



President's Message

Spring migration should be in full swing within the next few weeks. Although we're having a slow start, the early migrants are starting to show up in a few of the hot spots in DuPage and surrounding counties. As I read the reports, I can visualize a large map of the area slowly being filled in with sightings in DuPage County, Cook, Will, Kane, and Kendall counties. Montrose point and LaBagh woods in the city have been very active in the past and early signs indicate that they will be very active this year also. Our shorebirds sightings are starting to come in as the fluddles and the flooded farm fields in the rural areas have yielded some sightings. Unfortunately, due to the lack of rainfall, some of these areas have started to dry up. Hopefully, we'll have some rain and continue to have sightings as we move forward.

IBET (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ILbirds/conversations/messages?o=1>) and eBird (<http://ebird.org>) are great resources for tracking birds including when and where they have been seen. These resources have great educational value along with tips on birding etiquette. Recently, there have been some reports posted about sensitive species. More specifically, owl nesting sites and whooping crane sightings. There are guidelines in place to avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger. The full article can be viewed at (<http://help.ebird.org/customer/portal/articles/1006789>) Key bullet points are:

- >Wait until the season is over and the sensitive species have left before reporting to eBird. You can always edit your checklists later to include the sensitive species after the birds have left.
- >Do not provide explicit coordinates or directions to sensitive species. Use the general area instead of exact directions.
- >Delay reporting observations. This way news of rarities will not show up on everyone's computer and cause birders to go flocking to the location.
- >You can also hide observations in eBird after you have submitted a checklist. Go to manage my observations, click on the checklist you want to hide and scroll to the bottom. There is a link to hide the checklist.

Finally, Keep your distance and quietly make your observations, especially if there is a group of birders in the area. By the time you read this the May field trip schedule should be out. Please take advantage of the wonderful opportunities to bird with your fellow club members and guests during the migration period. You never know what sightings you may experience during this exciting time of the year.

I want to tell you that the committee's and the board have been working very hard to enhance your birding experience. Look for announcements real soon about our auction and special event that will be posted on the web site. I hope you will be as excited as we are when you read about what is planned for the near future.

Continues next page

Next Meeting

May, 11, 2017
7:00 p.m. Social Time
7:30 p.m. Speaker

Faith Lutheran Church
41 N. Park Blvd. Glen Ellyn
Basement

6:00 p.m. Pre-meeting dinner
Panera Bread
541 Roosevelt Rd. Glen Ellyn

Upcoming Events

May 6th.
Spring Bird Count

October 12
DBC Auction

Finally, there will be a new feature in the Drummings called “In case you missed it”. Approximately, 1/3rd of our membership attend our meetings on any given meeting day. That means 2/3rds of our membership missed the presentation of the program that was featured. The “in case you missed it” files will be a brief re-cap of the presentation along with any other information available. We will catch up on this feature as we move forward.

Good birding and we'll see you in the field.

Stan Zatarski

May 11 DBC Meeting

Illinois Peregrines
Mary Hennen, Chicago Field Museum

Historically, an estimated 400 to 500 pairs of Peregrines once nested in the Midwest and eastern United States. But by the 1960s, the species had been extirpated and only a few were seen during migration. The primary cause was the buildup of DDT and its byproducts in the birds. These accumulated chemicals caused addling of eggs, abnormal reproductive behavior in adults, and thinning of shells, which led to egg breakage.

In 1972, the government banned the use of DDT in the United States, and a year later, placed the Peregrine Falcon on the Federal Endangered Species List. During this same time period, the Peregrine Fund was established. It oversaw the reintroduction of Peregrines in the east using a process called hacking, a delicate method of releasing birds back into the wild.

The Midwest launched its own release programs in the 1980s under the coordination of the Raptor Center in Minnesota. The Chicago Peregrine Program began in 1985 as a cooperative effort between the Chicago Academy of Sciences, Lincoln Park Zoo, Illinois Department of Conservation, and Illinois Audubon Society. From 1986-1990, the Peregrine Program released a total of 46 Peregrines from four different hack sites.

