



Presidents Message

Please join us at the November meeting, on Thursday the 8th. It is our annual business meeting during which we will be voting on changes to our bylaws and electing officers for the next year.

The Forest Preserves of DuPage County: aren't we lucky to have them? The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has worked to restore prairies, woodlands, and wetlands for more than 100 years. While the Forest Preserve District remains dedicated to preserving natural areas and conserving wildlife, it also maintains outdoor places and offers programming to connect people to nature countywide. Its nearly 26,000 acres, 60 forest preserves, and 145 miles of trails host more than 4 million visitors each year. Many of them are fabulous birding spots of course that we regularly visit both on DBC-led bird walks and on our own.

The Forest Preserves continue to acquire parcels of valuable open spaces throughout the county to keep pace with the continuous sprawl of the urban landscape. Properties are evaluated based on their fair-market value and are considered based on the land's natural condition, resident flora and fauna, and other features such as connectivity to greenways, river ways, and existing preserves. The focus is on managing the land through an innovative program to restore and preserve the county's ecosystems, in conjunction with ongoing efforts in reforestation and prairie restoration. The controlled use of fire and other natural-resource management methods continue to be used as tools in clearing natural areas of aggressive nonnative plants and encouraging the growth of native plant species.

Despite the name, the Forest Preserves aren't just forests. They contain prairies and wetlands, too. The prairies are especially important, because it is the prairies' birds that have most severely declined in number. The Forest Preserve District and its partners are doing what they can to restore prairies in DuPage County. A prime example is the project to re-create 212 acres of prairies and wetlands at Dunham, including 11 acres of wetlands funded by Canadian National and 27 acres by DuPage County Stormwater Management.

Since 2008 the Wayne Area Conservancy Foundation has helped the District fund, install and maintain over 150 species of flowers and grasses on over 135 acres of native short-grass prairie, a value of over \$175,000. The Forest Preserve District will continue to seed Dunham with prairie species in these and other areas of the preserve. After three to five years of intensive restoration efforts, the Forest Preserve District hopes to be able to add Dunham to its long-term maintenance program, which, over time, will further develop the forest preserve into a high-quality, functional wetland and prairie habitat.

Our November speaker will further elaborate on the current and planned activities of the Forest Preserve District.

John Baker
President, DuPage Birding Club

Next Meeting

November 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
Potbelly Sandwich Shop
552 Roosevelt Rd. Glen Ellyn

November Program

Natural-Areas Restoration: What We Manage and Why We Do It

Shannon Burns

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Discover how and why the Forest Preserve District manages habitat, plants and animals in DuPage forest preserves. Hear about our organization's natural-resource management philosophy, ecology and aquatic habitats, and discover opportunities for volunteers to help out.

Learn about the five major types of restoration work undertaken by the District, along with specific project descriptions reviewing work done throughout DuPage County. You will probably recognize projects completed in your favorite forest preserves.

In her role as Education Program Coordinator, Shannon Burns works to engage people in nature through the many programs and activities available at the Forest Preserves in DuPage County. An avid outdoors enthusiast with over 30 years experience working/[volunteering](#) in public service, education, community outreach, and natural resource management, Shannon believes that the outdoors – especially here in DuPage County – offers something for everyone. A resident of DuPage County since 1981, Shannon is an active user of the District's trails where you can find her on her bike in the summers and walking in the winter. Stop and talk to her on the trails; she'd love to hear about your experiences in our Forest Preserve!

