

Issue 1 2024

# The Wild Lens

magazine for photographers



4th Annual  
Wildlife  
Photography  
Contest

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Awards Issue

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## In This Issue



**7**

The 2023  
*Wild Lens Magazine*  
Wildlife Photography Contest



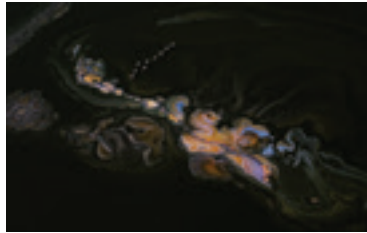
**8**

Mammals Behavior  
*Jie Fischer*  
*Paul Himes*  
*Sudip Das*



**12**

Mammals Portrait  
*Marcello Galleano*  
*Thomas Vijayan*  
*Parth Shiras*



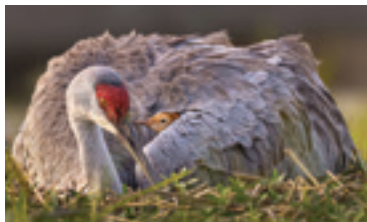
**14**

Birds Behavior  
*Jie Fischer*  
*Kurt Bertels*  
*Craig Schwartz*



**18**

2023 Wildlife  
Photographer of the Year  
*Johan Siggesson*



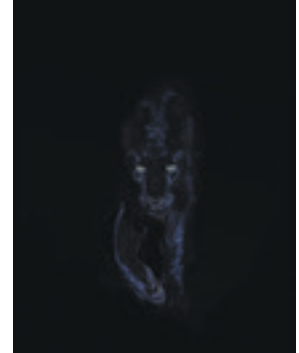
**22**

Birds Portrait  
*Robert Gloeckner*  
*Mark Schocken*  
*Karthik Subramaniam*



**26**

Underwater  
*Suliman Alatiqi*  
*Kurt Bertels*



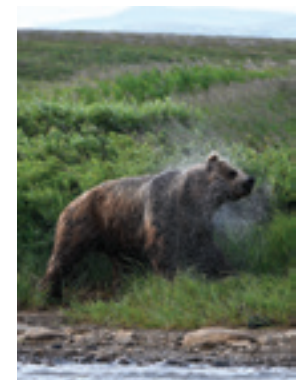
**29**

Manipulated  
*Zita Quentin*  
*Christine Garner*  
*Roberto Crucitti*



**32**

Macro  
*Avanka Fernando*  
*Marta Fiscus*



**34**

Professionals Who Photograph  
*David Thibault*

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**ISSUE 1 - 2024**

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**The Wild Lens** is a quarterly publication for an international community of wildlife photographers and enthusiasts.

**Printed by**  
Forum Printing, North Dakota

**Cover Photo**  
Marcello Galleano

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**Yearly subscriptions available at**  
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## **Publisher's Note**



PHOTO: VICKI SANTELLO, Yellowstone National Park, USA

Among the magnificent entries we received in this year's *Wild Lens Magazine* Wildlife Photography Contest were leaping wildebeest, fighting birds of prey, cheetahs hunting, slithering snakes and a stealth black cat with blazing green eyes. We are honored and grateful for those who took the time to share their images with us. We understand the effort that goes into their procurement.

Please enjoy this year's winners, including the Grand Prize winner, Malta's Johann Siggesson, and his dramatic image of one of the last known giant tuskers, "Craig" along with many stellar images in the following pages.

This issue marks *The Wild Lens's* sixth year of publication. What a journey it has been thus far with submissions from the far-reaching corners of the planet and often mind-blowing photos of rare species photographed with technical perfection. It's been a blast!

Entering this year, we are committed to providing content that we hope will significantly interest photographers and wildlife lovers. We are starting a feature about regular professionals who photograph, kicking off with airline pilot Dave Thibault and his trip with the grizzlies.

Tamron will be sponsoring an educational section called "Tamron Tips," designed to provide helpful field information and what's at the forefront of technology in the gear sector. As our journey continues, we aim to publish photos from some of the most talented photographers throughout the world and bring great articles to our readers.

I want to give special thanks to my partners, Ranjan Ramchandani and Ki Bowman and to subscribers and readers. We give you a big thanks and hope that 2024 makes your photographic dreams come true.

