



President's Message

Dear DBCers,

If there were ever a call to action to help the birds we love, I believe we've just heard it. I'm referring to the dismaying research reported September 19, 2019, in the journal *Science*. This well-researched study reported an astonishing decline of 2.9 billion breeding birds over the last half century within the U.S. and Canada—that represents a 29% overall decline, a loss of more than 1 in 4 birds that were with us in 1970.

Even more troubling is that some of our most familiar and well-loved birds have been seriously impacted—Eastern Meadowlarks, Dark-Eyed Juncos, our beautiful warblers, even American Robins. The volume of birds migrating through our skies in the spring is down 14% just in the last decade. You see it, don't you? You find one and two of a species instead of abundance, the list of rare finds keeps growing, the “slow” days during migration are more common.

In a larger context, the research supports findings by a United Nations team, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. They published a May 2019 study declaring that more than 1 million plant and animal species face extinction in the next several decades. Birds, insects, amphibians, plants—the web of life we are part of is being overwhelmed. If they are in trouble, clearly we are in trouble, too.

The good news is that the natural world is incredibly resilient. The research points out how some waterfowl and raptors are exceptions to the decline, having made spectacular comebacks because we invested in their habitats, eliminated toxic pesticides, and provided critical protection. If we can mitigate some of the onerous threats to birds and other creatures, they can bounce back, too. We humans have created most of these threats, so it is on us to be good stewards of the planet and respect that all creatures deserve their place here.

The Bald Eagle flies our skies today because Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* in 1962, setting off a firestorm of response that led to the banning of DDT and stronger environmental protections. I hope the *Science* study has the same impact. It received wide national coverage in print and broadcast, and people are talking about it. Americans do care about the environment, even though their voting record ranks it far below more personal priorities like jobs, taxes, and healthcare. Well, now the environment is starting to get more personal!

Next Meeting

October 10, 2019

Biennial Auction

Cantigny Park Visitor's Center

Doors Open 6:15

Auction Begins 7:15

NO Pre-meeting dinner

Let's seize the moment and use our knowledge to teach others why they should care. I invite you to educate yourself about the report's findings and tell your friends, neighbors, and families why it matters that bird populations are crashing. Help them understand that future generations are at risk if we ignore these signals that Earth's creatures are sending us. Let's not be the frog in a pan of water on the stove who doesn't recognize the water is getting too hot until it's too late. Let's be proactive and do the things we know we can do to make a difference for our planet and help others to appreciate the urgency. Check out www.3billionbirds.org for a synthesis of report findings, 7 simple things we can all do to help birds, and access to the full report. Let's stand strong on this point, stand up for the birds we love, and be part of the solution. Change happens one step, one person at a time

Good birding,

Diann

A Note from your auctioneer:

I can see that a lot of hard work has gone into gathering up items for the live auction and the raffle table as well as general preparation for the auction. This is an event that you won't want to miss!

It's a great opportunity to improve your bird library, deck your walls with fine art, take a field trip with one of the local experts, upgrade your feeding and housing systems in the backyard or best of all upgrade your birding optics. There are great treasures to be had in all of these categories.

There will be more optics available in this auction than I have ever seen before. There are two spotting scopes with tripods, and some entry level binocular opportunities. There are all sorts of feeders designed to outsmart those pesky squirrels, bird houses, bat houses and even a bee house. There is some incredible photography and artwork available. We have some extremely talented members and donors. This year we even have a signed and numbered limited edition Roger Tory Peterson painting of a pair of Eastern Screech-Owls. Picture that on your wall!!!

A list of Auction items can be found here:

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5c8daf_a2336b56066f4da4af8b81e18edb5cff.pdf

If you have items you'd like to contribute to the bazaar tables, drop them off between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Registration table. And thank you!

Between the live auction, the pick your prize raffle and the several bazaar tables, no one will go home empty handed!

Did I mention the cash bar and the free cookies?

The fun will begin with bazaar browsing at 6:15 and the live auction will kick off around an hour after that. Come early to register for a bid number and find a good seat close to all of the action!

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Denis Kania
VP DuPage Birding Club
Auction Chairperson



DuPage Birding Club

Auction

and Fundraiser

October 10, 2019 At Cantigny Park

Please join the DuPage Birding Club for a fun evening at Cantigny Park on Thursday, October 10. It's the club's biennial fundraising auction and ALL are welcome. You do NOT need to be a club member to attend! Admission/parking are FREE.

