



**01-Anna's Hummingbird Dining.jpg**

**Chris Parsons**

The eye, the most important connection to a subject is sharp. I'm happy to see that. I also like that the wing shows motion, although I might suggest an even faster shutter speed to freeze it even more. I would like to see the entire hummingbird within the frame however. Unless it is an animal portrait, I feel it's important to include all of the animal. \*\*\*



**02-Gentoo Penguins Antarctica.jpg**

**Chyrl Light**

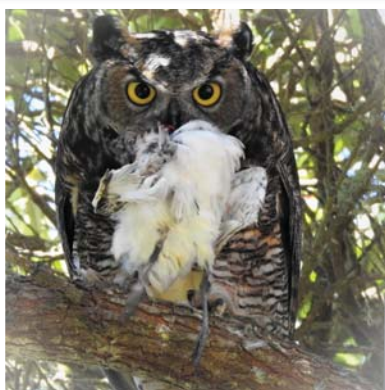
These penguins are really cute as they advance towards the camera. An ideal situation. Three things I'd like to comment on... first, I'd like to see more sharpness in the penguins, especially in the front one. Two, placing the subjects in the center of the frame tends to make the image feel more static. Placing them off center will make the image more dynamic. Three, it may be that you were going for a minimal look with the negative space around the penguins, but in this case, I feel that the space is just empty space and not really adding anything to the story. Therefore I would consider re-composing without all that space. \*\*\*



**03-Great Blue Heron Palo Carona.jpg**

**Dennis Giuffre**

I love that you caught the heron with one foot in the air as he is landing on the branch. Lovely composition with the heron coming into the frame. One distracting element is the blue fringing between the trees and the sky, not sure what is causing it since your depth of field is great. Maybe a lens aberration of some kind. \*\*\*\*



**04-Great Horned Owl with lunch.jpg**

**Jerry Loomis**

Lunch looks like perhaps an egret chick? Hard to tell. This tells a good story, and the viewer has a front row seat as this guy dines on his lunch. His eyes look challenging, as if to say, I dare you to take this away from me. Technically, I would like to see better sharpness, and/or perhaps a faster shutter speed. I'm noticing a very soft white vignette also, which I personally do not like to see, especially in nature images and I think most nature rules may not allow those kinds of adjustments. \*\*\*\*



**05-Hawaii big island - wary bird.jpg**

**Rick Thau**

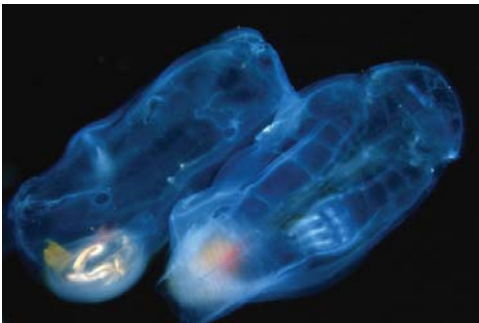
A beautiful tropical bird. His eye is sharp, there's even a bit of a catch light in his eye. The colors are vibrant. As the viewer, I am intrigued by this bird since I've never seen one before and I'd like to know what it is or more about it. On a side note, I would encourage nature photographers to do some homework and research their subjects. Use the name of the species in the title along with whatever description you choose. In competitions, a good nature title could mean the difference between a win and a loss. \*\*\*



**06-Peacock in full attract mode.jpg**

**Rick Thau**

Peacocks are beautiful birds to photograph and this one is a good example of why. I like that you have filled the frame with his plumage. Unfortunately, I believe this image would be better suited for Pictorial, and not Nature. Peacocks have been domesticated in many countries, including here in the states. The subject of what is and isn't a domesticated animal (for example, wild horses) will come up again and again, but in my view, I have to consider the peacock as a domesticated bird and not a wild animal. \*



**07-Pelagic Tunicate.jpg**

**Jerry Loomis**

It's not often that we get to see these kinds of animals, and that's one of things I like about this image. Most likely not the easiest animal to capture with a camera either. I'm sure depth of field was a real challenge here, but the exposure is great. Fascinating to look at and observe the details. My only comment is that you might think about giving the subjects a little more breathing room if possible. \*\*\*\*



**08-Red Crab Tossed Ashore.jpg**

**Chris Parsons**

Getting down low and shooting at eye level is a great way to photograph smaller animals and even people, especially little kids. You are nearly at eye level with this crab and his eyes are very sharp. A little more depth of field may have given you more sharpness in the front claw as well. I'd like to see a stronger story here. Maybe including a little more of the environment would allow us to see from where he was tossed. \*\*\*



**09-Redwoods-2184.jpg**

**Patricia McKean**

Beautiful subject, I love the simplicity of this image. Light filtering through the redwoods with mist lingering in the air, creating a wonderful atmosphere to photograph the light rays. I like that there is minimal processing, although I might do something to enhance the rays just a tad bit more. Wonderful composition, using the tree trunks and branches to frame and capture the light rays. Nicely done. \*\*\*\*\*



**10-Tamalpias-9572.jpg**

**Patricia McKean**

The layering of elements in this image have a graphic appeal for me. Appealing also are the color elements of very dark green, blue and yellow which follow the “rule of odds”. Three elements often allow the viewer’s eye to linger longer within an image, unlike using only two elements which tend to compete with each other. Because this image is in the Nature category, the only thing I might suggest here is to reduce the blue saturation in the clouds for a more natural look. \*\*\*\*



**11-The lonely jellyfish.JPG**

**Florian Brennenstuhl**

The colors are vibrant and accurate. In this image, I don’t mind that the subject is centered in the frame this time, because the space around him here serves to hold him in balance. It has visual weight, meaning no one part of the image has too much weight compared to the other parts. \*\*\*\*



**12 - The shy squirrel.jpg**

**Florian Brennenstuhl**

This is one of those images where I feel timing is everything. With your title in mind (shy squirrel), if there was a chance that this little guy would have changed his position so that the little branches would not be covering his face, then that could be the shot you want. This is also a tough exposure because of the bright sky directly behind him and the dappled light. It becomes somewhat distracting and causes loss of detail in the shadow areas. Spot metering on the squirrel may have helped you here with the exposure. \*\*



### **13-White Tailed Kite with mouse.jpg**

**Dennis Giuffre**

This image tells a story and is a wonderful capture. The mouse is doomed, and I imagine that the kite is returning to a nest or a place where he can eat in peace. Technically well done with good exposure and shutter speed. \*\*\*\*\*

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## Winning Images:

*Due to limited number of entries, only first and second places have been awarded.*

2nd Place:

**Redwoods -2184**  
*Patricia McKean*



First Place:

**White-Tailed Kite with  
Mouse**  
*Dennis Giuffre*

