

Issue 3 2023

# The wild Lens

magazine for photographers

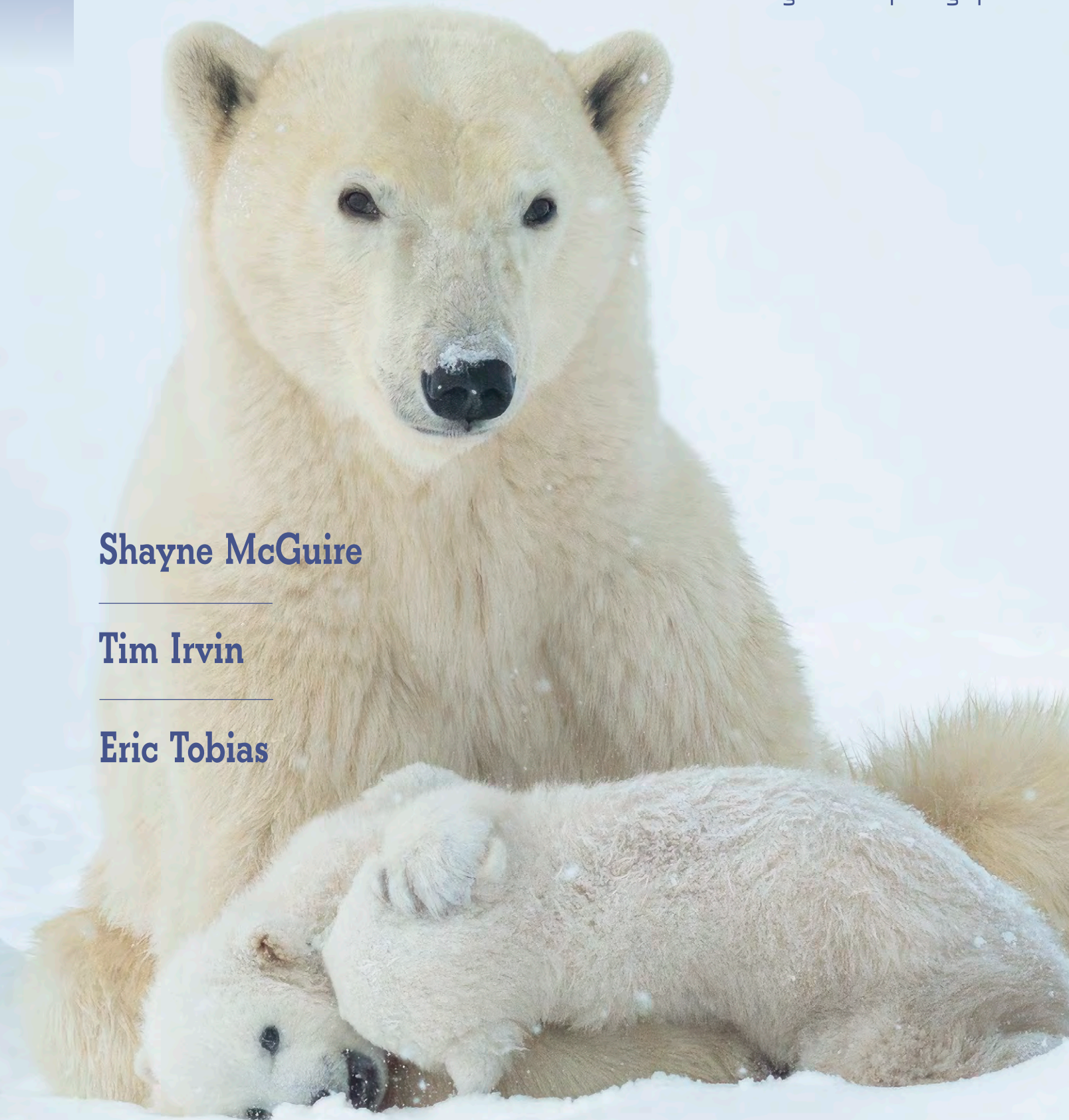
**Shayne McGuire**

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**Eric Tobias**



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## In This Issue



**4**

The 2023  
Wild Lens Magazine  
Wildlife Photography Contest



**21**

Photographer Feature  
*Eric Tobias*



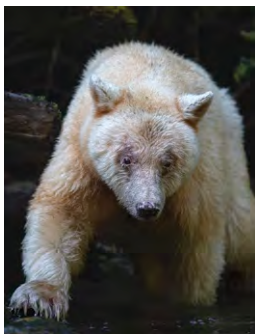
**6**

Journey to Svalbard  
*Shayne McGuire*



**29**

The Tigers of Ranthambore  
*Ranjan Ramchandani*  
*Mohit Ghatak*



**13**

Legendary Spirit  
*Tim Irvin*



**30**

Hornbill Hunt  
*Mohit Ghatak*

# The Wild Lens Magazine



## Wildlife Photography Contest

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[www.thewildlensmagazine.com/2023-photo-contest](http://www.thewildlensmagazine.com/2023-photo-contest)

**The Wild Lens**  
**ISSUE 3 - 2023**

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**Publisher's Note**



PHOTO: REISE GRAF, GERMANY

Xamã is a year old. In August 2022, the jaguar cub was found all by himself, extraordinarily malnourished and feeble, on private land in the municipality of Sinop in Brazil's Mato Grosso region. His mother was not around. She'd probably died, or a large fire nearby may have separated the two.

Rescued by environmental authorities, Xamã was first taken to the Federal University of Mato Grosso's (UFMT) veterinary hospital. After that, he could have had the same fate as other orphans like him: looking at a lifetime in a zoo or an animal sanctuary. But this jaguar (*Panthera onca*) has a different future ahead of him. He's expected to become the first male of his species to be reintroduced into the Amazon. He will be added to the list of individuals to have returned to nature after being rescued when they were very young, thanks to the pioneering work of Oncafari ([www.oncafari.org](http://www.oncafari.org)).

