

Pat Prettie

Pat started playing with cameras at the age of eleven when she found an old Brownie and aimed it at relatives and friends. She began refining her skills during her husband's tour of duty in the military in the early 60s and again, in the Contra Costa Camera Club for the past twenty years. She worked for the Rossmoor News for 8 years as their chief photographer. She has taken classes from Dorothy Mayers and Stacy Geiken and she constantly learns informally from the writers of many photo publications. She is a past president of her camera club, and has won first place annual awards in Pictorial, Contemporary, Travel, and Nature there, as well as annual first places at N4C in Travel and Creative.

PHILOSOPHY: All art, once created, is open to interpretation. My interpretation is no more nor less valid than your own.

Padre Trails Camera Club
Group A
Nature # 3 2012

1. 4 Gray Whales - Your exposure is excellent for this very contrasty scene. The composition is very good. Nice job. However, you need some help with your title. Yes there are four whales, but it might be nice to give the species and mention the fact that this is a shot of two female grey whales with their calves in very close to the shore.
2. Angry Goose - This is an excellent capture. Nice shot. It would be nice if you had mentioned what the thing is ticked off about. Exposure is very good.
3. Ashy Headed Goose with Goslings - Well what can I say this just has cute written all over it. Sharp as a tack and the exposure and composition are very nice. Beautiful.
4. Black crowned Night Herons with Chick – Well this shows the whole story. Ma, Pa and the squirt. That is one ugly baby. Maybe that is why they look so concerned. Beautiful job with this shot.

5. Crashing Wave – This image shows the immense power of the sea. The exposure is very difficult and the image is very contrasty.
6. Elephant Seal with Pup – Well another very cute image. Very well handled. Exposure is dead on and it is very sharp. It tells a very sweet but fleeting nature story.
7. Great Blue Heron Landing – This is a gorgeous bird. The up swept feathers are beautiful. My only criticism is that you don't have his feet in the image.
8. Great egret takes flight – Beautiful image. I wish it were in color however. It looks like the top of its wings might be blown out.
9. Great egret with fish – Nice shot, very sharp. Now if you could just do this with out the sailboat masts reflecting in the background. Remember no hand of man thing?
10. Grey Heron and Eel – Nice capture. Exposure is good. If this were mine I would have darkened the corners slightly. But it isn't mine and you did a great job.
11. Grey Heron wrestles an Eel – Oh yes this one is even better than the last one. I don't know if this is the same shooter but this shot is excellent all the way around. Beautiful. Great nature story.
12. Harbor Seal with Pup - You folks are making this very difficult indeed. Another cutie. I'm a softy for the cute stuff. I think I would have darkened the rock on the lower right or cropped it out of the picture as I find it distracting.
13. Humpback Whale Breaching – Exposure is dead on. The whale is pretty sharp. This is really hard to do because you never know where they are going to come up. Nice shooting. Great capture.
14. Little Egret Landing – Very delicate pose. Very nice capture.
15. Little Egret with Carp – This is a nice capture. The fish is very sharp. However, your bird has a cyan halo around it as do the water drops. Over sharpening? Chromatic aboration? I don't know but something is fishy.
16. Pregnant Cow Moose Feeding – Very nice nature story. Exposure is great the eye is sharp and you even have a little light in the eye. Very well done.
17. Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*) eating – Nice shot of a sea otter. I think you have a color cast to you images as it appears too cyan.
18. Soaring above the ocean – Nice image of a California condor in flight. Exposure is handled well
19. Sow Grizzly with Cub – What she going to do, sit on him? Exposure is good, composition is good. I love the color of her fur.

Next time make a loud noise so she will look at you. May be your last shot but it would be a good one.

