



**01 - American Avocet - Merced National Wildlife Refuge.jpg**

*Bill Brown*

Very nice capture with the pose and catch light. I like the black and white treatment of the image as well. There is sharpness in the details of the bird. There is some slight quality issues that may be due to over cropping.

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**02 - American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) foraging for food.jpg**

*Gerald R Gifford*

Good exposure choices to capture the birds with the foraging movement, but there are some image quality issues either from over cropping or maybe even heat shimmers. I would have also liked to see maybe the perspective be a bit lower and closer to eye level of the subject.

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**03 - Black Oystercatcher - Lovers Point.jpg**

*Bill Brown*

: I like the composition and the pose of the bird. However the eye is not sharp so I think the focus point may have been on the bird's body. Also there is haloing around the bill maybe from some selective post processing work.

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**04 - Black Oystercatcher Pebble Beach.jpg**

*Charlie Gibson*

Again, another nice image where the bird is captured well without motion blur. However this image does have some quality issues due to over cropping or file treatment.

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**05 - Black Oystercatcher.jpg**

*Julie Chen*

A good shot of a black oystercatcher. I would have like to see the perspective a bit lower if possible to make eye contact with the subject. The colors in this image look dark and oversaturated so consider going lighter in post next time.

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**06 - Black Turnstone at Fanshell Beach.jpg**

*Charlie Gibson*

I like the pose and the environment you captured of this bird. Details are sharp and has good catch light in the eye but the image quality seems to suffer from over cropping.

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**07 - Calidris alba Hard at work.jpg**

*Janet Azevedo*

A unique shot within the contest in that it doesn't focus on just one individual. However, this image would be much better by changing the perspective to a lower one where we the viewers can connect more with the subjects. There is also image quality issues maybe due to over cropping.

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**08 - Common Snipe (Gallinago gallinago) in natural habitat.jpg**

*Gerald R Gifford*

Nice find and good capture in trying to find a spot to minimize the reeds across the bird. However, many of the highlights are blown out and the image has some quality issues that make it so the bird's eye and details are not fully sharp and have grain to them.

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**09 - Eudocimus albus Immature White Ibis-2014.jpg**

*Janet Azevedo*

Nice find. Unfortunately the image is a bit dark and the birds are slightly blurry as if the shutter speed may have been too slow for the foraging behavior. I do like the birds' position within the frame.

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**10 - Female Hybrid Black Oystercatcher.jpg**

*John Drum*

Good capture of an oystercatcher with prey. The details are there in the feathers and snail. However, the image is a bit under exposed and grainy so I'm not sure if that is from a high ISO or over cropping in this situation. There is also a bit of a blue cast to the shadows. I appreciate the description IDing it as a female from the asymmetrical pupil.

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**11 - Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias) in coastal Texas. jpg**

*Bill Shewchuk*

This is a lovely image of an often photographed wading bird. I like the colors achieved in the image. However, the image does have a good amount of grain, especially in the soft fore and background, dropping the quality of the image. This could be from high ISO or over cropping.

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**12 - Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias).jpg**

*Bill Shewchuk*

Beautifully captured image! I really like the light, the pose, and the composition of this image. While great blues are traditionally considered wading birds rather than shore birds, the contest allows for this species this time. Make sure in future contests to review and follow to the letter the rules and subject qualifications as that could have easily disqualified this wonderful image.

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**13 - Great Blue Heron at Elkhorn Slough.jpg**

*Don Eastman*

I am familiar with this location and know it can be difficult to access during certain tides. Good on you for finding it. However, the bright light and busy scene detract from your subject. It also looks like your focus point hit on the pillars next to and a bit further back than the bird and thus the bird is soft in the details. Consider going earlier in the day or late afternoon/evening for better light even on bright days.

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#### 14 - Great White Egret at Elkhorn Slough.jpg

*Don Eastman*

This image suffers from many technical issues and lacks artistic considerations which is why I had to rate it as I did. There is a lack of sharpness across the image, highlights have been blown out considerably, and the subject is almost centered. Additionally the description misidentifies the subject. This is a snowy egret based on size and that it has a black bill vs the great egret would have a completely yellow bill and be much larger.



#### 15 - Long-billed Curlew.jpg

*Lillie Grossman*

I like the action captured here. The wing details are sharp on the closest wing. However, the rest of the bird, including head and eye are not sharp and much of the image suffers from quality issues. From the catch light in the eye I suspect a flash was used which can be a good add when used correctly.

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#### 16 - lvl 1 tracker.jpg

*Sean Crawford*

This is a very unique interpretation of the subject and I like seeing that creativity. However, scat is not usually the most pleasant thing to view so maybe finding a composition that was just the bird tracks would have been better. Additionally, there is some softness of the sand and tracks themselves which, if sharper, would have equated to a higher score.

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**17 - Marbled Godwit and Willet at Elkorn Slough.jpg**

*Patricia McKean*

Nice subjects and I like the seaweed algae covered rocks they were found in. However, it looks like the focus was on the rocks in front of the birds as they are a bit soft.

They are also centered in the frame so composition could have been stronger.

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**18 - Semipalmated Plover (non-breeding).jpg**

*Julie Chen*

Wonderful! Just an excellent example of shorebird photography. I would be happy to have this image in my portfolio. Great sharpness, love the 45 degree angle of the bird to the camera and the eye level perspective, even with such a small bird. Nothing not to love. Beautifully done.

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**19 - Willet(Tringa semipalmata).jpg**

*John Drum*

Good catch of fast action. However, there are extensive image quality issues due to over cropping as well as overexposure of the highlights.

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**20 - Willets at Elcorn Slough.jpg**

*Patricia McKean*

Nice grouping of birds. Unfortunately none are really sharp and the image seems to suffer from over cropping. Perspective should also be considered in future images.

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## Winning Images:

### Honorable Mentions:

**Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)  
in coastal Texas**  
*Bill Shewchuk*



**Black Turnstone at Fanshell Beach**  
*Charlie Gibson*



**lvl 1 tracker**  
*Sean Crawford*



Third Place:

**American Avocet - Merced  
National Wildlife Refuge**  
*Bill Brown*





2nd Place:

**Great Blue Heron (Ardea  
herodias)**  
*Bill Schewchuk*



First Place:

**Semipalmated Plover  
(non-breeding)**  
*Julie Chen*

