

## PTCC - 2018 Nature 1

Returns 11-15-17

### Group A Comments

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#### 01 - Assorted Sea Snails fill a granite niche at Point Lobos.jpg

*Great composition. I like the diagonal orientation as well as the colors of the rocks and snails*

#### 02 - Autumn Reflection.jpg

*Very nice reflection. I like that you have retained the focus from front to back.*

#### 03 - Bat Star (Patiria miniata) trail on sand.jpg

*Very good composition. The dark rock nicely balances the red starfish.*

#### 04 - Decaying Broadleaf Maple (Acer macrophyllum).jpg

*Without the title, this seems almost abstract to me as I wasn't sure what I was looking at (which is good as it makes the viewer think).*

#### 05 - Defensive Posture, Gelada Baboon ( Theropithecus gelada)jpg.jpg

*Wonderful capture getting the baboon looking directly at the camera. Great focus and detail capture. I wonder what it would look like with a square crop.*

#### 06 - EARED GREBE FEEDING BABY.jpg

*Great capture of mother and baby. I like the way it's cropped.*

#### 07 - Family Of Lesser Sandhill Cranes(Grus Canadensis)Merced Wildlife Refuge.jpg

*I like the three layers of this picture and the fact all three birds are looking to the left. Makes you wonder what they are all looking at.*

#### 08 - Female Sea Otter Feeding Pup.jpg

*Great capture with sharp focus.*

#### 09 - Giant Sequoias in Tuolome Grove (Sequoiadendron giganteum).jpg

*I have always liked this type of shot looking upward through the trees. I wonder if you could have moved and changed the composition a little to get a more circular shot. Also seems a little over processed.*

#### 10 - Great Egret (Ardea alba) with freshly caught gopher (Geomyidae).jpg

*Wonderful shot with its simplicity with just the bird and it's reflection.*

#### 11 - Humpback Whale Lunge Feeding - Pt Lobos.jpg

*Great work as I would guess this is a one in a million shot with the whale lunging so close to shore. Would tighter cropping put more emphasis on the whale as he seems too much in the background now.*

#### 12 - Japanese beetles (Popillia japonica) mating.jpg

*Unusual shot done very well technically. While I am not sure I'd want it hanging in my living room, I do respect the skill needed to capture it.*

**13 - Juvenile white ibis (Eudocimus albus) checking for grubs.jpg**

*Wonderfully unusual shot of a bird. I think I may have liked seeing the bird's whole body in the frame had it been possible.*

**14 - Kaleidoscope of Danaus plexippus - Monarch Butterflies cluster in Pacific Grove, CA .jpg**

*Great shot of a butterfly bush. I like how the background is out of focus to keep your eye on the butterflies.*

**15 - Lace Lichen - Ramalina menziesii.jpg**

*Unusual shot for me as I have not seen this type of lichen. While having the background blurry keeps your eye on the lichen, I'm not sure if it was due to depth of field or post process.*

**16 - Long-billed curlew (N. americanus), December, Asilomar Beach, CA.jpg**

*I like the simplicity of the scene to keep your eyes on the bird. I might even have taken out the seaweed in the right front. Seems to be some ghosting around the bird.*

**17 - Long-billed Curlew (Numenius americanus) avoiding wave.jpg**

*The bird seems more in a support role in this photo as opposed to the subject. You may not have sufficient resolution to crop close enough to really bring him out.*

**18 - Meerkat on Alert( Suricate surkatta).jpg**

*Wonderful image. Looks like it was done in a studio complete with key light in the eyes. Good isolation to the background. Also very sharp.*

**19 - Milkyway, Carmel Valley.jpg**

*Great capture of the milky way positioning it over the trees. I might want it a little bit lighter to see more stars and foreground detail. You can't rely on the screen to set exposure as it will always be underexposed. You need to be looking at the histogram.*

**20 - Monarch Butterflies Overwintering in Pacific Grove Ca.jpg**

*Great shot of the butterflies. I find the out of focus moss and brighter background somewhat distracting*

**21 - Mono WA Sunburst.jpeg**

*Interesting fish eye shot with good sunburst pattern. It would have been good to see some more tufa structures in the shot since that's the interesting thing about Mono Lake.*

