



01 - Defaced.jpg

Nicole Asselborn

I like the use of the trees for foreground interest and the mountain in the background. The sky colors are very nice showing the willingness to be there at the right time of day. I find missing part of the tree in the left foreground to be less than ideal. It feels like an accidental crop rather than one planned to make the ideal image. The hand of man is subtle and neither adds to or distracts from the image. ***



02 - Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna).jpg

John Drum

Very nice capture of the hummingbird. There are bright spots on the feeder and in the background that tend to pull the eye from the main subject. I might have cropped some of the feeder on the right side to get rid of some of the distraction. Very sharp image of the bird with the exception of some lack of clarity in the tail. Not sure what is causing that as you have stopped the motion on the wings very well. It kind of looks like noise? The tip of one wing shows some motion blur, but that is to be expected and does not distract. Again, nice capture and nature story. ****



03 - Ariolimax columbianus feasting on citrus peel.jpg

Mary Ann Avera

The subject matter is interesting, but not compelling. The composition is good. There seems to be some softness in the rear part of the slug. Overall the image feels a bit busy with lots of different things for the eye to drift too. I am not sure what you could have done different except maybe work with depth of field. The hand of man nature story is good. ***



04 - Ash Throated Fly Catcher.jpg

Jeff Hobbs

The image shows great management of depth of field. The bird and wire are very sharp and the background is nicely blurred. Lighting is very well managed with no distractions. The bird has a nice catch light in the eye. I guess the hand of man nature story is of the bird on the barb wire.



05 - Autumn Glory.jpg

Frank Penner

Nice color and sharpness in the leaves. The composition of the leaves is good with the eye being pulled from leaf to leaf. The image is quite busy and the many limbs being mostly in focus are distracting. The hand of man seems to be the building in the background which detracts rather than adds to the image. **



06 - Bald Eagle(Haliaeetus leucocephalus) .jpg

John Drum

The eagle, arm, and the meal are very sharp. The feathers on the eagle look a bit off. Maybe over sharpened and the background even though somewhat softened feels detached from the foreground and thus is a bit distracting. Very nice hand of man nature story.



07 - Bandon Sand Art.jpg

Rick Verbanec

Nice capture of the man-made labyrinth in the natural setting. The people in the bottom add to the image and to the composition, but are a bit soft. This was a difficult image to compose and you have done a nice job. ****



08 - Barn Owl - Tyto alba.jpg

Judi H Clayton

Nice portrait of the barn owl, but a bit soft at the feet and with loss of feather detail. Lighting is handled well and the depth of field is good with the background blurred.



09 - Beach Street Sea Wall.jpg

Bill Brown

Very nice image. Composition is very good while using the man made wall for a good leading line. Sharpness is good throughout. Nice artistic feeling to the image.



10 - Blue Orchid - Vanda coerulea.JPG

Brooks Leffler

The flowers are beautiful and well captured. There are several distracting features including the red in the lower right and the man made structure in the background. I am not sure if the hand of man is that structure or if the flower is a hybrid? Maybe cropping out the blurry red in the bottom right and burning down the white in the background would have strengthened this image.



11 - BMW Beemer Goats (Billy-Milly- Willy) Having Lunch at Our New Veggie Garden.jpg

Joel Gambord

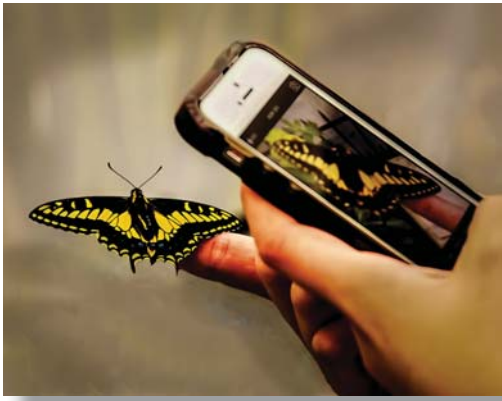
Generally a nicely composed image with very good clarity, but the upper right of the image is empty and pulls the eye a bit. Nice man in nature.



12 - Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus) Wing Stretch.jpg

Chris Johnson

A very interesting pose of the blackbird. The eyes are great. Generally, the light on the bird and the clarity are very good. The bright blue in the background is a bit too intense. There is some softness on the lower foot, but does not really detract from the image. Nice capture.



13 - Butterfly being photographed on iphone.jpg

Jared Ikeda

This is a very creative and compelling image. Nice use of soft focus to soften the hand and phone leading the eye to the image of the butterfly, but even that feels a bit soft.



14 - Cooper Hawk.jpg

Lillie Grossman

This is a very good capture of a difficult subject. The eyes and feather detail are outstanding. The depth of field on the bird is outstanding, but the pole is just in between being sharp and blurred out and is distracting as are the horizontal bands near the wing tips which I assume are a building.



