

Issue 2 2024

The wild Lens

magazine for photographers



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Gero Heine

Ranjan Ramchandani

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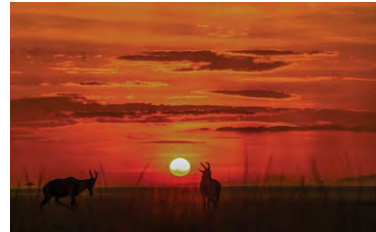
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Thomas Vijayan
KC Bailey
Vicki Santello
Karthik Subramaniam



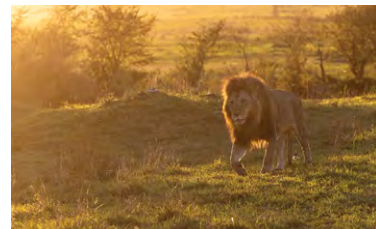
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The Wild Lens
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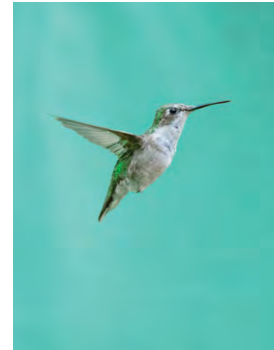
Cover Photo

Marcello Galleano

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Publisher's Note



KC BAILEY

It's been five years since we started publishing *The Wild Lens Magazine*. We want to thank each of you who supports our publication through readership and subscription. The interest in wildlife and the photographers showcased in our pages has kept us going for half a decade. We are incredibly appreciative as this journey continues.

Whether it is an image of a mesmerizing wild cat in its natural habitat, a resplendent bird in the lofty reaches of a forest, or a graceful whale breaching from the great depths of the ocean, we have enjoyed publishing these stellar photographs. Having so many exceptional articles over these past years has been a privilege.

Following another spectacular year of images entered into The Wild Lens Magazine Photographer of the Year Contest, we had some standouts that we wanted to recognize. You will see them in this issue in the "Publisher's Collection".

Also on these pages are Gero Heine, Photographer of the Quarter, and his portfolio of clicks worldwide. View Asia and Africa Editor Ranjan Ramchandani's magnificent bird portfolio from the Ecuadorian Andes, Mohit Ghatak's African portfolio, and read about Debbie Weisheim and her journey to Antarctica.

As we enter spring, be sure to check for all of the bird activity, as many species are returning from migration. Various kinds of hummingbirds fly to Central America or Mexico for the winter and return to northern regions in early or late spring. Get those cameras out!

Michelle Liles

michelle@thewildlensmagazine.com

A vibrant bird with blue, green, and brown plumage perched on a moss-covered branch. The bird has a bright yellow beak and a red ring around its eye. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green forest.

FROM THE CLOUDS

A Journey to Mindo

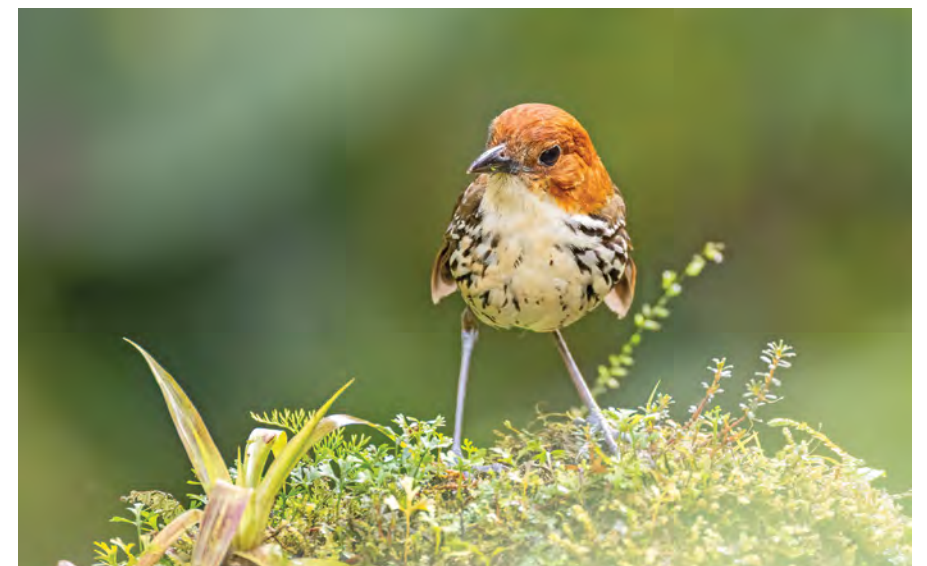
Article and photos
by Ranjan Ramchandani