News from the Wacky World of the Web

Ecologists Have this Simple Request to Homeowners—Plant Native Smithsonian

A new study shows how quickly songbird populations fall off when gardens are planted with exotic trees and shrubs [Read the full story](#)

Coffee Beans Are Good for Birds, Fancy Brew or Not The New York Times

A study of India's Western Ghats region found that growing coffee doesn't interfere with biodiversity, regardless of which bean the farmer chooses. [Read the full story](#)

Losing Ground: What's Behind the Worldwide Decline of Shorebirds? | All About Birds

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/losing-ground-whats-behind-the-worldwide-decline-of-shorebirds/>

Surprising tropical bird appears in Connecticut—but why? National Geographic

An out-of-place spoonbill that temporarily claimed a tiny pond in Stratford charmed the locals with its pink feathers and funky beak. [Read the full story](#)

In Case You Missed It – October 11, 2018

Trinidad and Tobago: Birds, Family History, People

Bob and Jean Spitzer have been active birders with the DBC for 15 years. After exploring DuPage, their birding expanded across the USA, then on to the rest of the globe—they have seen about 1,700 of the 18,000 avian species on our planet. At our last meeting, they shared their experience of a February trip to Trinidad and Tobago, a mountainous, multi-ethnic, English-speaking country off the coast of Venezuela. They also shared a surprising personal connection they have with the Caribbean nation.

The two islands that lend the country its name have a population only a bit larger than DuPage County, but an area about six times the size of DuPage. Jean and Bob explored the islands with a small group through the Field Guides company, capping off each day's excursions through the mountains, swamps, beaches, and lakes with delightful rum punch—a surefire story-enhancer if there ever was one.

On Trinidad, the Spitzers and their party could bird from balcony alone, yielding a bunch of exotic species, including hummingbirds—the Tufted Coquette, the Ruby-topaz, and the White-necked Jacobin to name just a few—plus various tanagers, honeycreepers, and manakins. They also encountered the Bearded Bellbird, whose voice sounds like its second name. Amid the birds, there were cute mammals around, like the Red-rumped Agouti, lizards popping up in strange places, water buffalo thankfully on the other side of a fence, mountain crabs out at night, and tarantulas to keep an eye out for in outdoor bathrooms.

Out and about, the Spitzers saw the hanging 3-4 foot nests of the Crested Oropendola, and many birds we are more familiar with, just different species: herons, mockingbirds, blackbirds, hawks, owls. Oilbirds (a relative of the nighthawk) spend their days in a cave in a gully. Once almost hunted to extinction for their fat, they now enjoy the luxury of no-flash photography in their shadowed roosts. And then the Scarlet Ibis with its “gull friends” on the beach, later coming home to roost with its kind in multitudinous splendor in trees lining Caroni Swamp.

After the bigger island, the group took a plane to Tobago, which is more mountainous and jungle-filled than Trinidad, and home to the Rufous-vented Chachalaca, Trinidad Motmot, and Rufous-tailed Jacamar. There was also a side excursion to Little Tobago island by glass-bottom boat where the Red-billed Tropicbird was spied. All in all, the Spitzers saw 217 of the 250 species to be seen in February on the islands; 159 were life birds for them.

But the experience did not limit itself to our feathered friends. Two of their guides, of Indian heritage, took the Spitzers to church on Sunday, a church that happened to be established by Jean's aunt and uncle in 1950s. Two-fifths of the nation is Asian Indian in origin, so Jean and Bob took pleasure in enjoying an exchange, and after church went to the guides' Hindu temple for a service commemorating a deceased temple member.

This was not the first time Jean had seen these islands. As a tiny girl in war-time Indonesia, she was on board a “ghost ship” that snuck past the Japanese, sailing silently to a stop in South Africa, and then to Trinidad. So heading back there to bird was quite a thrill indeed. All in all, as Bob put it, the couple's visit to Trinidad & Tobago was “Great Birding, Great People, Great Experience”—much like the Spitzers' presentation.

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

Nominees for the 2019 Board of Directors

On behalf of the Du Page Birding Club We would like to submit the following members for leadership positions on the Board of Directors. Our election will take place at our November 8th meeting.

