

Issue 1 2023

The Wild Lens

magazine for photographers



**3rd Annual
Wildlife
Photography
Contest**

Awards Issue

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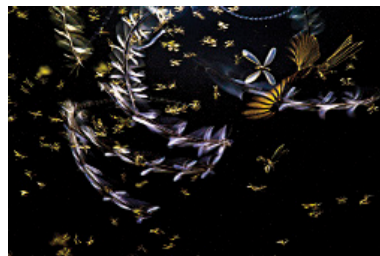
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WILDAID

White-bellied pangolins like Juba have been reclassified as endangered due to poaching.

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Publisher's Note



Now in its third year, The Wild Lens Magazine Wildlife Photographer of the Year Contest features photographers and images from all seven continents. The winners include photographers from Hungary, Taiwan, France, Germany, the U.S.A., Canada and India. *The Wild Lens Magazine* is very proud of this global representation. One thing that can unify us as a planet is wildlife. Thank you to all who entered; we appreciate the opportunity to view your journey and passion. It was a pleasure to experience each image's location, species and backstory. The honorable mentions are featured on our website, www.thewildlensmagazine.com.

Congratulations to the 2022 Wild Lens Magazine Wildlife Photographer of the Year, Hungary's Adam Horvath. His innovative "Starry, Starry Night with Badger", was taken in the Bakony Mountains of Hungary. Mr. Horvath won a \$1000 cash prize courtesy of Continental Steel. First, second and third place in each category received gift certificates courtesy of B&H Camera.

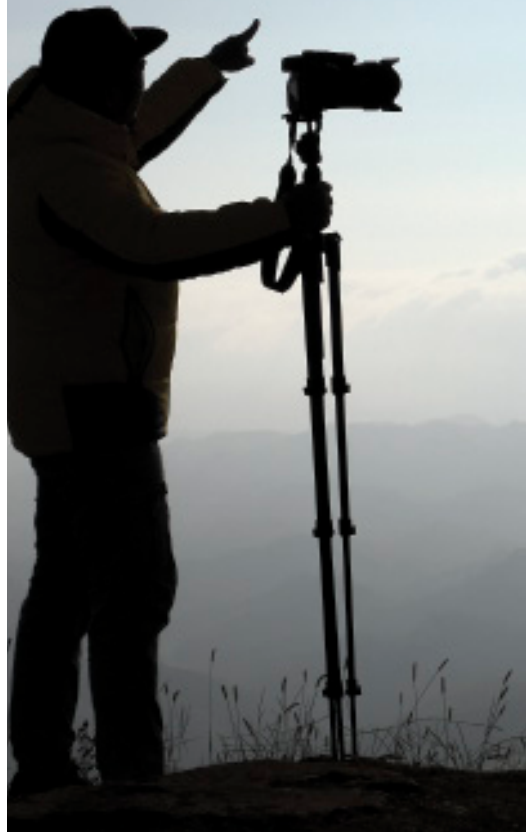
In this issue's pages, look for Adam's image, along with the first, second and third place winners in the categories of Birds, Black and White, Mammals, Macro, Underwater and Youth. Please, enjoy these impressive images as much as we did while judging them.

We wanted to thank our subscribers for another great year as we enter our fifth year of publication. It's been an incredible journey, and we couldn't do it without you. Here's hoping 2023 brings health, wellness and happiness to you and your family and, of course, some epic wildlife sightings!

Michelle Liles

michelle@thewildlensmagazine.com

The 2022 Wild Lens Magazine Wildlife Photography Contest



MEET THE JUDGES

Kurt Bertels

With a background in nature conservation and over a decade of safari guiding experience, Kurt has a profound understanding of wildlife. He has a passion for photography and exploring the natural world in search of new wildlife species and natural spectacles. Kurt has been the winner of South African Wildlife Photographer of the Year and Nature's Best (exhibited at Smithsonian). Learn more at www.fivezerosafaris.com and kurtjaybertels@IG.

