

Announcing DBC's Summer 2022 Photography Contest Winners

Best of Show - Black Crowned Night Heron

Photographer: Bonnie Graham

Species of Bird: Black-crowned Night Heron

Where was the picture taken? Fullersburg Forest Preserve

Narrative - I had previous knowledge that there were 2 Black-crowned Night Herons at Fullersburg Forest Preserve, but every time I went there I would miss them. Well, apparently I would get to the location a bit late, they were done feeding. So on this particular day, I went there right when the sun was coming up. After fishing for breakfast, this Black-crowned Night Heron came up on a snag, right in front of me, just as the sun was coming through the trees. I love how his red eyes "pop" in this photo. arly bird gets the worm, or in this case, the photo.



Best Photo By a Beginner

Photographer: Pamela Martyn-Nemeth

Species of Bird: Tree swallow

Where was the picture taken? Montrose Point

Narrative - I am a beginning birder and beginning photographer. I was trying to capture this tree swallow with its beautiful colors in a space with contrasting colors to highlight the bird.



Best Travel Shot

Photographer: Rick Roche

Species: Atlantic Puffin

Where was the picture taken? Fair Isle, Scotland

Narrative - On our nature cruise of the Scottish Islands, we had seen puffins several times, but the sunny, calm conditions of our morning on Fair Isle were perfect. Puffins posed the length of the grassy cliff overlooking the heart of the remote island.



Faster Than A Speeding Bullet Award

Photographer: Franz Burnier

Species: Cedar Waxwing

Location: Danada Forest Preserve in June 2022.

Narrative: Four waxwings were perched together at the top of a dead tree, the first ones I had seen this year. I started taking pictures and they scattered, resulting in this shot.



Little Bird On the Prairie Award

Photographer: Mike Davern

Species of Bird: Henslow's Sparrow

Where was the picture taken? Springbrook Prairie Photo walk with Joe

Narrative: Did a photo walk with Joe Suchecki and got this lifer.



Best Story Behind the Shot

Photographer: Michelle Wysocki

Species of Bird: Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Where was the picture taken? Le Roy Oaks Forest Preserve St Charles, IL

Narrative: After a long day at work, in a hospital basement, I stopped at the woods. I always have my camera. I stared into the pond looking for frogs and dragonflies...nothing. A lone American Robin caught my attention, but much to my surprise rather, it was a Grosbeak! My first captured on film.



In Your Face Award

Photographer: Mark Levesque

Species of Bird: Red-winged blackbird

Where was the picture taken? Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

Narrative - This red-winged blackbird was not too happy I was taking his picture and voiced his anger quite loudly



Best Group Shot Award

Photographer: Kathleen Burns

Species: Barn Swallow

Location: Katherine Legg Park, Hinsdale, IL

Narrative: Was walking my dog by a shelter in the park and the mom was yelling at me and I thought - there must be babies nearby - so I found these guys



Best Portrait in Flight Award

Photographer: Jackie Tilles

Species: Caspian Tern

Location: Techny North Basin, Northbrook, IL

Narrative: This is one of seven Caspian Terns that spent the summer at the Techny North Basin in Northbrook. The other six are the white splotches on the bank. One or several terns would take turns cruising the basin for fish. It was a thrill to watch these big red-billed birds dive from the air and plunge to the water in hopes of capturing a meal.



The Green Award

Photographer: Michelle Wysocki

Species: Green Heron

Location: Bartlett



Perfect Timing Award

Photographer: Jeanne Rosone

Species of Bird: Caspian Tern

Location: Wood Dale, IL

Narrative: I was watching the Caspian Terns diving into the water, trying to catch fish and just happened to get this picture right before it landed in the water.



Punky Heron Award

Photographer: Lisa Gaylord

Species of Bird: Green Heron

Where was the picture taken? Lincoln Marsh

Narrative - I was walking along the path & I heard the call of the green heron as he flew in for a landing. He started walking as he was stretching his neck. Then the feathers on top of his head stop up as if he was having a bad hair day.



Tern, Tern, Turn Award

Photographer: Laurel Ahlenius

Bird Species: Caspian Tern

Location: Lake #3, Wheaton, IL

Narrative: Although this file may be small, it was originally a 20 megapixel file, I had to crop it down so the detail could be seen. The Caspian Tern was at the other end of the pond, as he was quite far away.

I was shooting the Caspian Tern in flight fishing, and did not realize until I reviewed the photos, that this one did a 360 degree turn in mid-flight to shake off the water! I have a three-series-shot of his full turn, but since this is a single photo contest, I took the best. I spent a fair amount of time, and many photos (1,000++ and I'm not kidding), trying to capture the Caspian Terns diving for fish.

I was amazed to see this behavior, as when taking the pics, I never saw him turn over like that. I know that this must be a somewhat common behavior, as I have another tern also doing the same as well.

