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Peter Beerbaum, Germany

Habitat Dead Wood

Metrioptera bicolor in decaying tree trunk, Brandenburg, Germany

This image was made on a long day during which Peter kept himself occupied with three decaying tree trunks he had discovered by the roadside. First he just noticed the interesting forms of the wood. While taking some pictures he noticed a small, brown lizard inside the trunk. This encounter made him curious and he stayed put to find out which different kinds of animals would visit this place. Lizards, snakes and many different species of insects came by. So this charming image, which perfectly reflects this habitat, was made.

Nikon F 100, Sigma 2.8/90mm, Tripod, Fuji Velvia 50, f 11, 1/60 sec

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Jose B. Ruiz, Spain

Moonset at San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, Vizcaya, Spain

Moon over the Atlantic

When Jose first visited this part of the Spanish coast he immediately saw that it was an extraordinary place. The many bays, cliffs and rock formations made for a good motive at any time. Jose returned regularly, sometimes with photographer friends to show them this special place. This image was made early in the morning. There are only a few days each year when this unique mood can be captured. The moon was just about to set. Jose's friends had spread all over the shore and Jose was left alone with himself and the moon.

Canon EOS 5D, 4.0/17-40mm @ 25mm, Tripod, Cable Release, Mirror Lock Up, Singh Ray 2 stop Reverse Filter, Manual Focus, ISO 200, f 5,6, 47sec

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Heike Odermatt, Netherlands

Autumnal Riverscape

Dovrefjell, Norway

Heike was traveling in Scandinavia in September. Her plan was to catch the mood of autumn in the National Parcs Dovrefjell and Rondane. The military training area in Dovrefjell, which is especially charming, is often closed at this time of the year. However Heike was lucky. On a very unsettled autumn day on the way to the mountain Snoohetta she managed to capture this beautiful autumn landscape in a sunny spell. On the horizon the next band of clouds is already approaching.

Canon EOS 1Ds Mark II, 2.8/70-200mm IS USM, Tripod, Cable Release, ISO 50, f/36, 0.8sec

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Theo Bosboom, Netherlands

Colours of Landmannalaugar

Rhyolit Mountains at Landmannalaugar, Iceland

A true paradise for nature photographers are the colourful Rhyolit Mountains at Landmannalaugar. Here you find volcanoes, black lava fields, green patches of moss, hot springs, wild mountain formations and colourful mountain ranges. In early summer the nature photographer has 24 hours of daylight. At this time of the year Theo visited Landmannalaugar and one morning he climbed the volcano Brennisteinsalda. From the summit he had a breathtaking view over the land. Using a telephoto lens he isolated a small part of this landscape. For him this image captures the essence of this part of Iceland.

Canon EOS 5D, 4.0/70-200mm, Tripod, Mirror Lock Up, ISO 200, f 16, 1/80 sec

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Carsten Krieger, Ireland

At the Irish Coast

Ross, County Clare, Ireland

Last summer, after an annoying day at the computer, Carsten needed to get out of the house. Shortly after sunset he got into the car and drove to Ross Bay, only a few minutes from his home. The urge for some fresh air guided him to the small bay, which is only approachable at low tide. On his way there Carsten noticed the bunch of Thrift. He quickly found the right place to realize the composition he had in mind. The flower was positioned at the entrance of the bay without disturbing the balance between the other elements. A polarizing filter and a graduated ND filter reduced reflections and balanced the exposure and so improved the composition. The filters also increased exposure time, which transformed the incoming tide into a soft fog, and the fresh colours of the flower and lichens deliver the perfect counterpoint for the image.

Canon EOS 5D, 4.0/24-105mm at 35mm, Tripod, Cable Release, Polarizing Filter, Graduated ND Filter, ISO 100, f 22, 16 sec

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Ulf Westerberg, Sweden

Rocky Shore in the Evening

Coast at Kullaberg, Scania, Sweden

The rugged and untouched coastline of this nature reserve has been inspiring Ulf for a long time. His archive contains images from this area taken at any time of the day and at any season. This image was made in late summer, only then the coast is illuminated by the evening sun, the rest of the year it lies in shadows.

Ulf wanted to combine the elements of cloud, light and landscape and this he achieved with using a wide-angle lens. This emphasizes the isolation and vastness of the landscape.

Nikon F3, 2.8/20mm, Tripod, Graduated ND Filter, Fuji Velvia 50, f 16, 1/2 sec

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Urs Luethi, Switzerland

Spring in South Africa

Namaqualand, South Africa

In August 2006, one of his numerous journeys for a new Multivision Show brought Urs to the South African Namaqualand. Winter rain and fog that had come in from the nearby coast transformed the usually barren and brown desert into a glowing carpet of colours. The people of Namaqualand declared Urs a lucky guy, because for 10 years the desert hasn't burst into bloom in such a way.

