

Announcing DBC's Winter 2024 Photography Contest Winners!

The DBC's Winter '24 photo contest was a great success! We had many excellent photos submitted. The entries were judged by Andie Duffy, Steve Constantelos, Natalie McFaul, and Mike Warner (we're looking for another judge so contact Mike at mwarner2543@gmail.com if interested).

Because of the variety and quality of the submissions, the committee had a very tough time deciding on which pictures to recognize; the committee would like to thank all the photographers for their entries. Below are all the DBC Winter 2024 Photography Contest Award Winners:

Best of Show

Photographer: Henry Meade

Species of Bird: Reddish Egret

Where was the picture taken: South Padre Island, TX

Narrative: Reddish Egret, a staple of the south Texas coastline, with a freshly caught fish just after sunset.



Best BIF (Bird in Flight) Award

Photographer: Mark Levesque

Species of Bird: Red-tailed Hawk, Juvenile, Light Morph

Where was the picture taken: Hidden Lakes, Bolingbrook

Narrative: I had never seen a fairly rare red-tailed hawk, light morph before! Although I was pretty sure it was a hawk, I had no idea it was a variation of the ubiquitous red-tailed hawk. It wasn't until I checked with Merlin that I found out what it was. I haven't seen it since!



Walking In A Winter Wonderland Award

Photographer: Laurel Ahlenius

Species of Bird: Canada Goose

Where was the picture taken: Wheaton, IL

Narrative: This winter there seemed to have been a lot of sightings of Snow Geese around Cook and DuPage Counties. Back in early January with all the heavy snow coming down, I just couldn't resist taking this picture as these Canada Geese were patrolling the street where I live. One can literally say that this is an authentic "Snow Goose Patrol"!



Best Holiday Card Award

Photographer: Name: Rick Roche

Bird Species: American Robin

Location: Morton Arboretum, Lisle

Narrative: Many of my non-birdwatching friends are surprised whenever I mention seeing an American Robin in winter. This photo, taken on a January day when dozens of robins were enjoying the warmth of the sun on the Morton Arboretum Visitor Center parking lot, is evidence.



Friendly Face Award

Photographer: John Obenland

Bird Species: Red-bellied Woodpecker

Location: Lake Buena Vista, FL

Narrative: It was Florida, it was February, and there were birds everywhere. I could find this species in Illinois at this time of year, but this Florida cousin seemed to be a little more laid-back. The red-bellies are hard workers - flying, chopping away, screeching out their song, but this relational female seemed to be a little more friendly and was displaying that famous southern hospitality - taking a break from work and giving me a little facetime. There is more to life than work!



The Emerging Merg Award

Photographer: Laurel Ahlenius

Species of Bird: Common Merganser

Where was the picture taken: My backyard, Wheaton, IL

Narrative: Looking out of the patio door, I thought - those Mallards are awfully white. Got out my bins - wait - those are Common Mergansers! Grabbed the camera and stepped out on the patio, and they headed to the other end of the pond. It was useless to follow them. They finally returned, and I was able to sneak outside, and as I did one Merganser dove underwater heading straight towards where I was standing! I kept the camera shutter going, until he had surfaced and swallowed his catch of the day! I love being able to see the rest of his body and legs under the water as he surfaced. What makes this shot so special is that this is the 70th species that I have seen in this location since moving here two years ago!



You can see all pictures posted to the DBC Website, including past Photo Contest Winners, by [CLICKING HERE](#).