

Announcing DBC's Spring 2024 Photography Contest Winners!

The DBC's Spring '24 photo contest was a great success! We had over 50 photos submitted, and as a result, (unfortunately) some very good shots did not receive an award. The entries were judged by Andie Duffy, Steve Constantelos, Natalie McFaul, Thelma Hulka and Mike Warner. Because of the number 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 the DBC Spring 2024 Photography Contest Award Winners:

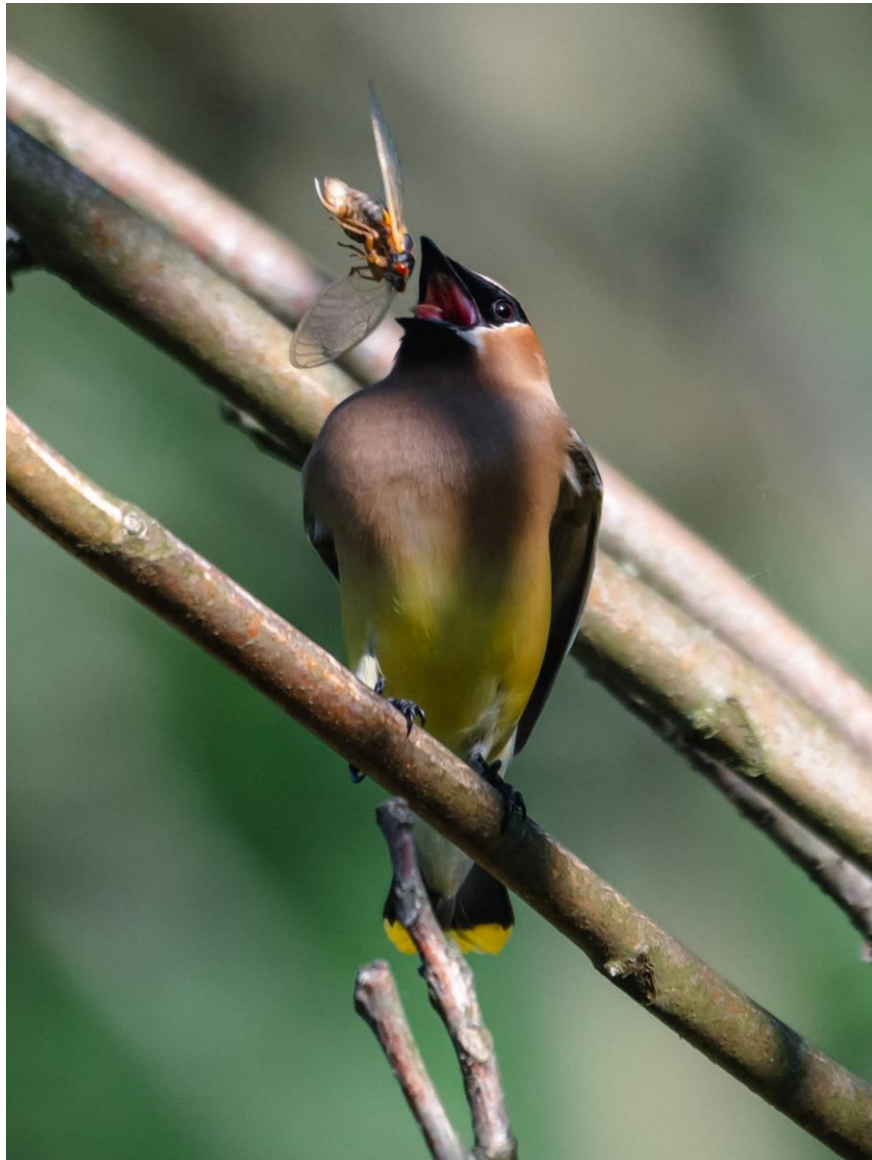
Best of Show

Photographer: Tim Duitsman

Species of Bird: Cedar Waxwing

Where the picture was taken: Waterfall Glen FP

Narrative: This is one of the first days where the cicadas were emerging in large numbers. Several Cedar Waxwings were waiting in the trees, then would fly out and catch cicadas in flight. This Waxwing caught one and just couldn't get it in the right position, so it threw the cicada up and caught it again. I also saw the fattest cedar waxwing I've ever seen that day; not sure how it was going to fly!



A Rare Study In Gray Award

Photographer: Erik Long

Species of Bird: Townsend's Solitaire

Where the picture was taken: McDowell Forest Preserve, Naperville

Narrative: As I was walking the trails at McDowell, I noticed a Townsend's Solitaire on the edge of a field 30 feet away through a patch of trees. It was very active, going back and forth from the ground to a perching spot on a lower branch of a small tree. I was able to walk a little off the main trail toward where it perched and captured this photo. Truth be told, I wasn't exactly sure what it was, so I submitted the photo to the ABA's *What's this Bird* Facebook page and received confirmation that it was indeed a Townsend's.



Flower Power Award

Photographer: Hal Cohen

Species of Bird: Western Tanager

Where the picture was taken: Borrego Springs, California

Narrative: Taken in April during a wonderful Palo Verde bloom. The bird worked the flowers probably for insects, nectar and petals. My yard attracts several tanagers each season along with over 40 other bird species.