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

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# THE 2023 WILD LENS MAGAZINE WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

## WINNERS

*Johan Siggesson*  
*Jie Fischer*  
*Paul Himes*  
*Sudip Das*  
*Marcello Galleano*  
*Thomas Vijayan*  
*Parth Shiras*  
*Kurt Bertels*  
*Craig Schwartz*  
*Robert Gloeckner*  
*Mark Schocken*  
*Karthik Subramaniam*  
*Suliman Alatiqi*  
*Zita Quentin*  
*Christine Garner*  
*Roberto Crucitti*  
*Avanka Fernando*  
*Marta Fiscus*

## JUDGES

*Sarah Beauchamp*  
*Sarah Bergeron*  
*Andrea Bruce*  
*Kit Clark*  
*Patrick Jagger*  
*Sebastian Kennerknecht*  
*Michelle Liles*  
*Ranjan Ramchandani*

Entering the fourth year of the Wildlife Photography Contest, we were pleased to see so many new photographers. There were entries from four continents and the countries of Singapore, Canada, Malta, Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Cyprus, South Africa and the U.S.A.

The categories were Mammals Behavior, Mammals Portrait, Birds Behavior, Birds Portrait, Underwater, Macro and our new category, Manipulated Image, in which extensive editing was allowed. Please enjoy the inspiring, creative and powerful images on the following pages.



## INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) is a global organization that advocates for park rangers and wardens. Its mission is to elevate the professional standing of park rangers, fostering a platform for the exchange of experiences in safeguarding their country's natural heritage.

The IRF aims to facilitate the transfer of information and technology from nations with robust public and government backing for protected area management to those with less support in this regard.

*The Wild Lens Magazine* will be donating a portion of the proceeds of the 4th Annual Photography Contest to this impactful organization.







2nd PLACE MAMMALS BEHAVIOR | Paul Himes, USA, *Duking It Out* | Laikipia, Kenya



3rd PLACE MAMMALS BEHAVIOR | Sudip Das, India, *Cheetah Race* | Kenya



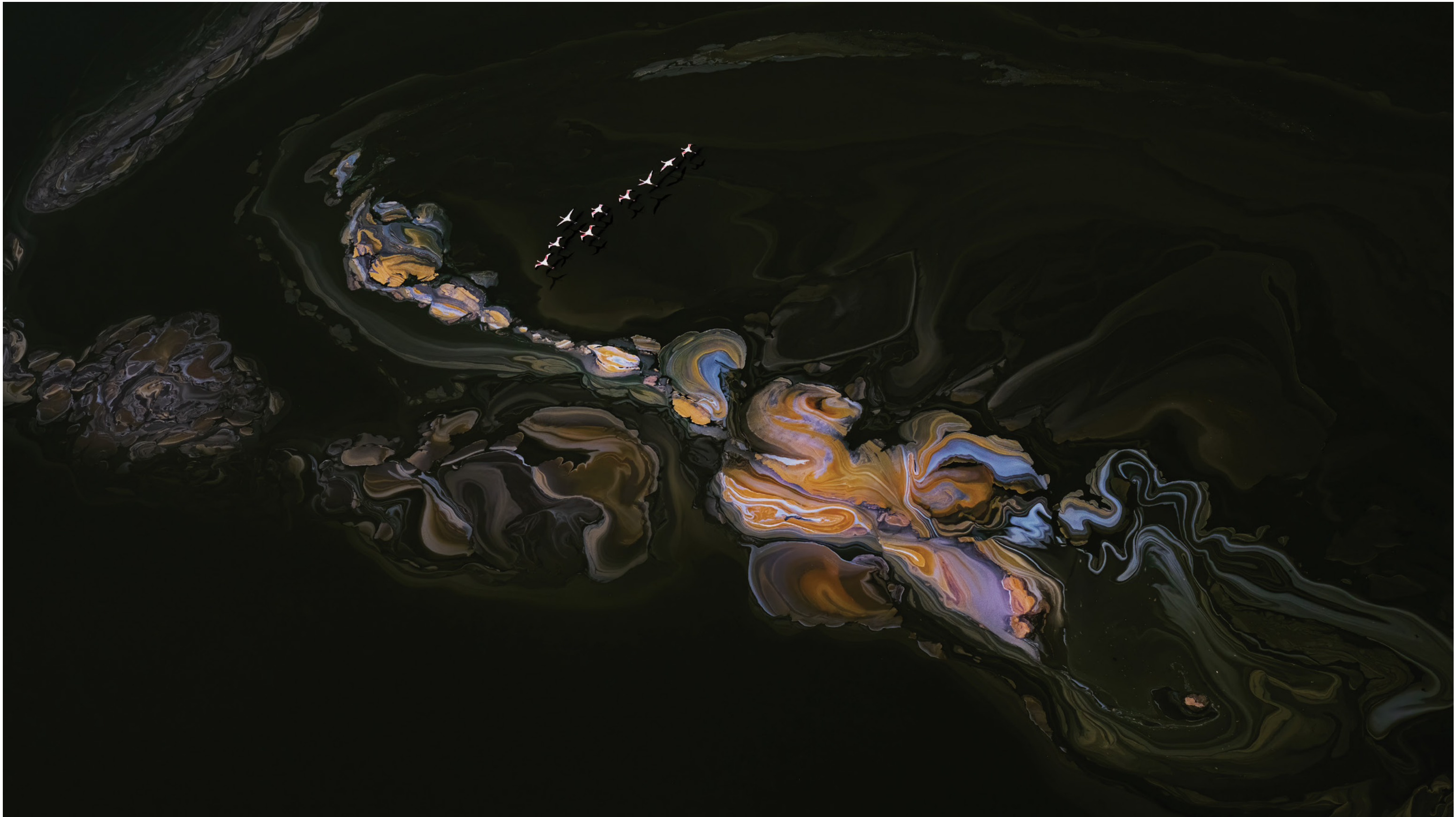
1st PLACE MAMMALS PORTRAIT | Marcello Galleano, Italy, *Reflections in the Night* | Kenya