Nikon F5, 3.5-5.6/24-120mm, Tripod, Polarizing Filter, Velvia 50

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Sergio Vaccher, Italy

Dawn at the Lagoon

Nature Reserve at the Lagoon of Marano, Friaul, Italy

The lagoon of Marano is a nature reserve unknown to most people between the villages of Grado and Lignano. Sergio comes here often to find peace and go bird watching. On this morning he arrived at the lagoon before dawn. The surface of the water stretched before him like a mirror, the air was clear and cold.

Sergio waited for the first light of dawn, which appeared in deep red and blue colours on the horizon. He captured the creation of colours by nature in this clearly structured image. Sergio still hasn't forgotten the beautiful and amazingly calm atmosphere of this morning.

Canon EOS 1N, 4.0/300mm EF IS, Tripod, Fuji Velvia 50

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Thilo Bubek, Sweden

Northern Light and Full Moon

Ersfjord, Troms, Northern Norway

In early April the Northern Light season comes to an end in Northern Norway. However especially around this time the most fascinating images of Northern Lights can be created, because the soft light of dawn can be added to the composition of the image. Thilo made this picture in the night between 4th and 5th April. The first Northern Lights already appeared in the evening. But only at half past one in the night, with dawn approaching and after a long wait in the icy cold, Thilo managed to capture this image with the moon right above the entrance of the fjord.

Fujifilm S3 Pro, Nikkor 4.0/12-24mm AF S DX, Tripod, RAW, ISO 800, expanded dynamic range mode, f 4, 30 sec

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Enzo Fedon, Italy

Dolomite Crystal

Mount Cristallo, Ampezzo's Dolomite National Park, Italy

Enzo lives close to the Dolomites and loves his hobby – photography. So he spends every free minute he has in the area. Travelling on the main road through the Ampezzo Dolomite National Park, he was stunned by the evening light illuminating the mountains. After a heavy snowfall, together with the sunlight, this was a magic moment for Enzo and he took the chance to take a series of images at this place.

Contax ST, 3.3-4.0/28-85mm, Polarizing Filter, Fuji Velvia 50

Page 22

Heikki Nikki, Finland

Snowed in

Winter morning at Riisitunturi National Park, Finland

The spruce trees appear like paralyzed, veiled figures during a long cold period in the arctic winter. Ice crystals gleam in the snow on a cold winter night. Heikki likes to carry his camera gear into the wilderness at this time of the year. The rising winter sun paints the landscape an unreal red, accompanied by an almost full moon at the horizon. Heikki has made many images of his fairytale winter forest, but all have a personal and mysterious character.

Vista Field 4"x5", 150mm, Tripod, Fuji Velvia 50, f 22, 1/2 sec

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Georg Popp, Austria

Water Lilies

Lake Egel, Tyrol, Austria

This image was made at Lake Egel in Tyrol as part of a photo project that introduced the Natura 2000 areas in Austria. Lake Egel is a small and inconspicuous lake with a natural shoreline. It wasn't easy for Georg to find an impressive subject. When he had finally discovered leafs of the water lily a consistently blowing breeze made it difficult to get the shot. An exposure time of 1 second was necessary and all leafs were always in motion. This image is the only one Georg managed to get this day.

Toyo Field 45 A II, Schneider 5.6/150mm, Tripod, Polarizing Filter, Fuji Velvia 50, f 22, 1 sec

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Fritz Poelking, Germany

Sand Plant

Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, Utah, USA

In a small valley Between Zion National Park and Bryce National Park lies at 1800m the Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park. The pinkish coloured shifting dunes offer a poor habitat to wildflowers and grasses. The eroded sandstone at the edge of the dunes holds some interesting motives for photographers. Especially shortly before sunset long shadows paint some beautiful pictures that amaze even a long time professional like Fritz.

Canon EOS 1 Ds, 2.8/100mm, Tripod, Mirror Lock Up, ISO 100, f 32, 1/13 sec

Page 26

Toni Kerschbaumer, Austria

Winterfall

Enns Valley, Styria, Austria

Last year, after a sunny and warm October, winter arrived with a bang in November. The snowed in forests on Tony's land were full of photographic possibilities. The colourful foliage on the snow-laden trees produced a special mood. The following night, clear and cold, transformed these last autumn colours into a fading brown. Again Tony realized that in photography you should always grab the chance when you see it.