The goal was to help re-establish Peregrines on a regional basis in the Midwest, with the hope that some birds would return to Illinois to breed. This regional falcon dispersal can be seen through the identity of our adult Peregrines. Over the years, Illinois-based birds have originated from nest sites located in Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. When population levels in the Midwest finally began to rise, the focus of Peregrine programs shifted from releasing birds to monitoring nesting pairs. Illinois has now progressed from having only a single breeding pair at the Chicago-Wacker site in 1988, to 12 breeding pairs in over 23 different territories by 2011.

Peregrines in Illinois are now doing great! The Chicago Peregrine Project, led by Mary Hennen, has achieved the goal of having a self-sustaining population of Illinois' breeding falcons at a low risk (less than 1%) of statewide extirpation. The Peregrine Falcon was removed from the Illinois Endangered and Threatened Species List. (Peregrines were removed from the federal list in 1999.)

Mary is the Assistant Manager of Collections in the Bird Division at the Field Museum. In addition to her regular duties of caring for the ornithological collections, she directs the Chicago Peregrine Program. She has been involved with Peregrines since 1989 and took over as director in 1990. Work with Peregrines involves banding young, retrieving injured birds, and monitoring wild breeding pairs in Illinois. Continued monitoring is critical for evaluating population viability and verification of the population recovery. Mary leads this important effort and will share her enthusiasm and expertise with us.



Peregrine Primer

The Peregrine Falcon is the world's most widespread raptor known for its speed which can top 200 mph in a stoop. Its name comes from the Latin Peregrinus meaning a foreigner or traveller. There are 17-19 subspecies described 3 of which occur in North America. *Falco peregrinus anatum* is the American Peregrine or Duck Hawk and was originally found across North America. *F.p. tundrius* breeds in the arctic and migrates to Central and South America. *F.p. pealei* is non-migratory and found in the Pacific Northwest.

The famous Maltese Falcon would be *F.p. brookei* also known as the Mediterranean Falcon.

Save the Date for the Biennial DBC Auction!

The DuPage Birding Club will again hold our biennial fall auction on **Thursday, October 12, 2017**, at Cantigny Park in Wheaton. Be sure to save the date to join your birding friends and bid on a variety of exciting bird-themed auction items at this always-popular event. New this year, a portion of the proceeds from the auction will be donated to a local bird-related project of the membership's choice! The projects that club members can choose from will be described at the beginning of the May 11 club meeting. Watch for an email shortly after that meeting, which will give all club members a chance to vote for their preferred project to receive funding.

In Case You Missed It – Members’ Night – March 9, 2017

The annual DBC Members’ Night was packed with presentations by 11 club members who shared some outstanding photos and stories of their birding adventures around the world.

The first presenter, Dharma Alagaratnam, shared images from Sri Lanka, the country of his birth, that included Sri Lankan Junglefowl, frogmouths, bee-eaters, hornbills, and his prize photo, a Sri Lanka Blue Magpie found deep in a rainforest. Steve Aram shared birds he spotted on a trip down the Texas Gulf Coast, ranging from brilliant Green Jays at Sabal Palm Sanctuary to a well-camouflaged Common Pauraque at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. Sara Boskovich, who travelled to India and Nepal in 2016, shared some opportunistic photos she captured of exotic species like the Hoopoe, the Black-rumped Flameback (similar to our Pileated Woodpecker), and a Spotted Owlet she encountered at the Taj Mahal.

John Baker, DBC’s Vice President, chipped in with amazing photos from his travels to Australia and Papua New Guinea, as well as a variety of raptors from Ethiopia. In addition to fantastical birds like honeyeaters and Apostlebirds, John also treated us to photos of red kangaroos and an eerie bridal veil mushroom that only blooms at night. Steve Fluett then poetically shared his early-spring experience witnessing tens of thousands of Sandhill Cranes along the Platte River in Nebraska, along with Greater Prairie-Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse on the lek.

Leading the back half of the night, Urs Geiser shared some highlights from his January trip to Arizona, which included four different “flavors” of junco at one lodge, characteristic species of the desert Southwest like Verdin, and Rosy-faced Lovebirds. The Phoenix area is the only place to see the latter species in the ABA area. Bonnie Graham showed images from her seven-night camping trip in the Grand Tetons as well as some gorgeous photos from closer to home at the Montrose “candy store” and at Fermilab, where she watched a young Red-tailed Hawk practice its hunting skills with sticks! Denis Kania shared photos of both birds and mammals from an August 2016 trip he led to Africa, which several other DBC members attended. Over two-plus weeks they found 56 mammal species and 411 bird species, and were able to celebrate Denis’ 4,000th life bird, the Crimson-breasted Gonolek.

