



President's Message

Like many of you, I enjoy traveling to new places to see new birds. I have been birding internationally for almost 15 years now, and these excursions have taken me deep into South and Central America, Africa, and Asia. There I have seen so many fascinating and sometimes mind-blowing birds, and I have enjoyed exploring different habitats, immersing in different cultures, and sampling life as it's lived a world away.

However, international birding travel does present a few challenges. Often the destinations are in developing countries that may lack the infrastructure we are used to stateside. This makes for some unusual experiences. I'll always remember when...

Next Meeting

September 12, 2019
7:00 p.m. Social Time
7:30 p.m. Speaker

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

5:15 p.m. Pre-meeting dinner
Ellyn's Tap and Grill
940 Roosevelt Rd.
Glen Ellyn

- ...My hair dryer caught on fire in Venezuela. Flames actually shot out the back of the appliance! I learned to be suspicious of all electrical sources, with or without converters. Every day is a bad hair day, but it's better than a hair fry.
- ...I had to put on my makeup by candlelight because there was no electricity in our Amazonian lodge until midday. Honestly, it's difficult to remain presentable with these constraints.
- ...My underwear hung on a clothesline next to someone's tighty whiteys. It's best to leave your granny pants at home if you're going to use complimentary laundry service.
- ...My travel pillow was destroyed in the night by a rice rat, who entered our room in Cambodia and ate the plastic plug on the pillow. That's what happens when there are no screens or glass on the windows.
- ...We forded a flooded-out road in Tanzania with the help of several young men who guided our vehicle through the rushing currents to the other side. Yikes! Definitely worth a good tip.
- ..."A little hike up the mountain" in Ghana turned into a four-hour slog on a vegetation-choked trail in 100-degree heat. And then we had to come back down! Every step down that hill was a torture for my old knees. I finally moved to the end of the group for a little cry. Poor me!
- ...An ant swarm of hundreds of thousands (millions?) of ants climbed up the posts of our outdoor restaurant in Belize, forcing us all to get up and flee with our lunch plates while they marched through. Ants rule in the jungle!
- ...A tiny toad lived in our toilet in Venezuela. Whenever we approached, he hopped into the shower. I tried to counsel him on his high-risk lifestyle, but he was having none of it.

- ...In Peru, a wolf spider lived behind the toilet. We stayed out of his way, and he stayed out of ours. There were no other insects or critters in the room, thanks to him, but we didn't walk around at night without shoes on.
- ...Speaking of critters, my friend Ann Haverstock played host to a bot fly larvae deposited beneath her skin through a mosquito bite. A couple of weeks after returning home, he poked out his little head and wiggled it around to everyone's shock. Ann took pictures and sent us all copies before the doc excised him. Freak out time!

It's hard to top that last one, so I'll stop lest you swear off international birding forever. It's all worth it for the amazing birds you see and the experiences. One must be prepared for a few surprises, some tolerable, some not so much, but all of them good storytelling when you get home. If there's one thing I've learned on these travels, it's to expect the unexpected!

See you September 12!

Cheers,
Diann

Renew Your DBC Membership Now!

If you have not already renewed your membership, now is the time! Your annual dues of \$20 (\$30 family, \$10 student) are a major source of annual funding for our speaker program, grants and donations, and operating expenses. They ensure that the club continues to serve your interests and supports the birding community. Do do your dues!

You can renew one of three ways:

1. Online using PayPal or credit card—visit www.dupagebirdingclub.org/membership and click on the PayPal button. Easy!
2. Via mail—fill out the form online at the above url, print it, and mail it and a check for your dues to the address on the form. Please do not mail cash. Your canceled check is your receipt.
3. In person at a club meeting—fill out the form online, print it and bring it to a club meeting with cash or check. Treasurer Bonnie Graham will collect your dues and give you a receipt.

Please note that DBC does not rent, sell, or share your personal information, and the personal information you share with DBC is not stored on the DBC website or the host server.

September Program

"Our" Birds in the Neotropics with Doug Stotz

Many bird species pass through our region twice a year. Some even stay to breed, but then they head south to winter in the neotropics. We like to think of these birds as our birds, and we commonly refer to them in those terms. There is another side to their lives that we seldom think about.

In reality, they are more or less heading home for the winter. The journey is a perilous one full of hazards and hardship. Once they arrive on their wintering grounds, birds face a whole new set of challenges.