Xamã was found in northern Mato Grosso state, in an area considered Amazonian, so he'll be reintroduced into that biome. Props to Oncafari and Brazil for innovating in this process that we hope other countries will follow.

In this issue, we have some astonishing photos from all of our photographers: Photographer of the Quarter, Eric Tobias, with images from Northern California, a portfolio from Shayne McGuire's expeditions to Svalbard/North Pole and Tim Irvin's photos from Hartley Bay, British Columbia. Also, enjoy a collection of tigers from Ranjan Ramchandani and Mohit Ghatak, as well as Mohit's unique hornbill images.

Here's wishing great things for Xamã! Good luck with your relocation, young man.

Michelle Liles  
[michelle@thewildlensmagazine.com](mailto:michelle@thewildlensmagazine.com)



# JOURNEY TO SVALBARD

A photo essay by  
Shayne McGuire

Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago located between mainland Norway and the North Pole, is one of the world's northernmost inhabited areas. Its rugged, remote terrain of glaciers and frozen tundra shelters polar bears, Svalbard reindeer, Arctic foxes and walrus. Photographer, expedition leader and expert guide Shayne McGuire shares some of her images from this fascinating place. With pack ice disappearing in the region at four times the rate of the rest of the planet, the future of this pristine habitat is uncertain.



*Polar bear*



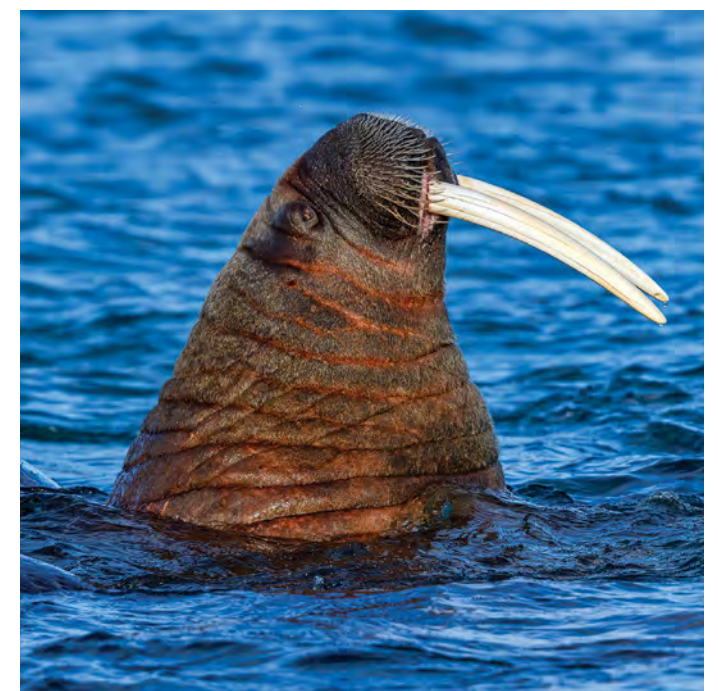
*Glaucous gulls and black-legged kittiwakes*



