Help for DNCB Photographers

Using Flickr for our Photo Archive

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Revisions

1.0	24 Aug 2016	First release
1.1	02 Sep 2016	Improved one-pager, adds to Appendix 1
1.2	08 Sep 2016	More changes to Appendix 1, added Event codes
1.3	16 Sep 2016	More changes to Appendix 1
1.4	27 Oct 2016	Update to the one-pager
1.5	09 Oct 2018	Update the lists of Events and Locations (Appendix 1)
1.6	28 Feb 2019	Update the lists of Events and Locations (Appendix 1)
1.7	28 Nov 2022	Large revision to correct for current Flickr operation and update the list of Locations (Appendix 1)
2.0	24 May 2024	Update/simplify for the new DNS website

Introducing some of the features of Flickr

- Join Flickr at http://flickr.com. We are recommending that all photogs create a Flickr account for themselves. It's a good tool for all of your photo sharing needs, and having your own account makes it easier/better for you to post your pictures for viewing by the DNCB readership. Besides, the Flickr account is FREE for up to 1000 pictures! People do NOT have to have a Flickr account just to view your pictures … we make sure our pictures can be viewed by the Public.
  - Your Flickr account logon is whatever email address you give them. You can also have a "screen name" which is how you are recognized within Flickr by anyone looking at your pictures.
  - Login as you and at the top right corner there is an icon for your account. If you click on it, you get a popup menu and a link across the bottom of it says Settings. A display comes up with 4 tabs. There is nothing you have to change right now, but you should know where this is.
  - Sooner or later, you ought to change the "Buddy icon" for your account. This is a small picture of something that you want to represent you in lists etc on the screen.
  - On your main Flickr page in the top right area there is a search bar. Type in DNCB and click Search Groups. That will find the DNCB group that we have set up. Click the Join button and it will tell you that membership is by invitation only, and give you a place to send a message to the Group Admin to be added to the group. It may take a day or two before the Admins notice your request and act on it. If you can wait until you've been added before trying all the steps below it will make it easier to follow.

- Now for some explanations of some of the key features of Flickr that we'll be using:
  - Camera Roll – pictures get uploaded into this view of your pictures, and only you can see this view by default. The pictures are in "most recently uploaded picture first" order by default. You can view pictures from here, select pictures, edit the information about them and "tag" them (more on tagging later). By default, all pictures you upload are stored as "All rights reserved".

    One of the views is called Magic View and it groups the pictures by what it THINKS they contain. It is very clever, often fatally wrong, sometimes just amusing. It automatically analyzes the pictures and puts "tags" on it that it thinks are appropriate. I am learning that the only tags that are right are the ones I add myself, and you should definitely be doing some tagging of your photos (more on tagging later). It matters. I don't use Magic View, ever.

  - Photostream – this is the subset of your Camera Roll that others can see depending on the security you applied to your pictures and who is the viewer. For our purposes, anything we want to post for the DNCB we will make Public.

- o Albums – within your account you can group pictures together into an Album. You pick the pictures that you want in the Camera Roll, and at the bottom of the screen there is an Add to Album link to add to an existing Album or create a New one. Once created, you can open the Album to view it, click on "Edit in Organizer" at the top of the Album to change the order of the pictures and make some changes to all of the pictures. From this view you can Batch edit and (as an example) send all the pictures to a Group. The easiest way to create an Album (easier than doing it from here) is when you are uploading pictures.

- o Groups – we have a DNCB group. This is not an account like your personal Flickr account. It is a virtual place where all the photogs can put some or all of their pictures. This is where the DNCB blog will send people to see our pictures from a weekly outing. It's going to be a bit of a change for all those viewers because Groups cannot contain Albums. That means that they will have to know a bit more about how to find the recent outing (or any other outing for that matter). We've added some help information for anyone who comes to the group. It becomes VERY important for the photogs to tag their photos well so that they can be found! But it's even more useful to someone trying to learn about the birds because they can see all the pictures of a Swan (for example) or all the pictures from Serpentine Fen (for example). But it will take some practice.

  Groups can also contain Discussions about anything you want. We already have a few discussions started to help people with Naming things and finding things.

  When you add a picture of yours to the Group, the Group only gets a "link" to the picture still stored in your Account. If you make a change to the picture later, or delete it, then the exact same thing happens in the Group. If you have a free Flickr account then your limit of 1000 pictures is the limit on how many pictures you can add to the Group and if you delete one it disappears from the Group as well (we discourage that).

- o Tagging –When you upload a picture, you get to define many things "about the picture" (called meta data). You can add Tags which are one word each and these are words that people might want to search for if they were looking for your picture. The kind of thing to include here is the Date and Location. The search engine is completely literal and it will only find full word matches – but if we are disciplined in the tags we apply to pictures, searches will be successful. There is a list of standard location names for everyone to reduce the variation that could result in pictures not getting found – see the list in the attached XLS.

Preparation for uploading to Flickr
- You have taken photos and uploaded them to your computer.

