



President's Message

Photographing Birds

This month's Members' Night—where we enjoy great bird photographs by our members—should cause us to stop and think about how difficult bird photography is and what talented members we have in our club. Taking great pictures takes a lot of time, talent, and dedication. I take a few snaps myself, but not the quality some of our members take.

I learned early on that the main thing it takes to take great bird photos is time. I was on my first birding tour abroad, in Kenya. I'd signed up for a group tour, but I was the only one to sign up, so got a private tour, which was great. When I first met my guide, Joseph, in the lobby of the Boulevard Hotel in Nairobi after breakfast, he saw my camera. He asked if I wanted a birding tour or a photography tour. I said birding but if the birds sat long enough I might try to take a picture. Then I asked what the difference was. He said that if it were a photography tour we'd only see about half as many birds, because of the time it took to get the lighting right, the bird close enough, the bird calm enough, the sight lines good, and so on.

But, if you have the time, the patience, and the desire, here are some tips I've picked up over the years.

Get the right equipment. A digital camera with at least a 200 mm lens (I use a 150 to 600 mm zoom myself).

Practice. Take pictures of birds at feeders or in parks where they're used to people. Get to know your camera gear inside and out, so you don't have to fumble when the perfect shot presents itself. Some smart digitals have automatic settings that work very well; some don't. Practice manual focus (if available on your camera) as autofocus sometimes focuses on the leaves, not the bird.

Be slow and quiet; blend in. I trust that we always do this when we are near birds, but it bears repeating. And don't wear loud colors. Some birds don't mind, but some do.

Study the surroundings. See what the birds are doing before rushing to photograph them.

Learn about your subjects. If there's a certain bird you'd like to photograph, learn about its habits, habitats, vocalizations, migration, and so on. These days it's easy to do on-line.

Hide. Some areas have blinds—use them. Or use natural cover wherever possible.

Tripod. With internal stabilization and low-noise chips, hand-held is often possible even with very long lenses. But the use of a tripod is even better for getting really sharp pictures. They are getting lighter and lighter.

Lighting. Morning and evening light is best—and the birds are often most active then, too. Lucky coincidence!

Level. This isn't always possible, but try to be at the bird's level.

Next Meeting

March 8, 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
541 Roosevelt Rd. Glen Ellyn

John Baker
President

Treasurer's Report for Drumblings Newsletter

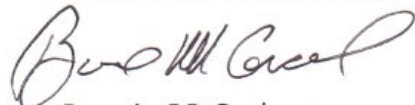
DuPage Birding Club finances remain solid and provide a strong basis for ongoing operations. Membership totals are within the historical range.

Category/Year	2016	2017
Income:		
Dues:	\$5,075	\$5,396
Auction	0	\$5,196
Other	\$51	\$160
Total Income	\$5126	\$10752
Expense:		
Grants, Donations, Outreach	\$2,689	\$5,616
Auction	0	\$817
Meetings/Speakers	\$2,893	\$1,371
Operations	\$1,610	\$1,558
Total Expense	\$7,192	\$9,362

Year End

Assets	\$13,555	\$15,122
Memberships	224	226

Respectfully Submitted



Bonnie RR Graham

Treasurer

2/1/2018

Proposed Changes to DBC's Leadership Structure

To distribute responsibilities more evenly across the club leadership and to make it easier to recruit new leaders, the 2017 board discussed ideas at length and at last December's meeting agreed to the following changes:

- VP/President becomes a 2-year term, with Past President NOT on the board as a voting member, but continuing to assist the board only in an optional, voluntary capacity.
- The Past President is no longer responsible for identifying the new slate of leadership positions. That responsibility falls to a Nominating Committee with a chair identified by the President.
- Three Directors "at large" will serve on the board rather than two.
- VP retains responsibility for planning programs as chair of a Programs Committee.
- Responsibility for coordinating the biennial auction shifts from the VP's job description to one of the Directors, who will chair the Auction Planning Committee.
- Programs Committee and Nominating Committee should be standing, active committees.

Many of these changes can be made without changing the club's bylaws, but some will require changing three articles of the bylaws. Article 12 of the bylaws states that all members must be notified of all proposed amendments at least two weeks before an annual meeting and that these amendments may be adopted by an affirmative vote of the majority of all club members present at that meeting.

Here are the proposed changes that attending members will vote on at the April 12 meeting, with changes in red:

Article 3

Officers & Executive Committee

The officers of the club shall be a President, Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer. Together with three ~~Directors, one of whom is the immediate past president~~ these officers shall constitute ~~an eight-person~~ Executive Committee.

