

DBC's Winter Photography Contest Winners!

The DBC's first photo contest was a great success with 45 entries submitted! Twenty DBC members sent in pictures that ranged from backyard birds to birds from far-away lands like Thailand, Jamaica, and Antarctica. The photo contest entries were judged by John Hebert, Andie Duffy, Steve Constanelos, Natalie McFaul, and Mike Warner. Because of the variety and quality of the submissions the committee had a very tough time deciding on which pictures to recognize. The committee wants to thank all the photographers for their entries.

Below are the DBC Winter '22 Photography Contest Winners. The committee set aside two entries because they came with a great story. See elsewhere in The Drumblings for those two special photos and the story behind the shots.

Best Photograph - "Berry Pretty"

Photographer: Dennis Streicher

Species of Bird: Cedar Waxwing

Where was the picture taken: Glen Ellyn

Narrative: This photo was taken on a foggy winter morning. The red cedars next to my bedroom balcony had a full crop of cedar berries that the waxwings found very appetizing. There were light snow flurries and the light made this shot very mystical. The bird turned to look at me as I took the shot but wasn't bothered by my presence at all. The flock of waxwings fed on the berries for about 5 minutes and moved on.



Best Common Redpoll - "Hangin' at the Birch Cafe"

(Judges' note: we received a lot of Common Redpoll pictures so we decided to select the best of them.)

Photographer: Jackie Tilles

Species: Common Redpoll

Where was the picture taken:

Chicago Botanic Garden

Narrative: When I heard this was an irruption year, I knew that the Redpolls would be back at the Chicago Botanic Garden. It didn't take long to find over fifty of them eating the catkins on the birch trees. I had to aim my camera up and was grateful that this friendly bird landed on one of the lower branches. By the time I finished my visit I had catkin seeds on my coat, my hat, and stuck to my face.



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Best Photograph Taken Outside of the U.S.

“Are You Giving Me the Side-Eye?”

Photographer: Cathy Walz

Species: King Penguin

Where was the picture taken?: St. Andrews Bay, South Georgia

Narrative: There were huge numbers of penguins at the site. I was looking around for one or two penguins off by themselves that I could focus on and saw these two posing for me!



Best Local Bird

“Red-bellied among the Red Berries”

Photographer: Rick Roche

Species of Bird: Red-bellied Woodpecker

Where was the picture taken?: Centennial Trail

Narrative: I had just been looking at the many swans along Canal Bank Road and decided to hike east along the Des Plaines River. Past fence sign 355+00 I found more open water and lots of ducks and a couple more swans. I was happy for the sightings but frustrated by trying to photograph them through the carp fence. Then a Red-Bellied Woodpecker landed in a low tree right in front of me as a sort of peace offering.



Once In A Lifetime Shot!

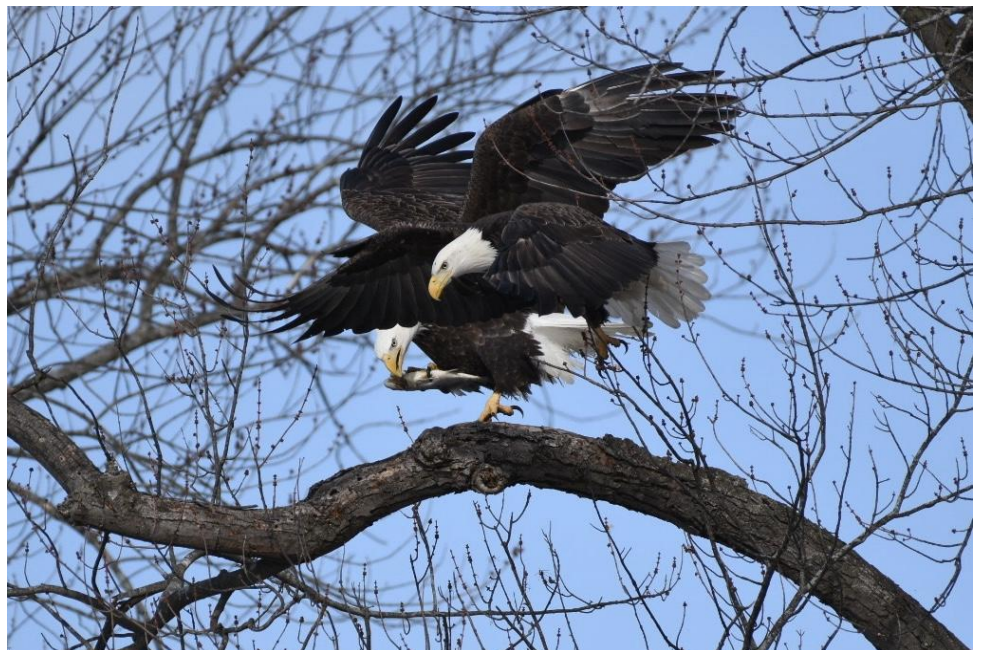
“This fish is all mine! Go get your own!!”

