

**01-Bald eagle in flight (haliaeetus leucocephalus).jpg**

Beautiful image, great capture, great timing, good focus on the bird.

*Things that could be improved:* Three corners are good but the upper left corner has a tree trunk just a few pixels from the edge. If the picture had a little cropped off the left side it would be a bit stronger.

**02-Escaping Buck.jpg**

Great motion shot! The image is very dynamic as everything is moving. This works well. And it is nice that the eye can just be seen clearly. Well done!

*Things that could be improved:* Other than Scientific Name, no real suggestions. The corners, color temperature, etc. are fine. The picture has lots of blur but that, in this case makes it a stronger picture. And normally you would want the animal coming into the picture but with the title "Escaping Buck" it is better that it is leaving the image.

**03-Juvenile sea lion at Ano Nuevo happy to see us (Otariinae).jpg**

Sharp, in focus, interesting picture with action. Question is, is the elephant seal smiling, doing mouth open breathing, or?

*Things that could be improved:* This image is almost symmetric. It could be improved by actually centering the animal in the frame. Seal lions have visible ear flaps. This animal doesn't and as the image was taken at Any Nuevo it is more likely that it is an Elephant Seal. Most competitions discourage anthropomorphizing animals, so I would suggest deleting the "happy to see us" part of the title, also it is a too cute a title.

**04-Monterey Shore Birds.jpg**

Lovely low angle lighting. Nice to have the connection between the three birds moving together. Good to see an eye for each bird. I love the reflection on the wet sand in the foreground. This image is presented as a panorama and works well this way with the three birds in a line.

*Things that could be improved:* The focus seems best on the wave just behind the birds. What kind of birds are they and why are they in the surf? Also latin names recommended.

**05-Scarlet Skimmer (Crocotthemis Servilla).jpg**

Lovely! Good focus (and this is difficult with this kind of image). In some ways it would have been nice to have the pictures taken to show the front of the Scarlet Skimmer, but if that were done the details on the wings wouldn't stand out as well.

*Things that could be improved:* Darken the lower left and lower right corners.

**06-Wild Orchid (Orchidaceae).jpg**

Excellent! The critical parts of the flower are all in focus (the far white petals below and to the far left are out of focus but all of the front purples, white, yellows are in focus). Corners, edges, exposure are good. The background leaves are nicely out of focus so they don't compete.

*Things that could be improved:* The composition seems weak. The center of interest is the flower, but it is sort of hanging somewhat in the middle supported by a weak limb on the right. You might try re-cropping it into a square image or doing something to the right side.

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**Winning Images: First Place:**

**02-Escaping Buck**

This was a hard decision as the Eagle picture was also very good.