The cloud forest of Mindo is nestled in the Ecuadorian Andes, and is a mesmerising ecological wonder. Its lush vegetation, shrouded in mist, teems with biodiversity and boasts an array of flora and fauna found nowhere else on earth. Towering trees draped in moss create a mystical ambiance, while vibrant orchids add a splash of color at times. The forest is a sanctuary for countless species including a large variety of birds. This is a bird watchers' paradise.

Follow Ranjan's travels on Instagram. [RanjanPhotographyOfficial](#)





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PHOTOGRAPHER FEATURE

Gero Heine

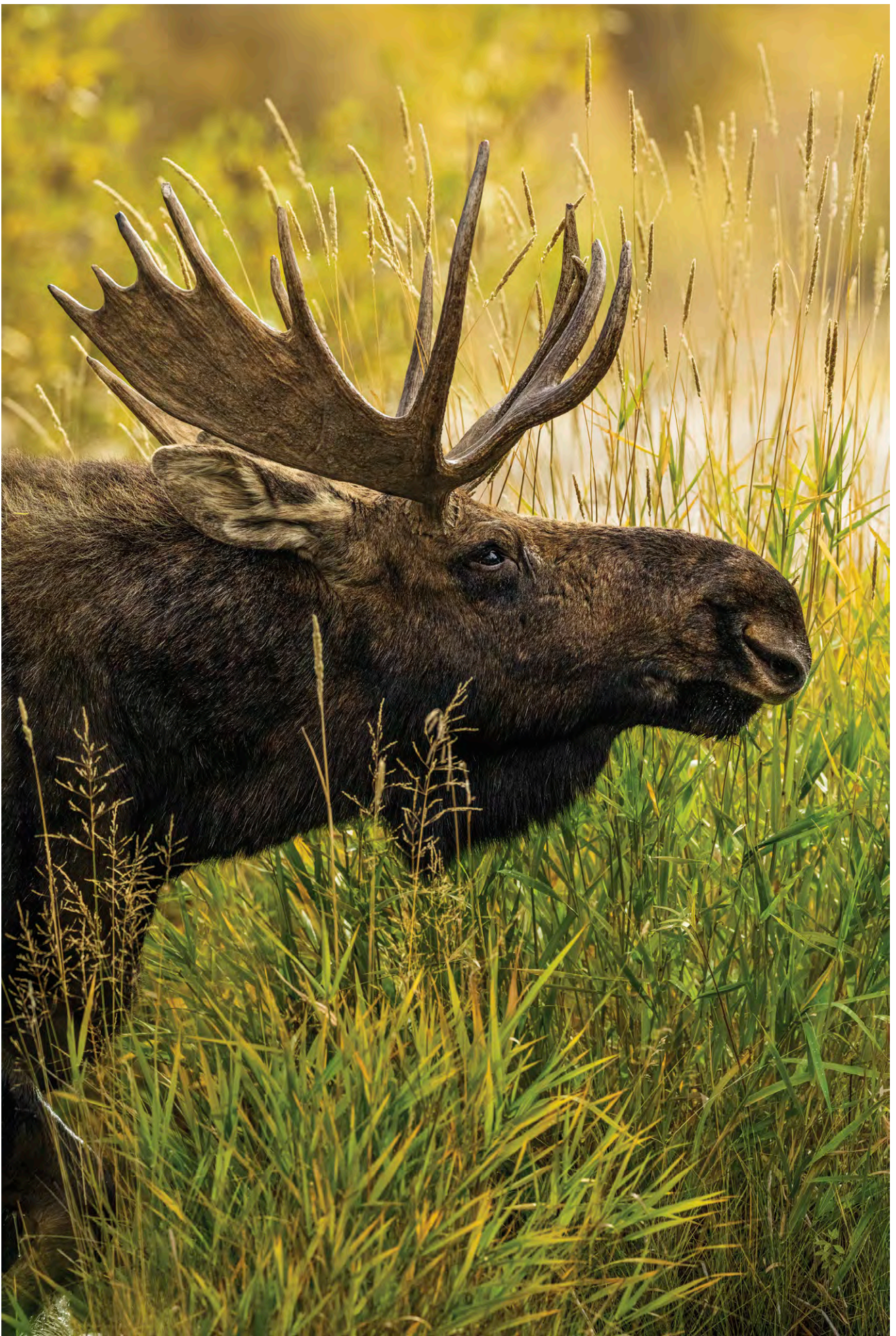
Profoundly affected by the vast expanse and astonishing diversity of wildlife on a trip to Africa, Gero resolved to pursue photography professionally. In addition to Africa, he has found great inspiration in the stunningly captivating scenes of the Western United States and, more recently, India.