2nd PLACE MAMMALS PORTRAIT | Thomas Vijayan, Canada, *Amur Leopard's Favorite Spot* | Siberia



3rd PLACE MAMMALS PORTRAIT | Parth Shiras, USA, *Monochrome Majesty* | Alaska, USA



1st PLACE BIRDS BEHAVIOR | Jie Fischer, USA, *Birds Eye View* | Magadi River, Kenya



2nd PLACE BIRDS BEHAVIOR | Kurt Bertels, South Africa, *Dedicated* | Kalo Chorio, Cyprus



3rd PLACE BIRDS BEHAVIOR | Craig Schwartz, USA, *Raptor Strike* | Washington, USA





GRAND PRIZE WINNER | Johan Siggesson, Malta, *Gentle Giant* | Kenya



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1st PLACE BIRDS PORTRAIT | Robert Gloeckner, USA, *Shelter* | Florida, USA



2nd PLACE BIRDS PORTRAIT | Mark Schocken, USA, *Eye to Eye With a Screech Owl* | Florida, USA



3rd PLACE BIRDS PORTRAIT | Karthik Subramaniam, USA, *Barred Owl on a Snowy Day* | Minnesota, USA



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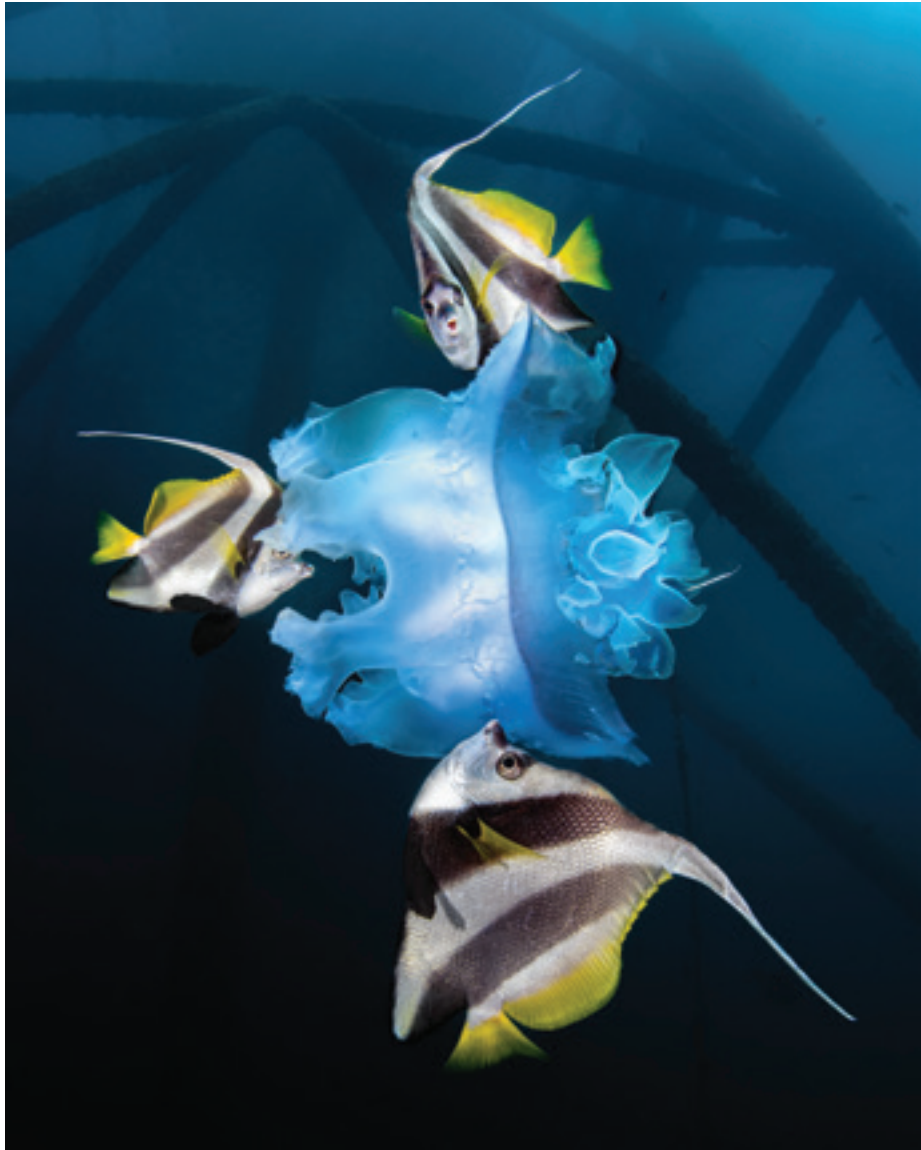