President, Diann Bilderback

Diann has been a member of the Du Page Birding Club since 2005. She served as President in 2008. She also served a term as Corresponding Secretary 2010-2011. She has been an active member of the Auction committee for the past ten years and currently leads our Stewardship committee to help new leadership understand their roles within the club. Diann recently retired from her role as Chief Marketing Officer for a Healthcare Technology firm and now enjoys birding regionally and internationally. She thinks DBC is one of the premier birding clubs in the Midwest and wants to ensure we preserve and protect that legacy in the interim President role.

Vice President, Denis Kania

Denis is a founding member of the DuPage Birding and is well-known in the birding community as an expert birder, teacher, naturalist, and artist. Denis recently retired from his role as Manager of Open Lands for the St. Charles Park District. He continues to teach birding classes through the Morton Arboretum and has spoken widely at birding clubs throughout the region, including the DBC. Many of us have enjoyed his photographic reviews of trips to countries he has visited along with educational topics such as sparrow and warbler identification. He has also made many appearances as an auctioneer at past Du Page Birding Clubs Auction fundraisers. Denis looks forward to bringing interesting and relevant educational content to member meetings as its VP and leading the organization as its future President.

Treasurer, Bonnie Graham

Bonnie has been a DBC member for almost seven years and has previously served on the Board as Director. This past year she has served as our Treasurer and will be returning for her second year on this commitment. Bonnie has been active in photography and you may recall some of her presentations on Members' nights.

Recording Secretary, Steve Constantelos

Steve grew up in Du Page County and has been an active member of the Du Page Birding Club. He has been a participant in many of the local bird counts and birding activities and has been a member of this year's Board of Directors and is returning for his second year on this commitment.

Corresponding Secretary, Glen Perricone

Glen began birding in 2011 after a birding trip to Willowbrook Wildlife Center. He earned his BA in biology from Elmhurst College and has been a naturalist for the Forest Preserve District of Du Page County. Glen has been leading DBC field trips since 2013 and is well known for his “Know your neighborhood” series. He also has lead a number of “Birding by ear” outings to familiarize members with the songs and calls of various species. Last year Glen joined the leadership group as a Director and this year will return as Corresponding Secretary.

Director, Kevin Hlava

Kevin has been an avid birder since 2014 and takes a special interest in waterfowl and other water birds. Kevin got his first introduction into the art of bird watching after taking a couple of birding field study classes at the Morton Arboretum with Denis Kania. Most weekends Kevin and His wife Kristine (avid birder, amateur photographer and DBC member) are out in our forest preserves and parks looking for birds. A lifetime goal for Kevin is to visit every National Park in the United States. He has currently visited 35 of the 60 National Parks. The Everglades are on his target list for next year. Kevin recently took over as the club’s Web Master and will also be coordinating the A/V portion of our meetings. Kevin believes in giving back to the Du Page Birding Club by taking on these responsibilities.

Director, John Herbert

John has been a birder for about ten years. Along with his wife Kathy, John has been a member of the Du Page Birding Club for more than three and a half years. His favorite birding sites are Fermi Lab, Horicon Marsh and along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. John is also a member of the Horicon Marsh Bird Club and Hummingbird society. His most memorable birding trips were to Maine, which included a trip to Macias Seal Island to view the Atlantic Puffin colony, and birding the Verdi Valley of Arizona. John is a retired CPA/Tax Accountant and a resident of Downers Grove.

Director, Leslie Hayward

Leslie has been a very active member of the Du Page birding club and has participated in many of the club’s initiatives. Leslie has been our Corresponding Secretary and has been nominated to come back this year as a Director of the DBC. We appreciate Leslie’s continued support.

We thank the following outgoing Board members and Committee Members for their dedicated service to the club:

John Baker, President; Stan Zatarski, Past President; Joan Campbell Director; Glenn Perricone Director; John Cebula, Outreach chairman; Sara Boskovich, Hospitality; Ron Skleney, spring count coordinator; Katherine Howard, Webmaster; Pat Newman, Yvonne Dempsey, Drumming distribution.

We welcome the following new committee members, fieldtrips:

Kathy Mineck

November 2018 Field Trips

NOTE: Check DuPageBirding.org for any trip changes, additions or cancellations.