Leap of Faith Award

Photographer: Name: Laurel Ahlenius

Bird Species: Wood Duck

Where the picture was taken: Horicon Marsh, WI

Narrative: At 7:00am, the group on a DBC Field Trip showed up for a bird walk with Jeff at the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center, Horicon, WI. He pointed out a nest box with a mamma Wood Duck sticking out her head and remaining motionless. About 15 minutes later, she looked around and then out she flew! Our whole group was able to watch something that is not often seen; in less than 2 and-a-half minutes we watched 12 Wood Ducklings make their entrance into the big wide world! I was able to photograph each one jumping out. For me, this was the best part of the trip! Thank you Natalie and Sherry for arranging the trip!



This Is My Best Side Award

Photographer: Kent Jager

Bird Species: Dickcissel

Where the picture was taken: Morton Arboretum

Narrative: Looking for a mate (or a cicada).



Redwings On A Stick Award

Photographer: Colleen Schmidt

Species of Bird: Red-winged Blackbird

Where the picture was taken: Peck Farm

Narrative: I try to get good pictures of birds on evening walks. This time I captured a male and female Redwing at the same time.



Sound of Spring Award

Photographer: James J. Goldsmith

Species of Bird: Grasshopper Sparrow

Where the picture was taken: Dunham Forest Reserve, Wayne

Narrative: At the end of May I participated in a “Forest Preserve District of DuPage” Bird Walk at Dunham. I had been hoping to see a Grasshopper Sparrow for quite some time and, happily, on this excursion my patience was rewarded.



Best Portrait Award

Photographer: Rick Roche

Species of Bird: Barn Swallow

Where the picture was taken: Horicon National Wildlife Refuge

Narrative: This Barn Swallow would not tell me where to find the Bittern, but it did agree to pose nicely for me.



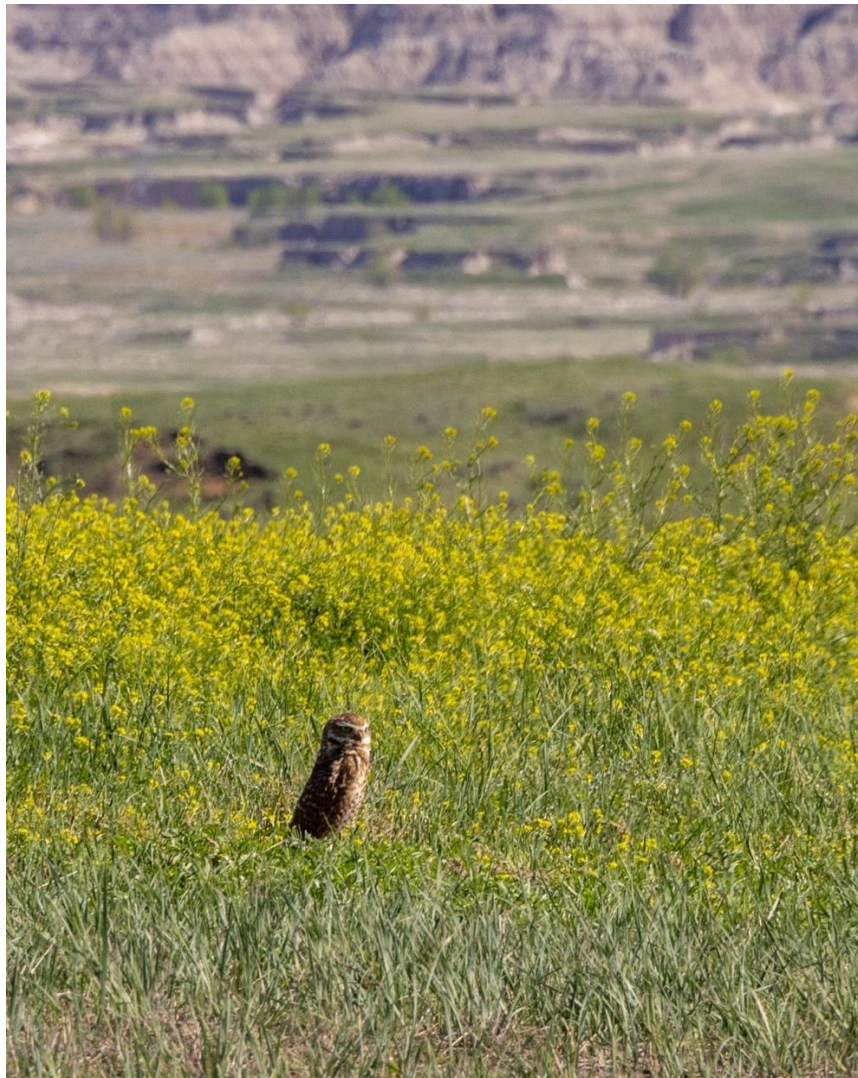
Outstanding In Its Field Award

Photographer: Julie Wettermann

Species of Bird: Burrowing Owl

Where the picture was taken: Badlands National Park, SD

Narrative: I was told I might find Burrowing Owls on the Badlands National Park's Sage Creek Rim Road, but to watch out for bison in that area. Sure enough, we saw many bison, then lots of prairie dogs, and finally I was thrilled to get to see two owls. I accidentally flushed the first one as I walked alongside the road, but a few hundred feet farther this one popped up out of its abandoned prairie dog hole as if appearing out of thin air. It checked me out, watched a passing car or two, then flew back into some low grass and disappeared as suddenly as it had appeared. I must say it picked a really spectacular place to live. Great backyard buddy - thanks for sharing it with me!



Mother's Day Award

Photographer: Mark Levesque

Species of Bird: Sandhill Crane

Where the picture was taken: Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

Narrative: I watched two Sandhill Cranes construct their nest in the middle of a shallow pond. I was lucky to get a shot of momma (?) straightening things out while the egg was visible. Presently, I'm awaiting the hatching!



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