

PTCC-2018 – NATURE 2, "BACKYARD" GROUP AA

9 images from 3 members

01 - Barney .jpg

Very cool shot showing the Barn Owl actually in a barn. Even though you can't see much of the owl, you see what counts (the face) and get enough info to tell the story. I like the composition, with the angle looking upward, which, of course, is how you would normally see a Barn Owl in a barn. Normally, I wouldn't like the other elements in the image that distract your attention from the owl, however, in this image, they actually contribute to the story of the owl hanging out in a cluttered old barn. Good exposure, given the tough situation of being in a dark barn. It appears you shot at a pretty high ISO due the "grainy" digital noise in the image but that's inevitable given the circumstances.

02 - Gorilla.jpg

This is actually a chimpanzee. Nice job getting detail in the eyes! That's often very difficult, given how deeply set they are and usually shaded by the prominent brow ridge. Sometimes, using a little flash will make the eyes pop a bit in the photo as well. Your photo definitely draws the viewer into the image, making a connection with the face of the chimp. Good exposure on an animal that's usually tough to expose correctly, especially considering the bright background.

03 - Heliconia.jpg

I like the angle at which you shot this. However, it creates a problem with the super bright background. You managed the exposure on the flower well but the background is way overexposed and distracting. This is a situation where you might want to try setting your exposure for the ambient light using matrix metering so your meter takes into account the really bright background. Then I would set your exposure compensation to -1. Then I would use a flash to illuminate the flower, close to your camera. If you just took the shot without flash, the flower would be shadowed. You essentially using your flash to just fill in the close shadows, leaving the ambient light exposure as your meter reads it. Your background will be well exposed and the flower will be well exposed. It may take some experimentation as you're learning how to do this. Does any of that make sense?

04 - House Finch.jpg

Fantastic portrait and detail photo. House finches are so common around our backyard bird feeders but you rarely get a chance to enjoy the incredible beauty of the subtle color variations in their plumage. This is super sharp, beautifully exposed, and a great composition! The diffused background is perfect.

05 - Iris.jpg

Wonderful color and detail. Very sharp. There's a lot going on in the image and I find my eye wandering, with no place to land. I think if you isolated the main blossom at the front, in a vertical format, it would eliminate some of the other elements that pull your eye away from that main flower. That would also help in eliminating some of the more contrasty portions of the image. You also could try a holding a big pop-open diffuser disk to even out the light on the flower a bit. Then the entire frame would be filled with flower from edge to edge. I think that would draw the viewer's eye into the image more effectively.

06 - Meerkat Sentries.jpg

Normally, I think an image is more powerful if the critters in the shot are facing the camera. It typically has greater impact for the viewer. Your shot, however, is very nice because you can see the faces of the meerkats and I really like the backlighting on the fur. It gives them a sort of rim light effect. Very nice composition with good balance in the image.

07 - Rabbit.jpg

Excellent photo of the little Desert Cottontail! Super sharp. Perfectly exposed. Very good composition, with the negative space in the direction the bunny is facing. I love the detail in the ear, with the venation. You really captured the personality in its eye! Great out of focus background so it's not distracting from the image.

08 - Song Sparrow.jpg

This is a juvenile Dark-eyed Junco. It hasn't attained its adult plumage yet. It's a stunning photo! It's a wonderful composition, with the diagonal line of the branch. I like the way the bird is framed by the branch and leaves. The image is tack sharp where it needs to be, right on the bird's eye, face, and bill. The out of focus background makes the subject really pop out of the photo. The catchlight in the eye adds to the impact of the image. Nicely done!

09 - The Big Lick.jpg

Beautiful light on the tiger! It has a nice warm glow. Great detail and sharpness, to where you can even see the texture on the tiger's tongue! Very nice composition too. Just enough negative space in the direction the tiger is facing. The background is out of focus and pleasing, with no distractions.

WINNING IMAGES

BECAUSE OF LIMITED FIELD, ONLY TWO PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED.

1st Place:

04 - House Finch.jpg

2nd Place:

07 - Rabbit.jpg