



President's Message

Hello, DBC members,

The expression “Spring Fever” has a slightly different meaning for those of us who love birds. It means the thrill of discovery gains momentum and the air grows supercharged with song. It means we can throw off the layers of clothing and let our skin feel the warm sun. It means the restless waiting is over and we can go birding any old day we want to! Our preserve trails fill once again with birders on the lookout for “old familiars” and eager for new discoveries. These new beginnings energize us and fill us with enthusiasm.

Your Board has caught a bit of Spring Fever, too, and we are eager to explore ways to enhance the DBC member experience and preserve the good things that attracted you to the Club and keep you interested. We are working with a long list of ideas we and the previous Board generated to strengthen the Club. That said, we have committed to five goals that will underpin all that we try to accomplish in 2019, and we want you to know what they are:

- **Commit to being a high-performing Board** that is accountable and gets stuff done. We all have lives and other commitments, but Board members will make Club leadership a priority. As a team, we will follow through on commitments, maintain a focus on results, and make things happen.
- **Serve our members' direct interests** by invigorating the quality of the speaker program, continuing to offer a wide range of field trips, and creating learning opportunities. We have made great progress securing speakers whose presentations will teach, enlighten, and engage; we are introducing “mini-tutorials” as a bonus learning opportunity at each meeting; and our field trip program continues to offer a range of high-quality field experiences. More to come here as well.
- **Put our cash to work** to fund worthy bird-related projects. We have a concerted effort to identify a number of projects we can fund in 2019 to contribute to birding research efforts, provide habitat or nesting support, or seed other worthy initiatives. If you know of such projects, please bring them to our attention.
- **Find ways to engage members** to promote participation, deliver value, and encourage volunteerism. We will focus on improving our communications channels with members and will explore ways such as surveys to gather your input on various decisions. We're very interested in creating a two-way conversation with the membership. At the end of the day, this is your Club and it will be as good, as fun, and as worthwhile as we ALL make it.

Next Meeting

April 11, 2019
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
(Note new location)
Ellyn's Tap and Grill
940 Roosevelt Rd.
Glen Ellyn

- **Preserve our reputation** as a topnotch birding club by sponsoring Chicagoland birding initiatives, delivering community-centric enrichment programs, and sharing our expertise in the field and elsewhere. Visibility within the community and service to the community are part of what defines us as a leader among birding organizations. Our Outreach program is an important vehicle for realizing this goal as are our sponsorships of regional programs such as BCN and Wild Things. It “takes a village” to deliver on this, and that’s where volunteers are very important.

You can hold us to these goals as the year progresses, and we welcome your participation and feedback at any time.

Cheers,

Diann

Wondering how you might do more to help conserve bird species in the Chicago area? How about becoming a bird monitor?

The Bird Conservation Network conducts a breeding bird survey during the month of June throughout the six-county Chicagoland area. We’re looking for birders who would like to join our team and help measure how our bird populations are doing. Required are two early-morning visits in June to a preserve near you. More about the survey is here: <http://bcnbirds.org/monprotocol.html>

What: When: Where:

New Survey Monitor’s Training Saturday, 13 April 2018, 1:30PM Salt Creek Resource Management 500 Ogden Ave., Western Springs

In this training session, we’ll teach you how our surveys are conducted, steps you’ll need to take to become a BCN monitor, and review the identification of our most important and threatened species.

Come join us and become an important part of bird conservation in Northeast Illinois.

Questions? Contact Tim Balassie at tbalassie@gmail.com, or at 630-513-7345.



Goodbye to an old friend: Karen Fisher's passing

With great sadness, we share the news that Karen Fisher has passed away. A former president of the Du Page Birding Club and a mentor and friend to many in our community, Karen was always eager to help fellow birders and share her deep knowledge of our avian friends. In her honor, the club will make a \$200 donation to the Bird Conservation Network. We extend our very deepest condolences to husband Bob.

(Below is Bob's IBET post regarding Karen's passing for those who may have missed it.)