Doug Stotz of the Field Museum will discuss these migrants on their wintering grounds, and how they interact with the resident birds in a different habitat. Doug will also interpret these wintering habitats, and the threats that they face which, in turn, impact many bird species.

September 12, 2019

7:00 p.m.



Mini-Tutorial

Denis Kania will present a brief tutorial on how to treat a small subset of fall warblers. The warblers to be covered are those that are generally olive in color on the upperparts and two strong wingbars. Species to be included in that group include Chestnut-sided, Pine, Blackpoll and Bay-breasted warblers. You'll be one step closer to enjoying fall warbler migration

The Nominating Committee is Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

Do you have a few hours a month to devote to club operations? The Nominating Committee has open Board positions and a handful of committee posts. No special skills are needed, just a willingness to invest your time and energy. Serving on the Board is an honor and a great opportunity to exercise your leadership skills, influence club direction, and have fun. If you'd like to learn more, contact the Nominating Committee, which is led by Steve Constantelos and includes Diann Bilderback and Denis Kania.

Birding and Breakfast A Success Despite the Rain

A stormy Sunday didn't stop DBCers from enjoying one another's company and a delicious array of breakfast goodies at the August 18 Birding and Breakfast field trip. After an hour or so, the rain let up and Denis Kania led a field trip around the Hidden Lake trails, nabbing 43 species, including Indigo Bunting, Cedar Waxwing, Orchard and Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Kingbird, Green Heron, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Wood Duck, and other summer residents. About 20 members braved the rain for what turned out to be a pleasant morning. Thanks to Natalie McFaul for organizing and to all those who brought breakfast items.



DuPage Birding Club Auction & Fundraiser

Thursday, October 10
7:00 pm

Cantigny Park Visitors Center
1S151 Winfield Road
Wheaton, IL

Please join us and support your club!

- **LIVE Auction**
- **Birder's Bazaar**
- **"Pick Your Prize" Raffle**
- **Cash Bar**
- **Fun & Fellowship**
- **FREE Admission & FREE Parking**
- **All for DBC and the birds!**

**More details coming soon at the September
12 Club meeting and the October newsletter!**

Greene Valley HawkWatch

2018 was another 'average' raptor year on the hill (see yearly totals excluding Broadwings in the Table below). In this 13th year of the GVHW, only one new high count for a species – Osprey – was set, and we registered our lowest ever total for both Cooper's Hawk (69) and N. Goshawk (just 1). As is 'normal' (except during big Broadwing years), TVs and Redtails made up about 2/3rds of GV's total count. 2018 may be memorable for the fact that we had to stop early! Our last day was 11/26 due to heavy snow. Snowplows clearing the road to the power plant pushed that snow into the road leading to the hilltop, The packed snow/slush froze solid. It would have taken a bulldozer or dynamite to get access to the hilltop. We missed out on observing/counting large numbers of Sandhill Cranes – and a Whooper or two. Cranes were both audible and visible if you were outside during those last 4 days of November.