The event includes the cash-only **Birders' Bazaar** with browsing beginning at **6:15 PM**. This rummage sale features gently-used books, field guides and other birding-related items priced at \$1, \$3, \$5, \$10 or \$20. If you enjoy treasure hunting the Bazaar is definitely for you! Come early to see all the goodies and enjoy the **cash bar** opening at **6:30 pm**.

The highlight of the evening is the **live auction (7:15 PM start)**. Items up for auction this year include optics and other birding gear, books, subscriptions, art, guided specialty field trips and more. The wide selection of over sixty auction items is in thanks to our many generous donors!

Just for attending and signing in you'll get a **free raffle ticket**. Additional raffle tickets can be purchased. When your number is called you get to **PICK YOUR PRIZE**.

Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted for live auction items. Proceeds will support the bird club and bird conservation. This is the club's only fundraising event.



The evening festivities will be held in the **Cantigny Park Visitor's Center**. The entrance is located at:

1 S. 151 Winfield Rd.

Wheaton, IL 60189

Easy access from Rt. 38 (Roosevelt Rd.) to the north and Rt. 56 (Butterfield Rd.) and Interstate 88 to the south.

dbcbirds@aol.com

<http://www.dupagebirding.org>

In Case You Missed It: September 12, 2019

“Our” Birds in the Neotropics

Opening Moments + A Mini-Tutorial

The evening began with a kickoff for the DBC Auction, to be held on October 10th at Cantigny, and a call for auction items and volunteers for the night of the event. After reports of recent cool sightings, a welcome to several new members and visitors, and a vintage DBC sweatshirt giveaway, happy migratory birding was wished for all.

With that in mind, Denis Kania then acquainted the group with a small subset of fall warblers. As they pass through our area this time of year, these four warblers are generally olive in color on the upperparts/back, with two strong wingbars. From there they diverge...

The *Chestnut-sided Warbler* bears a clear, complete white eye ring, carries wingbars with a yellowish wash, and sometimes retains traces of chestnut on its flanks. The *Pine Warbler* sports a split white eye ring, a clean, streakless back, wingbars with a more subtle contrast, and black feet.

The *Blackpoll Warbler* has a streakier back, an olive wash on its lower flanks, and yellowish feet. And the *Bay-breasted Warbler* has wingbars of striking contrast, often has faint streaks on its back, and sometimes retains a bay color on its flanks, plus it has black feet.

After Denis's mini-exposé, we were all one step closer to enjoying fall warbler migration.

“Our” Birds in the Neotropics – Doug Stotz

The Field Museum's Doug Stotz works in South America as well as closer to home, and is often found birding in DuPage county. He works on preserving biodiversity and threatened habitats, focusing on bird migration and the effects of climate change on bird populations.

Doug's research and explorations have often brought him to Brazil and other South American sites, and he has participated in more than 25 inventories in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Cuba as well as one in China. Doug is also co-author of the highly-acclaimed *Birds of Peru* field guide—great for travel or wishful home perusal.

Doug's focus for the evening was the wintering grounds of the many birds that migrate through our area and settle far south of us—the neotropical migrants, especially passerines (perching birds). The journey is a perilous one full of hazards and hardship, and once they arrive on their wintering grounds, birds face a whole new set of challenges.

“Neotropical migrants,” is a broad category, and each species does its own thing as to where they go and how they behave once they've arrived. These passerines are mostly forest-based, and this forest is often secondary forest. In some species, like the Hooded Warbler, males tend to live in higher-quality primary forest while females are relegated to secondary forest, often leading to higher mortality for females. Grasslands in the neotropics are small in extent, and are at risk there just as here. Thanks to better habitat tolerances, the winter returnees spread widely throughout the neotropics compared to the birds that stay south all year round.

About 280 species migrate through our area, arriving anywhere from February (Red-winged Blackbird) to mid-May (Connecticut Warbler). When they head back south, most passerines end up in Mexico or Central America; about 10% go to South America. Almost half of non-passerines go all the way to South America. Once they arrive, their behavior varies, with some species maintaining territorial behavior in winter (e.g., the Wood Thrush). Some are nomadic, some stick to single-species flocks (Kingbirds), while some join mixed species flocks (many warbler pairs). It's interesting to compare the wintering habits of our resident birds to those that winter in the Southern Hemisphere.