15 - Crow (Corvus Corone).jpg

Carol Silveira

Interesting portrait of a crow. Background is nicely blurred to put focus on the bird. It is difficult to get even lighting on a black bird. Generally, you have done ok, but it is hard to make out feather detail on the head area and you have to work to see the eye. There are distracting bright spots below the feet and above the head. The nature story is not obvious.



16 - Curious Cow and Cowbirds.jpg

Amy Sibiga

This image is compelling. You have captured the interaction of the cow and cowbirds very well. The depth of field and sharpness of the image is very good, as is the lighting.



**17- Dale Chihouli Sculptures at Atlanta Botanical Garden.
jpg**

Brooks Leffler

I really like the composition and subject matter, but it is a bit busy. The brick wall leads nicely into the glass and the overall greenery is appealing. The bright spots coming through the trees pull my eye away from the main subject, but still a very good image.



18 - Dolly, an Immature Female Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) Having a Drink of Water.jpg

John B Avera

Very compelling image. The eye is great as is the capture of the drop of water. Nice handling of light and depth of field. An interesting story of an endangered species with the interaction with man. The bright red at the bottom pulls the eye away from the subject. Maybe it could have been cropped out or burned down.



19 - Foraging Western Bluebird.jpg

Jerry Heisel

Nice portrait of a Bluebird. Image is sharp and lighting is well managed with a catch light in the eye. Composition is good and the depth of field is well managed to give clarity on the post, wire and bird. Rust color on post adds to the image.



20 - Great Egret (Ardea alba) fishes the harbor for Night Smelt (Spirinchus starksi) lunch.jpg

Jerry Gifford

Very good nature story with the fish in the mouth. Not sure whether it is due to exposure or focus, but the feather detail is not visible to me. The image feels over sharpened especially the eye. The background does give hand of man, but is somewhat distracting.



21 - Great Egret (Ardea alba) grips Night Smelt (Spirinchus starksi) lunch.jpg

Jerry Gifford

The focus and lighting are well managed with the bird, fish and immediate surroundings all sharp. The nature story with hand of man works well. The bird is well positioned in the image. Very nice shot.



22 - Great Egret (Ardea alba) launching from a pier piling.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

Very nice image with action captured. Good nature story. The image is sharp and lighting good. Good catch light in the eye and good feather detail. The crop is effective and the bird well positioned in the image.



23 - Horsing Around at the SC County Fair.jpg

Amy Sibiga

Good image. Hand of man is obvious, but not sure about nature. Image has good clarity with the horses and their immediate area clear. The background is blurred, but still a bit distracting. Maybe burning it down would help. The angle of light on the horses faces is not ideal leaving them looking a bit flat. Good image



24 - Hyalophora cecropia resting in hands.jpg

Mary Ann Avera

Very sharp image and nice hand of man nature story. The lighting on the image is somewhat flat. Some lighting adjustments could make this stronger. Depth of field handled nicely with no distracting elements in the background.



25 - Masai Giraffe (Giraffa tippelskirchii) strolling around the Norfolk zoo.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

The giraffe is nice and sharp. Lighting on the giraffe and the background are both pretty flat. The image would be stronger if the background were burned down and there had been less depth of field. The cut logs and the riprap in the background draw the eye away from the subject.



26 - Mermaid's Cairn.jpg

Bill Brown

Beautiful image with nice lighting and controlled depth of field. The soft water with sharp rocks is very striking. Credit is given for the small rocks on the large rock giving hand of man while providing the image a nice foreground element.



27 - Milky Way at Bodie, Ca.jpg

Carol Silveira

Nicely lit night image. The lighting looks natural and the buildings anchor the foreground. I like the placement of the buildings and the Milky Way, but the right side of the image feels empty. A different angle of the buildings vs the milky way would have helped if possible.



28 - Morning sidewalk stroll - Sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*).JPG

Margret Cordts

Interesting image with the cranes in an altered setting. The back of the birds is not the most appealing. I appreciate the eye contact with the back bird. The buildings in the background do not add to the image. It would have been nice if they were blurred out or burned down.



29 - MyOwnPrivateSpa.jpg

Shelley Nemeth

The hand of man is obvious, but not sure about any nature in this image. The brighter light is behind the cat and the cat feels a bit soft. A bit more attention to edge checking could have prevented cutting part of the tail off.



30 - Nature Observed.jpg

Joni Zabala

Very nice scene. I like the idea and the effort to put together the image. The highlighting on the woman's hair is nice and the band of light coming across her and the dog bring the eye in, but the lighting is very uneven on the dog with shadows on the head. The dog anchoring the foreground is good. Much of the image seems soft. Deeper depth of field would have helped. The message of woman in nature is very strong.



31 - Nature With the Hands of Boys and Girls.jpg

Joel Gambord

Very strong hand of man but I am not sure what is "nature" in the image. The children with the goats makes for a strong image. The right side of the image is mostly empty except for the retaining wall which kind of leads the eye out of the photo. Cropping this out would strengthen the image. Lighting and focus are handled well.