Gero's active involvement in African conservation efforts has included participation in a lion research project.

His work has earned him many prestigious awards and is exhibited in art shows, festivals and galleries.

His image "Bison", winner of a Windland Smith Rice International Award, has been displayed at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C.









GERO HEINE, USA | *Queen of Her Reign* | Nikon Z9, 600 mm, iso 1000, f13, 1/80

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PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Publisher's Collection



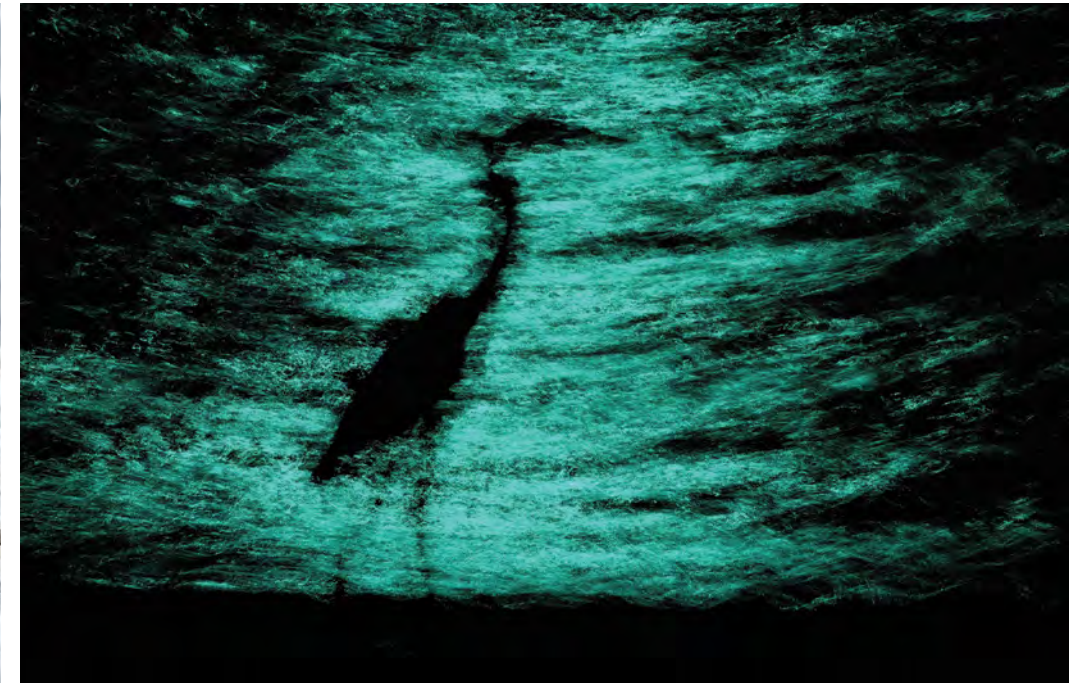
JIE FISCHER, USA | *Caracal Reflection* | Namibia