A host of conservation issues plague the neotropics. One is habitat loss, often due to intensive agriculture—the forests and grasslands of Brazil, for instance, have turned into vast fields of soybeans. Females are often pushed into poorer habitat, and this means they suffer from especially high mortality—an obvious problem when it comes to breeding. Hand in hand with agriculture and other human land use are pollution of many kinds, including various chemicals and poisons.

Climate change brings drought, and montane species are slowly running out of real estate, moving upslope for the cooler temps. When the birds return to the north, they may also encounter “phenological mismatches,” meaning the resources they depend on may not be available when they get there: if the trees leaf out early here in DuPage County, birds will miss the insects that burst out with the trees. The farther away the bird comes to get to North America, the more the hazard of mistiming its arrival.

There's also a basic lack of knowledge of wintering distribution and ecology to help inform decisions about land use. Scientists are now using geolocators to help track birds more accurately, so we are making some headway, learning where birds reside in winter, as opposed to just where they're passing through. We now know that many birds pass through Amazonia rather than hang out there all winter. We've also learned that [Veeries can predict hurricanes](#) better than the National Weather Service, invariably skedaddling before the life-threatening storms come in.

For most species, North American summer habitat is even more crucial than wintering grounds—birds must breed. Still, the ever-narrowing wintering grounds are still critical for all of the birds, especially those that gather in only a few locales. Prothonotary Warblers, for one, are restricted to a couple of valleys in Colombia.

Other birds at risk, both north and south: the American Golden-Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Wood Thrush, Dickcissel, and Bobolink. Warblers of special concern: the Golden-winged, Cerulean, Swainson's, Worm-eating, and Connecticut. The Kirtland's Warbler recently had its wintering grounds blasted by Hurricane Dorian, but luckily they, along with their Caribbean cohorts, are pretty much adapted to such things.

So, what we can do about all of this? A lot of the fixes have to do with consumer products we buy, products with ingredients that degrade or destroy bird habitat in the southern hemisphere. Doug suggested supporting conservation organizations, engaging in ethical ecotourism, buying shade-grown, [bird friendly coffee](#), buying fair trade bananas and tea (not just organic, which is only one step in the right direction), avoiding products with palm oil, limiting beef in the diet, and, yes, giving up cocaine, a huge crop in parts of the region.

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

Greene Valley Hawkwatch Update

The fourteenth season of the Greene Valley Hawkwatch has started off with a terrific Month of September. Led by new monthly high counts for Broad-winged Hawk (4929), Osprey (67), and Bald Eagle (44), we set a record for total raptors in a month (5488). The bulk of the birds flew by during a two day period on the 25th and 26th. The 2 day total of 4807 was more than the season total for 11 of our previous 13 years.

We have had some rarities as well. Three Mississippi Kites floated by high in the sky. A Say's Phoebe spent a Sunday afternoon hawking insects from the fence obliging the many observers that received word of its presence. A Black-necked Stilt was seen by one keen eyed observer, a hill first! Another hill first was a Eurasian Collared Dove which had been seen previously crossing Greene Road earlier in the month.

A total of 75 species have been seen so far including one exotic (Budgerigar). The hill will be open to the public on weekends (11 am to 6 pm) through the end of October. So come join us for a few hours and bring some good birds with you. Bring extra clothing, food, drink, and a comfortable chair as well as your sharp eyes!



A Kettle of Broad-winged Hawks
Buteo platypterus
9/25/19

October 2019 Field Trips

The fall months are the time for birds to begin their migration southward. There are opportunities for all types of birders to participate and enjoy the season. Participants are welcome to contact the trip leader if they have questions including additional driving directions. Please 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.

Note: Situations sometimes change. Check our website (DuPageBirding.org) for any trip changes, additions or cancellations.

Thursday, October 10, 7:00 pm

Biennial Auction, Cantigny Park Visitors Center

The DBC event of the year fast approaches! Join us at Cantigny Park for our biennial auction. With a live auction, multiple raffles and the lively Birding Bazaar, you won't go home empty-handed!

The doors open at 6:15pm for auction and bazaar browsing and the live auction begins at 7:15pm. Look for birding gear, artwork, memberships, gently used books and clothing and an amazing array of birding paraphernalia. A cash bar and cookies add to the fun!

