



01 - American Avocet (Recurvirostra americana) foraging.jpg

Chris Johnson

Great capture. Good sharpness and I love the action captured and how the swish of mud was frozen. The lighting is a bit harsh so consider the time of day and lighting conditions when photographing.



02 - American Avocets in flight_.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

Nice shot but this image seems to suffer from heavy cropping. Consider getting closer or allowing the birds to come closer to you before taking the shot. Also, the flat blue sky does not lend any interest to the scene. Consider trying to capture the birds when they are coming in lower where there is some sort of background.

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03 - American White Ibis Juvenile Eudocimus albus.jpg

Carol Silveira

Really great action but the image suffers from underexposure and some quality issues, maybe due to cropping, as well as some sort of post processing in the water behind the bird.

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04 - Ardea herodias Great Blue Heron.jpg

Denice Woyski

Lovely sunset and silhouette. Good example of an environmental image. However, there is some quality issues in the details most likely due to over cropping.



05 - Avocet (Recurvirostra americana) in flight.jpg

Mary Ann Avera

Great capture! Love the angle you captured the bird at right before it touched down. Good image quality overall though it looks like maybe your focus point hit just behind the bird making the water the sharpest part of the image. You may have been able to use a slightly faster shutter to freeze the wing feathers completely for a bit sharper subject.



06 - Avocet walking into the reflection of a great blue heron. JPG

Margret Cordts

Great eye to see the composition of the avocet vs BGH reflection. However, there seems to be some artifacting in the water diminishing the quality of the image.



07 - Black Oystercatcher (Haematopus backmani).jpg

Dennis Giuffre

Good capture. I like the foot up. However the quality seems to be a bit off with details not as sharp as they would be if there had not been cropping. Also the colors in the image seem to be over saturated, especially in the bird's bill and the water shadows

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08 - Black turnstone zipping by .jpeg

Nicole Asselborn

I like the softness of this image though I question if it borders a bit too soft to be representing the scene as taken. The bird seems sharp and I like the position it was captured in flight, however the position in the scene leads the viewer out of the frame rather than keeping them in. Consider positioning the bird with more room in front rather than behind so the bird is flying into the scene rather than out. Be careful with editing as there does seem to be a slight haloing around the bird.



09 - Flight Of The Whimbrel.jpg

Jeff Hobbs

Great action captured. I like you can see the head between the wings and the bird is sharp on the head. There is some quality issues that may stem from over cropping.



10 - Foraging Spotted Sandpiper(Actitis macularia).jpg

Karen Schofield

Nice capture with catch light in the eye. The rather static pose and the flower in the foreground that is bright and draws my eye away from the subject are what brings this image down for me. Maybe waiting until a foot is raised or a drop of water is on the tip of the bill and when the bird has moved to a spot without the distracting foreground would be best.



11 - Hybrid Oystercatcher Between American Oystercatcher And Black Oystercatcher. Very Rare For Monterey County.jpg

Jeff Hobbs

Nice pair portrait of a unique bird and her mate. When including the ocean in the frame, make sure not to blow out the highlights. This brightness to the right of the frame draws my eye and doesn't allow me to fully appreciate the birds before being drawn elsewhere. Some quality issue, possibly from cropping.



12 - Least Sandpiper and Ruff, Salinas_.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

Really nice reflection. However, this image is suffering from quality issue from over cropping and some color cast. I would have also liked to see some exclusion of the sand in the upper left corner as it does not add to the scene. I almost would have liked to see the two birds a bit further apart and then concentrate on just the larger one and its reflection for a minimalist image. If incorporating both, consider centering since they are facing opposite directions and thus create balance. As it is currently, the left of the image is heavier than the right. **



13 - Long Billed Curlew (N. americanus).jpg

Carol Silveira

Good focus on the subject. The image seems over cropped and has some color cast as well. Additionally, I would have straightened the image as it currently seems to be listing to left due to the birds posture.

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14 - Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) capturing California Ghost Shrimp (*Neotrypaea californiensis*).jpg

Mary Ann Avera

Great image. I like the behavior caught and the focus. Looks like it may be over cropped though. Ideally, I would have liked to see a bit of catch light in the eye and that could have been accomplished potentially by waiting until the bird tilted its head just a bit, even on an overcast day.



15 - Marbled Godwit (*Limosa Fedoa*).jpg

Dennis Giuffre

Well captured with the detail of the bird. I like the depth of field used. However the editing seems to have oversaturated the colors both in the subject and the background. There also seems to be some darkening in the corners, especially the upper two, that give a processed look to the image. Consider going a bit lighter on post processing. Photograph earlier in the day or later towards golden hour to naturally capture more saturated colors rather than during bright light.



16 - Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*) Claiming Territory.jpg

Chris Johnson

Awesome behavioral image! Great detail and very sharp. I wish we were able to see more of the birds with a horizontal frame but still a great capture.



17 - Morning Light on Long-Billed Curlew(Numenius americanus).jpg

Karen Schofield

Nicely photographed with good detail and sharpness. From a technical point there are some blown out highlights on the lower breast and belly of the bird. That is where stars were deducted. Also, compositionally, personally I would take just a bit off the top edge if the file size allows for the crop. There is just a bit too much head space in my opinion making the image feel unbalanced.



18 - Numenius americanus Curlew.jpg

Denice Woyski

Obviously shot on an overcast day, there is good technical proficiency to capture the bird sharp even under low lighting. However, the bird is moving away and seems stressed so maybe it was disturbed by the photographer. It is usually best to not photograph wildlife that seems stressed by the presence of the photographer, especially when there is not a place to explain what the actual situation was. I do like the more environmental picture, but there is some quality issues when looking at the details of the bird.



19 - White faced ibis wading.jpeg

Nicole Asselborn

A sharp subject, this image suffers from some quality issues, maybe from over cropping, and a general messiness of the environment. In the future, consider positioning yourself in a way you can get a clean shot of the subject. This is a good ID picture but lacks the more deliberate and artistic techniques to elevate it.

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Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

**Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)
in flight**
Mary Ann Avera



**Long-billed Curlew
(*Numenius americanus*)
capturing California
Ghost Shrimp (*Neotrypaea
californiensis*)**

Mary Ann Avera



**Marbled Godwit (Limosa
Fedoa)**
Dennis Giuffre



Third Place:

Flight Of The Whimbrel
Jeff Hobbs



2nd Place:

American Avocet
(*Recurvirostra americana*)
foraging
Chris Johnson



First Place:

Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*)
Claiming Territory
Chris Johnson

