



Presidents Message

Spring is officially here, so we're all awaiting the return of the migrating birds. Many of the birds that migrate to or through Illinois come from the Gulf Coast area, but some come from Central and South America. Some even fly across the Gulf of Mexico, an incredible journey.

Billions of birds migrate each year. Many cross oceans, deserts, and mountains to go from their wintering grounds to their breeding grounds, always in search of better food. How do they do it? How do they know when to go and where to go? The complete answers to these questions are not yet fully known, but progress is being made on understanding the complex elements of bird migration.

I'm sure many of you subscribe to *National Geographic*. But for those who don't, I want to make you aware of an awesome article in the March 2018 issue, *Epic Journeys*, which explores these questions. I think it is worthwhile reading for all bird lovers, so perhaps a journey to your local library to read it, if you're not a subscriber?

Amazingly, some birds, even with their tiny brains, navigate by the stars. These are primarily small land birds that migrate at night. Bar-headed geese are the highest-flying migrants: they fly over the Himalayas. They winter in India and Myanmar (Burma) but breed in China and Mongolia. Some birds are reluctant to fly across large stretches of water. That's why in the fall birds congregate at Cape May—reluctant to fly across the mouth of the Delaware River. They eventually work up the courage, however. Short-eared Owls, on the other hand, can fly over long stretches of water—they appear in Iceland, among other remote places.

Unfortunately, man is often not helping migrating birds, and some long-range migrants are in steep decline. One prime example is the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, an Asian species that migrates over the East Asian-Australasian Flyway between its breeding grounds in north-east Siberia and its wintering grounds, the tidal mudflats of South-east Asia. There are only about 300 of these birds left, due to habitat destruction as a result of industrial development of its migration staging sites along the Chinese coast.

Closer to home, the Red Knot is officially "Near Threatened" due to serious declines in numbers. The birds breed in the high arctic and winter as far south as Tierra del Fuego in southern South America. It is hypothesized that the birds have become threatened because of commercial harvesting of horseshoe crabs in critical stopover points during spring migration; the birds refuel by eating the eggs laid by these crabs.

Bobolinks are in decline partly due to prairie habitat loss on their breeding grounds in the US but also because farmers in Venezuela, their wintering grounds, shoot them in the mistaken impression that they eat their rice. Reversing these alarming trends will require a diversity of conservation efforts.

John Baker

Next Meeting

April 12, 2018
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
751 Roosevelt Rd. Glen Ellyn

Note NEW LOCATION



April Meeting

Warbler Refresher Class



Want to brush up on your warbler identification skills, just in time for spring migration? Through photos, videos and quizzes, we will look at field marks to help us figure out some of the 30ish species we can expect to see in DuPage. We will review the warbler timeline-which species arrive first in migration, and then in successive waves, so you know what birds to look for and when. We'll also talk about where to find these active and colorful birds- what kind of habitats different species prefer, and, at what heights they may be foraging- within those habitats. Go home with a resource list for further study, and get ready for an exhilarating two months of birding!



The DuPage County Spring Bird Count Needs You!

On Saturday May 5, 2018, 100 or more (and we hope it's more!) birders fan out across DuPage county to identify all the bird species they can find. Last year we found 156 species.

Come join us; we need more birders to make it possible to cover as many locations within the county as we can. You don't have to be an expert birder to participate; all skill levels are welcome. Even if you can only bird for part of the day, we can use you. And if that's your preference, you'll probably be able to look for birds close to home, since we divide the county into 17 areas, with teams scouring each area.

Contact Ron Skleney at DuPageSBC@gmail.com to sign up. If you've never done it before, it's an enjoyable, fun filled day. And you'll be amazed at the variety of bird species you will see.

April 2018 Field Trips

These early spring field trips are designed to cover areas where we hope to see early migrating waterfowl, raptors, early passerines, returning species and shorebirds. We are offering many field trips, including mid-week 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 still be very cold, and trails can be muddy, so dress accordingly. As the weather warms, be prepared for insects and ticks. Enjoy birding in a safe manner.