Saturday, October 12, 7:30 am

St. James Farm Forest Preserve, Warrenville

The monthly Cantigny walk will be at the adjacent St. James Farm. Like Cantigny, St. James was once a McCormick family property. Please bear in mind that Cantigny walks are often attended by 25 or more birders! Meet in the main parking lot of St. James. Enter off Winfield Rd., just north of Butterfield.

Leader: Jeff Reiter, jreiter@wordsonbirds.com

Greene Valley FP Hawk Watch - Saturdays and Sundays in October,

10/5-10/6, 10/12-10/13, 10/19-10/20, 10/26-10/27, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Join the Hawk Watch Team in recording raptor observations from DuPage County's second highest point. October is peak migration for many raptors species. Entrance to the hill is on Greene Rd. south of 79th St. Meet at the top of the hill after 11:00 am. Note: The Forest Preserve does not open the gate until 11:00 am. Bring snacks, water, hat, lawn chair and scope. It can be 10-15 degrees cooler, and windy on the hill, so bring clothing to layer. Follow the Greene Valley count daily at hawkcount.org. For more information on hawk watching go to: www.hmana.org

Friday, October 18, 8:00 am

York Woods, Oak Brook

York Woods is a small preserve on the east side of DuPage County. It is part of the Salt Creek Greenway Trail and has asphalt paths. It is mostly wooded with some open and wet areas. It draws a variety of birds. We will walk slowly. New birders are very welcome. Meet at the east side parking lot off of Harger Rd. traveling south on York Rd.

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

Here is a link for the entrance: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/York+Woods+County+Forest+Preserve/@41.8583222,-87.934093,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x867395cc2b8935d8!8m2!3d41.8583222!4d-87.934093>

Saturday, October 19, 8:00 am

Greene Valley, Woodridge

This morning trip will be oriented toward fall migration. We will proceed at a leisurely pace to provide as much time as desired to look at each bird and to answer questions for any new birders. After 11:00 am we will have the opportunity to join the Greene Valley Hawk Watch on Greene Valley Hill. Meet at the Thunderbird Youth Camp Parking Lot: from Greene Rd. go west on 79th about 1/2 mile. The entrance is on the south side of 79th St.

Leader: Bonnie Graham, 630-204-8750, trekfan917@sbcglobal.net

Tuesday, October 22, 6:00 pm

Eggers Grove, Chicago

Enjoy exploring the forest preserve while we search for nocturnal birds of prey. This field trip is held in conjunction with Bird the Preserves and the Forest Preserves of Cook County. The entrance is at E 112th St and South Ave. E.

Leader: Jessica Becker, 312-415-2970

October 26, 7:30 am

McKee Marsh, Warrenville

Join another morning walk to the marsh to again check out (we hope) early migrating shorebirds and nesting birds. 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.

Leaders: Steve and Kathy Mineck, day of: 630-254-4077, kmineck@dupagebirding.org

Outreach Events October 5 and October 20

Outreach Program Leader John Hebert has two upcoming programs focused on introducing children to birds. We all know how important it is to interest the next generation in enjoying the natural world. Here's your chance to open a new world for these young birders. If interested in either event, please contact John Hebert at 630-781-8306 or via the e-mail address listed on the club website.

Saturday, October 5, 10:00 am- 12:00 pm

Herrick Lake Forest Preserve

DuPage Birding Club will host a bird walk for 22 6-to 12-year old members of the St. Joseph Kids Art and Science Club. We could use one or two more members to help guide.

October 20, 3:00 pm-6:00 pm

Hobson School, Naperville

Hobson School will be hosting its annual fall festival on October 20 and they would like a representative from the DuPage Birding Club to attend and talk about local birds to its preschoolers and potentially help with a couple of group bird walks. The event will take place from 3:00-6:00 pm. The preschool is located in Naperville, backing up to beautiful Goodrich Woods. They are a play- and nature-based preschool and its students would love to learn more about the birding club and local bird species.

Interested in being a field trip leader? It's easy! Let us know your favorite birding spot and a time when you can lead and we will add it to the list. You do not have to be a birding expert, you just need to be comfortable at a specific site. Contact dbcfieldtrips@dupagebirding.org for more information.

For additional birding opportunities check out the Illinois Birding Calendar at

<http://www.illinoisbirds.org/calendar-2/>

There is no need to register for trips unless otherwise indicated. Visitors are always welcome. We do not charge fees for birding trips.

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