SULIMAN ALATIQUI, Kuwait | *Planet Mobula* | Sea of Cortez, Mexico



SHAYNE MCGUIRE, USA | *My Toy* | Alaska, USA



ROBERT GLOECKNER, USA | *Fading Away* | Florida, USA



THOMAS VIJAYAN, Canada | *Austfonna Ice Cap* | Svalbard, Norway



KC BAILEY, USA | *Skimmer Flight* | New York, USA



ROBERT GLOECKNER, USA | *The Last Tickle* | Florida, USA



VICKI SANTELLO, USA | *Strategic Ground* | Yellowstone National Park, USA



KARTHIK SUBRAMANIAM, USA | *Revelry in a River* | Alaska, USA



CROSSING TO SAFETY

STORY by MICHELLE LILES
PHOTOS by SEBASTIAN KENNERKNECHT

To satisfy our need to be better connected, humans have created many modern conveyances, including highways. Wildlife has been paying a huge toll for this social need of humankind, however. Our anthropogenic activities are destroying natural habitats and creating barriers to animal biodiversity. This results in unwanted human-animal encounters as well, which creates trouble for both species.

Wildlife corridors have emerged as areas of preservation and growth of species. Also known as habitat corridors or ecological corridors, they are designed to keep local migratory animal species from the encroaching human population in regions where human-wildlife interactions are unavoidable.

There are wildlife corridors across six continents, including Canada, the Netherlands, Kenya and Australia, but in North America only 12 percent of the land is protected. The following North American programs are worthy of recognition.

MONTANA

U.S. Highway 93 North in Montana is the site of one of the largest safe-crossing efforts in the nation. There are a total of 41 fish and wildlife crossing structures that include

underpasses and overpasses, all of which were created along the 56-mile stretch of road.

Camera traps have recorded a variety of species making use of the crossing structures, including grizzly bears, deer, elk, mountain lions and other wild animals.

TEXAS

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is the epicenter of infrastructural development in Southeastern Texas. The region's wildlife refuge has been working successfully with conservation groups and local farmers for more than three decades to construct a wildlife corridor along the river valley offering secure passage to species.

The wildlife benefitting from these efforts comprise migrating birds and rare mammals such as the ocelot.

ILLINOIS

The Burnham Wildlife Corridor is a 100-acre landscape located on a crucial piece of real estate along Chicago's Lakeshore area. The park is home to the prairie and woodland bionetworks that are aboriginals to this part of the central United States.

It is primarily used as a sanctuary for the three million migratory birds that go through the area annually.

YELLOWSTONE TO THE YUKON

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative is a joint Canada-United States charitable organization that aims to protect the 2,000-mile region. It connects and protects habitat along the mountainous ecosystem from Yellowstone National Park to the Yukon.

Many wild species navigate through this passage, including pronghorns, grizzly bears, black bears, tigers, elk and cougars.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Southern California mountain region is the habitat of mountain lions, but the loss of habitation and genetic diversity in the area stimulated the conservationists and authorities to construct a wildlife migration crossing that will span 10 lanes of traffic northwest of Los Angeles above U.S. 101.

The overpass will provide favorable terrain for mountain lions and other wildlife species to traverse safely between the two habitats, divided by the highway. It will be constructed in an area that experts have identified as a critical point of connectivity for numerous species.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Caltrans and the California Natural Resources Agency, along with local partners including the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission, joined forces to create the Laurel Curve Wildlife Undercrossing on a busy commuter highway in the coastal mountains of Northern California. It connects nearly 460 acres of land on both sides of the highway that has been preserved in a conservation easement by the land trust.