- You have done all the image modification that you need on your computer. There are lots of programs for this so, if you're not sure what tool to use, just ask some other photog for some suggestions.
- You have identified the bird species in each photo. Read the info on tagging for why this matters. You could:
  a) edit the Title field in the EXIF metadata, accessible by many tools including the Details tab of the File Properties in Windows Explorer (shown here), or
  b) update the filename of each photo to contain the name of the bird, possibly something like:
    "YYYY Location Photo # - Bird.jpg",
  and Flickr will use the filename as the Title, or
  c) wait and put the Species name on the picture Title when you are uploading it to Flickr.
- You have identified the specific list of pictures you want to share with the DNCB Group.
- You're ready to get them onto the DNCB site ….
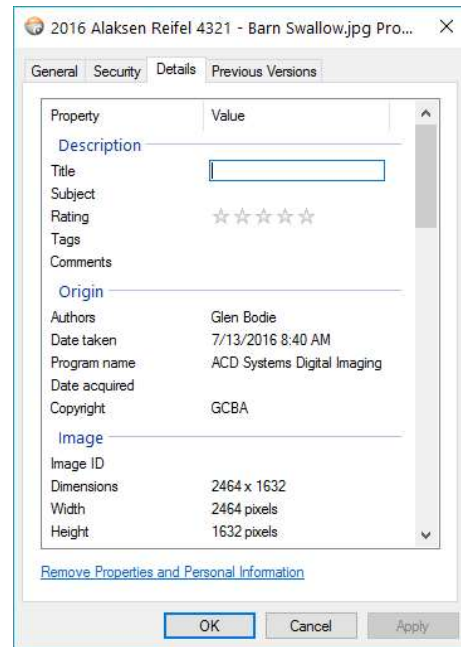
Steps to follow to add your pictures

1. Using your web browser, go to http://flickr.com and logon to your personal Flickr account. If you are just a casual uploader and don't want to get a Flickr account OR if you already have a Flickr account but you don't want all your messy DNCB photos to be seen there, then you can also login using the DNCB account (ask the Admins for the account login information). If you do that, your pictures will not be associated with your name unless you also add a tag giving your name or Flickr screen name so people can use that to search for you if they like your pictures.

2. Near the upper right corner of the screen, click on the little icon that looks like   to upload new pictures. The upload page will open.

3. Open your file explorer to the folder where you have all your pictures to be uploaded. Select all of the ones you want to upload, and drag and drop them onto the Flickr upload page. Once the ones you want have all been uploaded, they appear as thumbnail images with the filename below and a place to enter the Description. Suggested actions:
   a. Highlight all the photos (they have a red border when highlighted) or use Select All.

   b. Add a tag for the Outing date in the format YYYYMMDD.

   c. Add a tag for the location. See the attached XLS for the list of Location tags.

d. By default, all of your photos are tagged as "Public viewable and searchable", Safe for minors to see, and All Rights Reserved to you. You can change any of these settings if you want by highlighting the pictures you want to change and clicking on Owner Settings in the left side menu. Any pictures that you are sending to the DNCB Group have to be Public view because people who are not Flickr members need to be able to see them.

e. Identify the Species. There are a number of ways this COULD be done, but we really all need to agree on the one way we will all use so that searches across all of our photos will be successful. DNCB will use the top line underneath the small picture which is the Title field from your EXIF data, or your file name if you had no Title. The search algorithm will do a full word, full text search (not case sensitive) of that Title field and all the Tags but it does NOT handle wild cards or partial words. That means Heron is different than Herons, and of course Great Blue Heron is not the same as GBH.

We recommend that you use the FULL name of each bird, so far as you know it, include the hyphens and avoid all short forms and plurals. For any given species in your photo you do NOT have to use the fully specified name in the Title – you might just want to Title your picture as a "Gull". For example, it may be a Sparrow, and Golden-crowned, and a male, and a juvenile. That's 4 words in the Title. You can imagine someone searching for all the Sparrows, or just all the Golden-crowned (and Sparrow too to make sure they don't get a Golden-crowned Kinglet by mistake), or maybe all the male Sparrows, or maybe all the juvenile male anythings.

As well as the species name, you can also add other qualifier words to the Title field for the full-text search. But let's all be consistent and use this same collection:
- Male, Female, Pair
- Juvenile, Immature, Moulting, Eclipse, Hybrid

f. If you need to describe more than the species, perhaps the environment or the behaviour or amusing commentary, you can put that on the line below called "Description".

g. If you want to add some or all of the photos to an existing or new Album (recommended), you can do that here as part of the upload.

h. If you want any or all of the photos to be added to the DNCB group (recommended) you can do that from here also.

4. Having completed all that tagging and labelling, you're ready to add the photos to your Camera Roll. Click on the flashing blue and white "Upload ## Photos" in the top right corner. Flickr will "publish" those photos to your Camera Roll, and present your Photostream showing you all the

pictures with the most recently uploaded ones first.