Article 4

Election, Terms of Office

The Vice President/President Elect, the two Secretaries, the Treasurer, and ~~two~~ ~~three~~ Directors shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the members present at each annual meeting...

Article 5

Nominations

~~In August of each year~~ The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee ~~of not more than three members, with the immediate Past President as Chairperson~~, which shall prepare a slate of nominees to be presented to the membership for election at the annual meeting held in November. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

Any questions you may have on these amendments can be directed to Stan Zatarski (SZatarski@DuPageBirding.org), or John Baker (JBaker@DuPageBirding.org). To review the complete bylaws, see the last few pages of the DBC directory.

Steve Constantelos / DBC Recording Secretary

March 2018 Field Trips

NOTE: All last-minute changes are posted on dupagebirding.org/field-trips

These early spring field trips target migrating waterfowl, raptors, passerines and shorebirds plus some returning breeders. We are offering a variety of field trips, including mid-week trips. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season. We encourage everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner. Please remember that the weather can still be very cold, and trails can be muddy, so dress accordingly, wearing proper warm clothing and appropriate footwear.

Wednesday, March 7, 7:30 am

Bemis Woods South, Western Springs

Join us at Bemis Woods South for a morning of birding. This will be a walk for new birders. We will walk slowly and allow time for all to look at the birds. We will check out the late-winter and early spring migrant birds. Meet at the old toboggan run. Entrance is off Ogden Avenue between I 294 and Wolf Road. The trails can be muddy so wear appropriate shoes and warm clothing.

Leader: Lesa Hipes, 630-689-7463, lhipes@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, March 10, 7:00 am

Will County and Beyond - (Advance registration required)

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). We will start in the Channahon area and work west along the rivers to Marseilles. Tag along for a couple of hours or spend the day. Pack a lunch or dine at one of the fine eating establishments along the way. ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED WITH THE LEADER BY MARCH 9.

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

Saturday, March 10, 8:30 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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 11th

Sunday, March 11, 7:30 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 warm clothing.

Leader: Kyle Wiktor, 708-506-5186, kwiktor@dupagebirding.org

Tuesday, March 13, 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 this spring on one of our walks. Walk will not be cancelled due to weather. **Meet at the west entrance parking lot, on the south side of 79th St. west of Greene Rd. in Naperville/Woodridge.

Contact & Leader: Jeff Smith, 331-481-3362, jsmith@dupagebirding.org

Friday, March 23, 2018, 4:30 pm

Know Your Neighborhood: West Chicago

The third of twelve 'Know Your Neighborhood' trips, exploring hidden gems, odd and under-birded hot spots in DuPage County, we will be checking Fabyan Parkway's ponds (Fabyan Marsh, Pella Pond, DuPage Tech Park) for migrating waterfowl. Meet at the Dunkin' Donuts at the intersection of Rt. 38 and Washington St. We will leave promptly at 4:30 pm. We should be back no later than 6:00 pm. Afterwards, for those interested, we will dine at the Country House. There will be limited walking, but dress for the weather. A spotting scope would be useful if you have one.

Leader: Glenn Perricone, 630-687-2921, gperricone@dupagebirding.org

Sunday, March 25, 8:00 am

Palos Area-McGinnis Slough: Waterfowl and More – (Advance registration required)

This location is an Audubon "Important Bird Area." Loons, grebes, and other waterfowl are targeted on this trip. Meet at McGinnis Slough, on the west side of LaGrange Rd. (US45), approximately 1/2 mile south of 131st St. **Contact Karen and Bob Fisher to register.** Finding waterfowl is associated with open water conditions. Karen and Bob will monitor conditions and may change the starting location in order to see more birds; so, ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS! This trip might extend past the noon hour. Wear appropriate clothing.

Leaders: Bob & Karen Fisher, [630-985-2956](tel:630-985-2956), kfisher@dupagebirding.org

Thursday, March 29, 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 this spring on one of our walks. Walk will not be cancelled due to weather. ** Meet at the west entrance parking lot, on the south side of 79th St. west of Greene Rd. in Naperville/Woodridge.** (You will have another chance to see Woodcocks in April, in case the weather doesn't cooperate on this date.)

Contact & Leader: Jeff Smith, 331-481-3362, jsmith@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

Jessica Becker

Nancy Allured

DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com

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

First Class

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

Vice President, Programs : Vacant

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



2018 Meetings

January 11

March 8

April 12

May 10

July 12

September 13

October 11

November 8