



01 - A Fox Squirrel (Sciurus niger) Takes Advantage of the Harvest Bounty.jpg

Karen Schofield

Pleasant capture of the squirrel getting a meal. Definitely fitting for the time of the season. Framed well. Resolution seems a bit low however.



02 - Ballet of sea skaters .jpeg

Nicole Asselborn

Very intriguing capture of water bugs. Makes you take a second look. I like how it is visually striking.



03 - Barn Spider with Prey (Araneus cavaticus).jpg

John Avera

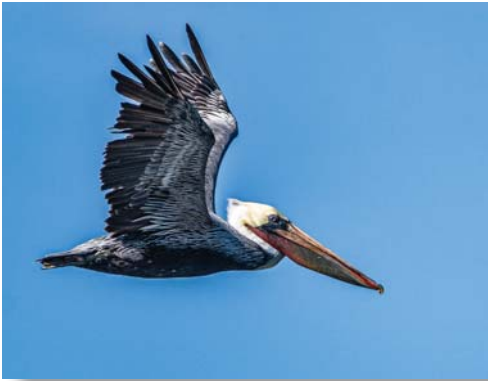
Framing and detail are great. I like the use of spiderwebs to create the scene. Very sharp and in focus.



04 - Bristlecone Pine.jpg

Jerry Heisel

I really like the twisting and turning captured in this photograph. To me it seems more of just a snapshot. Would have been more powerful to go close in and just capture what is important.



05 - Brown Pelican Carmel River Mouth Beach.jpg

Dennis Giuffre

Great clear shot of a pelican in flight. You were able to get the focus on the eye which is no easy task! Love the patterns of the feathers. The shapes of the wings is great as well.



06 - Bug On a Window.jpg

Clarissa Conn

Interesting capture of an insect. However, the resolution seems low and somewhat out of focus. It also seems out of place with the background.

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07 - Carmel River Mouth - Ribera Beach.jpg

Dennis Giuffre

Great use of elements to tell a story. The lighting is very nice. It seems like the vibrance/saturation is up a bit too much. Good framing.



08 - Ceiba tree - Belize.jpeg

Nicolle Asselborn

Great elements in this one. It is simple but powerful. The edit is nice and feels natural. I like the layers in the photograph.



09 - Chipmunk Snacking on a Seed (Tamias striatus).jpg

Carol Silveira

Good use of depth of field to make the chipmunk pop. I like the elements and textures in the back that also help with that. I think the sharpness is a bit too high, however.



10 - Cockerell's Dorid (Limacia cockerlli), Weston Beach, Pt. Lobos State Reserve .jpg

Kent Van Vuren

Cool idea of an abstract object. Resolution is low and seems fuzzy to me. I like how the second object was included in the shot.

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11 - Common Dolphin (Delphinus delphis).jpg

John Avera

Awesome capture of a beautiful creature. I particularly like the reflection that is created. The movement of the water also adds a lot to the image. I would tend to crop in closer.



12 - Fall Leaf on Colored Rocks at Lake McDonald Montana.jpg

Carol Silveira

Lovely closeup of a scene you might just walk right by and never notice. Attention to detail with shapes and colors. Editing seems a little off - I can't put my finger on it. Maybe sharpness is up too high? I like the idea



13 - Female Hooded Merganser fleeing with Crawfish.jpg

Chris Johnson

Wow! This is one of those images where you just had to be there waiting for this to happen. In terms of a biological viewpoint it is pretty cool to see a water bird snacking on a crawdad. Shutter speed was fast enough to capture the movement and still provide some blur.



14 - Lesser Sandhill Crane Fly-By.jpg

Jeff Hobbs

This is a great example of how much stronger an image can be when you move in closer. The framing on this is great and is really beautiful.



15 - Mineral Exposure in Yellowstone .jpg

Rick Verbanec

Very interesting use of landscape and colors. I like the abstract feel I get from this shot. You have to really look at it to tell what is going on. Good framing with the trees as well.



16 - Mono Lake Tufa.jpg

Rick Verbanec

Nice skyline landscape shot. Using the panoramic view helps tell the story on this one. Resolution seems a little lower than it should be, however. I think there is more to tell by moving in closer.



17 - Pacific Rattlesnake (Crotalus oreganus).jpg

Mary Ann Avera

Don't get too close! Tongue out rattler with its rattle up is a great demonstration of when not to get too close. I think there is more to tell with this scene and cropping could be improved.

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18 - Rising sun with pelicans, clouds, and waves.JPG

Margret Cordts

Classic sunset image with pelicans cruising by. Definitely makes me think of home. The one lone pelican is a bit distracting but still an appealing scene for sure.



19 - Sea Palm under attack from all sides off Pinnacle Cove, Pt. Lobos State Reserve.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

I love the textures in this one. You can really feel the turmoil in the waves. I think I would increase the contrast and maybe wait for the rock to be more exposed before snapping the final image.



20 - Snowy Egret fishing with reflection.jpg

Chris Johnson

Great image. Wonderful use of reflection and light to tell a story. The dancing Egret. Patience paid off.



21 - Sunrise silhouette.JPG

Margret Cordts

I like the idea of using the plants as a frame for the golden glow. I think there needs to be more information to pull this off. Seems a bit fuzzy in the foreground and the background is out of focus.

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22 - Tule Elk, San Luis Reservoir.jpg

Jeff Hobbs

Good use of lighting and colors to tell this story. Framing the animals on the little bluff adds strength to the image. Having one looking away also adds to the depth.



23 - Vertical Orb Web With Morning Dew (Aranaeidae).jpg

Mary Ann Avera

The dew on spiderwebs has always been so intriguing to me. I like how it starts in the upper left and seems to fall down to the lower right. Good use of framing.



24 - Western gull (*Larus occidentalis*) Eating a Fish Head. jpg

Karen Schofield

It's not every day you see a seagull with a fishhead. With that aside, I think the colors are spot on. Reflections are great and overall framing is well done.

Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

Ballet of sea skaters

Nicole Asselborn



Ceiba tree - Belize

Nicolle Asselborn



Western gull (*Larus occidentalis*)

Eating a Fish Head

Karen Schofield



Third Place:

Tule Elk, San Luis Reservoir
Jeff Hobbs



2nd Place:

Snowy Egret fishing with reflection
Chris Johnson



First Place:

Lesser Sandhill Crane Fly-By
Jeff Hobbs