*Arctic fox of Svalbard (also called polar fox)*



*Svalbard reindeer*



*Walrus*





*Polar bears*



*Arctic seal*

ALL PHOTOS BY SHAYNE MCGUIRE

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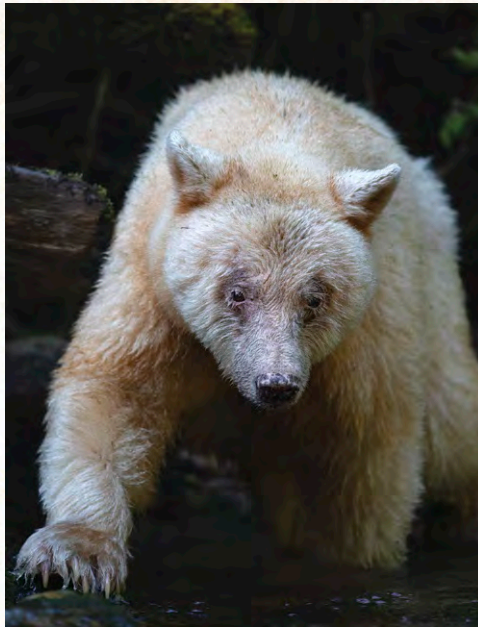
Michelle Liles,  
Publisher



## EXPERIENCE THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST



# LEGENDARY SPIRIT



Photos by Tim Irvin  
Story by Michelle Liles

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Long ago, when the earth was blanketed with ice and snow, Raven the Creator decided that the land would be changed to a bountiful green.

Then Raven went among the black bears and decreed that every tenth bear cub would be born white, as a reminder of a time when the world was pure and clean and covered with glaciers and snowdrifts.

Raven promised that the white bears would forever live a life of peace and harmony in the ancient coastal rainforests.

- Gitga'at First Nation Legend



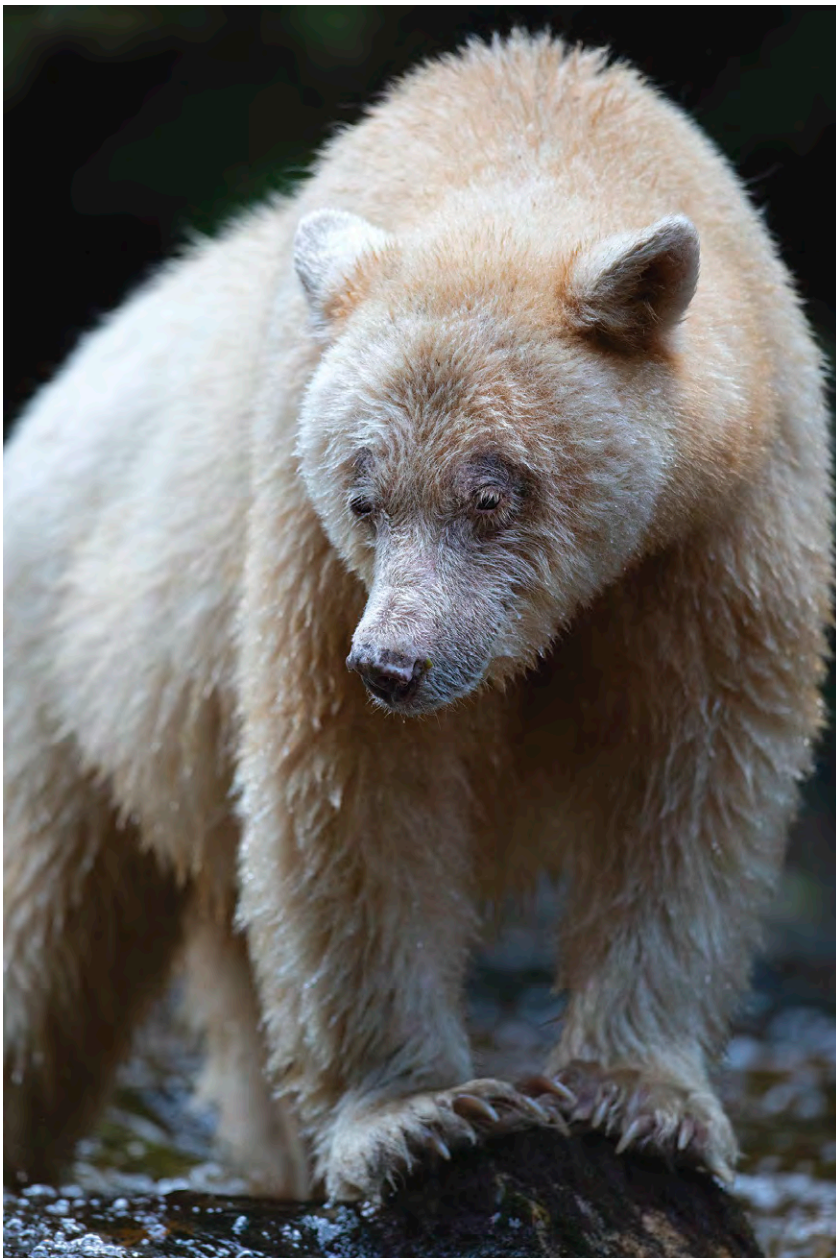
As the Gitga'at story describes, the Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia, Canada is a magical land of emerald green mossy carpets and trickling streams that lead to the sea and bountiful forests. Then, suddenly before your eyes, can appear a magical, ethereal white bear seemingly gliding through the epic backdrop. Living side-by-side with black bears, "spirit bears" are a species that many naturalists and wildlife photographers covet seeing.

