



## Presidents Message

### The Origin of Birds

I am particularly interested in how birds came into being on Earth; perhaps some of you are, too. Because the fossil record is a little spotty, there are still unanswered questions, but there are some things that we do know. Our own Field Museum is working hard to fill in the blanks, building an excellent fossil collection, but it's a slow process.

What we do know is that about 250 million years ago (mya), dinosaurs branched off from reptiles. The main differences between the new dinosaurs and the reptiles were that the dinosaurs were at least partially warm-blooded (opinions vary on just how much) and their hips were distinctly different from reptile hips. They were like birds' hips.

There were many families of dinosaurs. There were those that flew (ptero-dactyls) but had no feathers and were not birds. There were those with feathers but could not fly. There were the more familiar ones, Brontosaurus, Tyrannosaurus Rex, etc., that could neither fly nor had many feathers.

About 150 mya, however, a new kind of dinosaur appeared, evolved from a small member of the T. Rex family: Archaeopteryx ("Old Wing"), the first bird. It still had teeth, claws on its wings, and a long tail, but was fully feathered and could fly. But, by circa 90 mya the birds, typified by *Ichthyornis dispar* (Fish Bird), looked a lot like modern birds, with bird-like tails, almost no teeth, and no wing claws. It looked a lot like a modern goose.

From the scanty fossil record, it appears that that last common ancestor for birds was about 73 mya. Between then and 70 mya, birds split into two clades, Paleognathae (Old Jaws) and Neognathae (New Jaws). Shortly thereafter (geologically speaking), Neognathae split into Galloanseres (Fowl) and Neoaves (Modern Birds). These are the clades we still have today. The Paleognathae clade consists of the following families: Ostrich, Rheas, Kiwis, Emu/Cassowaries, and Tinamous. The Neognathae families are: Screamers, Magpie Goose, Ducks/Geese/Swans, Megapods, Guans/Chachalacas/Curassows, Guineafowl, New World Quail, and Pheasants/Grouse/Allies. The Neoaves are all the other families.

But up until 66 mya, none of these families existed, just Paleognathae, Neognathae, and Neoaves. After the 66 mya catastrophe, the asteroid or comet impact (opinions differ) all the dinosaurs that were not birds died out and the number of bird species exploded, evolving within the next 50 million years into the family and species structure we know today. The Paleognathae started splitting around 51 mya and its last family, the Tinamous split off around 40 mya, for instance.

The Neoaves are more complex. Nightjars, swifts, and hummingbirds may have started splitting off just before the catastrophe. But the main splitting occurred rapidly, right after the impact, within ten million years after the impact.

There is some evidence that the non-avian dinosaurs were on the decline before the impact—possibly because they were losing the competition for food with the birds. There is also some evidence that volcanism played a role in the mass extinction, but it is likely, also, that the increased volcanism was caused by the impact.

The process of splitting into new families among the Neoaves is going on today (although very slowly in our eyes). The newest family, Neospingidae (New Finch), just recognized by taxonomists last year, consists of just one species, the Puerto Rican Tanager, which split off "only" 10–12 mya. Most other families split off at least 20 mya.

### Next Meeting

July 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**

John Baker  
President

# Shout-Out to Our Great Volunteers

The DuPage Birding Club is strictly a volunteer organization and so relies on many people generously giving of their time to make the Club run smoothly. Many members may not know of all the volunteer positions and the people who serve in them. So, here they are:

## DBC Board

President: John Baker, [JBaker@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:JBaker@DuPageBirding.org)

Past-President: Stan Zatarski, [SZatarski@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:SZatarski@DuPageBirding.org)

Vice-President: Open

Treasurer: Bonnie Graham, [BGraham@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:BGraham@DuPageBirding.org)

Recording Secretary: Steve Constantelos, [SConstantelos@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:SConstantelos@DuPageBirding.org)

Corresponding Secretary/Media Contact: Leslie Howard, [LHoward@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:LHoward@DuPageBirding.org)

Directors: Joan Campbell, [JCampbell@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:JCampbell@DuPageBirding.org), and Glenn Perricone, [GPerricone@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:GPerricone@DuPageBirding.org)

## DBC Volunteers

Outreach/Youth Education: John Cebula, [JCebula@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:JCebula@DuPageBirding.org)

Bird Conservation Network Reps: Glenn Gabanski, [GGabanski@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:GGabanski@DuPageBirding.org), Tom Mulcahy, [TMulcahy@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:TMulcahy@DuPageBirding.org), and Ron Skleney, [RSkleney@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:RSkleney@DuPageBirding.org)

Forest Preserve Liaison: John Hebert, [JHerbert@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:JHerbert@DuPageBirding.org)

Grants and Donations: Vera Miller, [VMiller@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:VMiller@DuPageBirding.org)

Spring Count Coordinator: Ron Skleney, [RSkleney@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:RSkleney@DuPageBirding.org)

Christmas Count Coordinator: Jeff Chapman

Stewardship: Diann Bilderback

Field Trips: Nancy Allured, [NAllured@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:NAllured@DuPageBirding.org), & Jessica Becker, [JBecker@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:JBecker@DuPageBirding.org) + all the field trip leaders!