**22 - NorCal fires fill Yosemite Valley with Smoke.jpg**

*Good idea to have the trees as the point of focus and Yosemite Valley in more of a support role due to the smoke and poor visibility.*

**23 - Northern elephant seal (M. angustirostris), male, San Simeon, CA.jpg**

*I like this shot looking over the seal's shoulder which makes for an interesting perspective. Sharp details.*

**24 - Northern Saw-Whet Owl (Aegolius acadicus).jpg**

*Great shot with him looking right at you.*

**25 - Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) at the watering hole in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park .jpg**

*Wonderful shot. I wish there was some way to make more contrast with the background.*

**26 - Red Maple (*acer rubrum*) changing color-.jpg**

*Very color shot. I am not sure where I should be looking within the photo. As my eyes tend to keep wandering across the image.*

**27 - Sandhill Cranes In First Light, ( *Grus Canadensis*).jpg**

*Well done, I like silhouettes and the tonality used here.*

**28 - Scrub jay (*A. californica*) burying nuts.jpg**

*A wonderfully different and amusing angle to bird photography. Again, I'm not sure if I would want it in my living room.*

**29 - Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*) floating at Elkhorn Slough.jpg**

*Good composition with the otter looking towards the photographer. The eyes and whiskers could be sharper.*

**30 - Seagull Feather and the Pine Needle .jpg**

*The out of focus background gives it a good sense of movement. I might lighten the feather to make it pop more against the background.*

**31 - Sierra-Nevada Aspens (*Populus tremuloides*) welcome fall before previous winter's snow is gone - Yosemite National Park.jpg**

*I like the layering with the aspen in the foreground and sierra in the background. I may have tried to frame it some differently to give more emphasis to the aspen. The power line and man are a little distracting.*

**32 - Stranded Magnetic Gumboot Chiton - Biobus.jpg**

*Great combination of beach debris which make their imprints in the sand. I may have cropped out the one item on the right hand side maybe even going to a square format.*

**33 - Sunrise at Alabama Hills.jpg**

*Great capture of the peaks (Whitney?) through the arch. Could you have used a longer lens to pull the peaks in closer?*

**34 - TERN EMERGING WITH CATCH.jpg**

*Wonderful shot of the tern with fast enough exposure to freeze the water droplets. I may want to crop a little tighter on the tern's head.*

**35 - Tufa Sunburst 1.jpeg**

*Great sunburst shot which is difficult to do because of the large dynamic range involved. Seem to be some processing artifacts around the tufa.*

**36 - Well Concealed, Great Horned Owl Fledgling ( Bubo-virginianus).jpg**

*Wonderful shot. I think the moss compliments the bird's feathers. I would crop tighter (even square) on the bird as I'm not sure the right hand side of the image contributes that much.*

**37 - Western Gulls (laros occidentalis) eating afterbirth from newly born Elephant Seal (mirounga angustirostris).jpg**

*Wonderfully chaotic scene.*

**38 - White Pelican Pas de Deux - Pelicanus erythrorhynchos.jpg**

*I like the simplicity of this image. Excellent capture.*

**39 - White-faced Ibis (Plegadis chihi) in the afternoon sun.jpg**

*Wonderfully unusual shot. I don't believe I have ever seen legs like that. I find some of the darker specs distracting and might have taken them out.*

**40 - Yosemite's Half Dome remains a monument to ancient geologic history.jpg**

*It's difficult not to take a good picture with a subject as dramatic as Half Dome. Unfortunately many shots are taken of this subject and you have some very good competition to be compared against.*

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**Winning Images:**

**First Place:**

**18 - Meerkat on Alert( Suricate surkatta).jpg**

**Second Place:**

**24 - Northern Saw-Whet Owl (Aegolius acadicus).jpg**

**Third Place:**

**05 - Defensive Posture, Gelada Baboon ( Theropithecus gelada)jpg.jpg**

**Honorable Mentions:**

**08 - Female Sea Otter Feeding Pup.jpg**

**03 - Bat Star (Patiria miniata) trail on sand.jpg**

**39 - White-faced Ibis (Plegadis chihi) in the afternoon sun.jpg**