



President's Message

Ahoy DuPage Birders! It feels great to be at the helm with a steady hand ready to navigate our way through 2020. Sorry for the nautical jargon, I've been working on lining up pelagic tours for a trip later this year to far away places. Meanwhile, back here in DuPage County it is hard to believe that it is winter. I'm sure that at some point we will be treated to some cold and snow. I hope that we can all make the best of it and go out and do what we love to do, GO BIRDING!

It's looking like it will be an exciting year for DuPage birders. The efforts of last year's board have set a solid foundation for the new board members that will be charting our course. Our piggy bank is full, and we already have plans to do good things with our funds. There is a related article in this newsletter outlining those plans. It's great to see our money being put to work on bird related projects. There is also a project coming to the forefront that will benefit all club members. That project is a facelift of our club website. You will find that the new format is much more user friendly and will display features that club members should find to be very useful. We will likely see enhancements throughout the year!

Another project that will be wrapped up in the early part of the year is a new and improved version of the county checklist. It is long overdue. I'm sure we have all noticed changes in the species around us as well as their abundance. We'll be looking for help in refining abundance ratings as well as the list itself. There is a related article that will outline how you can help to finalize the changes that are currently being pondered.

Plans are already taking shape for a slate of interesting speakers for 2020. We're kicking things off with Laura Keene. Laura's presentation on her photographic big year should get everyone's motors running. We'll continue to offer a wide variety of field trips that can hopefully satisfy all levels of interest. We're going to take a few of our field trips a little farther afield this year with offerings to places like Magee Marsh in Ohio and Horicon Marsh in Wisconsin. Some birders might want to broaden their horizons after our January meeting, and these new trips can lead the way. These trips are just another way that we are increasing member benefits in 2020.

I have a lot of travel plans for 2020, but I will be close to home for all of January. I hope our paths will cross either in the field or at our January meeting. Maybe even at our first field trip of the year on New Year's Day! 2020, here we come!

Next Meeting

January 9, 2020
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



DuPage Birding Club

Meeting January 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Mini Tutorial – Our Winter Diving Ducks

Continuing our mini-tutorial series, Denis Kania will provide an identification overview of our three mergansers, two scaup and ring-necked duck. These duck species all can show up during the winter in DuPage County, can be a little confusing, and deserve a closer look.



Unparalleled Joy: A Photographic Big Year

In 2016, Ohio birder Laura Keene embarked upon a year-long journey with a goal of seeing and photographing as many species of birds in the ABA area as possible. During a year that got completely and utterly out of hand she broke Neil Hayward's 2013 ABA mark and set a new ABA standard, photographing 792 species. On a personal level, 2016 was a year of unparalleled joy and fulfillment.

The DuPage Birding Club welcomes Laura, who will share her motivations for doing a big year, and the adventures involved as she travelled to each corner of the ABA area, from the lush beauty of Hawaii to the vast wilderness of Alaska. Now living in South Texas, Laura will share the joy of her journeys – the sights, the people, the wildlife – as she lived her Big Year dream, immersed in the healing power of birding.



Pre-meeting dinner location

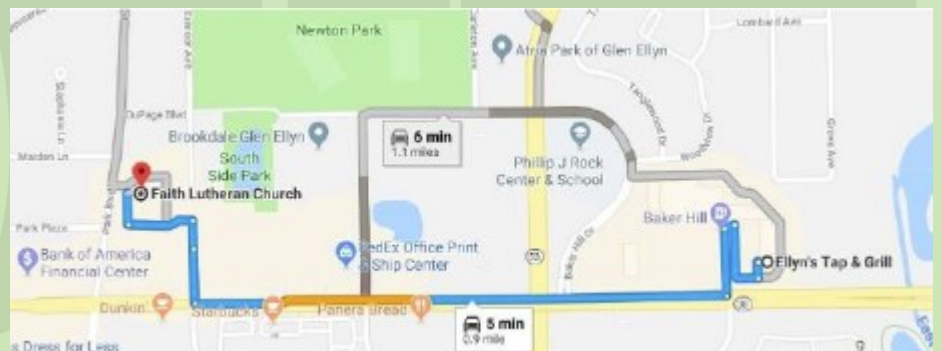
Ellyn's Tap and Grill

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.