Photographer: Jeanne Rosone

Species: Bald Eagle

Where was the picture taken?: West Dundee

Narrative: One eagle caught a fish from the river and another eagle was chasing the first eagle to try to steal the fish. The second eagle was unsuccessful in stealing the fish and the first eagle thoroughly enjoyed its lunch.



Best Bird Interaction

“Two Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds Interacting”

Photographer: Mike Davern

Species: Rufous-tailed Hummingbird

Where was the picture taken?: La Jolla, California

Narrative: Hand-held with these quick birds, Nikon Z 7 2 with a Sigma 150-600@ 600mm at 1/500 at 5.6.



Best Caption (Humorous)

“Line Up Double File!”

Photographer: Andrew Steinmann

Species: Black-necked Stilt

Where was the picture taken?: Greater Portmore Sewage Ponds, Jamaica

Narrative: At the sewage ponds there were a lot of stilts. They always seem to arrange themselves in lines. Birds in Jamaica are no exception.



Best Rarity

“‘Lew’ our Leucistic Common Redpoll Visitor”

Photographer: Cindy Duranceau

Species: Common Redpoll (male partially-leucistic)

Where Was the Picture Taken?: My Naperville yard

Narrative: This partially-leucistic Redpoll visited our feeders with his crowd for 5 days intermittently between Feb. 5 and Feb. 13th. This photo was taken on his 2nd visit on Feb. 7th. We decided to name him "Lew" (Lol). A couple of the days he was missing from our yard, he showed up a few miles west in someone else's yard, at least 2 or 3 times.



Best Artistic Quality

“White on Black (with a Little Blue)”

Photographer: Joe Suchecki

Species of Bird(s) in Photo: White Pelican

Where was the picture taken?: Yucatan, Mexico

Narrative: I captured this flock of White Pelicans sitting on the water during a boat trip on an estuary during a birding tour in Yucatan in December 2021.



Best BIF (Bird In Flight)

“A Moment in Time (Actually 1/1600 of a second)”

Photographer: Laurel Ahlenius

Species of Bird(s) in Photo: Female Common Goldeneye

Location: Des Plaines River, close to the Centennial Trail, Cook County, IL

Narrative: I love winter and the birds and ducks that come with it. I enjoy doing high speed photo shooting to capture birds in flight. The details such as wing positions, feather details, colors, lighting, a clean appealing background, following the bird in flight pattern with 8 pounds of camera & lens all have to come together. I get shots like this in every 200 - 500 attempts. When this happens, I love to see the beauty of each bird in flight/motion. Photos freeze action which our human eyes are not capable of seeing all the detail that the camera collects. I consider these photos as “gifts.” I am grateful for these beautiful “moments in time.”



Best Holiday Picture

“Just Want to Be Part of the Christmas Festivities!”

Photographer: Cindy Duranceau

Species of Bird(s) in Photo: Cooper's Hawk

Location: My Naperville yard

Narrative: I stepped out the front door and there it was- in the neighbor's decorated tree. The Hawk stayed long enough for a few photo poses on 12/23/22 (2 days before Christmas LOL). I have some bird feeders not too far away.



Best Photograph By A Young Photographer

“Keeping Watch from Above”

Photographer: Henry Meade (age13)

Species of Bird(s) in Photo: Great Blue Heron

Where was the picture taken?: Morton Arboretum

Narrative: We were driving through the Morton Arboretum when I spotted this Great Blue Heron sitting on a log above the water. Normally you see these herons standing still in the water watching for prey, so it was interesting to see this one watching from a perch above the water. I really like how the darker and moody tones in the background add to the effect on the picture. I also like how the colors on the log stand out!