Caltrans Acting Director Steven Keck said, "This wildlife undercrossing will reconnect habitat on both sides of the highway while helping reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, improving safety for the thousands of people who travel the Highway 17 corridor every day."

Bobcat, squirrels, deer and foxes were seen in the crossing soon after its completion.

Here's to the successes. And here's hoping that we can expand on this important work to mitigate the problems that we've created for our animal neighbors as the human footprint extends further and further into natural habitats.

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with
Mohit Ghatak



Martial eagle



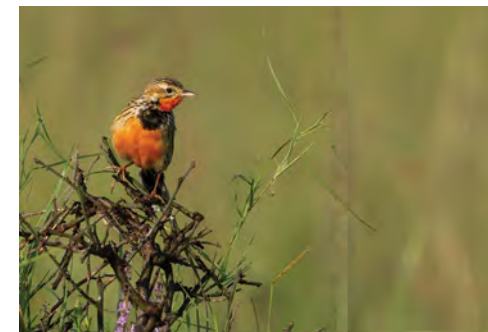
Lion



Baboon with offspring



Cheetah



Rosy-throated longclaw



Black-backed jackal

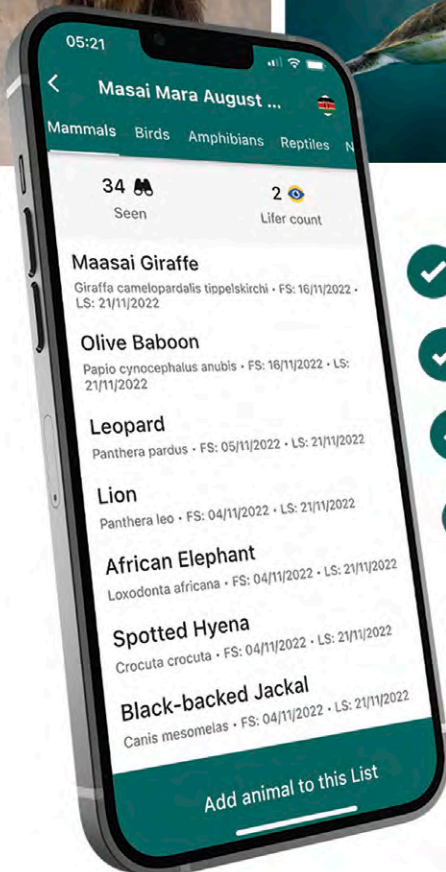
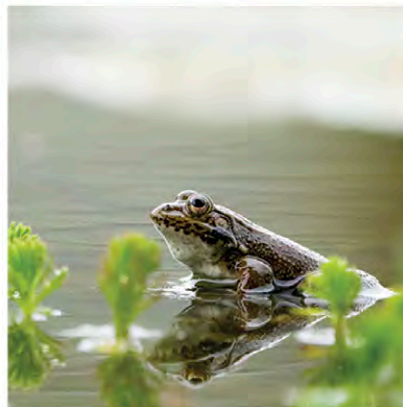
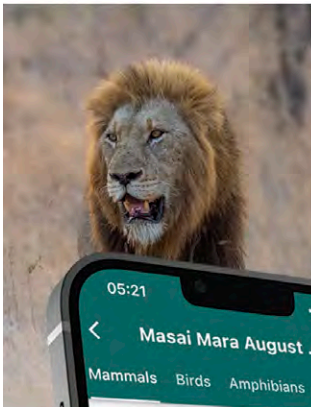
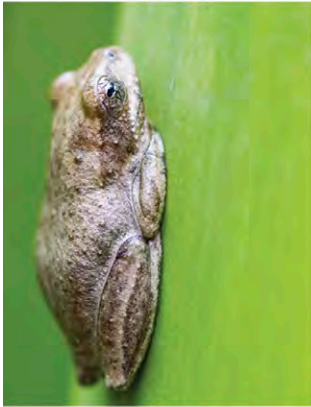


Lion cub



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RUMEYSA UZEL
AND
MARCELLO GALLEANO



RUMEYSA UZEL, Netherlands, "*The King at Dawn*"

The Singing Grass, an immersive wildlife retreat in Tanzania, was born from a desire to live in harmony with nature and celebrate its many splendid forms, beauty and raw power.