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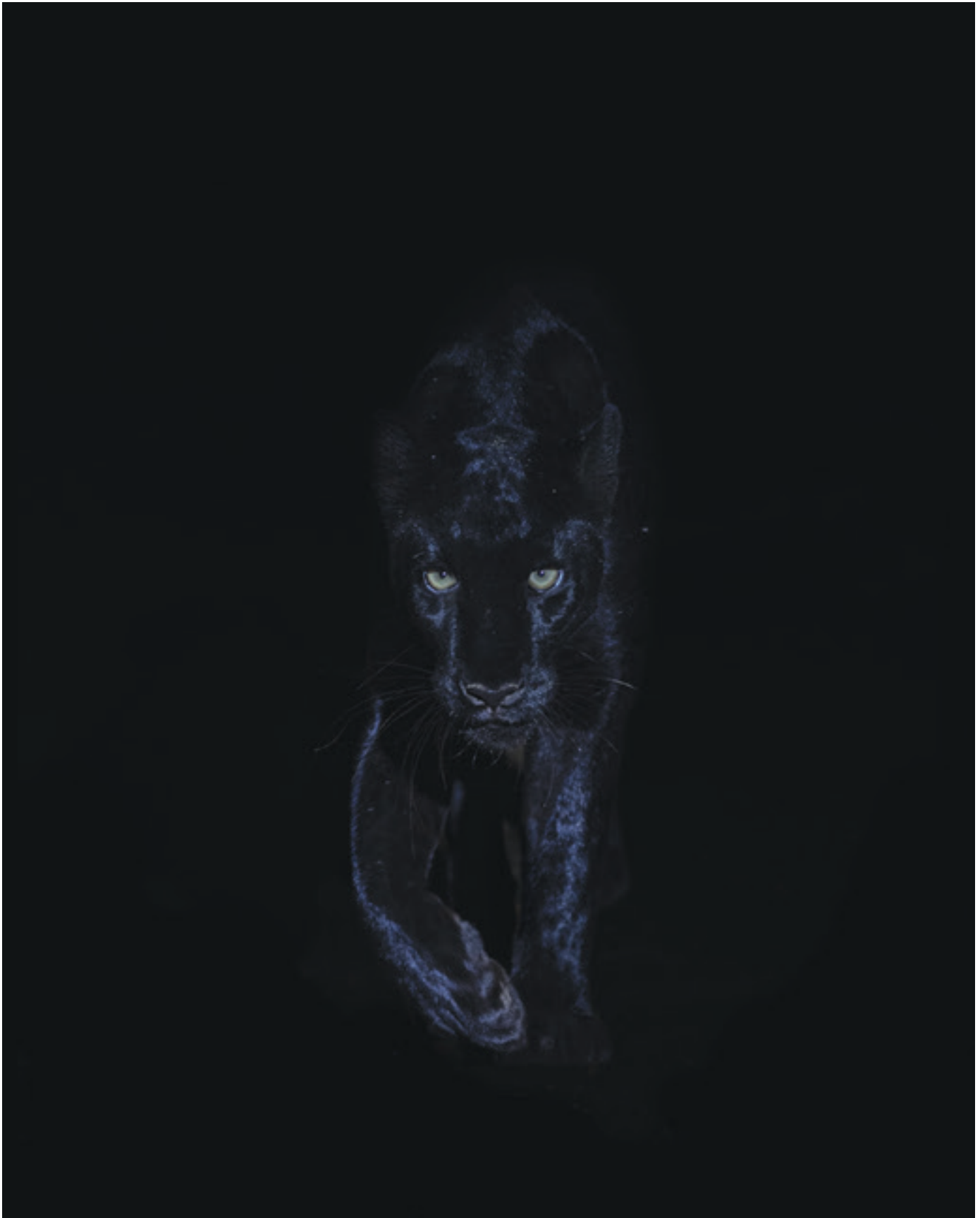
1st PLACE UNDERWATER | Suliman Alatiqi, Kuwait, *Reconnaissance* | San Benedicto Islands, Mexico