A look at the Numbers in our 13th season on the hill

| Species | Turkey Vulture | Osprey | Bald Eagle | N. Harrier | Sharp-shinned Hawk | Cooper's Hawk | N. Goshawk | Red-shouldered Hawk | accipiters total | |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 2018 | 935 | 70 | 86 | 48 | 331 | 69 | 1 | 27 | 401 | |
| 2017 | 841 | 36 | 69 | 32 | 313 | 91 | 3 | 23 | 407 | |
| 2016 | 546 | 47 | 91 | 47 | 593 | 102 | 2 | 21 | 697 | |
| 2015 | 658 | 43 | 52 | 64 | 340 | 94 | 3 | 29 | 437 | |
| 2014 | 605 | 44 | 100 | 64 | 472 | 82 | 2 | 22 | 556 | |
| 2013 | 1078 | 30 | 57 | 40 | 563 | 90 | 4 | 37 | 657 | |
| 2012 | 763 | 65 | 60 | 75 | 463 | 146 | 3 | 16 | 612 | HIGH |
| 2011 | 512 | 44 | 35 | 52 | 646 | 117 | 5 | 22 | 768 | COUNTS |
| 2010 | 306 | 36 | 22 | 69 | 486 | 94 | 6 | 14 | 586 | IN |
| 2009 | 650 | 17 | 21 | 45 | 574 | 124 | 5 | 24 | 703 | GREEN |
| 2008 | 510 | 39 | 22 | 50 | 328 | 103 | 2 | 20 | 433 | LOW |
| 2007 | 471 | 17 | 12 | 60 | 682 | 164 | 10 | 13 | 856 | COUNTS |
| 2006 | 185 | 16 | 12 | 45 | 236 | 113 | 2 | 7 | 351 | IN |
| 13 year total | 8060 | 504 | 639 | 691 | 6027 | 1389 | 48 | 275 | 7464 | RED |
| 13 year avg. | 620 | 39 | 49 | 53 | 464 | 107 | 4 | 21 | 574 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Species | Broad-winged Hawk | Red-tailed Hawk | Rough-legged Hawk | Golden Eagle | Am. Kestrel | Merlin | Peregrine Falcon | Unknown raptor | TOTAL | Total minus Broadwings |
| 2018 | 423 | 449 | 11 | 4 | 12 | 45 | 46 | 64 | 2625 | 2202 |
| 2017 | 56 | 656 | 17 | 3 | 8 | 38 | 45 | 63 | 2286 | 2230 |
| 2016 | 4271 | 651 | 12 | 5 | 17 | 71 | 70 | 82 | 6632 | 2361 |
| 2015 | 240 | 559 | 11 | 11 | 5 | 45 | 60 | 47 | 2261 | 2021 |
| 2014 | 1596 | 682 | 27 | 7 | 12 | 50 | 28 | 44 | 3837 | 2241 |
| 2013 | 36 | 986 | 16 | 8 | 8 | 66 | 46 | 54 | 3119 | 3083 |
| 2012 | 4432 | 848 | 7 | 5 | 15 | 40 | 19 | 51 | 7008 | 2576 |
| 2011 | 716 | 836 | 17 | 5 | 22 | 54 | 37 | 42 | 3162 | 2446 |
| 2010 | 48 | 643 | 31 | 11 | 14 | 31 | 30 | 48 | 1889 | 1841 |
| 2009 | 73 | 893 | 10 | 3 | 22 | 29 | 40 | 41 | 2571 | 2498 |
| 2008 | 1745 | 788 | 17 | 10 | 14 | 31 | 16 | 40 | 3735 | 1990 |
| 2007 | 687 | 838 | 14 | 3 | 25 | 33 | 32 | 38 | 3099 | 2412 |
| 2006 | 786 | 318 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 26 | 8 | 27 | 1794 | 1008 |
| 13 year total | 15109 | 9147 | 192 | 81 | 179 | 559 | 477 | 641 | 44018 | 28909 |
| 13 year avg. | 1162 | 704 | 15 | 6 | 14 | 43 | 37 | 49 | 3386 | 2224 |

Here's our raptor rarity history (2018 rarities in red): Mississippi Kite: 10/3/08, 10/11/11, 9/9/12, 9/20/12, 9/3/17 and 9/17/17; Swainson's Hawk: 1 in 2012; 2 in 2013; 3 in 2014; 1 on 9/18/17; 1 on 9/14/18; Snowy Owl: 11/14/07; Ferruginous Hawk: 10/15/10 and 9/25/12; Prairie Falcon: 9/21/14 and 10/17/17; Gyr Falcon 11/6/16.

181 SPECIES SEEN ~ Greene Valley Hawkwatch 2006-2018 (new to list in 2018 in green)

Gr. White-fronted Goose

Snow Goose
Cackling Goose
Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Trumpeter Swan
Tundra Swan
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
American Black Duck
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Green-winged Teal
Northern Pintail
Ring-necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Black Scoter
Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Red-br Merganser
Red-throated Loon
Common Loon
Horned Grebe
Double-cr Cormorant
Anhinga
AmWhite Pelican
American Bittern
Least Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Cattle Egret
Green Heron
plegadis Ibis sp.
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Golden Eagle
Mississippi Kite
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Northern Goshawk
Bald Eagle
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
Yellow Rail
Sandhill Crane
Whooping Crane
Black-bellied Plover
Am Golden-Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Spotted Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs

