

PADRE TRAILS CAMERA CLUB

Nature #3 - July 27, 2014

Judged by: Sande Parker

JUDGES COMMENTS

GROUP AAA

01. Big Sur Wildflowers bloom after spring rain showers
This is a nice nature story but I am looking for a center of interest. The one purple flower is not well enough defined for me.
02. Blue Fiesta Flower and new growth buds (Pholistoma auritum)
The flower has great potential but is either over-sharpened or very soft
03. California Sea Lion (Zalophus californianus) thermoregulating
The sea lion is very attractive but for me there is more water than we need to tell the story. A tighter crop might provide more excitement.
04. California Condor (Gymnogyps californianus) returning from near extinction
This is a great capture, but the long lens and cropping have resulted in an image that looks highly sharpened.
05. Camelopardalis - Giraffe Mating Dance
The light is nice, but the story needs action.
06. Camelopardalis - Inquisitive 3-day-old Giraffe with protective mother
Again, soft light, but would be so much better to see the front of the giraffe. Nice capture.
07. Carmel Bay after storm
Nice shot, but seems over sharpened
08. Cynocephalus - Cape Town Chacma Baboon at peace **HM**
Very nice capture and nature story.
09. Elefantus - Defending Elephant **HM**
Nice capture, but would like to see light in eyes dust helps make a good story.
10. Elkhorn Symphonic Choir (Sea Lions - Zalophus californianus)
Nice, sharp image. Would like to see a focal point. Perhaps a white egret, something to break the sense of monotone.
11. Great Egret Parent (Ardea alba) Watches over Her Chick Preparing to Fly
This is an amazing capture. It's too bad the twig hides the beak of the young egret.
12. Great Egret (Ardea alba) Travels to the Nest He and His Mate Are Building **SECOND**
Sharp, great nature story, nice angle.
13. Juvenile Seagull (Larus argentatus) tearing fish with twisting head
Nice nature story. Light on the fish just a little underexposed.

14. Male Western Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) on Red List of threatened species
Nice story. Would like a little lower camera angle. Chin hair seems almost cut off. A lower angle would allow his face to appear more balanced. Right now, we focus on his forehead more than his eyes.
15. Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) feeding on bottlebrush nectar
These are so challenging to photograph. Right now the busy background is distracting. Need more natural light around butterfly's head.
16. Host of California Poppies Offer Color at 1800 Feet -Top of Garland Park (*Eschscholzia californica*)
The poppies in the foreground are nice. This does tell a story more about the size of the distant mountains than the poppies.
17. Praying Mantis (*Stagmomantis carolina*) preening **FIRST**
Excellent nature story. Very good use of selective focus. Good exposure and lighting.
18. Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*) looking forward to his dinner
Nice nature story and light. Need catch light in the eye. Seems over-exposed.
19. Solitary Female Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) **THIRD**
This is what I'm talking about. Perfect balance and proportion of face. Because of the look in the eye, it no longer matters that the chin hairs may not be complete.
20. Turkey Vultures (*Carhartes aura*) Warming up in the Morning Sun
I always seem to prefer the front of birds in nature stories.

1st Place 17. Praying Mantis (*Stagmomantis carolina*) preening - **Margret Cordts**
Excellent nature story. Very good use of selective focus. Good exposure and lighting.

2nd Place 12. Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) Travels to the Nest He and His Mate Are Building - **Lynn Pigott**
Sharp, great nature story, nice angle.

3rd Place 19. Solitary Female Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) - **Bill Shewchuk**
This is what I'm talking about. Perfect balance and proportion of face. Because of the look in the eye, it no longer matters that the chin hairs may not be complete.

HMs

08. Cynocephalus - Cape Town Chacma Baboon at peace - **Bill Stutts**
Very nice capture and nature story.

09. Elephantus - Defending Elephant - **Bill Stutts**
Nice capture, but would like to see light in eyes dust helps make a good story.