To our many birding friends - Karen died at home last Monday morning 3/18. She did not want a wake and chose to be cremated and her ashes scattered at a location she loved.

I'm writing a remembrance. Perhaps not surprisingly, that's proving to be difficult. I hope to finish it soon. I'll advise when it's available via an email on IBET. If you have a favorite memory about Karen and birding, feel free to send it along to me by email, **back channel please**. I may want to incorporate it in my remembrance.

No flowers or sympathy cards, please. If you wish to do something in Karen's memory, make a donation. The IOS Grants program, BCN, TWI, IAS, DBC, COS, or your own favorite bird conservation organizations are all possibilities.

Instead of a wake or funeral, Karen asked that I organize a celebration of her love of birding, and the many friends she had within our great birding community. My tentative plan is for the weekend after the Spring Bird Count, either Saturday May 11 or Sunday May 12. It will be totally informal, here in the 'yard in Downers Grove'. No schedule, no somberness, just our many birding friends coming and going, talking, looking for (and at) birds along the little creek that runs through the back of our yard. Maybe someone will see or hear a Yellow-throated Warbler, the last of the 'regular' Illinois warbler species still absent from our yard list. I'm sure Karen would be thrilled were someone to spot a rarity, like the Rufous Hummingbird so many birders saw here in our yard in the fall of 2016. You never know...

Bob Fisher

April Program

A Little Bird Told Me

Denis Kania. A Little Bird Told Me

The DuPage Birding Club will host an entertaining and informative program on April 11 entitled “A Little Bird Told Me” presented by Denis Kania.

Denis spent over twenty years in the field of software development before he found his true passion which is ecological restoration. He recently retired as the Natural Areas Manager for the St. Charles Park District where he worked for seventeen years. His keen interest in birds helped ease this transition.

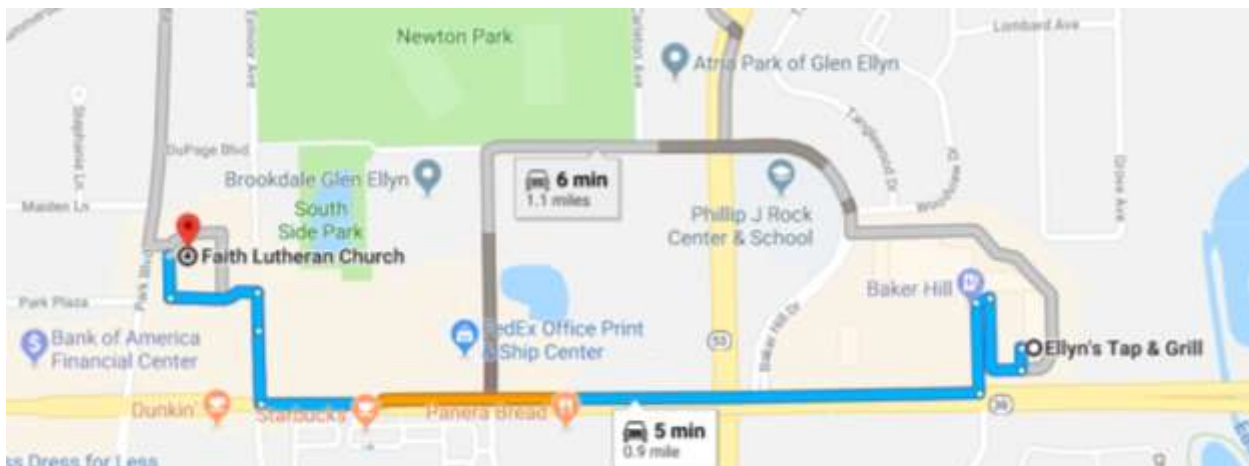


Denis shares his knowledge with others by teaching ecology and bird education classes at the Morton Arboretum which he has done for the last 22 years. He has also organized birding trips to all the friendly corners of the world. These travels have enriched his life through the people he has met, and the experiences he has had. His travels have made him aware of the perils we will face in the future. Denis’s recent travels to Ecuador, Panama, and Ghana last year have given him many stories to share.