Lesser Yellowlegs
Upland Sandpiper
Buff-br Sandpiper
Dunlin
Least Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Wilson's Snipe
American Woodcock
Bonaparte's Gull
Franklin's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Thayer's Gull
L Black-backed Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Caspian Tern
Black Tern
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Great Horned Owl
Snowy Owl
Barred Owl
Short-eared Owl
Common Nighthawk
Eastern Whip-poor-will
Chimney Swift
Ruby-thr Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-head Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
American Kestrel
Merlin
Gyr Falcon
Peregrine Falcon
Prairie Falcon
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Eastern Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Eastern Kingbird
Northern Shrike
Warbling Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Horned Lark
N. Rough-winged Swallow
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Cave Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch

White-br Nuthatch
House Wren
Winter Wren
Sedge Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Gray Catbird
European Starling
American Pipit
Sprague's Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Lapland Longspur
Smith's Longspur
Snow Bunting
Nashville Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Magnolia Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Palm Warbler
Am. Redstart
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Eastern Towhee
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Henslow's Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Finch
Purple Finch
Red Crossbill
Common Redpoll
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak

Horned Larks, Am. Pipits, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings as always kept us company, the longspurs and buntings on a daily basis in good numbers later in the season. The first Snow Bunting appeared on 10/24, 5 days after our last Tree Swallow, but 5 days before we recorded our last Chimney Swift, on 10/29. Snow squalls on 10/20 may have led to a very unlikely pair of same day sightings – a C Nighthawk and a Lapland Longspur. Not too many spots on the planet, I think, where this might happen. Also on that same day, a Fox Squirrel perched on the fence on our treeless hilltop, perhaps contemplating suicide via Red-tailed Hawk, given that 9 Redtails were floating around the hilltop. And who says you can't warbler watch on top of a mountain of garbage!

Anticipation of the late November Sandhill Crane spectacle does wonders to keep our feet warm and our enthusiasm high.. Our 2018 season count was 9,674 Sandies, quite a bit below our 'typical' totals. That was likely due to not being up on the hill for those last 4 days in November, when lots of Sandies headed to points S, to escape the frozen ground and snow cover up N. Our biggest single day total: 8,240 Sandies (and 3 Whooping Cranes) on 11/13. The day before we tallied 730 Sandies. 10/4 (475 cranes) was the only other triple digit tally this year. In the 5 weeks between 10/4 and 11/12 we only had 154 Sandies; September produced only 15 in all. Our first sighting was 9/11, when a presumed pair flew over. Now that Sandies are nesting in Illinois, we can't be certain whether some of these early birds are just 'locals' moving around, not necessarily migrating.

One or more of our dedicated volunteer counters were on the hill for 516 hours during 2018, slightly higher than 2017, in spite of the fact that we lost 7 days due to weather, including the last 4 days of November as noted above; the aggregate volunteer time on the hill totaled 1617 hours! Special thanks to Margie B, Karen F, Katherine H, Jeff S, Vicky S and Stan Z for spending more than 100 hours on the hilltop, and thanks to the other counters and visitors who weren't able to put in quite as much time, but who helped greatly in spotting and counting on many occasions. If after you read this, you decide you'd like to join the GV hawkwatching brigade, contact Bob Fisher bfisher928@aol.com, for details.

This year's report is dedicated to the memory of Karen, my wife, best friend and birding partner, over our 50+ years of married life. I believe for many of us, Karen was our touchstone, with her enthusiasm and dedication to hawk-watching on top of our unique 'garbage mountain, at Greene Valley, one of her favorite places on the planet during the Fall hawk watch season. Karen's commitment (just less than 3,000 hrs over these 13 years!) and dedication was well known in the Illinois birding community. Equally memorable was her patience in encouraging and leading the many new hawk watchers who are now regulars at GV. Her keen vision – spotting and identifying those distant specks from the vista at GV – was a joy, and an inspiration to all to improve our skills. Karen will be missed...most definitely by me...and I'm certain by her myriad birding/hawkwatching friends.



Help Stop Bird-Tower Collisions

Migration season is here, and some DBC members have been impressed by a new app that empowers users to help stop birds from colliding with communication towers, a killer of up to 7 million birds per year.

SongbirdSaver (<https://www.songbirdsaver.org/>) offers a downloadable desktop and mobile app that helps you find nearby communication towers and communicate with tower engineers, who can turn off the lights with FCC approval. When you see a tower with a steady light while driving at night, there's now something you can do to help the birds. The page also features a list of birds in danger, sample letters, etc.

One member downloaded the Mississippi flyway desktop app and pulled up the nearby Bolingbrook golf course. As another put it, SongbirdSaver is "essentially a crowd-sourcing of conservation advocacy!"