Webmaster: Dr. Katherine Howard, [KHoward@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:KHoward@DuPageBirding.org)

Webmaster Backup: Nancy Allured, [NAllured@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:NAllured@DuPageBirding.org)

Membership Directory: Bob Spitzer, [BSpitzer@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:BSpitzer@DuPageBirding.org)

Drummings: Jeff Smith, [JSmith@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:JSmith@DuPageBirding.org)

Drummings Printing/Distribution: Yvonne Dempsey, Pat Newman

Email Distribution: Bob Fisher, [BFisher@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:BFisher@DuPageBirding.org)

Twitter: Vera Miller, [VMiller@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:VMiller@DuPageBirding.org)

Facebook: John Cebula, [JCebula@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:JCebula@DuPageBirding.org)

Hospitality: Sara Boskovich, [SBoskovich@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:SBoskovich@DuPageBirding.org)

Audio-Visual Coordinator: Open

DBC Apparel: John Baker, [JBaker@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:JBaker@DuPageBirding.org)

Lending Library: Jeff Smith, [JSmith@DuPageBirding.org](mailto:JSmith@DuPageBirding.org)

If you would like to join in making the Club work, there are currently two open positions, and by November we will be seeking new blood in many of the positions. Think about it.

## **In Case You Missed It – May 10, 2018**

The DuPage Birding Club was honored to have Hal Cohen in the form of John James Audubon as our speaker at the May 10 meeting, which also featured three guest attendees. Hal is a founding member of DuPage Birding Club, which originated in Hal's classroom at College of DuPage in 1985. Hal splits his residence between Illinois and the desert town of Borrego Springs, CA, and we're glad to have him back six months out of the year.

It's not easy to sum up the artist's performance, which ranged from Audubon's early life, his style of painting and arranging his subjects, love of his favorite birds (many of which he kept as pets, however briefly), and reverence for his wife Lucy, who was also in attendance. After a wonderful slide show, Audubon answered questions about his travels and California, where he has founded a renowned hawkwatch.

Audubon was a tireless worker and promoter of his art, and I thought I'd take the chance here to write a little about promoting the DuPage Birding Club. In January, a few DBC members attended a workshop at Thatcher Woods Pavilion in Cook County, Broadening the Base: Community Outreach & Engagement. I gathered a few ideas from attending that, to which I add a few of my own:

### **9 Ways to Spread the Word about the DBC**

- 1) Tag your bird-related posts and pictures with #dupagebirdingclub on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media. Whether or not your post directly relates to a DBC meeting or field trip, why not mention the DBC?
- 2) Be welcoming. Before the last meeting's presentation, a visitor introduced herself and soon after I noticed a club member went to sit by her. I'm not sure if they knew each other not, or if I was imagining the whole thing, but it seemed like a great gesture to me!
- 3) Volunteer to help [John Cebula](#) on the Outreach/Youth Education committee.
- 4) Hand a DBC card, brochure, or bird checklist to an interested person. Or tack one to a bulletin board at a local business, library, nature center, church, etc. These items are on the field trips table at the meetings, and I believe [John Baker](#) has more of them in his car!
- 5) Mention the DuPage Birding Club in the comments section of your eBird checklists. Whether it's a DBC field trip or an outing with other members, someone may spot your mention of it.
- 6) Interact with DBC's social media presence on [Twitter](#) (@DBC Birds) and [Facebook](#). I'm sure Vera and John would love to hear from you on those platforms.
- 7) Buy (and wear) some colorful [DBC apparel](#).
- 8) Take a friend, family member, or budding/blossoming romance on a bird walk.
- 9) Tell people about the DBC, especially if you see them out on the trails!

—[Steve Constantelos](#), DBC Recording Secretary

## Dues Reminder

Membership dues for 2019 are due July 1, 2018. We made it very easy to renew or join our club. Go to our website [www.dupagebirding.org](http://www.dupagebirding.org). Click the membership tag and follow instructions. A reminder for those who are joining the club for the first time, to please fill out an application.

