

# Announcing DBC's Spring '25 Photo Contest Winners!

The winners of DBC's Spring '25 photo contest have been finalized! The entries were judged by Andie Duffy, Natalie McFaul, and Mike Warner.

The committee would like to thank all the photographers for their entries. It was very hard to narrow it down to these seven award winners.

## Best of Show

**Photographer:** Tim Duitsman

**Species:** Black Skimmer

**Location:** The Celery Fields, Sarasota, Florida

**Narrative:** I arrived at dawn and parked by the south observation deck. First time at the Celery Fields and wasn't sure what to expect; what a great day it turned out to be. The Black Skimmers arrived shortly after it started to warm up. Four of them swooped close to the observation deck. This Skimmer flew right past barely breaking the calm water and leaving a path of droplets in its wake. It was so calm and in control - just steady, precise flight inches above the surface.



# **“Cedar Throne” Award**

**Photographer:** John Swarens

**Species:** White-throated Sparrow

**Location:** DuPage County

**Narrative:** Without my bins I wasn't sure which sparrow was rummaging under the nearby cedar trees. Finally it popped up into clear view, posing perfectly to show off the namesake white throat in a cedar throne. Glad I waited!



# “Best Portrait” Award

Photographer: John Obenland

Species: Eastern Meadowlark

Location: Naperville, IL

**Narrative:** Springbrook Prairie seemed like a logical place to go to search for Meadowlarks on a beautiful late April day and we were not disappointed. However, they seemed somewhat shy and stayed far away from us while proudly serenading us with their melody. They preferred perching on tops of shrubs, sturdy grass, or even a steel fence post, keeping their distance, rather than a more intimate setting for their performance. Who needs a microphone and sound system?



# **“Best Dressed” Award**

**Photographer:** James J. Goldsmith

**Species:** Grey Catbird

**Location:** The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois

**Narrative:** I am a Safety Patrol Volunteer at the Morton Arboretum and, over time, I have had a chance to explore many of the Arboretum’s trails. In early May I discovered a little-used path by Sterling Pond and decided to investigate. After navigating the brambles at the start of the path I emerged into a quiet glade. There to greet me was a handsome Grey Catbird, decked out in its natural formal attire.



# “A Study In Gray” Award

**Photographer:** Franz Burnier

**Species:** Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher

**Location:** Danada Forest Preserve

**Narrative:** I watched this Gnatcatcher and its mate working on the nest, flying in and out with various materials and mud, sitting in the nest and forming it to their shape. Finally this bird rested on the branch, as if posing to show off this amazing work of art. Notice how the nest is secured to the branch with spider silk.



# **“Awww” Awwwward**

**Photographer: Bonnie Graham**

**Species: Canada Geese (Goslings)**

**Location: Lake Katherine Park**

**Narrative: I almost missed these cute little goslings. My attention was on another bird and for some reason I turned around and saw two adult Canada Geese shepherding their little ones to the water. They were moving fast, a bit close for my telephoto lens, and the sun was in front of me. (I prefer the sun behind me). Usually a bad mix of circumstances when taking photos, but once in a while, bad luck turns into a nice photo.**



# “Right Time, Right Place” Award

Photographer: Kristine Wiltjer

Species: Red Bellied Woodpecker

Location: My Backyard, Darien IL

Narrative: I was sitting in my backyard enjoying the woodpecker, going through photos, I discovered this one!



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