20. Tufted Puffin – this is a great shot of a Tufted Puffin. Exposure is very good and the eye is sharp.

This was very difficult because so many of the images were excellent. But these are my favorites:

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13. Humpback Whale Breaching
16. Pregnant Cow Moose Feeding
6. Elephant Seal with Pup
12. Harbor Seal with Pup

4th

Angry Goose

3rd

Grey Heron wrestles an Eel

2nd

Ashey Headed Goose with Goslings

1st

Black crowned Night Herons with Chick

Padre Trails Camera Club
Group AA
Nature # 3 2012

1. Black bear eating salmon at Tahoe – This is a lucky catch. Unfortunately, there is a color cast and it is fuzzy.
2. 1ApexPredator – This must be a great White. Yes it is at the top of the food chain. I wish the image was in color for nature and I wish you had the entire animal in the image.
3. Anemone Profile - This is a very nice shot of an anemone. It is very sharp. Great exposure.

4. Anna's hovering - These are beautiful birds. You have a light in it's' eye but unfortunately it is soft. The colors are stunning.
5. Butterfly stroke – This is a great shot of a hummer. Exposure is good and your strobe stopped the wings. Nicely done.
6. Cotton Top-Echino xactus polycephalus – Your composition is very good. The exposure is good. It is sharp. It tells a nature story of life in a hostel environment. I only wish you had some flower or buds on your cactus.
7. Crescent City Beach sunset – This is a very pretty image. You handled the exposure very well.
8. First Spring – A very cute image. It's too bad they grow up to eat your flowers. Exposure is very good I do wish you had the entire animal in the image.
9. Fox Squirrel Feeding – Unfortunately, the little guy is sitting on a feeder. Remember there should be no evidence of the hand of man.
10. Honduran Club-Tailed Iguana – this is a portrait of a Honduran Club-Tailed Iguana and should so in your title. It is nice and sharp. You should have included the elbow of its' left arm at least. The image could use a little contrast.
11. Hyalophora euryalus – this is something you don't get to see very often as they are nocturnal. This is a male and your title should state this. You did a very nice job of capturing this beautiful animal.
12. Kokanne Salmon in clear water at Lake Tahoe – Beautiful fish in its' mating colors. Exposure is good but the poor thing is fuzzy.
13. McGee Creek-Mule Ears-Helianthoides - This is an extremely difficult shot to pull off. It looks to be high noon, very contrasty. This shot is more about the trail than the Mule Ears.
14. Paper Kite Butterfly – This is a great butterfly. It is a bit soft and the bright area at the top detracts from your image. I realize you probably couldn't but if you could have shot this more from a higher angle your would have more of the insect and less of the bright area at the top.
15. Sea Anemone – This is a gorgeous sea anemone. Unfortunately, is slightly overexposed. I would try to work this one up again and see if you can't get some detail in the brighter areas.
16. Sea Nettle – Nice composition. But the highlights are blown by as much a ½ to 1 stop. It is nice and sharp.
17. Fishing-Egretta Thula - I like how you can see its' feet under the water. It is slightly over exposed on its' back. Nice composition showing the environment.

18. Sunning Harbor seal-*Phoca Vitulina* – The exposure is handled very well. It is sharp. I don't know how they bend like that perched on a rock. It looks painful.
19. The Jellyfish Race – This is a very nice shot probably taken at the Monterey Aquarium. The image is more powerful in a vertical format. Exposure is good and it is pretty sharp. You handled this very well.
20. Towering KelpV – This is a very difficult shot to get. It looks like you used a flash at the bottom but it only goes so far up and it is a little over exposed at the bottom. Did you try it without a flash? This is a very interesting shot.
21. Velvet Antlers in the Lavender – Yes that's the devil that's bee eating my flowers. A pretty shot but you should have the entire animal in the image or it becomes a portrait. Your exposure is good. He may be a bit soft, in focus that is.

HM

18. Sunning Harbor seal
6. Cotton Top-Echino xactus polycephalus
8. First Spring

3rd

19. The Jellyfish Race

2nd

11. Hyalophora euryalus

1st

5. Butterfly stroke