Sebastian Kennerknecht

Currently a finalist in the People's Choice category for BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year, Sebastian is an accomplished wildlife photographer and conservationist, with a degree in behavioral ecology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Sebastian has effectively and ethically captured photos of some of the rarest cats in the world. Look for Sebastian's work at www.pumapix.com and pumapix@IG.

Roy Toft

Mr. Toft is an award-winning professional wildlife photographer and biologist whose images have been featured in numerous publications including National Geographic, Audubon and Discover magazines. He has also received top honors in some of the most prestigious competitions in his genre such as the London Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year, Nature's Best and BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year. See Roy's work at www.toftphoto.com and toftphoto@IG.

Ranjan Ramchandani

A graduate of the New York Institute of Photography, Ranjan is a Singapore-based photographer/author focusing on digital art, portraiture, street, landscape and wildlife photography. World Wildlife Foundation has used his images in their campaigns and Mr. Ramchandani has been published in various media in India and abroad. For more information, visit www.ranjanphotography.net, www.ranjan.photography, [@_ranjan_@IG](https://www.instagram.com/_ranjan_) and [@RanjanFoto](https://twitter.com/RanjanFoto) (Twitter).

Michelle Liles

Michelle merged her media experience, passion for wildlife, conservation and photography when she launched *The Wild Lens Magazine*, now in its fifth year. Michelle has traveled and worked with many great photographers in the field and endeavors to showcase some of the exceptional talent in the international photographic community. Her work can be seen at www.thewildlensmagazine.com, www.michellelilesphotography.com and longlensforyoutoview@IG.



FIRST PLACE - BIRDS | Bence Mate, "Never Saw It Coming"



SECOND PLACE - BIRDS | Daniel James, *"Hoot Owl on the Frontier"*



THIRD PLACE - BIRDS | Mark Schocken, *"A Northern Harrier Flies Through the Marsh With Her Lizard"*

Birds

1

Bence Mate, Hungary

Title: *“Never Saw It Coming”*

Location: Kiskunsag National Park, Hungary

Image Description:

This marsh frog woke up from winter hibernation to find itself in a great bittern’s beak on the penultimate day of a photo marathon lasting 56 days.

Camera Model, Lens: Canon EOS-1D X Mark II; Lens: 200.0 mm

Image Settings: ISO 2000, f3.5, 1/2500

2

Daniel James, U.S.A.

Title: *“Hoot Owl on the Frontier”*

Location: Olympic National Park, Washington, United States

Image Description:

This magnificent hoot owl was so peacefully perched; I couldn’t help but reflect on the natural beauty we so often overlook. Moments like these assure me that my journey is worth the effort.

Camera Model, Lens: Panasonic GH5. Sigma art 18-35, Metabones Speedbooster Adapter

Image Settings: ISO 400, f5.0, 1/160

3

Mark Schocken, U.S.A.

Title: *“A Northern Harrier Flies Through the Marsh With Her Lizard”*

Location: Lakewood, Florida, United States

Image Description:

I was photographing a northern harrier who was over-wintering in Circle B Bar Reserve. She had caught a lizard and was coming in to a snag to eat it. I was in the right place at the right time.

Camera Model, Lens: Sony A9ii, Sony FE 200 – 600 mm G OSS

Image Settings: ISO 2500, f7.1, 1/2000



FIRST PLACE - BLACK AND WHITE | Anna Glenn, "Balancing Act"



SECOND PLACE - BLACK AND WHITE | Bill Klipp, *"The Gentle Beauty of King Penguins"*



THIRD PLACE - BLACK AND WHITE | Patrick Nowotny, *"Digging For Breakfast"*

Black and White

1

Anna Glenn, U.S.A.

Title: “*Balancing Act*”

Location: Alajuela Province, San Carlos, Costa Rica

Image Description: A Pallas’s long-tongued bat leans gracefully from a red banana flower on a tropical banana plantain tree.

Camera Model, Lens: Nikon D850, 200–500, *f*5.6

Image Settings: ISO 125, *f*11, 1/50 (with external flash set near the flowers)

2

Bill Klipp, U.S.A.