32 - New Shoes.jpg

Shelley Nemeth

Love the eyes and the playfulness. I don't see any nature in this images. Also part of the tail is cut off. If you are going to cut it off you need to crop with a purpose. This does not feel like that. Nice lighting and sharpness.



33 - Nipomo Dunes With Surprise Fireworks.jpg

Jeff Hobbs

I like the idea. It is a clever use of hand of man with nature. Nice lighting on the dunes. Separation of the fireworks and the dunes would have made a stronger image. Also there is a lot of empty sky above the fireworks. While the colors in the sky are very nice they do not extend that far above the fireworks. Cropping could strengthen this image.



34 - North American River Otter (Lontra Canadenisi) Balancing Act at the SF Zoo.jpg

Carol Fuessench

The setting is nice. The Otters eyes do not stand out and there is some softness. The image is well composed. I find the bright areas below and around the otter to pull the eye from the otter. You have to look for the otter when it should stand out as the subject. Maybe in post processing you could bring the light up on the otter and down on the surrounding elements to strengthen the image.



35 - Oil-human exploitation.jpg

Ken Jones

The hand of man in nature is strong. The clouds are nice and the subject is placed in the left lower power point, but the image is not really compelling. The image seems to lack overall sharpness and the lighting is pretty much the same throughout. Dodging and burning might help.

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36 - Old Cypress at the Post Office.jpg

Frank Penner

The black and white works well with this image. I like the idea of the tree trunk in the foreground and the leading lines created by the benches and sidewalk. The lighting is difficult to work with and the shadows and bright areas tend to pull the eye. The image feels too heavy to the left and too crowded on the right.



37 - Petroglyphs-human expression.jpg

Ken Jones

The image is compelling. I like the green element on the left and the group of petroglyphs leading into the image. The rock in the lower right is too bright and pulls the eye away from the subject. By burning down the intensity on that rock it would be a nice foreground anchor.



38 - Photographer and Macaw (Ara ambiguus) Face Off in Costa Rica.jpg

Carol Fuessench

The lighting and depth of field are handled very well. Generally a very good image. It would be nice if the bird were looking at the photographer as the interaction between the two is important to the image. Also, it is an awkward crop with part of the camera in and part out.



39 - Quail (Callipepla californica) chick running to mother with thistle seed on its back.jpg

Chris Johnson

Great capture of the chick. The action is wonderful and the lighting on the chick very good. The eye seems a bit soft as does one of the feet. Feather detail is good. Unfortunately, the image is really busy with distracting objects. A tighter crop would really help this image.



40 - Roosevelt Elk (*Cervus canadensis roosevelti*) lounging in a abandoned dairy.jpg

John Avera

The elk are generally sharp, but there is not an obvious area for your eye to settle. There is no real eye contact or catch light with any of them. Including the entire building and the greenery above makes for an indistinct subject. I think a horizontal image would have worked better bringing more attention to the elk. I zoomed in and cut out the roof and the greenery and it seems like a much stronger image.



41 - Scrub Jay Shares Tomatoes.jpg

Joni Zabala

The jay with the tomato fragment in its mouth and the tomato plant make a nice hand of man story. The composition is very good with the bird placed well in the image. The image works well in vertical format with the tomato plant below. The lighting is more intense on the plant than the bird pulling your eye away from the main subject. Very nice image.



42 - Squirrel observing boats.jpg

Jared Ikeda

The overall image has a nice feel. The title makes the squirrel a main part of the subject yet the squirrel is very dark and seems quite soft. Possible motion blur? The rocks are sharp, but the boats are not. Depth of field is too shallow.

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43 - Those eyes - Robber or assassin fly (Asilidae).JPG

Margret Cordts

This image immediately gets your attention. The eyes and the rest of the face are very sharp and interesting. While the rest of the bug is soft which adds to the draw to the eyes and is not a distraction. I do not see where the hand of man is in this image. It may be in the blurred areas, but there is nothing distinct enough to tell. Therefore I do not know that it is eligible.



44 - Trail to Cape Flattery.jpg

Rick Verbanec

The boardwalk leading through the trees is very nice. The clarity throughout is very good. Very nice image but the right side of image seems empty with the subjects on the left.



45 - Water under the bridge.jpg

Nicole Asselborn

The image clearly has hand of man in nature. The composition is well done with the lines of poles leading to the power area. That being said the content is not compelling.



46 - Western Screech Owl - Megascops kennicottii.jpg

Judi H Clayton

I am not sure what the hand of man is, but it appears the owl may have a tether. The eyes are very nice and the feather detail is good. The bright spots along the right edge, top and bottom pull the eye away from the subject. Cropping them out where possible or burning them down would strengthen the image.

Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

Ash-Throated Fly Catcher
Jeff Hobbs



Great Egret grips Night Smelt
Jerry Gifford



Mermaid's Cairn
Bill Brown



Third Place:

Curious Cow and Cow birds
Amy Sibiga



2nd Place:

Beach Street Sea Wall
Bill Brown



First Place:

**Great Egret Launching
from pier piling**
Bill Shewchuk