E.J. Neafsey added something unique to the night with a special video that featured footage of several bird species set to the song “We Become Birds” by folk singer Michael Smith. Dick Yamasaki presented several stunning photos from his collection with a focus on interesting behaviors, such as a Black-billed Cuckoo eating tent caterpillars, an Eastern Kingbird pursuing a Turkey Vulture, and—farther afield—an ant-thrush that appears on schedule to be fed worms in Ecuador. Finally, Jerry Zamirowski rounded out the program by sharing his photos from a BirdWatcher’s Digest trip to McAllen, Texas, which included several southwestern highlights from King’s Ranch, plus a resting Common Pauraque that just may have been the same bird from an earlier presentation.

[See It On Line](#)

The Mental-Health Benefits of Bird Watching : https://experiencelife.com/article/bird-watching/?et_cid=3282825&et rid=41078170&et_attr1

Learn Bird Songs - Bird Academy : <https://academy.allaboutbird-s.org/courses/be-a-better-birder-how-to-identify-bird-songs/>

Discover the World of Citizen Science : <http://crowdandcloud.org/>

Treasurer's Report for Drumblings Newsletter

DuPage Birding Club finances remain solid and provide a strong basis for ongoing operations. Membership totals are within the historical range.

| Category/Year | 2015 | 2016 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Income | | |
| Dues | \$ 5,405 | \$ 5,075 |
| Auction | 5,687 | 0 |
| Other | <u>120</u> | <u>51</u> |
| Total Income | \$11,212 | \$ 5,126 |
| Expense | | |
| Grants, Donations, Outreach | \$ 4,759 | \$ 2,689 |
| Auction | 884 | 0 |
| Meetings & Speakers | 2,579 | 2,893 |
| Operations | <u>2,707</u> | <u>1,610</u> |
| Total Expense | \$10,929 | \$ 7,192 |
| Year End | | |
| Assets | \$15,679 | \$13,555 |
| Memberships | 232 | 224 |

Respectfully submitted,



Jon Grainger, Treasurer
19 Apr 2017

MAY 2017 FIELD TRIPS

The coming months are the peak time for migratory birds. These field trips are designed to cover areas where we hope to see migrating waterfowl, raptors, passerines, returning species and shore birds. Migration gives way to grassland birding. We are offering a variety of field trips, including mid-week extra trips. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season. There is special support for new birders on some trips. Participants, please remember that the weather can be variable, and trails can be muddy, so dress accordingly, and bring protection for biting insects, including ticks. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent. Situations can sometimes change, please check our DBC website www.dupagebirding.org for the latest status information. Participants are welcome to contact the leader if they have any questions. Our field trip leaders can help you find the trip's starting location if you need additional directions.

Monday, May 1, 4:30 pm

Danada Forest Preserve (East side)

Meet at the parking lot east of Naperville Rd. between Butterfield Rd. & Warrenville Rd. . We will be searching for resident species, and migrant species, through a variety of habitats including woodlands, prairie, and Rice Lake.

Leader: Kyle Wiktor, 708-506-5186, kylewiktor@msn.com

Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 am

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Join our morning walk around the marsh to check out migrating birds and waterfowl. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Rd., located between Winfield Rd. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville. Most of our walk will be on Preserve limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

Leader: Kyle Wiktor, 708-506-5186, kylewiktor@msn.com

Friday, May 5, 7:30 am – 10:30 am

Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, Darien

Meet at the gravel pull-offs at Cass/Bluff. Take Cass Ave south from I-55 until it ends at Bluff, and pull into gravel parking spots. Warblers and summer breeding birds are our targets. If trail conditions are good, we will include a short trek to look for Prothonotary Warblers (this short trek can include wet/muddy trails so please be prepared.) Optional trip to nearby Des Plaines Riverway FP afterwards for Prothonotaries-rubber boots a must at this second location if trail is passable. **Leader:** Vicky Sroczynski, 630-964-8277, Cell 630-297-9512, vsroczynski@comcast.net

Friday, May 5, 2017 5:00 pm

Know Your Neighborhood: Bartlett

The fifth of twelve 'Know Your Neighborhood' trips, exploring hidden gems, odd and under-birded hot spots in DuPage County, we will walk at O'Brien Woods/Wayne Grove in search of spring migrants. Meet at the northernmost end of the recreation center parking lot by entering off of Bartlett Rd. We will be walking on wood chip and dirt trails, so wear proper footwear, especially if there is a rain event leading up, because the trails may get muddy.

