

## **PTCC 2017 – Nature #2, Backyard**

### **Group AAA**

*Five members submitted 13 images*

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#### **01-bird tracks.jpg**

*This is an interesting image. I only wish there were prints in the middle. My eye tends to wander off the sides.*

#### **02-fly drinking nectar.jpg**

*This is a Syrphid, Hover or Flower Fly, most likely a (*Toxomerus marginatus*). They are very important pollinators and great predators of aphids. These are very beneficial insects. The image would have more impact if the whites were toned down as well as the background. This would make the fly stand out more.*

#### **03-Found Feathers.jpg**

*Many of these feathers are from red shouldered hawks (*Buteo lineatus*). And it looks like you've got some turkey feathers as well. I think I would have used a container without a label like the other one as I find the pickle jar distracting. If you look at the histogram in Photoshop some of your highlights are blown out. I would try this one again. This is more of a pictorial image.*

#### **04-Geranium 1.jpg**

*I love Geraniums because gophers don't, and they provide a lot of color. So what I am going to say for this one goes for the others as well. You should use a diffuser when photographing flowers. This softens the light and narrows the dynamic range. This allows you to get a softer look and more detail without blowing out the highlights. In this image the red in the upper left corner is distracting as well as the highlights on the left and lower part. If a diffuser had been used these would not be present. You do have nice soft light on the flowers themselves.*

#### **05-Geranium 2.jpg**

*The highlights are too distracting. The image is nice and sharp.*

#### **06-Geranium 3.jpg**

*This composition is very nice but again the highlights are distracting and this image would look much better if taken with a diffuser. Always check your histogram.*

#### **07-limestone.jpg**

*Actually this is eroded sandstone with pebbles from decomposed conglomerate. This is a beautiful image. I have a very interesting PDF on the Rocks of Point Lobos if anyone is interested. Your exposure is very well done.*

#### **08-Montana Pintos.jpg**

*Beautiful horses. I just wish there weren't any buildings in the background and someone hadn't written 311 on the one horse's backside. Now I know this is a stock yard but if you could select the background and darken it, this would make the horses come to the forward. There is a halo around the horses' head. Also I would never tell if you cloned the numbers off the one horses butt.*

**09-Negella.jpg**

*Your exposure is good and it is very sharp. I just wish you had included all the rest of the flower and had a little bit darker background, but the image is very nice.*

**10-Old Bones.jpg**

*I really like this image. Your lighting is very good and you have the all-important 3. I would submit this again in pictorial. I think this would make a great black and white.*

**11-Stone on Pink Sand.jpg**

*Nice seeing. This image has a lot of potential. I would remove the partial foot print at the top. Also I think I would have moved slightly to the right to include more of the sand structure there and that would put your stone in the upper right 1/3 of the image. As it is the stone is in the middle and would look better to one side. Also the image is a little hot. This is more of a pictorial image.*

**12-Under Cover.jpg**

*Very interesting capture of a western mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*). I think I would crop the image to a vertical to remove the distracting elements on the right and left. That light area on the left really draws my eye. You would still have sufficient information for its environment but allow the viewer to concentrate on the bird. Great catch light in the eye.*

**13-Wild Turkey at Sunrise.jpg**

*This is an Eastern Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). They are absolutely beautiful birds unless they roost on your roof then they can be very messy. It is an introduced species that has done very well on the west coast. The image may be a little over saturated and the poor thing has lost its feet. The top of his poor head is blown out, and I know how he feels. To make the image better you could leave a little more room at the top of the image and include the rest of the legs and feet. Remember if you have legs in the image you need to have the feet and if you have arms you need hands.*

**Winners:**

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**Second place**

*Negella*

**First Place**

*Fly Drinking Nectar*