

PTCC-2017 NATURE #3

GROUP AA

5 images from 2 members

01 - Bobcat (Lynx Rufus).jpg

I've photographed a lot of wild Bobcats and this just doesn't look like a wild one to me. I'll go out on a limb and guess this was a captive animal. Looks way too relaxed, with the photographer that close. And, it appears to be shot with a shorter focal-length lens. Just doesn't have that "long-lens look" to it. In fact, the image has a slightly fogged over appearance, which leads me to believe it may have been shot through glass as well. Those comments are all coming from somebody who has spent hours in photo blinds getting shots of these critters. All that being said, there are no human elements visible in the image so it is considered acceptable in nature competition, according to PSA rules. I just tend to not score them as highly because there is a much lower level of difficulty involved when photographing captive critters. The branch to the left of the Bobcat's ear is a little distracting and the background is somewhat overexposed, which distracts from the overall image. The animal itself is sharp and well exposed.

02 - Gaseous water droplets from geyser.jpg

Very creative and interesting photo and very well executed! I'm assuming that's blue sky in the background. Great exposure and lighting. Very sharp! You must have been shooting at a pretty fast shutter speed, faster than 1/500 of a second. Your title works very well with the image to create a good story-telling component to the photo. My guess is that this photo took a bit of planning and a lot of test frames to get it so perfectly.

03 - Pond Frog - Rana ridibunda.jpg

I don't think there is a particular species of frog called a "Pond Frog." The scientific name you have in your title is for the Marsh Frog, typically found in Europe. It's hard to tell the difference between the Marsh Frog and the Northern Green Frog, found in the eastern part of North America. This is female frog. You can tell by the circle behind the eye. That's the tympanum, essentially the frog's ear. If the tympanum is larger than the eye, it's a male. If the tympanum is the size of the eye or smaller, it's a female. Your photo is a little soft in the focus. Just not as sharp as it could be. The exposure is good, which is often difficult when shooting with water in the frame, due to the reflections and glare.

04 - Sand Dollar (Clypeasteroidea).jpg

Beautiful photo! I love the patterns, textures, and detail in your image. It's very well exposed and extremely sharp. I like the centered composition in your photo, however, I hope you also experimented with some other compositions. One idea that comes to mind... It might be interesting to try a wide-angle view, where you have the sand dollar very close to the lens so it's large and prominent in the foreground, but then you have a wide expanse of beach or ocean with waves in the background. I recently read about a wide-angle macro lens that would work great for that idea. It's fun to experiment!

05 - Young European Stone Eagle - Aquila chrysaetos .jpg

Hmmm. I have no idea what a Stone Eagle is. To my knowledge, there's no species of bird that goes by that name. The Latin name in your title is the scientific name for the Golden Eagle, which this appears to be. Obviously a captive bird so not very difficult to photograph. There appear to be human elements visible in the background as well. It's a lot of fun to photograph captive critters and it's also great practice, however, if you plan to enter the images in competition, be sure you position yourself so you

can eliminate distracting backgrounds and human elements. You have great detail on the bill, however, the eye and darker areas of the feathers are lacking in detail. You might try using a diffused flash to bring out more detail in the darker areas, without overexposing your background. Very sharp focus on the beak and eye. You can tell by the reflection in the eye, the bird was under a tent-like canopy.

WINNING IMAGE:

Because of limited field, only one prize will be awarded

1st Place: **02 - Gaseous water droplets from geyser.jpg**