

Announcing DBC's Fall '24 Photo Contest Winners!

The winners of DBC's Fall 2024 photo contest have been finalized! The entries were judged by Andie Duffy, Steve Constantelos, Natalie McFaul, Thelma Hulka 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 would like to thank all the photographers for their entries.

Best of Show

Photographer: Tim Duitsman

Species of Bird: Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Location: Tim's Backyard

Narrative: The hummingbird was darting around our backyard, sipping from feeders, feeding on flowers, and skillfully avoiding wasps. I tried to capture a good shot by following it all over the yard, but had little success. Eventually, I gave up and sat down in a chair on the patio. A few minutes later, the hummingbird flew over and landed just 7 feet away in a pot, posing for a picture. It seemed like it was looking for the perfect backdrop to showcase its stunning colors.



Bird Watching Birdwatcher Award

Photographer: Rich Roche

Species of Bird: Barred Owl

Location: Morton Arboretum, Lisle

Narrative: I was walking south on the trail along the east side of Sterling Pond, looking for warblers, when I saw movement in the trees to my right. I found several small songbirds, a Magnolia Warbler and an American Redstart. After they disappeared, I turned around just to look back and found this calm Barred Owl at my eye level about 15 feet away. He had had a very good look at me, so he granted me the same.



Star Of The Season Award

Photographer: John Obenland

Species of Bird: Sage Thrasher

Location: Hidden Lake Forest Preserve

Narrative: The key to attracting more attention than any other bird migrating through the DuPage area is to be 1000 miles off course! That is a sure way to make a great impression and draw a huge crowd of admirers. Well, the plan worked on yours truly and a half dozen other birders that afternoon! After taking a few pictures of "the star" foraging on the ground, this guy/gal took a break on a shrub branch and made sure that the lighting was perfect and waited for me to take "the shot". By the gleam in his/her eye, I think we were both very happy with the result!



Cutie-Pie Award

Photographer: Nicole LaFevre

Species of Bird: White-breasted Nuthatch

Location: Glendale Heights, IL

Narrative: When the cold weather arrives and I'm not going outside as often anymore, one of my greatest joys is putting up a feeder and seeing what birds come by. This year for the first time I have a nuthatch visiting daily. I shot this photo through my window and thought the angle caused the nuthatch to look particularly cute.



Best Exotic Foreign Travel Award

Photographer: Joe Suchecki

Species of Bird: Spinifix Pigeon

Location: Near Alice Springs, Australia

Narrative: Limited-range desert bird in Australia was a key pick-up in Alice Springs Area



Yes Virginia, There Are Cuckoos In DuPage County

Photographer: Kent Jager

Species of Bird: Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Location: Morton Arboretum

Narrative: It's always fun to see a bird pop out of the woods when you least expect it.



Best Portrait-Pose Award

Photographer: James Goldsmith

Species of Bird: Tree Sparrow

Location: Muirhead Springs Nature Preserve, Hampshire, Illinois

Narrative: On “Black Friday” (a very cold and windy November 29th) I decided to avoid the bargain hunters and went instead to the Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve, where Tundra Swans had been reported. Unfortunately, there were no swans on view during my visit (though I did see some a little later at Nelson Lake) but I did run across a lot of hardy American Tree Sparrows. One, in particular, was kind enough to pause long enough for me to get this picture.



Backyard Photo Award

Photographer: Cindy Duranceau

Species of Bird: Northern Cardinal

Location: Naperville, IL

Narrative: I was delighted to have 12 Northern Cardinals spend the day in our yard after the big cold weather chill blew in. I counted 8 males and 4 females (not all shown in this photo.)
11/29/24.



Flying Flicker Award

Photographer: Kent Jager

Species of Bird: Northern Flicker

Location: Morton Arboretum

Narrative: I saw this bird coming at me and was lucky enough to get a quick shot of him.



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