Spirit bears are a variant of the American black bear with a recessive genetic trait that makes their fur white. In essence, they are a walking contradiction; a black bear with white fur. These magnificent bears are extremely rare and are found only in a small corner of the Great Bear Rainforest. Population estimates are 100-500 bears and are likely to be closer to the low end of that scale ([www.timirvin.com](http://www.timirvin.com)). Luckily, they are beloved and protected by Canadians, especially their stewards, the local Gitga'at people.

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ALL PHOTOS BY TIM IRVIN





Spirit bear viewing in the Great Bear Rainforest is seasonal, from late August to early October, aligned with the local salmon run. To get to there, you first must travel to Prince Rupert, a two-hour flight from Vancouver. From there, it is a three-hour ferry ride to Hartley Bay and First Nation Gitga'at land. It is a wonderful environment. Entering the Great Bear Rainforest by boat from the sea, you feel as if you are entering a different world right, from the first step into the forest.

Hartley Bay is an isolated and picturesque First Nations community of about 180 people. There are no cars. You get around on the boardwalks by walking or in golf carts.

Lodging is provided by a First Nation family, headed up by patriarch and bear lover Marven Robinson, who works alongside Canadian Tim Irvin to shepherd groups of visitors who have the great honor of visiting the forest and possibly spotting a bear.

Living in the guest house is a warm, homey experience. Meals are shared with the Gitga'at family, often with freshly caught seafood from the nearby bay, after which there is time to share bear stories with Marven and his family.

Our group was very lucky to see an iconic spirit bear, "Warrior", within minutes on our first day in the forest. Although this can't be expected, Marven is very motivated to let all visitors have a chance to see the spirit bears and handles the logistics very well.

This trip is for people who are passionate about wildlife and viewing the epic terrain of Hartley Bay and British Columbia. The landscape takes your breath away and the experience of sighting whales, eagles, coastal wolves and possibly spirit bears is unforgettable.









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**PHOTOGRAPHER FEATURE**

# Eric Tobias

American photographer Eric Tobias captured his first images in the eclectic urban environment of Southern California. Having lived and photographed in Colorado and Wisconsin since that time, he honed his skills on scenes in the rural Midwest and Rocky Mountains. Now living in the Northern California wine country, he continues to bring his unique talents to both landscape and wildlife photography.