### Poetry Corner

Yellow Warbler

By Jim Blackburn

[On the boardwalk at the South Padre Birding Center  
During spring migration watching the wonder of nature.]

The mangroves provide a perfect dark green stage  
Upon which the glorious yellow warbler performs,  
Flitting from bush to bush, red stripes displayed,  
Making one believe that our varied forms of birds  
Were simply painted into existence,  
The brush strategically placing the red dots and lines  
For impact – for drama – for knock-you-off-your-feet beauty.

The yellow bird bounces waves across my brain,  
Teasing feelings of pleasure from deep within,  
Triggering synapses that release endorphins  
That make me smile,  
Creating pleasure from seeing nature  
Which also is my higher power, my center,  
An extension of myself that I am reminded to visit  
More often so that I can let my soul fly  
With the lovely yellow bird  
That lights up the mangroves  
With the joy of another success –  
Another movement to Texas from Belize  
Where I last saw the red streaked yellow one,  
Rejoining me on the boardwalk,  
Rekindling the connection that is Earth Church,  
The place where I feed my soul  
On the path of the migration at the Birding Center  
On South Padre Island in the spring.

Jim is a friend of DBC Member Steve Becker and is an amazing guy from Houston: conservationist, environmental lawyer, Rice University professor, and hell-bent on saving the Texas Gulf Coast for the Whooping Cranes and other birds.

## Plug Planting Volunteer Day at Indian Ridge Marsh

**Saturday, June 2, 2018**  
**8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Make your way to the wetlands for a morning of planting native flowers and grasses at Indian Ridge Marsh, a remnant wetland site in the Calumet region on Chicago's Southeast Side that TWI is restoring with several partners. The Wetlands Initiative, Audubon Great Lakes, Chicago Park District, and Illinois Soybean Association are collaborating to offer volunteers an opportunity to participate in bringing back this critical ecosystem.

Meet at the north end of Indian Ridge Marsh on East 116th Street, just west of South Torrence Avenue. Free transportation is also available via biodiesel shuttles from Bridgeport Coffee locations in Bridgeport and Hyde Park (more info on locations and pick-up time [here](#)).

Plan to bring water and wear long pants, long sleeves, work boots, and a hat. Gloves, tools, additional water, and lunch will be provided. Activities are suitable for most children over 12.

Please sign up [here](#) if you plan to attend.

## Save The Date

From **Friday, August 3**, through **Saturday, August 4**, we're holding our second-ever 24-hour BioBlitz at the Dixon Waterfowl Refuge—an exciting adventure in exploring the site and its biodiversity hands-on! Teams of citizen scientists will be guided by experts to find and identify as many species as possible (plants, birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles, fungus, and more).

More information to come.

## News from the Wacky World of the Web

### **Puffin Beaks Glow in Surprising Discovery**

National Geographic

The bird is the latest of many species discovered to be bioluminescent in recent years. [Read the full story](#)

### **This albatross couple adopted a baby of another species**

Popular Science

Even though the little critter doesn't represent the rare birth scientists had hoped for, there's still reason to celebrate. The Black-footed babe could still do its part to help boost the Short-tailed population. [Read the full story](#)

### **The Green-Feathered Terror That Slaughtered Bats in Spain**

The New York Times

The largest bat in Europe, a vulnerable species, found shelter in a city park's trees. Then they started to turn up dead. [Read the full story](#)

### **Bird migration explained at last: It's all about energy efficiency**

The Washington Post

Birds are saving energy by flying thousands of miles. [Read the full story](#)

# JUNE 2018 FIELD TRIPS

Migration gives way to the breeding season when many birds will be singing. 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. 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. Also, don't forget about those pesky bugs and have some bug spray with you. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent. 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.

**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, June 1, 7:30 am – 10:00 am**

**Meacham Woods Forest Preserve, Bloomingdale**

This walk will cover approximately 3 miles of trails through woodland groves, meadows, wetlands and along open edges. Meet at main parking lot on Circle Avenue, just north of Lake Street (Rt 20). Woodland trails can be wet and/or muddy.

**Leader:** Nancy Allured, Cell 630-240-6004, [nallured@dupagebirding.org](mailto:nallured@dupagebirding.org)

**Thursday, June 7, 7:30 am - 10:00 am**

**Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, Wheaton**

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](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 summer residents.

