

PTCC 2017 - NATURE #1 – November 16, 2016

GROUP A

42 images from 15 members

01 - Agave Plant.

Lovely plain simple image. Corners, illumination, focus all good.
Add Scientific Name

02 - Beech Tree leaves losing color (*Fagus grandifolia*)

Lovely greens (not yet fading much), well composed, in focus, sharp, well illuminated, corners ok.
What is the story? What part of nature is being shown?

03 - Black Oystercatcher with Limpet

Beautiful picture, great eye catch, good composition, focus, illumination, corners.
Good story in the feeding of the Oystercatcher. Excellent!
Add Scientific Name

04 - Blacktail Buck in Profile (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

Good closeup. Sharp (overly sharpened?), good catchlight in eye, good exposure. Background isn't interfering with the main picture.
I'd like to have seen more of the horn, and what is the story?

05 - California Brown Pelicans Sunning with Cormorant

Beautiful picture of the pelicans. Great colors on the birds, good illumination and detail on the rocks.
Add Scientific Name. Cormorant is hard to see and should be identified (I think it is a Brandt's Cormorant)

06 - California Gulls (*Larus californicus*) Join Feeding Frenzy

Good feeding frenzy. Generally you don't want items entering or leaving a picture but in this case, showing a frenzy, it helps. Lots of eyes visible, sharpness is reasonable, color is good, illumination is good.
Corners are mostly ok, but maybe fix the upper left.

07 - california sea lions - *Zalophus californianus* - napping

Excellent photo showing sea lion activity. Eyes, illumination, corners, sharpness all good.
Maybe take a sliver off the left side to remove the two small parts of another sea lion. The rest of the picture is fine.

08 - California sea lions in the sun

Great study of heads, eye, whiskers, and ears of the sea lion. Corners, edges, illumination, sharpness, etc. all good.
Add Scientific Name. Maybe add when one is golden and one is brown?

09 - Eastern Cottontail - *Sylvilagus floridanus.tif*

Lovely photo! Lots of detail in the snow (frequently washed out in photos). Enough detail in rabbit, good color in the leaves echoing the ears of the rabbit. Maybe crop out the dark edge in the upper left? This is an excellent photo overall.

10 - Eastern Screech Owl - *Megascops asio*

Lovely picture! Eyes are the best I've seen so far in this competition. Illumination, sharpness, etc. all great. Maybe darken or crop out the white blob in lower right

11 - Great Blue Heron in Bull Kelp

Excellent picture. Eyes clear and sharp, good illumination, shows heron in an environment. Corners, etc. all good. Add Scientific Name. Picture might have been more interesting if it was taken closer to the eye level of heron (if possible, it isn't always possible to get down to bird level).

12 - Gulls (*Larus...*) prepare clams for lunch

Interesting and useful sequence on how gulls break into a shelled animal. Composition, illumination, etc all good. Excellent! Images are a bit grainy as if they had been cropped from a much larger image. The actual full Scientific Name isn't given, but gull are hard enough to identify that even the yearly Audubon Bird Count does not distinguish between different kinds of gulls.

13 - Honeybee Gathering Pollen

Excellent picture. Eyes of bee are seen head on. Great composition. Good blaring of background. Corners, focus, etc good. Interesting subject matter well handled. Add Scientific Name. Image seems a bit underexposed, this could be fixed in post.

14 - Honeybee Lands on Lavender

Excellent picture. Eyes of bee are seen head on. Great composition. Good blaring of background. Corners, focus, etc good. Interesting subject matter well handled. Add Scientific Name. Image seems a bit underexposed, this could be fixed in post. The lavender flower in lower right corner is a bit distracting.

15 - Humpback in Shallow-Water Costume (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

I've never seen a whale en-kelped before. Interesting shot. Exposure is good, corners, focus, etc. is good. Add scientific name of the bull kelp. Consider making name less cute.

16 - icelandic puffins - Fratercula - near nesting area

Excellent picture. Excellent framing (all edges and corners good, all eyes on the 6 visible puffins visible, only two minor overlaps in bodies (+ one puffin where only the tail is visible)). Implied edge of high cliff, good background. Picture seems a bit dim. You might want to check your histogram to see if the brightest parts are all the way to the right.

17 - Mornig Dew Covers Insect in Yosemite National Park

Neat picture! Focus, exposure, details, corners, background all good. Dew or frost? Typo in title. I might have cropped this for less space at the bottom and more at top. Excellent and interesting photo.

18 - Morning Tide Washes Over Sea Lettuce

I like this image! Fun action picture. Good motion blurring, good framing, exposure, corners, focus, etc.
Add Scientific Name

19 - Lady Bug (Coccinellidae) Resting

Beautiful picture! Lovely colors. Good framing, corners, exposure, color, etc. Maybe add just a few pixels on the left edge to allow more breathing room for the leaf.

20 - IMM.WESTERN GULL with red crab

Excellent action picture! Perfect timing! Good framing, corners, exposure, focus, etc..
Add Scientific Names. Don't abbreviate in title.

21 - Juvenile Harbor Seal (Phoca vitulina) Survives Shark Attack

Very good and interesting nature photo showing a real story. Good framing, corners, exposure, focus, eye, etc..
If the original file had it, include the rest of the shadow on the left side. But this is a minor addition to an overall excellent photo.

