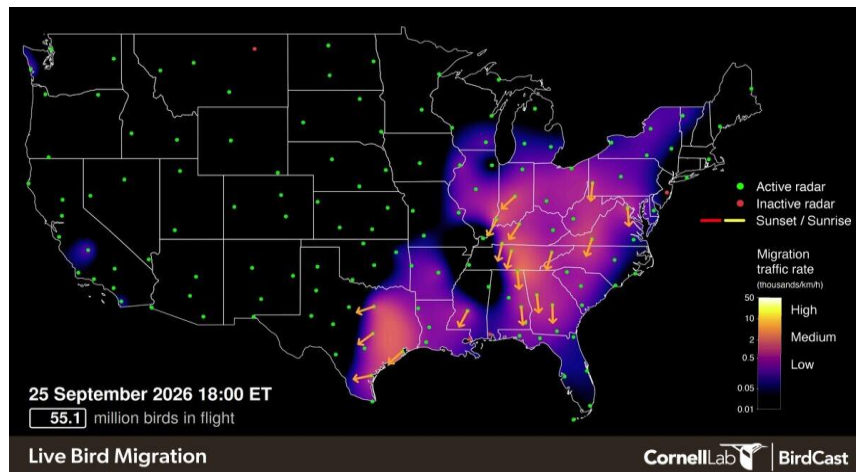
What are the benefits of participating?

FeederWatchers have access to:

- Exclusive events
- Discounts to Birds of the World
- Digital subscription to *Living Bird*
- Personalized data visualization tools to track birds at their count site

Now more than ever, ornithologists rely on participatory science programs like FeederWatch to keep tabs on bird populations. Join the fun and give back to the birds this winter!

Fall 2026 Migration Map



Fall migration is upon us and we hope you all are getting some fantastic sightings! Below you can find Bird Cast's latest map of the current migratory patterns. Hope it helps you with your birding adventures!

Find it at:

<https://birdcast.org>

2026 Volunteer Birding and Luncheon, Celebrating DBC Volunteers and Field Trip Leaders on October 17th, 2026

The DuPage Birding Club wouldn't be the same without the time and talents of its many volunteers and field trip leaders. To celebrate your incredible dedication, the DBC Board is hosting a special Volunteer Luncheon on Saturday, October 17th at St. James Farm.

This event is our way of saying thank you to everyone who has volunteered in any capacity over the last year. It's also a wonderful opportunity to socialize and catch up with your fellow club members.

Here is the schedule for the day:

- 9:00 AM – Birding Walk: Meet at the St. James parking lot off Winfield Rd.
- 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Luncheon: We will gather for food and socializing at the St. James indoor riding arena meeting space. You can find it inside the yellow building on the far right when looking from the parking lot (the same building where the restrooms are located).

You are welcome to join us for both activities, or you can skip the walk and join us just for lunch at 11:00 AM. Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 14th using this link: <https://forms.gle/1D1DXMr3J1E94ecs9> to help us get an accurate headcount for food.

Thank you to all our volunteers who support the club. We hope to see you there!

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

Save the Dates: Upcoming Regional Conservation Events

Chicago Wilderness Congress, November 6th

More than 30 presentations will 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/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=2037161&group=>

Christmas Bird Count, December 19th

The annual Christmas (CBC) for the Fermilab Circle is scheduled for December 19th this year! This is your chance to join the world's longest running community science program. The CBC brings together bird lovers across the continent to contribute research that helps ornithologists understand bird population abundance and trends. So, save the date, shine up those binoculars, and join one of the worthiest endeavors to support serious scientific study.

Wild Things Conference 2027

Please remember that 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!

For information on the conference, visit <https://www.wildthingscommunity.org/registration/>



enjoyable atmosphere.

First Quarterly Game Day October 10th

Our first two Wingspan board game days were so successful that we've decided to hold it on a regular, quarterly schedule! Come and 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

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.
It will take place on the second Saturday of the month and will run from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The next Wingspan Game Day is October 10th at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard, IL. See Field Trips section for more details and registration information.

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=47Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpiper, and Ruff

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=gyeXvMnZMqQ&list=PLQT3FeXShqcjPk6OxPE6_itOgRXvWWaKF&index=22

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

The DBC's Photo Contest is looking for pictures of birds taken between July 1st, 2026, and December 31st, 2026. All photos are welcome: amateur, funny, imperfect, high-quality. The "story behind the shot" is considered when judging. The judges want this to be a fun contest as 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 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.

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.

Cantigny Accessible Birdwalks for Fall 2026

Join us at beautiful Cantigny for our fall Accessible Birdwalks. The walks are planned to last for 90 minutes but can be extended beyond that time.

Dates:

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

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

See you there!

Upcoming Field Trips

Field Trip Guidelines

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 event of severe weather. If registration is 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 Fieldtrips 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)

Wednesday, September 30, 8:00 am – 10:30 am, Morton Arboretum, West Side, Lisle

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 12 participants. 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 October 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 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 complete 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

Tuesday, October 6, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Fermilab, Warrenville

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

Join us on a visit to Fermilab to look for fall migrants. Based on a tip that uncommon sparrows such as Nelson's and LeConte's sometimes grace this area at this time of year, we'll do our best to see what we can find. We'll start exploring the area around Lake Law and possibly explore the bison pasture area as well. IMPORTANT: To be able to access this Federal facility, the US government requires a passport or Real ID to be shown to the security guard at the gate. Let me know if you have any questions about that or anything else.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/do6FGXkUWyTgETzV6>

Leader: Vince Sherwin, vince1230@comcast.net, (630) 699-4936

Wednesday, October 7, 8:30 am – 10:30 am, Herrick Lake, Wheaton

No Registration Required.