Title: “*The Gentle Beauty of King Penguins*”

Location: South Georgia Island

Image Description: Having emerged from the sea after taking a bath, a group of King Penguins hang to dry before heading inland to their colony.

Camera Model, Lens: Nikon D300, Nikkor 16–35mm

Image Settings: ISO 400, *f*8, 1/250

3

Patrick Nowotny, U.S.A.

Title: “*Digging For Breakfast*”

Location: Cook Inlet, Alaska, United States

Image Description: A coastal brown bear searching for razor clams at low tide.

Camera Model, Lens: Nikon D850, Nikon 80–400mm

Image Settings: ISO 1800, *f*8.0, 1/50

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OVERALL WINNER | Adam Horvath, "Starry, Starry Night Badger"



FIRST PLACE - MAMMALS | Zita Quentin, "Ninja Kitten"



SECOND PLACE - MAMMALS | Thomas Happe, "Good Morning"



THIRD PLACE - MAMMALS | Marcello Galleano, "Spacewalk of a Fennec"

The
2022
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Contest

Overall Winner

Adam Horvath, Hungary

1

Title: "Starry, Starry Night Badger"

Location: Bakonybél, Hungary

Image Description:

The picture was taken in the Bakony Mountains in Hungary. The exit of the badger castle used this spring gave me the opportunity to photograph them under the starry sky.

Camera Model, Lens: Nikon D850, Nikon 14-24m/f2.8

Image Settings: ISO 2000, f2.8, 1/15

Mammals

1

Zita Quentin, Hungary/U.S.A.

Title: "Ninja Kitten"

Location: Mongolian-Manchurian steppe

Image Description:

Pallas's kittens engage in play. Athletic and agile, kittens navigate the terrain easily.

Camera Model, Lens:

Canon R5, Canon 200-400mm f4L IS USM with 1.4 extender

Image Settings: ISO 3200, f5.6, 1/640

2

Thomas Happe, Germany

Title: "Good Morning"

Location: Svalbard, Norway

Description: Beautiful walrus on a floating piece of ice in morning light.

Camera Model, Lens: Nikon Z6 20 mm

Image Settings: ISO 100, f9, 1/400

3

Marcello Galleano, Italy

Title: "Spacewalk of a Fennec"

Location: Tunisia

Description:

A postcard from Mars? It would seem so, given the strange setting in which an animal very similar to an extraterrestrial appears in front of me.

Camera Model, Lens: Nikon d850, 400, f2.8

Image Settings: ISO 640, f8, 1/1600

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RANJAN RAMCHANDANI PHOTOGRAPHY

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FIRST PLACE - MACRO | Anirban Dutta, "Intruder"



SECOND PLACE - MACRO | Marta Fiscus, "Riding On Marigold Waves"



THIRD PLACE - MACRO | Avanka Fernando, "Colorful Vision"

Macro

1

Anirban Dutta, India

Title: *"Intruder"*

Location: Cooch Behar, West Bengal, India

Image Description:

This is the story of clever drongo and termites. When termites become adults, they engage in a flight toward light called nuptial flight. Here the drongo get a chance to get food very easily.

Camera Model, Lens: Canon EOS-1D X Mark II; Lens: 200.0 mm

Image Settings: ISO 2000, f3.5, 1/2500

2

Marta Fiscus, U.S.A.

Title: *"Riding On Marigold Waves"*

Location: Cumberland, Maryland, United States

Image Description:

A tiny crab spider fits seamlessly into the curve of a marigold petal, as if floating on ocean waves waiting for the catch of the day. I discovered two pollen beads during my post-shoot editing.

Camera Model, Lens: Canon EOS 6D, Laowa 60mm Super Macro

Image Settings: ISO 200, f4, 1/125

3

Avanka Fernando, Sri Lanka

Title: *"Colorful Vision"*

Location: Diyasar Park, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Image Description:

On my evening walk in Diyasar Park, the waters and wetlands make a welcoming habitat. The color contrast between red, orange, light-blue and green with the black spot behind the eardrum create a cornucopia of color.