Meeting location

Faith Lutheran Church, Glen Ellyn



dbcbirds@aol.com

<http://www.dupagebirding.org>

COMING SOON: Refreshed website

Exciting news—we'll be kicking off the New Year with an all-new website for the DBC. The Board decided to invest in a rebuild for a number of practical reasons. We are migrating to a platform that is easier for a nontechnical person to update and maintain, important for our volunteer webmasters. The update gives us a chance to refresh our content and create a site that is mobile-friendly, more secure, easier to navigate, and aligned with current web design standards. Such refreshes are common undertakings every few years. The club has retained Eric Secker to redesign the site, working with Diann Bilderback and Nancy Allured. After launch, Eric will continue to advise us and provide trouble-shooting services so we can ensure timely communications and a good user experience for site visitors. The site will launch some time in the first quarter of the year.

DuPage County Checklist

Plans are underway to update the county checklist in 2020. Revisions to the county checklist have been slowly taking shape. There are a lot of birds to review and each has many abundance ratings across multiple seasons. Work has been completed on several family groups but there is still fine tuning to be done on other families. As we make our changes we would welcome any input from club members based on their sightings from the past 10 years. Please take a look at the checklist and see if anything looks like it needs an adjustment.

In addition, if you are a power E-bird user and can analyze and crunch numbers from the dataset, we want to hear from you! We want to use this powerful resource to understand species presence, and abundance at a given time of year.

One major change that will be taking place is that we will be dropping the list of accidental species from the hardcopy list. Accidental species will only be listed on the online version of the checklist that will reside on our website. The list of accidentals has exploded over the past few years and has outgrown the available space on the hardcopy version.

If interested in helping the update effort, please contact Denis Kania at djkan36@gmail.com.

January 2020 Field Trips

This month is the time to see winter birds, especially waterfowl, raptors and owls, and many other species are only seen this time of year. We encourage everyone to enjoy birding in a safe manner. Wear proper, warm clothing and winter footwear.

NOTE: Please check DuPageBirding.org for any trip changes, additions or cancellations. This is more likely with winter weather.

Saturday, January 11, 2:00 pm (bad weather on Saturday?, alternate is Sunday 1/12/20)

Goose Lake Prairie SP and surrounding areas

Join Bob Fisher and check various locations for raptors, gulls, waterfowl and owls. Meet at the McDonalds in Coal City at the SE corner of Hwy 113 and Broadway. Dress warmly since we will likely be standing in one exposed location as the sun sets.

Pre-registration is required; limit 15.

Trip may be cancelled in the event of bad weather. Contact Bob to register.

Leader: Bob Fisher, bfisher928@aol.com

Friday, January 17, 8:00 am

Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, Oak Brook

This will be a walk for new birders. We will walk slowly and allow time for all to look at the birds. We will walk along the Salt Creek in the lowland woods with good habitat for birds.

Meet at the main parking lot on Spring Rd. in Oak Brook.

Leader: Nancy Allured, nallured@dupagebirding.org

Sunday, January 19, 8:00 am

Des Plaines River Tour

Meet in the west parking lot for Waterfall Glen FP, Lemont Rd. and 101st St. We can carpool from there. We will travel downstream along the Des Plaines River looking for waterfowl. The trip will end in the Channahon area. We will stop for lunch along the way. A scope would be helpful, but not necessary. Hope to be back mid-afternoon.

Leader: Jeff Smith, 331-481-3362, mrgmagoo12@gmail.com

Saturday, January 25, 8:00 am

Elsen's Hill/West DuPage Woods, Winfield

This location has the designation of "Important Bird Area." 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. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing and boots for muddy trails.

Leader: Mark Bavetz, mbavetz@dupagebirding.org

Sunday, January 26, 8:00 am

McKee Marsh, Winfield

This site remains one of DuPage County's premier birding spots. Walk around the marsh with us to check out winter birds. Meet at the visitor parking lot on the north side of Mack Road (Mack is south of Roosevelt and north of Butterfield), located between Winfield Road and Rte. 59 in Warrenville.

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

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

Field Trip Coordinators

Bonnie Graham

Kathy Mineck

DBCFieldTrips@gmail.com

Club donation to be shared among three candidate organizations

The outcome of our recent DBC survey pointed to an easy decision for the Board. The survey asked which of three organizations should receive our planned \$3,000 donation, a generous sum possible as a result of our highly successful auction. With 67 votes representing about a quarter of the membership, votes were very evenly split among the three candidate organizations, with a similar number voting to split the donation. Each of the following organizations will receive a \$1,000 donation from the DBC in 2020. Some of these donations will qualify for matching funds, further extending our donation dollars.

- Bird Collision Network
- Fermilab Natural Areas
- The Wetlands Initiative

A big thank-you to all who found the time to vote during the busy holiday season! You're helping to make a difference for birds in 2020

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

First Class



2020 Meetings

January 9

March 12

April 9

May 14

July 9

September 10

October 8

November 12