

## **PTCC 2017 - NATURE #2 - "BACKYARD" NATURE**

GROUP AA

12 IMAGES FROM 4 MEMBERS

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### **01 - Allen's Hummingbird.jpg**

*(Selasphorus sasin) This is an interesting pose for the bird. It looks like he is stretching. I think I would have cropped it vertically. This way it removes the distracting pieces and makes him the star of the show. Otherwise, he is just a little bitty buggie in a great big image. The bokeh of your background is nice and the lighting is good. He is sharp.*

### **02 - Butterfly Julia.jpg**

*(Dryas iulia) Julia Heliconian. I really like the pose. The eyes and antenna are sharp. However, there are multiple areas that are blown out and can easily be cloned out or at least dropped out in the top portion. These hot spots detract from your subject.*

### **03 - Fishing by Moonlight.jpg**

*Beautiful image. Exposure is good and it is sharp. I would have cropped it a bit.*

### **04 - Leporidae or Bunny.jpg**

*This is a Brush Rabbit (Sylvilagus bachmani). I feel you should have more room in front of the bunny than behind. You need room for him to "go". So I would crop it. The image is nice and sharp and you have a great catch light in the eye.*

### **05 - Looking for a Safe Place to Hide.jpg**

*Garibaldi (Hypsypops rubicundus). These are the California state fish and are protected. Either this is a very cropped image or the ISO was set pretty high because there is a fair amount of noise in the image. There are noise reducing plug-ins for Photoshop that can help this. The NIK version Dfine 2 is free, Neat Image, Topaz Denoise etc. The center of the anemone is a bit blown out. The composition is really very nice.*

### **06 - Macrocytis pyrifera.jpg**

*This is an interesting image. It is sharp. But I don't think I would have done the vignette thing.*

### **07 - Red-shoulder Hawk at Asilomar.jpeg**

*(Buteo lineatus). Nice exposure. I like how you have it sitting on the Asilomar sign. Lucky catch. I would like to see more room at the top and bottom as the bird feels squeezed.*

### **08 - Roosters.jpg**

*Well these are very unique roosters (metalica rusticas). The yellow rooster is fine but the other rooster is very hidden. Your exposure is pretty good though.*

**09 - Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Skyline Forest Feeder.jpeg**

*(Phecticus ludovicanus) This is a beautiful bird and you are lucky to have captured it. If this were my image I would get rid of the light area on the right hand side. Also I would straighten the bird feeder. The image is sharp and you have a nice catch light in the eye.*

**10 - The Best Is Almost Ready.jpg**

*These look quite delicious. I think they have been manipulated a bit much even for this competition. Your lighting is great.*

**11 - Two Acorn Woodpeckers at Birdbath.jpeg**

*Acorn woodpeckers (Melanerpes formicivorus) are just a hoot to watch and listen to. They have a very complex social structure. If you use the Shadow/Highlights adjustment you can tone down the highlights and then clone out the remaining white spots. This will make your woodpeckers stand out more and remove the distracting highlights.*

**12 - Venus Fly Trap.jpg**

*This is actually a Pitcher Plant. Most likely an Asian Pitcher Plant. It is carnivorous. The pitcher itself is covered in down pointing hairs which prevent insects or other small animals from escaping. The bottom of the pitcher is filled with digestive juices. This could be a very bad way to go. I wish you had captured all of the upper-most pitcher. You have a great collection here with one showing no cap, one with the cap open and one with the cap closed. I know this sounds like heresy but I would have cloned out the window in the upper right and the white doo dad in the upper left.*

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**Winning Images:**

**1st Place:** Looking for a safe place to hide

**2nd Place:** Leporidae or Bunny