**Leader:** Laurel Salvador, 630-344-9803, [lsalvador@dupagebirding.org](mailto:lsalvador@dupagebirding.org)

**Friday, June 8, 7:30 am - 10:30 am**

**St. James Farm Forest Preserve, Warrenville**

Join us in our morning search for migratory and breeding birds in the former domain of the McCormick family. Our targets include Acadian Flycatcher, Summer Tanager and Hooded Warbler. The 600-acre preserve has one of the oldest pre-settlement forests in the district. Trails can be wet and muddy here. Meet "at the horse statue," in the main parking lot, off Winfield Road, just north of Butterfield.

**Leader:** Vicky Sroczynski, Cell 630-297-9512, [vsroczynski@dupagebirding.org](mailto:vsroczynski@dupagebirding.org)

**Saturday, June 9, 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](mailto:jreiter@wordsonbirds.com)

**Wednesday, June 13, 7:30 am**

**Morton Arboretum, Lisle**

We will be looking for breeding birds, including Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Towhee, Woodpeckers, and Great-crested Flycatcher. Meet at parking lot #13 on the east side for this morning trip. Parking Lot #13 is across the main road from Big Rock. Maps are available at the entry. The Arboretum is located just north of I-88 off Rte. 53. There is a per-person charge for nonmembers. On Wednesday's it's \$9 adults, \$8 seniors over 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](mailto:warbler4908@gmail.com)

**Saturday, June 16, 7:30 am**

**Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, Naperville**

This location has the designation of "Important Bird Area". This is one of the largest grassland preserves in DuPage County. This is an opportunity to go birding with the Springbrook expert. Our leader will show birders some special views. Target birds are grassland, breeding birds. "Off trail" birding will be likely, insect repellent and long pants are highly encouraged. Meet at the main parking lot for Springbrook Prairie on 83rd street between Route 59 and Book Road. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes.

**Leader:** Joe Suchecki, 630-368-5570, [JSuchecki@dupagebirding.org](mailto:JSuchecki@dupagebirding.org)

**Thursday, June 21, 7:30 am - 10:00 am**

**Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, Wheaton**

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](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 summer residents.

**Leader:** Laurel Salvador, 630-344-9803, [lsalvador@dupagebirding.org](mailto:lsalvador@dupagebirding.org)



**Friday June 22, 2018, 5:00 pm**  
**Know Your Neighborhood: Carol Stream**

The sixth of twelve 'Know Your Neighborhood' trips, exploring hidden gems, odd and under-birded hot spots in DuPage County, we will be visiting Armstrong Park, home of the United States' longest running Purple Martin colony as well as the Carol Point Marsh. Meet at the Armstrong Park SOUTH parking lot by taking Gary Ave. to Hiawatha, then turning right onto Illini Dr. immediately after passing the library. This will be an easy walk, but will require driving to the second location, Carol Point Marsh, a mile north of Hiawatha.

**Leader:** Glenn Perricone, 630-687-2921, [Gperricone@dupagebirding.org](mailto:Gperricone@dupagebirding.org)

**Saturday, June 23, 2018, 7:30 am**  
**Birding by Ear: St. James Farm, Warrenville**

Get your ears tuned and ready to explore the singing woods of St. James Farm in this field trip with an emphasis on auditory birding. Target birds will include Wood Thrush, Veery and Acadian Flycatcher! We will meet in the main parking lot off Winfield Rd. and embark at 7:30 am. Some of the trails will be earthen, so wear proper footwear for the conditions (mud boots if it rains prior to the walk) and it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you bring bug spray because mosquitoes will be out in full force.

**Leader:** Glenn Perricone,  
630-687-2921, [Gperricone@dupagebirding.org](mailto:Gperricone@dupagebirding.org)

**Saturday, June 23, 8:00 am**  
**Herrick Lake, Wheaton**

This location has the designation of "Important Bird Area". We'll be looking for late spring warblers and breeding birds and any less common species that have been located at this site. Since we will be covering a variety of habitats and could well be on footpaths as well as main trails, long pants are advisable. Wear appropriate shoes and bring insect repellent. Meet at the entrance to the parking lot on Herrick Road south of Butterfield (IL-56) on the west side of the preserve, for this morning trip.

**Leader:** John Cebula, 630-858-3767 (Day of contact: 630-640-2721) [jcebula@dupagebirding.org](mailto:jcebula@dupagebirding.org)

## **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](mailto:JBaker@DuPageBirding.org)

Send your articles and photos to [chipnotes2013@gmail.com](mailto: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 Clarendon Hills. The DuPage Birding Club sincerely appreciates the Birches continued support.