Join Denis as he explains how his world travels have shaped his perspective on ecological conservation both near and far away. The ultimate message of this program is how people can make better decisions at home that not only affect our own local environment, but also places halfway around the world that we may never see.

NEW Pre-meeting dinner location:

A new location and a new spirit of camaraderie. We’ll be gathering at Ellyn’s Tap and Grill, 940 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn. Arrive between 5:45 and 6:00 to chat with guest speakers as well as some of your best birding friends.



In Case You Missed It: Members' Night – March 14, 2019

After a rousing preview of some upcoming club meetings and field trips, a call for club volunteers, a raffled sweatshirt (go to <https://www.dupagebirding.org/shop> to get yours), and a thank you to departing board member Kevin Hlava, Members' Night quickly swung into full gear.

This year, attendees were treated to 11 presentations, covering local birds (with “accidentals”) observed from the couch or dining room table, to the exotic and faraway of several continents. The evening featured images, anecdotes, and travel tips from a range of new members to intrepid veterans:



Beth Pector (2018-2019: Travel, Lost, Local, Light)

Beth traveled to see some life birds, and closer to home she saw lost birds, local birds, and light birds.

- Photos: <https://www.facebook.com/elizabeth.pector>
- Older photos: www.flickr.com/photos/epector

Joe Sucheki (Colombia, Ghana, and Ecuador)

Bird trips with friends over the past 18 months.

Richard Roche (Birds of the Scottish Highlands, North Sea Coast, and Western Islands)

Richard identified birds he saw on a trip to Scotland. Highlights are visits to a gannet colony on the north coast and a visit to a puffin colony on the island of Staffa.

Bonnie Graham (BBB: Big Bend Birds)

Last spring, Bonnie and her husband drove down to Texas Big Bend National Park.

Cathy Walz (Birding in Botswana)

Cathy and her husband visited three different safari camps (as well as Cape Town, South Africa) in December 2017.

John Hebert (Horicon Marsh)

A sampling of the birds at Horicon Marsh, the largest cattail marsh in the country.

Urs Geiser (South Africa, October 2018)

Urs spent 2 1/2 weeks in South Africa on a birding tour that covered much of the country.

- Photostream: www.flickr.com/photos/ugeiser
- Photo albums (including S. Africa): <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ugeiser/albums>

Kate Hopkins (EBird Newbie: Stories from the Backyard)

Sharing some photos of this winter at her feeder including one special visitor—a happily errant Spotted Towhee.

Sirimon Reutrakul (Birding in Sulawesi)

Birds from the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia, known for endemic kingfishers and rare mammals.

Denis Kania (My Art Studio)

Finally, with retirement and a little free time between trips he's back at his art desk.

John Baker (Birds from Abroad)

Birds in Thailand, Australia, Fiji, the UAE, and Sri Lanka.

Do you have photos of local birds you'd like to share with the club for our website and other projects? Email me at sconstantelos@dupagebirdingclub.org.

—Steve Constantelos, DBC Recording Secretary

Save the Date

Thursday, July 11, 2019 - 7:30 pm

A Rare Peek at Rails, Secretive Marsh Birds of the Great Lakes

Rails are a group of bird species that are facing steep declines in the Great Lakes region. However, since they tend to be secretive and difficult to monitor, their population trends and habits are poorly understood. Stephanie Beilke, Conservation Science Associate with Audubon Great Lakes, will discuss what we do know about this diverse species group and how Audubon Great Lakes is informing habitat management for these birds around the Chicago area and beyond.

Mini Tutorial – McKee Marsh, exploring birding opportunities at this large wetland complex.

April Field Trips

Please note: Last-minute changes are posted on dupagebirding.org/field-trips. Our spring field trips target migrating waterfowl, raptors, passerines and shorebirds, plus 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.

Sunday, April 7, 7:30 am

Lyman Woods, Downers Grove

Meet in the parking lot in front of Lyman Woods Interpretive Center, located one block east of Highland Avenue on 31st Street. Boots are HIGHLY recommended, even if the weather has only been slightly damp.