Check the club website at [DuPageBirding.org](http://www.dupagebirding.org) for the latest information about field trips, meetings, and other club activities. <http://www.dupagebirding.org/>

Friday, April 6, 8:00 –11:00 am

Heritage Quarries Recreational Area (Lemont), Sag Quarries, & Palos Lakes

We are looking primarily for migrating waterfowl and gulls at “Lemont Quarries” and several Palos-area lakes. If you have a scope, please bring it. Please prepare for windy conditions. Directions: Take Lemont Road south past Bluff Road over the Des Plaines River and the I and M Canal; turn left onto Illinois Street, travel two very short blocks, take a left at the stop sign (Stephens), go one block, take a right at the light (Main), and drive three blocks east to the Turn About Pizza restaurant (on the right/south side)—at the restaurant, take the driveway on your left over the train tracks—this is Dan Fielding Drive, and you will see a large “K- Steel sign on your right, by the tracks. Turn right on Fielding Drive—and drive a short distance to parking lot on your right just before the canal. The parking lot has a sign for the preserve. Please plan on carpooling at Lemont Quarries, but we can all drive to nearby Sag Quarries, Saganashkee Slough, and possibly Bergmann Slough and Maple Lake, depending on what’s been seen.

Leader: Vicky Sroczyński, 630-297-9512, Vsroczyński@dupagebirding.org

Sunday, April 8, 6:00 am

Hennepin Area, Illinois River (Pre-registration required)

This will be an all-day trip. We will check areas along the Illinois River then spend much of the day at the Dixon Waterfowl Refuge. Target birds will be waterfowl, along with other migrants and local specialties. We will be stopping for lunch on the way, but bring plenty of water and snacks. Scopes would be useful. We will meet and carpool from the “Park & Ride” parking lot on Old Chicago Drive, on the east side of Rte. 53 about 1/4 mile south of I-55 in Bolingbrook (behind the Ramada Inn). Pre- registration required with the leader.

Leader: Jeff Smith, Cell: 331-481-3362, JSmith@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, April 14, 7:30 am

Cantigny Park, Wheaton

Cantigny started a birding program in 2008 and offers regular walks on the 500-acre property. Please bear in mind that 25 or more birders is common. Enter through the main gate on Winfield Road (just south of Roosevelt Rd.) and tell the attendant you are with the bird walk. Parking is free. Meet at the Visitors Center.

Leader: Jeff Reiter, jreiter@wordsonbirds.com

Saturday, April 14, 8:00 am

Greene Valley, Woodridge

This morning trip, will be oriented toward early spring migration. We will be at a leisurely pace to provide as much time as desired to look at each bird and to answer questions for any new birders. Meet at the Thunderbird Youth Camp Parking Lot. Go west on 79th about 1/2 mile, the entrance is on south side of 79th Street, west of Greene Road in Naperville/Woodridge.

Leader: Bonnie Graham, 630-204-8750, BGraham@dupagebirding.org

Wednesday April 18, 8:00 -10:30 am

Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, Darien

This is a morning field trip over unpaved, hilly trails, so ankle-supporting boots are helpful. Target birds are early migrants, including Pine Warblers and Broad-winged Hawks. Meet at the south ranger station parking lot. Take Cass Ave. south from I-55 until it ends at Bluff, turn left at stop sign, drive east to ranger station parking lot on right—please note, this parking lot fills up fast so arrive early. If you are running late, please call leader to see if you should park at the gravel pull-off at Cass/Bluff instead.

Leader: Vicky Sroczynski, 630-297-9512, Vsroczynski@dupagebirding.org

Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 pm

Woodcocks, Greene Valley Forest Preserve

Greene Valley Forest Preserve is known for its Woodcock displays which begin shortly after sunset. Join us on this spring walk. Meet at the west entrance parking lot, on the south side of 79th St. west of Greene Rd. in Woodridge.