2nd PLACE UNDERWATER | Suliman Alatiqi, Kuwait, *Party of Three* | Oil Rigs, Kuwait



3rd PLACE UNDERWATER | Kurt Bertels, South Africa, *The Dragon from the Deep*  
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador



1st PLACE MANIPULATED | Zita Quentin, Hungary, *Darkness Emerges from the Dark* | Laikipia, Kenya





2nd PLACE MANIPULATED | Christine Garner, USA, *Coastal Cruising* | St. Maarten



3rd PLACE MANIPULATED | Roberto Crucitti, Italy, *Tiger With Blue Eyes In Contrast* | Cambodia



1st PLACE MACRO | Avanka Fernando, Sri Lanka, *Green* | Sinharaja National Forest, Sri Lanka



2nd PLACE MACRO | Marta Fiscus, USA, *Versute Sharpshooter on Mexican Sunflower* | Maryland, USA



3rd PLACE MACRO | Marta Fiscus, USA, *Eupithecia Moth Caterpillar on Scarlet Flax* | Maryland, USA

## professionals who photograph : David Thibault

*This feature highlights amateurs from various professions who love to photograph, a little about their professions and a glimpse into their photographic journey. Meet professional airline pilot, David Thibault.*

How did your flying career begin?

My Dad got his pilots license in the 1940's through the GI Bill after WW2. Growing up, he regaled me with his flying stories, planting the seed for my desire to learn to fly. I got all of my flying licenses and ratings through college in New Hampshire, then moved to Alaska in 1994 where I got my first commercial flying job flying Twin Otters. I've been commercial flying for 26 years now, currently flying 737's out of Anchorage AK. Though I don't own my own airplane yet, many of my friends do, and they are great vehicles to gain access to and explore the remote rivers and backcountry of Alaska.

Tell me about your float trips.

For the last 10 years, my friends and I have been doing remote float trips in pack rafts on various rivers in western Alaska, primarily for fly fishing adventures. A few of the rivers we have floated together include The Kanektok River, The Ongivinuk River, and most recently Moraine Creek in Katmai. These rivers all have world class rainbow trout, arctic grayling, and a few varieties of salmon, and as an added excitement come the bears which feed on the returning fish. On some of these rivers you rarely see a bear, while some like Moraine Creek, you have bears in your sight every hour of the day. We make every effort to respect the bear's space, and break off fish if a bear is nearby so as to prevent them from associating fisherman with fish. Occasionally a bear will get closer to you than planned, but they are very habituated to people in the Katmai area and are very tolerant, as long as they are well fed and happy!



All photos courtesy of David Thibault

What got you into photography?

Since I moved to Alaska in 1994, I've always been interested in being able to capture the images of the stunning beauty Alaska holds. I had mostly owned point and shoot cameras until 2016 when I decided that I wanted to get serious about photography. The 2016 total solar eclipse, which was viewed from our cockpit enroute to Honolulu motivated me to get my first decent DSLR camera, the Nikon D7200. I am now shooting with the Nikon D500, which allows me to get great birding and wildlife action shots with its higher shutter rate. This trip on Moraine Creek has been the apex of my photographic journey and I look forward to returning there and continuing to progress as a photographer.



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