Camera Model, Lens: Nikon D7200, Nikkor 105mm macro

Image Settings: ISO 1000, f4, 1/400



FIRST PLACE - UNDERWATER | Yung Sen Wu, "Salmon Run"



SECOND PLACE - UNDERWATER | Chris Kroll, "Jellyfish Escort"



THIRD PLACE - UNDERWATER | Gilles Auroux, "Eye of the Tiger"



OKAVANGO DELTA, Botswana

Join professional wildlife and conservation photographer Roy Toft, in partnership with African Destination Specialist, Piper & Heath Travel, as he leads another Botswana Photo Safari.

12 day/11 night small-group photographic safari through the legendary Okavango Delta in Botswana's Linyanti region in the photographic mecca of Botswana during the "secret" season of March, when babies are about.

Linyanti

The Linyanti River (downstream called the Chobe River) forms a natural border between Botswana and Namibia, and on its southern side (in Botswana) are the picturesque lagoons, flowing rivers, open grasslands, riverine forests and inland forests of the Linyanti—an environment where wildlife abounds.

Okavango Delta

As the largest inland river delta on earth, Botswana's Okavango Delta is surely one of the seven wonders of the natural world. The delta is formed by the seasonal flooding of the Okavango River. Its diversity and concentration of wildlife make the Okavango Delta an absolute must-see for any serious African visitor!

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FIRST PLACE - YOUTH | Trikansh Sharma, "The Mysterious Cat"



SECOND PLACE - YOUTH | Nichole Vijayan, "The Stare"



THIRD PLACE - YOUTH | Trikansh Sharma, "The Camouflaged Darter"

Underwater

1 — **Yung Sen Wu, Taiwan**

Title: “*Salmon Run*”

Location: Adams River, Canada

Image Description: In autumn, salmon return to their birthplace in the river.

Camera Model, Lens: SONY ILCE 7rm3, FE 12-24mm, f4 G

Image Settings: ISO 200, f16, 1/160

2 — **Chris Kroll, Australia**

Title: “*Jellyfish Escort*”

Location: Tulamben, Bali, Indonesia

Image Description: A *Thysanostoma loriferum* jellyfish and its cohort of juvenile scad who were using it for protection directly above the USAT Liberty shipwreck.

Camera Model, Lens: Canon 5D MkIII, Sigma 15mm, f2.8 fisheye

Image Settings: ISO 320, f11, 1/80

3 — **Gilles Auroux, France**

Title: “*Eye of the Tiger*”

Location: Beqa Lagoon, Fiji

Image Description:

With a size that can reach five meters, a face-to-face encounter with a tiger shark is always dazzling.

Camera Model, Lens: Sony A7, Sigma 24-70 | **Image Settings:** ISO 200, f9, 1/160

Youth

1 — **Trikansh Sharma, India**

Title: “*The Mysterious Cat*”

Location: Corbett National Park, India

Image Description: A slow shutter speed enhances the movement of the lens to capture a Bengal tiger in the brush.

Camera Model, Lens: Nikon D750, 70-200.0 mm, f2.8 | **Image Settings:** ISO 50, f5, 1/8

2 — **Nichole Vijayan, Canada**

Title: “*The Stare*”

Location: Canada

Image Description: A fierce great horned owl gives a magnificent stare towards me.

Camera Model, Lens: Nikon D850, 800 mm, f5.6 | **Image Settings:** ISO 1800, f5.6, 1/320

3 — **Trikansh Sharma, India**

Title: “*The Camouflaged Darter*”

Location: Bharaptur Bird Sanctuary, India

Image Description: It was early morning golden hours when I saw this oriental darter/snake bird and I first clicked a few silhouette images.

Camera Model, Lens: Nikon D500, 70.0-300.0 mm, f4.0-5.6 | **Image Settings:** ISO 800, f5.6, 1/2000

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