Leader: Glenn Perricone at 630-687-2921 or gp_arts39@yahoo.com

Saturday, May 6, 2017 8:00 pm

Birding By Ear: Nocturnal Flight Calls

After finishing your Spring Bird Count, come and wind down atop Mt. Hoy while we conduct a casual nocturnal flight call count. During migration, we only observe a fraction of the migrants that pass through an area during the daylight hours. After dark fall, many species of neotropical migrants follow the stars and move through the night sky. We will sit atop Mt. Hoy and listen for these migrants! Enter Blackwell Forest Preserve from Butterfield Rd. and head right, following along Silver Lake. Park at the Tube Sled checkout, beside Mt. Hoy. Be advised, it is a sharp incline and long walk up the hill. A lawn chair is recommended, binoculars are not required.

Leader: Glenn Perricone at 630-687-2921 or gp_arts39@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 7, 7:30 am

Elsen's Hill/West DuPage Woods, Winfield

This location has the designation of "Important Bird Area." Elsen's Hill is known for spring migrating birds, and is a traditionally excellent spot for warblers. Take Winfield Rd. to Gary's Mill Rd. Go west on Gary's Mill Rd. to the Preserve parking lot entrance on the north side of the road. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing and boots for muddy trails.

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

Tuesday, May 9, 7:30 am

Meacham Grove & other North DuPage Preserves

We will again explore the birding opportunities at several of the forest preserves in north DuPage County, including Meacham Grove, East Branch, and possibly more. We will look for grassland birds, shorebirds, and waterfowl, such as great egrets, great blue herons, eastern meadowlarks, bobolinks, red-tailed hawks and kestrels. Meet at the Meacham Grove parking lot to begin a morning of birding. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes for this morning of birding. In case of inclement weather on the day of the trip, please call your trip leader to see if the event is still on.

Leader: Bob Spitzer, 630-790-4842, (birding day Cell: 630-222-3307), bobspitzer@msn.com

Friday, May 12, 7:30 am

Morton Arboretum, Lisle

We will be looking for warblers and other migrants on this morning trip. Meet at parking lot #13 on the east side. Parking Lot #13 is across the main road from Big Rock. Maps are available at the gates. The Arboretum is located just north of

I-88 off Rte. 53. There is a per-person charge for nonmembers. Admission is \$14.00 per adult and \$12.00 for 65+.

Note the Arboretum does not open its gates until 7 a.m. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes.

Leaders: Marcia & Lee Nye, 630-605-6374, warbler4908@gmail.com

Sunday, May 14, 2017 8:15 am

Fermilab, Batavia

Come celebrate the 50th anniversary of Fermilab with a bird walk, open to all! We will be looking for spring migrants and early summer breeding birds! Last year on this week, over 100 species of bird were observed at Fermilab. We will meet on the east side of the site at the Red (Anderson) Barn at 8:15 am and explore the Village Lakes, Sparrow Hedge and Prairie. Be advised this field trip will last around four hours and we will walk approximately 3 miles with an option to leave at the half way point. We will be walking extensively through uneven terrain on unpaved paths. Take proper precautions against biting insects, especially ticks. It is recommended to bring a water bottle.

Leader: Glenn Perricone at 630-687-2921 or gp_arts39@yahoo.com

Thursday, May 18, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Herrick Lake Forest Preserve

We will meet off the Butterfield Road parking lot at the Boat Rental building. Here is the official DuPage County Forest Preserve link for driving directions: http://www.dupageforest.org/Herrick_Lake_Map.aspx There are restrooms and water available at the start of the walk. We will walk on marked trails and bird various ecosystems: woodland, aquatic, wetland and prairie looking for migrants and residents.