Nikon D 2 Xs, 2.8/70-200mm AF VR, Tripod

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Laszlo Novak, Hungary

Forest Mirror

Summer Snowflake, Csafordjanosfa, Hungary

In late March the forest, in which Laszlo had already made countless images, was completely flooded by a small river. One late afternoon Laszlo went out equipped with Wellingtons and only a basic camera outfit. Friends had told him that the forest was covered with white flower patches. He had photographed the Summer Snowflake before in this area, but never before in or around water. Laszlo got close to the ground and all he could see through his viewfinder were the white flowers and its reflections in the water.

Canon EOS 20D, 4.0/17-40mm, Tripod, ISO 100, f 9.5, 1/10 sec

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Dr. Hinrich Baesemann, Germany

Tranquillity at Ewiges Meer

Ewiges Meer in East Frisia, Lower Saxony, Germany

In spring the Ewiges Meer, a huge and shallow lake in the middle of East Frisia's blanket bog, still lies dry. The first green arrives only in May. In pools beside old turf banks grows the Grasbuelte. On this particular day the light seemed to come only from the plants. There were countless Grasbueltes around but this one appealed especially to Hinrich because of its form and the reflection in the water. Because of the unstable ground he had to stay on the road to take the image and Hinrich found it very difficult to find a suitable viewpoint.

Canon EOS 20D, 4.5-5.6/100-400mm at 285mm, handheld, ISO 200, f 5.6, 1/320 sec

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Georg Popp, Austria

In the Grass Ocean

Tamarix at the Tablas de Daimiel National Park, Mancha, Spain

Georg travelled to these wetlands in Mancha in Spain, which are endangered by local farming, in early spring. The vegetation is still very bare at this time of the year and Georg hoped for some good light. He had planned to take his image using the light of the setting sun; unfortunately the sun quickly disappeared behind a band of clouds. However it proved to be a good idea to slightly alter the composition and keep on waiting. After sunset the clouds glowed in a deep red for a short time and this warm reddish light was reflected on the reed landscape.

Toyo Field 45 A II, 5.6/150mm, Tripod, Fuji Velvia 50, f 45, 12 sec

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Guido Sachse, Germany

First Frost

Small Leaved Lime, Augustdorf, Senne-Ostwestfalen, Germany

Last year in December because of the wet weather there was no chance to get some decent winter images in the Senne. This changed in the afternoon of 26th December. The temperature dropped and the damp air formed ice crystals everywhere. Guido had two hours only to capture the many motives that suddenly had appeared. After looking for half an hour Guido settled for some Small Leaved Lime Trees at the roadside. The last remaining leafs and the fruits of the trees had received a white and prickly gown by the frost.

Nikon D200, 4.5-5.6/70-300mm G VR, Tripod, Mirror Lock Up, Cable Release, ISO 200, f 7.1

Page 32

Franziska Schaedel, Switzerland

Curves in Green

Pandanus, Masoalahalle at Zoo Zurich, Switzerland

It was hot and damp. Across dangerously swaying suspension bridges made of ropes, over rivers and canyons a path wound its way through the rainforest. The Masoala rainforest immediately captures the mind of the visitor. You experience it with all senses and feel a million miles away from home. However a door only separated Franziska from the city of Zurich far away from the tropics. Surrounded by luxurious green she was captured by this leaf of a Pandanus tree. In company of this masterpiece made by nature she could even learn to meditate. And she needed some patience. It took almost an hour until the lens had adapted to the damp environment and stopped fogging up.

Konica Minolta Dynax 7D, 2.8/100mm Macro, Tripod, ISO 100, f 22

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Danny Laps, Belgium

Spring Forest

Hallerbos, Halle, Belgium

Hallerbos Forest in Belgium is known for its beautiful spring flora. Nowhere else in Belgium is Wild Garlic | are Bluebells as widespread as here. In early spring nature transforms the forest floor and spreads a blue carpet. The bright green leafs of the elm tree proof that spring is just beginning. This place is a must for nature photographers in Belgium, not only in spring. Colours and shapes are abundant beyond belief. You just have to see them.

Nikon D70s, Tokina 4.0/12-24mm, Tripod, ISO 200, f 16, 1 sec

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Dr. Dirk Funhoff, Germany

Constant Shower

Autumn-Aeonium under cascade, San Bartolome de Tiranja, Gran Canaria, Spain

While out walking during an unusually wet winter on Gran Canaria Dirk discovered an Autumn-Aeonium, which was growing under a rock outcrop. The heavy rainfalls of the past days had formed streams and cascades that showered the plant constantly. It was a very unusual situation because the plant is used to dry conditions and grows on bare rock. Without a tripod at hand Dirk's only chance for getting a sharp image was pressing the camera firmly against the ground and hope for one good shot. The next day the water was gone, the stream dried out.