From their home in the Serengeti, they treasure the delicate ecosystem of the land and, from the smallest of ants to the largest of the gentle giants that roam the parched plains, they fight for its survival.

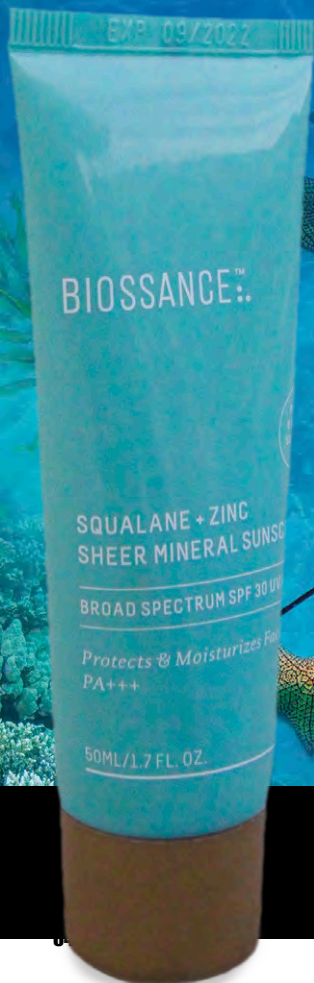
With their 2023 Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition, they sought to share this mission with the world.



MARCELLO GALLEANO, Italy, "*Lemur in the Foliage*"

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professionals who photograph : Debbie Weisheim

This feature highlights amateurs from various professions who share a love of nature photography and offers a glimpse into their unique photographic journey.

Debbie Weisheim has been a dental hygienist for 30 years in the Southern Nevada area. Married and the mother of two grown boys, they now stay home with the dogs and horses when she wants to venture to far-off places to photograph species like penguins.

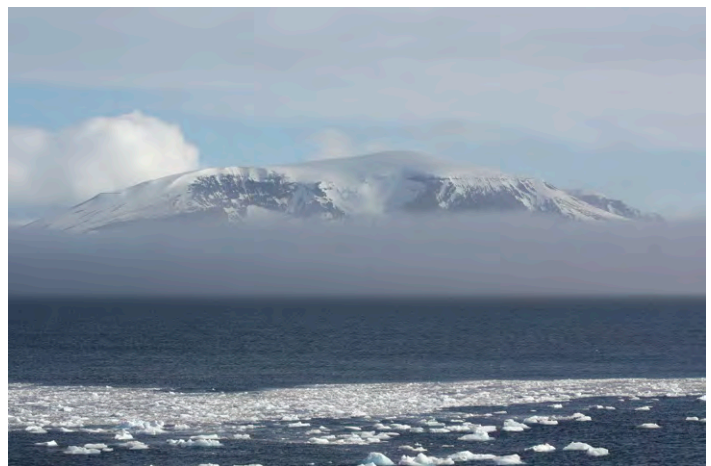
When friends asked Debbie and her husband Scott to join them on a trip to Antarctica, they couldn't miss out on an opportunity to explore an area where few can say they have traveled.

The trip, which began and ended on a Seaborn cruise ship, entailed 13 days of perfect weather, including an effortless crossing of the Drake Passage, the fabled and sometimes treacherous body of water between Chile and Antarctica.

Using Zodiac inflatables for close access to the Antarctic ice, they were able to see gentoo, adelie and emperor penguins, numerous whales and a pod of orca.

No trip to Antarctica would be complete without a polar plunge, a voluntary dip into the icy polar sea. The water temperature registered at -1°C for those who met the challenge. That may have frozen Debbie's shutter finger temporarily, but she kept at it.

A self-avowed amateur when it comes to photography, Debbie aspires towards learning more and developing her technique. Capturing the beauty of Antarctica was a great way to hone her skills and capture memories to treasure long after the adventure was over.





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