22 - Mandarin duck (Aix galericulata) sleeping

Beautiful colors, well composed, good focus, corners, exposure, etc.
Perfectly done pictures. No changes suggested. Well done!

23 - Marbled godwit (L. fedoa)

Excellent triple reflections (from waves at different angles). Lovely colors. Focus, edges, corners, exposure all good.
Corner vignette is a bit strong. What is the bird doing there (i.e. Waiting to pounce on food)?

24 - Milkweed Pods spreading seeds(Asclepias sullivantii)

Good exposure, good focus, good color, corners, etc. And what is that lovely light gray blue at the top?
I think the cropping is too tight. I'd like to see more of the environment.

25 - Mylitta Crescent on Dune Buckwheat

Well done closeup butterfly picture, Wing detail and eyes. Cropping is excellent, focus is good, corners are good.

Add Scientific Name. I think the picture could be a bit lighter.

26 - Orange-Haired Iguana Seeking Camouflage

A fun picture with nice colors. Eye is visible along with enough of the iguana to understand the details. Corners, exposure, focus, etc. ok.

Add Scientific Name. Typo in title.

27 - Planthopper

Well done! Good cropping, eyes visible, good exposure, focus, corners, background, etc..

Add Scientific Name

28 - Praying Mantis (*Mantis religiosa*) preening raindrops from legs

Well done! Eyes, framing, focus, exposure all good.

If the original file allows it, move the Praying Mantis a bit to the left so that it is "moving" into the picture rather than out. Excellent photo.

29 - Prey Mantis(*Mantis religiosa*) on a Thistle

Lovely photo! Surface of PM looks like metal. Focus is really good, corners and exposure good. Well done!

Add Scientific Name for thistle. If there is room on the original file include the top of the antenna fully in the picture.

30 - Rough green snake (*Opheodrys aestivus*) searching for prey

Excellent photo! Eyes, head in focus. S-curves of the snake leading the eye around the pictures. Exposure and framing are good. Background is well out of focus.

If it had been possible, and with a moving creature it probably wouldn't be, I'd have liked to not have the leaf covering part of the body. I'd also like to have all of the curved body that is cut off on the right side visible.

31 - Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) on the Move.

Beautiful composed with a line of three flying together and showing different parts of wing motion. Lots of room in the picture for them to fly into. Well done!

Picture seems a bit under exposed. Clouds are there but weak. If possible using legal means you could try to bring them out more. Great picture!

32 - Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*) Exhibiting Mating Behavior

Excellent picture of this violent activity. Great closeup shot. Framing, exposure, corners, etc. are all excellent!

33 - SEA OTTER EATING MUSSELS

Excellent portrait of a sea otter eating. Well composed, illuminated. Good corners, focus, etc. Good choice of shutter speed.

Add Scientific Name. I would have liked to be able to see a bit more detail about the mussels in this excellent photograph.

34 - Sedona Reflection

Very nice photograph of slick rock pillars, the water below and the vegetation growing from them. Corners and general exposure good.

I'd have liked to see a bit more detail in the shadows of the trees.

35 - Shaggy Mane mushrooms past their prime(Coprinus comatus)

Excellent Wabi-sabi picture of decay. Well cropped, exposed, focus. Good color.

If there were other even more decayed mushrooms that that had fallen down that could have been included that might have been interesting.

36 - Snowy Egret Skipping across the water

Lovely picture. Egrets are hard as the feathers are easy to over expose, but I can see detail on them. This does leave the background dark but that is ok. Excellent timing to show not only the 'walking on water' but also in not having the feet/legs overlap each other.

Add Scientific Name

37 - Sora, Porzana carolina

Good picture of a Sora wading and hunting in a swamp. Framing, corners, exposure, focus all good.

While the Scientific Name is there, it isn't in the (standard) format or the *standard alternate* format. As Sora isn't common in this are the lack of use of the standard format can lead to confusion. Note that the bright yellow bill is a bit confused by having the brightest reed immediately behind it. If the picture had been taken a fraction of a second earlier or later the result would have been stronger.

38 - Tioga Pass Reflecting Trees

Love Tioga Pass and this is the best picture I can remember of reflections in one of the many ponds there. Excellent! Exposure, focus, corners all good.

I'd have liked to see a bit more of the reflected grass near the bottom right corner. I'd also like to see a bit more on top.

39 - Turkey vultures (Cathartes aura) scavenge dead deer

Excellent! Exposure, corners, framing, focus all spot on.

Good photo!

40 - VARIAGATED MEADOWHAWK

Excellent photo! Well composed, sharp, in focus, good exposure, good background, corners, etc. Eye region visible. Well done!

Add Scientific Name

41 - White Pelican Pas de Deux (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

Nice peaceful backlit photo. Well composed, exposed, placed. Good focus.
Beautiful ability to see wing details, especially with the back lighting.
Add Scientific Name

42 - Wild Horses Running to Water

Lovely colors and well composed. Great horse picture. Good focus, exposure, framing, etc.
No scientific name. Where is the water?

Winning Images:

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

1. - Juvenile Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) Survives Shark Attack
2. - Rough green snake (*Opheodrys aestivus*) searching for prey
3. - Tioga Pass Reflecting Trees
4. - VARIAGATED MEADOWHAWK

THIRD PLACE 20

IMM. WESTERN GULL with red crab

SECOND PLACE

*Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*) Exhibiting Mating Behavior*

FIRST PLACE

*Gulls (*Larus...*) prepare clams for lunch*