

## **Announcing DBC's Fall 2022 Photography Contest Winners!**

The DBC's Fall '22 photo contest was a great success! The 27 entries were judged by John Hebert, Andie Duffy, Steve Constantelos, 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 Fall '22 Photography Contest Winners.

### **Best of Show - Purple Sandpiper**

**Photographer:** Andrew Steinmann

**Species of Bird:** Purple Sandpiper

**Where was the picture taken?** Fishhook Pier, Montrose Harbor

**Narrative** - This was a very early migrant bird that was seen by many on Saturday, 17 September. I was able to sit on the pier and get very low and close. This enabled me to get a sharp image with a marvelously blurred background of Lake Michigan.



## Christmas Tree Topper Award

**Photographer:** Jerry Ball

**Species of Bird:** Red-tailed Hawk

**Where was the picture taken?** Taken in my Townhouse Community with my phone

**Narrative** - I walk my dog every day in a small 3/4 mile circle around our community. We often see hawks flying, but when we saw this Red-Tail perched on top of this tree, we thought he looked like an ornament on top of a Christmas tree!



## Berry Good Picture Award

**Photographer:** John Obenland

**Species of Bird:** Cedar Waxwing

**Where was the picture taken?** Springbrook Prairie FP

**Narrative:** OK, it wasn't Christmas, but mid-September is celebration time for the Waxwings and many other species! Red berries and green leaves - it's the most wonderful time of the year! A time for fun and games for all ages, such as "How Many Berries Can One Stuff In One's Mouth?", and the popular "Most Athletic Grab". The competition is so great that the participants seem to lose all sense of fear of birders and flock to the seasonal decor. It's all about the prize!



## Fine Feathered Friend Award

**Photographer:** Jackie Tilles

**Species of Bird:** Great Blue Heron

**Where was the picture taken?** Axehead Lake, Park Ridge, IL

**Narrative:** This Great Blue Heron had its spot staked out on Axehead Lake and seemed to enjoy the activity going on around it. The heron was not intimidated by anyone passing by, including fishermen, birders, children at play and even dogs. It was a beautiful day in October and the light was just right for defining the features of the bird and bringing out the colors of the lake.



## Colors of Fall Award

**Photographer:** Cindy Duranceau

**Species of Bird:** Red-bellied Woodpecker

**Where was the picture taken?** Holland, Michigan

**Narrative:** While visiting Holland, Michigan for a few days, we were awestruck by the gorgeous fall leaf colors. As we were walking in the woods, a Red-bellied Woodpecker appeared and posed for us.



## "I Am Batman" Award

**Photographer:** Jeanne Rosone

**Species of Bird:** Blue Jay

**Where was the picture taken?** Wood Dale, IL

**Narrative:** I usually get a few Blue Jay visitors to my yard and I enjoy taking their pictures as they are very entertaining. Most of the time I get a picture with their wings outstretched but this time I captured one with its wings down, making for an interesting picture.



## **“Sometimes It’s Good To Get Lost” Award**

**Photographer:** Sirimon Reutrakul

**Species of Bird:** Black-throated Magpie-Jay

**Where was the picture taken?** San Diego (and beyond)

**Narrative:** We were visiting our kid in San Diego and wanted to go birding south of the city. As usual, Google Map was our guide. Perhaps there were several similar names of places, and before we knew it, we were on a dirt road and my phone said, “Welcome to Mexico!” It was still early morning. We turned around to go back north and suddenly came upon the blue silhouette on the tree along the road. We got out of the car and realized that we have not seen this bird before. It was very loud (like a jay) and looked somewhat like a jay. A few seconds later it flew out to perch on the electric wire and posed for us. This was a lifer bird. I guess sometimes getting lost could be a good thing!



## Best Travel Photo Award

**Photographer:** Rick Roche

**Species of Bird:** Northern Emerald Toucanet

**Where was the picture taken?** Savegre Hotel gardens in a valley in the Talamanca Mountains of Costa Rica

**Narrative:** Though this Northern Emerald Toucanet sat on a branch within five feet of a sidewalk, many of the hotel guests walking through the gardens did not see it. I had to find a spot slightly uphill and about ten yards away to get this clear view of its beak and head. Sitting very still, it was a cooperative subject - if you found where to stand.





## Down and Dirty Award

**Photographer:** Lisa Gaylord

**Species of Bird:** House Sparrow

**Where was the picture taken?** Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve

**Narrative:** I was at Fullersburg alone and enjoying the day. I didn't see anything too unusual or anything to write home about. I decided to take one last look from the large deck/overlook in hopes of seeing something interesting. Oh! I did see a sight I had never seen before. I was seeing some dirt flying around from the ground. I zoomed in with my camera and to my amazement I saw this House Sparrow having a field day in a dry patch of ground. It seemed he had made a clearing that he was able to nestle his body into. He then started flapping his wings causing the dirt to fall on him. He was just covered with dirt.

I was still wondering what this was all about so I went home and looked it up. I found out that this is called "dusting." It is a way for birds to, in a sense, take a bath to get extra oil off of their body and feathers so they can fly more efficiently and to keep parasites away.



## “Flight to Freedom” Award

**Photographer:** Laurel Ahlenius

**Species of Bird:** Red-tailed Hawk

**Where was the picture taken?** Greene Valley Forest Preserve, Landfill Mountain

**Narrative:** Wow - this was some day! While at the Hawkwatch, our little group was rather puzzled to see a man drive up, and start unloading some animal crates from his vehicle. He was one of the rangers, helping out with Willowbrook Wildlife Center. He was there to release some rehabilitated birds: Cooper’s Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawks (3) and a young Great-Horned Owl. Our little group of volunteers were privileged to watch their release. Timing was essential due to the changing season, weather and migration. It was thrilling to see them individually released and take flight. I was able to get pictures of all, but this was my best action shot. The Red-tailed Hawk did a short jump flight to the end of the picnic table, to check his bearings, paused a minute or two before taking off to the chain link fence to study the terrain. A short while after that, he took to the sky, and was gone. I am glad for the staff, volunteers, DuPage Forest Preserve, and to all who contribute to release these birds and other wildlife back to their natural habitat. Fly well and live long!