Leader: Laurel Salvador, 630-344-9803, laurelsalvador@yahoo.com

Saturday, May 20, 7:00 am

Glacial Park, McHenry County - Pre-registration requested

We will meet at the SE part of the shopping area parking lot on the NW corner of Finley and Butterfield Road, Downers Grove (in front of the Duluth Trading store). From there we will car pool together to the McHenry County location. The driving time is over one hour. Four hundred acres of state designated nature preserve form the central core of the 3,412-acre Glacial Park. In recent years, the district has protected additional acres of wetland and prairie in the south and west of the park and more of the Nippersink corridor on the east. See <http://www.mccdistrict.org/rccms/> (from this site search for locations) or try this site: <http://www.mccdistrict.org/rccms/index.php/glacialpark/>

Try this website for a map. http://www.mccdistrict.org/rccms/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Glacial-Park-4-panel_12-2014-web.pdf

We will look for birds across a variety of habitats. We will walk almost two miles with some "up's and down's". Wear appropriate clothing and shoes. We plan to have lunch at a nearby location. We plan to be back to the Butterfield and Finley parking lot by 4:00 pm. We would appreciate your sending an email or calling us about your participation, and any alternate "logistical" arrangements.

Leaders: Bob and Jean Spitzer, 630-790-4842, (birding day Cell: 630-222-3307), bobspitzer1@msn.com
John Cebula, 630-858-3767 (birding day: Cell 630-640-2721) joceb2005@sbcglobal.net

Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 am

Waterfall Glen (West)

We will walk a four-mile loop on limestone trails to look for later migrants and nesting shrub land birds, ending at the Des Plaines River overlook. In case participants do not want to trek the whole four miles, we will stop halfway and it is easy to return to parking lot for a two-mile walk, if desired. Meet at the parking lot off Lemont road on the west side of Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve. Please bring a hat and water bottle, as shade is limited at this location.

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, 630-964-8277, Cell 630-297-9512, vsroczynski@comcast.net

Thursday, May 25, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Herrick Lake Forest Preserve

We will meet off the Butterfield Road parking lot at the Boat Rental building. Here is the official DuPage County Forest Preserve link for driving directions: http://www.dupageforest.org/Herrick_Lake_Map.aspx There are restrooms and water available at the start of the walk. We will walk on marked trails and bird various ecosystems: woodland, aquatic, wetland and prairie looking for migrants and residents.

Leader: Laurel Salvador, 630-344-9803, laurelsalvador@yahoo.com

Other Birding Opportunities:

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Willowbrook Wildlife Center, Glen Ellyn, IL

Saturday, May 13, 2017 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Willowbrook Wildlife Center will be celebrating the natural spectacle of spring bird migration on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at the 10th annual **International Migratory Bird Day Celebration**. This is a wonderful time of year to enjoy migrating songbirds, especially in their beautiful breeding colors. Willowbrook has a number of activities planned to celebrate the arrival of these "feathered jewels". (Reservations are not required.)

- **Adult Bird Walks** (New Birders are Welcome!) - 8:00 am
- **Bird Banding** from 9:00 to 11:00 (weather permitting)
- **Family Bird Walk** - 10:30 am

Willowbrook Wildlife Center

525 S Park Blvd

Glen Ellyn, IL 61037

Field Trip Coordinators

Joan Campbell

peachjmc@gmail.com

Nancy Allured

DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com

DuPage Birding Club

The club exists to provide fun and camaraderie between birders of all skill levels and ages while enjoying some serious birding experiences.

Member Benefits include:

- Meetings featuring regional and national speakers
- Field Trips throughout the year
- Informative Club Website
- Illinois Spring Bird Count
- Christmas Bird Count
- DuPage County Checklist
- Lending Library of bird-related videos & books
- Biennial Auction of birding items

Contact Us at dbcboard@gmail.com

President : Stan Zatarski

Vice President, Programs :John Baker

Send your articles and photos to chipnotes2013@gmail.com for inclusion in **DRUMMINGS**.

DuPage Birding Club
P.O. Box 3381
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

First Class



2017 Meetings

January 12

March 9

April 6

May 11

July 13

September 14

October 12

November 9

The photocopying of this newsletter is done through the generosity of the Birches Assisted Living Facility in Clarendon Hills. DuPage Birding Club sincerely appreciates the Birches' continued support.