Leader: Joan Campbell 630-337-2605, peachjmc@gmail.com

Friday, April 12, 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.

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

Saturday, April 13, 8:00 am

Lincoln Marsh, Wheaton

Between 1979 and 1992 more than 100 parcels of land were assembled to form the core of this park. Today it is one of the most accessible natural areas in DuPage County, having wood chip trails and a floating boardwalk. The focus of the trip will be observing and interpreting breeding and nesting bird activity.

Directions: The entrance to Lincoln Marsh is on the west side of the park, at the corner of Harrison St. and Pierce Ave. From County Farm Rd., turn east on Harrison St. and proceed one mile to the parking lot.

Be prepared for wet trail conditions and insects and dress accordingly.

Leader: John Cebula, 630-640-2721, jcebula@dupagebirding.org

Sunday, April 14, 7:00 am

Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, Oak Brook

This will be a walk for new birders. We will walk slowly and allow ample time to look for spring warblers and other migrants. Our focus will be the lowland woods along the Salt River. Meet at the main parking lot on Spring Road in Oak Brook.

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

Saturday, April 20, 7:00 am

Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

This trip will focus on grassland birds and late spring migrants. Please park at the model aircraft field on Plainfield-Naperville Road, South of 75th Street in Naperville.

Leader: Joe Suchecki, 630-386-5570, jsuchecki@dupagebirding.org

Saturday, April 27, 7:00 am

York Woods, Oak Brook--Birding Sit-in

York Woods is another great location for spring warblers and other migrants. Come join us for stationary birding. We will let the passing flocks come to us! Meet at the parking lot lawn at the picnic table we will bring a few extra folding chairs. Bring your own coffee thermos, but bagels and cream cheese will be provided. This is a small site so feel free to bird the trails.

Directions: From southbound York Rd. take Frontage Rd. west (I-88 exit) to Harger. Access to Frontage Rd. from northbound York is not allowed. Take York north to Roosevelt Rd. and follow the Roosevelt interchange to southbound York.

Leader: Kathy Mineck, day of: 630-254-4077, kmineck@dupagebirding.org

Sunday, April 28, 7:30 am

McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Naperville

McDowell Grove is typically a productive site for warblers and other migrants. The focus of the trip will be early migrants, forest, and scrubland birds. Meet in the parking lot off Raymond Drive, 1/2 mile south of I-88. Most of our walk will be on gravel and good earthen trails; wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

Leader: Diann Bilderback, dbilderback@dupagebirding.org

Plan Ahead Reminder - Spring Bird Count

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Spring Bird Count, DuPage County

100 or more birders will fan out across DuPage County to identify all the bird species they can find. A group of birders will be in the field somewhere near your home.

Come join us; we need more birders to make it possible to cover as many locations within the county as we can. You don't have to be an expert birder to participate; all skill levels are welcome. Even if you can only bird for part of the day, we can use you. And if that's your preference, you'll probably be able to look for birds close to home, since we divide the county into 17 areas, with teams scouring each area.

Email Joe Suchecki at DuPageSBC@gmail.com to volunteer or find out more information.

Other Birding Opportunities

In two separate events, sponsored by College of DuPage, Dupage Birding Club member John Cebula will lead a field trip and lecture on attracting birds:

Monday, April 29, 9 am

Russell Kirk Prairie at College of DuPage

Meet in the lobby of the Health Sciences building (HSC) which is on the east side of Lambert Road, just south of Fawell Boulevard (the former 22nd Street). The trip is free and open to the public.

Leader: John Cebula, 630-640-2721, jcebula@dupagebirding.org

Tuesday, April 30, 1:00 pm-2:30 pm

College of DuPage, Health Sciences Building

Lecture on attracting birds to home gardens and the importance of doing so. Meet in the HSC lobby. The event is free and open to the public.

Lecturer: John Cebula, 630-640-2721, jcebula@dupagebirding.org

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.

Field Trip Coordinators : Jessica Becker, Kathy Mineck DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com

DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com

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