

PTCC – Nature #3 - Aug 17, 2016

Group AAA

9 images from 3 members:

01-Canadian Hookers (Branta Canadensis) - Elk Horn Slough.jpg

I'm sitting here at my computer laughing out loud. The title on the image and the comment list is Canadian HOOKERS! I'm thinking you may have meant HONKERS. Technically, they're referred to as Canada Geese, rather than Canadian. Your photo is sharp on the geese, which is where it counts. I love that you can see the tongue of the left goose, which adds a dynamic component. This is a tough exposure situation because the geese have black necks and heads against lots of bright, glaring water. You did well to make sure the water wasn't totally burned out. The geese would have a lot more life and personality if there were catchlights in their eyes. Something you could try in a situation like this is to use a flash, which even from a distance, often adds a little catchlight in the eye. In this situation, you would want to balance for the ambient light and use the flash to just fill in shadows or add the catchlight.

02-Curious otters.jpg

You have a well exposed photo that is sharp on the otters. It would be ideal to be closer, or use a longer focal length, so the viewer could see more detail on the otters, however, I know that's not always possible. Given the size of the otters in the frame, you composed the image well, with the otters in one of the "thirds intersections" according to the Rule of Thirds. This composition does show more habitat, which is a good thing too.

03-Humpback breach.jpg

Excellent dynamic photo! Very sharp! Good use of a fast shutter speed to stop the motion of the whale. Well exposed. You have a good composition as well, leaving negative space in the direction in which the whale is heading. The water coming out of the mouth really adds action to the shot too.

04-Lily pads (nymphaeaceae) - on a quiet pond.jpg

When I'm about to photograph a scene, I ask myself, "What is it about this scene that turns me on?" Then I try to isolate it, either by moving closer to the subject or using a longer focal length. The Lily Pads are nice but you can't see much detail on them here. There are a lot of distracting elements in the frame that take the attention away from the Lily Pads. I think using a longer focal length from your same position and isolating some of the Lily Pads with the reflection of the sky in the water would create a much stronger photo. Nice depth of field, sharpness, and exposure in your image.

05-Pelicans over asilomar.jpg

This is a very pretty photo. You exposed the image well and it appears sharp throughout. Although I like the idea of a panorama in this situation, it seems to include too much "dead sky" above the sunset. It think it might be a stronger

photo if there were more rocks and water in the foreground and cut the sky right above the curved colored area above the sun. The rocks, water, sun, and pelicans are the main points of interest and should be emphasized.

06-Sea otter (enhydralutris) - dinner time.jpg

Wonderful shot of a Sea Otter. It's very sharp and perfectly exposed on the fur of the otter. Sea Otters are often tough to photograph because they have dark fur and are usually positioned against bright, glaring water. You handled this situation really well to get great detail on the otter's fur, without overexposing the water. The fact that it has a clam on its belly makes a good story-telling component. I like your composition because the main point of interest is prominent in the foreground, with negative space in the direction the otter is looking.

07-Tamias merriami.jpg

Well, your shot is labeled with the scientific name for the Merriam's Chipmunk, however this is actually a California Ground Squirrel, aka *Otospermophilus beecheyi*. Misidentification aside, the photo itself is fantastic! I love the composition with the sky in the background. That makes for a very unique perspective. It's really well exposed and sharp as a tack.

08-Waves in pacific grove keyhole rock.jpg

This tells a wonderful geology story, with the erosion that has taken place. The wave foam "frozen" in the air really adds a strong action component to the image. You handled the exposure well, not letting the sunlit areas get too overexposed, yet retaining some detail in the darker areas of the rock.

09-Zonotrichia albicollis (White-throated Sparrow).jpg

Uh oh! Another misidentified species. This is a Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*. The White-crowned Sparrow has a bright white throat and bold black and white stripes running from the front to the back of the head. Although we occasionally see White-crowned Sparrows along the CA coast, it's predominantly an eastern species in North America, whereas the Song Sparrow is abundant throughout CA, especially along the coast. Once again, ID aside, the photograph is superb! Super composition, sharpness, and exposure. The open bill and the catchlight in the eye just bring the whole image to life!

Winning Images:

2nd Place:

03-Humpback breach.jpg

1st Place

06-Sea otter (enhydralutris) - dinner time.jpg