For more information on the bird-tower collision issue, check out ABC's page: <https://abcbirds.org/stop-bird-tower-collisions/>.

September 2019 Field Trips

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

Early fall is the time for birds to begin their migration southward. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season. We are offering a variety of field trips both during the week and on weekends. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Participants are welcome to contact the trip leader if you have questions. Our field trip leaders can help you find the trip's starting location if you need additional directions. Participants remember that weather and trail conditions can be variable. Biting insects can still be present. Please dress accordingly and bring insect repellent. We expect everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner by being careful and prudent.

Tuesday, September 3, 7:30 am

Bemis Woods North, Western Springs

Fall migration is getting started! The trails of Bemis Woods North are a great place to look for migrants. Meet by the metal bridge at Bemis Woods North. The entrance is on the west side of Wolf Road, north of Ogden and just south of 31st Street. Drive to the metal bridge near the far end of the road. Trails may be muddy or slippery following rains. Please wear appropriate shoes and clothing; be prepared with insect repellent. If time and interest allow we may also spend some time in Salt Creek Woods or Bemis South. All levels of birder are welcome.

Leader: Lesa Hipes, lhipes@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, September 7, 7:30 am

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Join our morning walk around the marsh to check out fall migrants as well as resident birds. We hope to see migrant 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 limestone and earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Please bring a scope if you have one.

Leader: Kyle Wiktor kwiktor@dupagebirding.org

Friday, September 13, 6:00 pm

Know Your Neighborhood: Glen Ellyn

The eighth of twelve "Know Your Neighborhood" trips, exploring hidden gems, odd and under-birded hot spots in DuPage County, we will explore Churchill Park, looking for migrant species such as thrushes and warblers. Meet at the Churchill Park parking lot located at 314 St. Charles Rd. From there we will walk paved trails around the small park before driving to the ComEd substation to search for Monk Parakeets. As always, we will go to dinner afterwards!

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

Saturday, September 14, 7:00 am

Montrose Migration, Chicago Lakefront (Pre-registration required)

The Montrose Dunes, Beach and Magic Hedge can hold lots of birds during fall migration. Exit Lakeshore Drive at Montrose going east towards the lake, turn right at the bait shop, and after a block or so park along the side of the road. We will meet at the entrance of the "magic hedge" path at the sidewalk, which is across from the boat harbor. Be there on time, or you may encounter parking problems and traffic congestion! Advance registration requested, so contact can be made with registrants if the access/parking situation changes (large scale events held with only limited notice are often a problem at this location.)

Leader: Bob Fisher, bfisher928@aol.com

Saturday, September 14, 7:30 am

Cantigny Park, Wheaton

All are invited to Cantigny's first-ever Big Sit, on top of the park's new Butterfly Hill. The challenge is to see how many species we can spot from one place. Come for an hour or stay all day! Parking fee waived for birders arriving before 11 am. Bring a folding chair, sunscreen and snacks. Cantigny will provide bottled water.

Leader: Jeff Reiter, jreiter@wordsonbirds.com

Sunday, September 15 8:30 am

Fermilab, Batavia

Join an official site monitor as we look for fall migrants and remnant breeders in the famed Sparrow Hedge area. This will be a 3-4 hour walk, on mowed (not paved) paths. Bug spray is strongly recommended. Meet at the red (Anderson) barn parking lot at the end of Sauk Circle (turn left at the first stop sign after entering Fermi lab on Batavia Rd. from Rt 59). The gates open at 8 a.m. The guard will ask to see a driver's license. When asked, tell the guard you are there for birding. From the Kirk Rd gate, follow Pine St. through, and Sauk Circle is the next stop sign after Eola Rd.

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

Sunday, September 29, 7:30 am

Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

This is a morning field trip. Meet at the Model Airplane Field Parking Lot on Plainfield- Naperville Rd. south of 75th St. in Naperville. The trip will focus on fall migrants in the grassland and wetland habitats of Springbrook with special emphasis on locating Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Springbrook is among the best sites to find Sharp-tailed Sparrows in the fall, and Joe has been able to find them on previous trips to this location. Wear waterproof boots since the area around the marsh and early morning vegetation is likely to be wet.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-369-5570, jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org

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

First Class



2019 Meetings

January 10

March 14

April 11

May 9

July 11

September 12

October 10

November 14