



01 - American green tree frog exploring.JPG

Margret Maria Cordts

A wonderful use of lighting and the eye contact is very engaging as is the position of the frog.



02 - Ariya's Beach - Oregon.jpg

Bill Brown

Love the long exposure and including the ocean as the bottom 2/3 of the frame works quite well to show more of the movement.



03 - Canyonlands Relic.jpg

Rick Verbanec

Composition works well and I feel this image would look wonderful if the lighting was more pleasing. The harsh mid-day sun makes the entire image look overly contrasty and adds in harsh shadows.

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04 - Clark's Grebe vs Western Grebe Rushing.jpg

Julie Chen

A great moment capture and well done showing the action. The harsh sunlight leaves a bit to be desired but the angle of light is well chosen and I understand you can't always choose when wildlife will perform.



05 - Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) Gently hangs onto lunch..jpg

Dennis Giuffre

A fun moment but the lighting is very harsh and the colors a bit over-saturated. This same photo captured in early morning or late evening sunlight would look incredible.

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06 - Corkscrew.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

A fun perspective on a unique tree. Image appears a bit over-exposed on the highlights and sharpening quite heavy. I can't help but feel softer light would make this image have more visual appeal overall.



07 - Fall Color On The June Lake Loop.jpg

Jeff Hobbs

Lovely use of soft light to allow the colors to stand out as well as the variety of textures provided by the river, the trees, rocks and leaves. A lovely composition overall as well.



08 - Frozen Mammoth Hot Springs in winter, Yellowstone NP.jpg

Joni Zabala

So cool to see this frozen moment and the steam still surrounding the background. Lovely colors and tones overall and a nice composition.



09 - Goldenrod Crab Spider (Misumena vatia) waits for prey on California Poppy (Eschscholzia californica).jpg

Mary Ann Avera

A cool species in a beautiful setting. It somehow leaves me yearning to see the subject stand out more, either through shallow depth of field or a different angle perhaps. I understand the camouflage of the spider but I still want to see it more as the viewer.

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10 - Great White Egret Hunting.jpg

Jeff Hobbs

A fun moment from a fun bird. The strong lighting is handled but less than ideal and if the subject were flying more into the light direction I think it would be more pleasing as there would be less shadow in the eye. Lastly a slightly lower perspective would help the viewer feel more on the subject's level which would be a good thing.



11 - Luna Moth resting & drying after emerging from its cocoon.JPG

Margret Maria Cordts

A gorgeous moth and the nice soft light shows off the insect well. I enjoy how the background tones somewhat mimic the moth's colors. The composition however feels a bit stale, simply filling the frame with the subject it leaves me wanting something more from the composition.



12 - Monarch Butterfly (Lepidoptera).jpg

Carol Silveira

Pretty butterfly on a pretty branch but the lighting is harsh and creates hot spots and shadows. Softer light would help a lot.

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13 - Moose Forage for Willow in Winter, Yellowstone NP.jpg

Joni Zabala

I enjoyed the painterly look to this image and assume it's being out of focus was on purpose. I do wish the moose stood out slightly more though.



14 - Mother and new-born California sea otter.jpg

Julie Chen

A fun moment between the parent and young. Nice soft light. Wish the angle was lower to clean up the foreground and background and have a more intimate connection with the subject.



15 - Northern Harrier with Coot.jpg

Christene Johnson

Crazy moment captured. I wish the Harrier was flying at least parallel to the photographer and not away but still a wild moment to have captured!



16 - Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) Flies directly over photographer at Carmel River Mouth..jpg

Dennis Giuffre

Looks a bit over-sharpened and shooting up at the bird against blue sky leaves something to be desired. The lighting is also very harsh and early morning or late evening sun would help a lot.

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17 - Pacific Rhododendron (Rhododendron macrophyllum) and Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) in coastal fog.jpg

Mary Ann Avera

Nice scene, almost feels like a still life captured out in nature.



18 - Prunedale Alligator Lizard_.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

Cool creature, great details. I wish for more eye contact with the subject and maybe something more in the foreground/background, the clean look feels almost too clean.



19 - Sandhill Crane (Antigone canadensis).jpg jpg

Bill Shewchuk

Image looks over-sharpened and the subject lacks separation from the background. Lighting looks nice overall.

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20 - Sandhill Cranes Coming in for a Landing.jpg

Christene Johnson

Fun pattern of birds coming in to land, always fun to watch them use their legs for brakes. I'd love to see what they were landing in for more context instead of against just the sky, although the clouds do add some interest.



21 - Secret Beach - Oregon.jpg

Bill Brown

Fun sense of movement, and nice dramatic lighting. The blacks look a bit too dark overall. A very nice composition overall.



22 - Spring Calla Lily.jpg

Rick Verbanec

Nice light, interesting composition. I wish the background was more out of focus or darker.



23 - Sunset at Joshua Tree National Park.jpg g

Carol Silveira

Gorgeous sky, nice silhouette. I wish the background cactus (of whatever that plant is) didn't intersect the foreground one, a slight step to the left could have separated them and given each one it's own space.



24 - The Thinking California Sea Lion_.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

Funny moment and pose. Nice soft light. The contrast on the image feels weak overall.



25 - Golden_panorama_of_the_sea.jpg

Brian Spiegel

Looks like a stunning sunrise/sunset but the colors are far too saturated and the rock formations in the foreground don't seem to flow together to nicely.

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26 - Lone tree on a sandy hill.jpg

Brian Spiegel

Interesting sky but the whites feel over-exposed and washed out and the contrast pushed too far. The composition leaves something to be desired.

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Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

**Clark's Grebe vs Western
Grebe Rushing**
Julie Chen



Frozen Mammoth Hot Springs in winter, Yellowstone NP
Joni Zabala



Third Place

Fall Color On The June Lake Loop
Jeff Hobbs



2nd Place:

Ariya's Beach - Oregon
Bill Brown



First Place:

**American green tree frog
exploring**
Margret Maria Cordts