Leader: Jeff Smith, 331-481-3362, Jsmith@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, April 21, 8:00 am

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Join another morning walk to the marsh to check out early migrating birds. We hope to see migrant waterfowl. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. 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: Kathy Mineck, 630-254-4077, KMineck@dupagebirding.org

Sunday, April 22, 7:30 am

Cricket Creek Forest Preserve, Addison

This morning trip, is especially designed for new birders and will be at a leisurely pace to provide as much time as desired to look at each bird and to answer questions on equipment or bird identification. Join us for a morning walk to check out this small preserve on the eastern side of DuPage County, right next to Salt Creek. Meet at the parking lot north of Fullerton Avenue (west of Rt. 83, east of Villa Avenue). Here is a link to a website map for Cricket Creek:

http://www.dupageforest.com/uploadedFiles/Content/District_News/Plans_and_Projects/cricket%20creek%20map.pdf

Leader: Andrew and Rebecca Steinmann, 708-533-6604, ASteinmann@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, April 28, 7:30am

Salt Creek Park Preserve

Salt Creek Park is a 97 acre preserve along Salt Creek and is immediately north of The Preserve at Oak Meadows. It features mowed turf trails that can be muddy if we have had an abundance of spring rains. Over 100 species have been recorded at this small preserve. Ron Skleney is the bird monitor at this preserve. Please be prepared for the weather and wear shoes/ boots you don't mind getting wet or muddy. Salt Creek Park is located on Elizabeth Drive in Wood Dale between Addison Rd and Wood Dale Rd. Meet at the picnic shelter.

Leader: Ron Skleney, Rskleney@Dupagebirding.org

Saturday, April 28, 10am-1pm

Jurgenson Woods, Lansing, Cook County

Join DBC member Jessica Becker and her team from the Forest Preserves of Cook County as they gear up for migration season. This family-friendly, public program will feature bird walks, bird themed games, artmaking, and more. This event is great for beginner birders and families. More information at:

<http://fpdcc.com/event/outdoor-adventures-following-migration/>

Leader: Jessica Becker, 312-415-2970, Jessica.Becker@cookcountyil.gov

Sunday, April 29, 7:30 am

Lyman Woods

This is a morning trip over gravel and earthen trails. This site has multiple habitats that attract birds. Springtime means muddy trails, and Lyman tends to be EXTREMELY muddy in some spots even during dry weather. The last few times I've scouted the property, some of the regularly visited sections were even worse (with mud and standing water) than it's even been in the past. We strongly recommend wearing boots and suitable clothing.

Leader: Joan Campbell, 630-337-2605, Jcampbell@dupagebirding.org

Other Birding Opportunities: For additional birding opportunities check out the **Illinois Birding Calendar** at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/calendar-2/>

Call us if you have questions about the trips or if you would like to lead a trip. Leaders do not have to be birding experts, just familiar with the location. There is no need to register for trips *unless otherwise indicated*. Visitors are always welcome. We do not charge fees for birding trips. Field trip information is also found at:

www.dupagebirding.org

Field Trip Coordinators:

Nancy Allured and Jessica Becker

DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com

News from the Wacky World of the Web

Warming temperatures may cause birds to shrink

Science Magazine

Biologists have known for a long time that animals living in colder climates tend to have larger bodies, supposedly as an adaptation to reduce heat loss. However, understanding h.. [Read the full story](#)

Meet the birds that work as wingmen for other males

Popular Science

Sex in the animal kingdom isn't all about competition. Sometimes males help each other out. [Read the full story](#)

Nigel, the world's loneliest bird, dies next to the concrete decoy he loved

The Washington Post

The gannet heeded conservationists' calls to settle on a small New Zealand island. Unfortunately, no eligible ladies did. [Read the full story](#)

Fire escape: how California's wildfires forced this baby condor to fly

The Verge

"Our little phoenix" [Read the full story](#)



A couple of rare sightings captured in photographs. On the left a rare four-winged Sandhill Crane which Katherine Howard shot at Jasper-Pulaski. On the right the elusive flying cross (Asian Openbill) from Thailand.



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:

President: John Baker JBaker@DuPageBirding.org

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



2018 Meetings

January 11

March 8

April 12

May 10

July 12

September 13

October 11

November 8

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