The coming months are the time to see late fall and early winter birds. Some species are only seen this time of year. We are offering a variety of field trips both during the week and on weekends.

There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season. Please dress for the weather and trail conditions. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent.

Situations sometimes change. Check our DBC website (DuPage Birding Club) for the latest status information. Participants are welcome to contact the trip leader if they have questions including additional driving directions.

Saturday, November 10, 8:00 am

Channahon Area, Will County - Advance registration required!

There are birds for viewing at the formation area of the Illinois River, where the Kankakee, Des Plaines and DuPage Rivers converge. We will check the birding at several places in the vicinity of Channahon. Let's carpool together on this trip.* We may do some trail walking. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes. This trip will go at least until noon. We plan to stop for lunch before driving back to the carpool site. Please contact the trip leaders if you plan to participate, as we may cancel the trip for seriously inclement weather.

Leaders: Bob & Jean Spitzer, 630-790-4842, bspitzer@dupagebirding.org

(birding day Cell: 630-222-3307)

*Note: To carpool, meet at Bolingbrook Park & Ride, just south of I-55, off of Route 53
(Left at Old Chicago Drive) at 7:00 a.m.)

Saturday, November 10, 8:30 am

Cantigny Park, Wheaton

Cantigny, the 500-acre former estate of Robert R. McCormick, began bird walks in 2008 in partnership with DBC. These outings are a good entry point for new birders, but participants should be aware that attendance can be 40 or more! Enter through the main gate on Winfield Road (just south of Roosevelt) and tell the attendant you are with the bird walk. You will not be charged for parking. Meet at the Cantigny Visitors Center.

Leader: Jeff Reiter, jreiter@wordsonbirds.com

Friday, November 16, 4:30 pm

Know Your Neighborhood: Aurora

The eleventh of twelve 'Know Your Neighborhood' trips, exploring hidden gems, odd and under-birded hot spots in DuPage County, we will visit Eola Rd. Marsh in search of migrant waterfowl. Meet at the WBIG radio station parking lot on Old Eola Rd. To get to the parking lot turn onto Waterstone Dr. off of Eola Rd. just north of Liberty St. and head south on the frontage road. We will walk on grass to gain access to a prime view of the lake. Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather and bring a spotting scope if you have one.

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

Sunday, November 18, 7:30 am

Pratts Wayne Forest Preserve, Wayne

We will be looking for late fall and early winter birds. Meet at the Harrier Lake parking lot on the north side of the preserve on Stearns Rd., located between Powis Rd. and Munger Rd., in Wayne, Illinois.

Leader: Steve Fluett, Cell: 630-918-8793, sfluett@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, November 24, 7:30 am

Morton Arboretum, Lisle

This is a morning of birding. Here's a chance to walk off that turkey dinner while not venturing too far from home. We will check out several sites and habitats in the Arboretum. Let's all meet at the far northwest corner of the main parking lot. We will visit several sites in the Arboretum. When we finish, we can get a cup of coffee at the Visitors Center. The Arboretum has a per person charge for nonmembers. It is \$15 for adults, \$13 for senior over 65 and \$10 for kids. Note: The Arboretum does not open its gates until 7:00 a.m.

Leaders: Bob & Jean Spitzer, 630-790-4842, bspitzer@dupagebirding.org
(birding day Cell: 630-222-3307)

Sunday, November 25, 7:30 am

Elsen's Hill - West DuPage Woods, Winfield

This is a morning trip over gravel and earthen trails. This site is best known for spring warblers, but we will be targeting a few fall and winter specialties including finches, sparrows and woodpeckers. We'll meet at Elsen's Hill parking lot. 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. Dress for the weather, the trails are often muddy.

Leader: Mark Bavetz, mbavetz@dupagebirding.org

Other Birding Opportunities

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

Email 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

DuPage Birding Club

Field Trip Coordinators

Jessica Becker

Nancy Allured

DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com

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