5. At this point every photo you uploaded is in your Flickr account, but maybe not in the DNCB Group. You can organize your photos into Albums, if you didn't do that in the Upload, by going to the Camera Roll, selecting the pictures you want to include (you can click on first and shift-click on last) and clicking on Add to Album in the menu across the bottom. You can add them to an existing Album of yours, or you can Create a new Album. A new Album just needs a title and optional description and you can call it anything you want without affecting how your photos are used in the DNCB.

6. When looking at the Camera Roll or Photostream or a specific Album there is a dropdown menu on the right side of the Title line that says "More". Under there is Organize – and you can use that to reorder the photos, make bulk edits, add the pictures to the Map, or add to a Group. If you didn't do it while you were uploading, you can now add these photos into the DNCB Group.
    a. At the bottom of that Organizr view is an area that Flickr calls the Findr. You can select an Album name, or enter some tag that you used on all these photos into the Search box, and Findr will show you all matching pictures.

    b. Click "Select all" just above those little pictures to highlight / select all of the photos it found, then click on one and drag/drop them all up into the main Organizr space.

    c. The menu across the top of the Organizr space has a selection to "Send to group". Click on Send to Group, select the DNCB Group (only appears if you are a member of the group), and it will add your photos to the DNCB "photo pool".

7. If you want to geo-tag your photos and locate them on the Map, here is one way to do it. Flickr may already have a geolocation from the picture's metadata if your camera has a GPS built-in. However you get into the Organizr, and however you find a group of photos in the Findr, then call up the Map from the Organizr menu across the top. Position the map to the place you want (using pan and zoom in close), select the desired photos from the Findr area and drag and drop that selection on the map. You'll have a little "dot" associated with the selection and you can drop that dot anywhere to place those photos at that spot.

8. Let's go see what it looks like in the Group. Under your regular account display there are a couple of ways to get to the display of the Groups which you belong to. As time goes on, you are likely to want to belong to a number of other groups just because they're interesting.

    But for now let's just go to the Group called DNCB. The default display is the Photo Pool. On the line just above the pictures, at the right-side edge, there is a magnifying glass. This is the tool that everyone will use to find the particular pictures they want, and it will rely on the information and meta data tags you have provided about each picture for them to find it. People might also look at the Map to see where we have been.

We have put specific information in the attached XLS so that you can all identify places in a consistent way, so that everyone else can find them. When you click the search magnifying glass, the search panel above starts with DNCB and Photos in it and space for you to type. What can you type in there?

- The outing Date in the format YYYYMMDD.
- The Location, the one word meaning the place where we went, according to the tags given in the attached XLS.
- The Species as was put in the Title field, specified with as much detail as you wish but with complete words only, no abbreviations.
- Any other word(s) you want, but it may be that no one has tagged their photos with those words … it's a crap shoot!
- Search is for whole words only e.g. a search for "yellow" could show Yellow Warbler or Yellow-rumped Warbler or Yellow-breasted Chat but not Yellowlegs.
- There is no "clear" button to remove the filter - instead you just delete the search terms from the search box.
- Clicking the X in the search box will cause the search to revert to all Flickr photos, instead of being restricted to the DNCB group. The search results are subsequently divided between people you follow and everyone else. It probably shows you a LOT more pictures than you were actually looking for.

One thing that I don't like too much is that, for a non-experienced Flickr user (without a Flickr ID), once you get to a subset of the DNCB Group Photo Pool, it is VERY easy to go wandering off into some photographer's work, or into other groups, then other photographers and other pictures that have nothing to do with what you came there to look at. I don't think there's any way (or any desire for Flickr to try) to keep people within a certain context once they get there. We'll have to try to educate our viewers.

9. For any set of pictures that were shown to you, in the whole Group Pool or in some search subset, you can click on any Photo to see a larger image and find out more about it. Below the image you can see the name of the photographer, the Title and Description that were set when it was uploaded, the Date, information about which Camera settings were used, details about the privacy and searchability. From there you can scroll through the other pictures that were in your search results. On any picture you can click on it to expand it / make it larger so you see more, and click again to go back to normal size.

You, or anyone who has a Flickr ID, can add a comment. Unfortunately, we cannot make it possible for non-Flickr users to add comments. But even if you don't have a Flickr ID, you can click on links in the details to take you to the Photographer's site, or just the Album that contains this photo. It should make it very easy for the general DNCB Blog viewer to find out what we've done lately, and find more pictures from any particular photographer.

There's really so much more in what you can do in Flickr, especially how you can connect with others and share your photos. This write-up was focussed more on what you need to do for using Flickr for the DNCB and how you can make it easier for everyone else to find your photos. Please fool around and try things out within your own Flickr account, but be a little careful about what you might put into the DNCB group. We'd like to have a well enough structured use of this flexible tool that it will give value to all those people out there who don't take pictures and don't have any idea what tagging a photo means.

Problems? If you have any issues or problems or want to do something more than adding and editing your Photos and your Albums, please contact the Administrators for the DNCB Group – Glen Bodie or Terry Carr.