Instagram: [@EricTobias\\_Photography](#)

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# *the tigers of* RANTHAMBORE

Story by Ranjan Ramchandani

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Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan, India, is home to the captivating tigers that mesmerise legions of wildlife photographers, myself included. The park's rugged landscape, adorned with ancient ruins and lush greenery, provides a stunning backdrop for these majestic creatures.

Encountering a tiger in the wild is an indescribable experience. The anticipation builds as we venture into the heart of the park, scanning the surroundings for any sign of movement. Suddenly, a rustle or a flash of orange reveals the presence of a tiger. Their power and grace are awe inspiring as they prowl through the grasses with innate elegance and intensity.

Photographing these magnificent tigers requires patience and respect. We wait, attuned to the rhythms of the jungle, capturing the golden light of sunrise or the warm hues of sunset that enhance their already stunning appearance. Each click of the camera shutter freezes a fleeting moment, preserving the untamed spirit of these incredible beings. Beyond their physical beauty, the tigers of Ranthambore offer glimpses into their social lives. Watching a mother caring for her cubs or witnessing territorial disputes between males reveals the complexities of their existence and the need for conservation.

Ranthambore National Park's dedicated efforts in tiger conservation bring hope for their future. Strict measures protect their habitat and ensure their survival. The work of park rangers, conservationists and local communities has led to a resurgence in the tiger population, making Ranthambore a sanctuary for these iconic creatures.

Every visit to Ranthambore humbles me as a wildlife photographer. The tigers awaken a sense of wonder and respect, reminding me of the beauty and fragility of the natural world. Through my lens, I aim to capture their allure and spirit, inspiring others to appreciate and protect these extraordinary creatures for generations to come.



RANJAN RAMCHANDANI



MOHIT GHATAK





MOHIT GHATAK



RANJAN RAMCHANDANI



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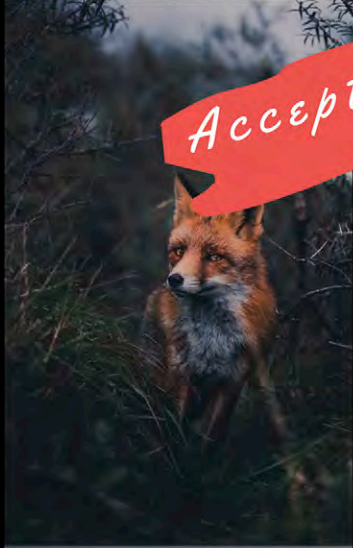
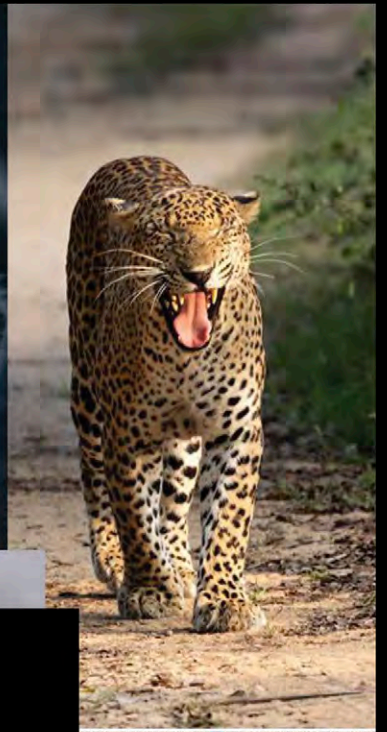
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**RANJAN RAMCHANDANI PHOTOGRAPHY**

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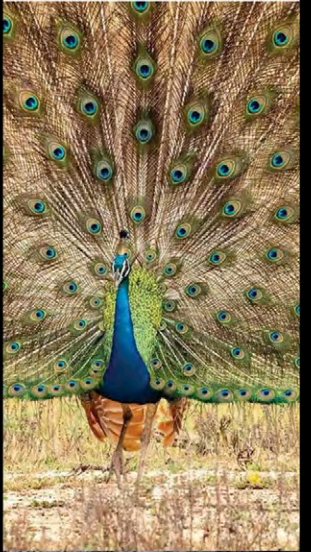
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# 2023 Nature Photographer of the year

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# Hornbill Hunt

Photos by  
Mohit Ghatak



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: *Oriental pied hornbill*, *white-crowned hornbill with snake*, *gray hornbill*

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