Meet at the Herrick Lake Boat house, restrooms available. We will check out Herrick Lake, then work towards the meadow via the woods on limestone trails.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/RBHqarjmA6DhKtn1A>

Leader: Laurel Salvador (630) 534-0734

Saturday, October 10, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Wingspan Game Day at Helen Plum Library, Lombard

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 24 participants.

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.

Meet at the Plum Meeting Rooms on the first floor of Helen Plum Library, 411 S Main St, Lombard, IL 60148. To register, email Elena and let us know if you've played before.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hBw1CwQPDwhoGPpH6>

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

Saturday, October 10, 3:45 pm – 7:30 pm, Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

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

We will be looking for late migrants and remaining residents. The trip will conclude with a search for the local owls (Great-Horned/Barred), so a red flashlight is recommended. Lyman's trails are uneven and almost always muddy regardless of weather. We will walk approximately 2 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/g3pH8Qwj9E1aknJf8>

Leader: Matt Crisler, crislermj@gmail.com

Wednesday, October 14, 7:30 am – 9:30 am, Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, Oak Brook

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

Let's see what fall migrants we can find along the creek and in the wooded areas. This preserve often has an interesting variety that pass through. Meet in front of the nature center. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/FvBtF4KvEQF8BAoc9>

Leader: Nancy Allured, nallured@gmail.com

Friday, October 16, 8:00 am – 10:30 am, DuPage River Park, Bolingbrook

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 10 participants. Registration with the leader is required. Enjoying the big skies, we'll explore grassland, edge, and riverside habitat along the east branch of the DuPage River, looking for late migrants and those who may be sticking around for the winter. New birders welcome! Trails are mostly grass with some blacktop. Meet in the parking lot east of Braddock Drive at 808 Royce Road.

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

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

Saturday, October 17, 9:00 am – 11:00 am, DBC Volunteer Bird Walk and Luncheon at St. James Farm Forest Preserve, Warrenville

Registration with the leader is required, please RSVP using this link:

<https://forms.gle/1D1DXMr3J1E94ecs9>.

In order to thank everyone who has volunteered on behalf of the club, the DBC board is sponsoring a bird walk from 9am to 11am followed by a lunch of sandwiches and salad served inside riding arena from 11am to 1pm. If you have volunteered in any way in the past year, please join us:

<https://forms.gle/1D1DXMr3J1E94ecs9>.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/a8XbihAX9c5c3fCm9>

Leader: Jeff Reiter and Elena Nelson

Sunday, October 18, 8:00 am – 10:30 am, Danada Forest Preserve – West, Naperville

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

On this trip we will be exploring the western part of Danada Forest Preserve searching for migrants across several habitats as well as keeping an eye out for any common returning winter birds that are settling back in. We will also check several different ponds to look for migrant waterfowl.

Please meet on the west side of the Forest Preserve HQ parking lot at 8am.

https://maps.app.goo.gl/i7jZNvXFtffBcu8D9?g_st=ic

Leader: Henry Meade, meadehenry21@gmail.com

Saturday, October 24, 8:00 am – 11:30 am, McHenry Dam State Park, Holiday Hills, IL

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

We'll take a leisurely walk around the gravel 2-mile loop trail stopping at the observation decks to watch and photograph waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes, Rusty Blackbirds, and other late migrants. We will meet at the McHenry Dam parking lot. Wear bug spray.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Xpg15D5ErhL5ECBc9>

Leader: Elena Nelson, ladylena76@gmail.com

Sunday, October 25, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Seager Park, Naperville

Registration with the leader is required. Limit 12 participants. Registration for nonmembers opens on October 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 late migrants and seeing who might be staying for winter in this little gem of a park. Trails are a mix of dirt, grass, and pavement. Meet in the parking lot at 1163 Plank Road, Naperville.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FJhBUMPEhnhk5Bufj8>

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

Tuesday, October 27, 8:00 am – 10:30 am, Fermilab, Warrenville

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

Please note that Fermilab is a government research facility and has strict access requirements. All participants aged 18 and over must have a REAL-ID compliant state ID or passport to enter the site. When on site you must always remain in public areas. When arriving at Fermilab, present your ID and let the security guard know you are here for bird watching.

Enter from Batavia Road. We will meet at the 'Red Barn Area' located at the end of Sauk Circle. We will scan the lakes for waterfowl and take a walk from there looking for migrants and local birds. We will travel about 1-1/2 miles on a trail that is a dirt path.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/kuja5y2KBfE32Pb86>

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

Saturday, October 31, 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 the wind is good, we can see many migrating Broad-winged Hawks in late September. It is a good idea to bring a jacket, hat, and gloves 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.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Greene+Valley+Scenic+Overlook/>

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



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:
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