Fujifilm S2 Pro, Tokina 2.8/28-70mm at 63mm, ISO 100, f 5.6, 1/10 sec

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Thomas Graics, Germany

Coloured Tracks

Holsa Estuary, Southern Iceland

During his stay on Iceland Thomas made a dream come true and flew from Reykjavik across the island towards its southern coast. Out of the window he photographed the volcanic landscape below. The countless small rivers, lava plains and hot springs looked even more impressive from the air. The river Holsa finds its way from the uplands of the Brekknahéidi down to the southern coast. On its way the river has to pass the black lava fields. The water releases iron from the ground, which colours the river yellow-orange and make it look like a painting from a surrealist artist.

Canon EOS 20D, Sigma 2.8-4.0/28-105mm, ISO 100, f 16

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Konrad Funk, Germany

Trapped in Ice

Schwarzer Weiher in the Forest District Nohfelden, Saarland, Germany

Konrad regularly watches the small forest lakes in his forest district. In spring he can't wait for the ice sheets in the dark forest to melt, because he is waiting for the common frogs. On one of his rounds he discovered this dragonfly frozen in the ice. A beautiful motive, unfortunately impossible to realize on location. Konrad took the ice sheet from the lake and

placed it against the light. Lying on his belly he tried to capture his subject. It was a sunny but cold morning and Konrad soon was frozen to the bones. At home a hot coffee was waiting to warm him up. When he returned to the lake later, a bird had removed the dragonfly from the ice.

Canon A1, Tokina 2.5/90mm macro AT-X, Fuji Sensia 100, f 11

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Dr. Hans-Peter Schaub, Germany

In the Green Kingdom

Spider in Water Horsetail, Moosbach Valley near Dahn, Southern Pfaelzer Forest, Germany

In the Moosbach Valley near Dahn in the Pfaelzer Forest several ponds formerly used for fish farming lay side by side. Every single one has developed into a unique habitat. One of the ponds hosts a huge population of the Water Horsetail. Hans-Peter spends one whole morning in early summer at this particular pond to capture the Water Horsetail which was covered in glimmering water droplets, in many different ways. It was important for Hans-Peter to add a different of nature's eye catchers to each composition. The image with the tiny spider became his favourite image from this series.

Contax RTS, Zeiss Sonnar 2.8/180mm, Tripod, Fuji Velvia 50

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Georg Taschler, Italy

Ice Leaf

Lake Duerren, Nature Park Sextner Dolomites, Toblach, Southern Tyrol, Italy

Georg loves to find his subjects on his own doorstep. In late autumn he goes out whenever he can spare some time. In some years the time between the freezing of the lake and the first snowfall is very short. Last year however he had a lot of time to explore the frozen lake with the camera. He found his motives early in the morning when they were transformed into something even more beautiful by frost and hoarfrost. During the day they melted under the weak winter sun only to form again during the night. Georg couldn't get enough of this wondrous cycle of nature. It is still a joy for him capturing these forms and colours with his camera.

Canon EOS 1D Mark IIN, 2.8/100mm Macro, Tripod, Mirror Lock Up, ISO 100, f 8, 1/13 sec

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Ingo Gerlach, Germany

Animal Sheet of Music

Lake Elementaita, Kenya, Africa

During one of his many travels to Africa Ingo took the chance to travel in a hot air balloon across the lake wilderness. The two biggest lakes, Lake Nakuru and Lake Elementaita, which lay side by side, can only be properly recognized from the air. The richness in birdlife makes this a special place for nature lovers and photographers alike. Lesser Flamingos are one of the main species found here. Due to longer dry periods and human impact their numbers are however rapidly declining. Seen from the balloon the flamingos on the way to their feeding grounds look like a sheet of music, that is needed by the nature photographer to compose a special image.

Nikon D2X, 2.8/70-200mm VR, ISO 200, f 4, 1/2500 sec

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Juanjo Sierra Alcala, Spain

Frozen In

Pine Cone on frozen river Tormes, Sierra de Gredos, Central Spain

The river Tormes has its source in the mountains of the Sierra de Gredos and runs for more than 200km through the country. Up in the mountains it regularly freezes during winter. Short thaw periods make the ice crack in pieces and a cold night lets it freeze over again. Juanjo had been watching these transformations of the ice in the Sierra de Gredos and one sunny winter morning he discovered this pinecone locked in the ice. The deep blue sky was reflected in the ice. A scene perfect for this category.

Zenza Bronica ETRSi, Zenzanon 3.5/150mm, Tripod, Polarizing Filter, 81 A Filter, Fuji Velvia 50, f 16, 1/8 sec

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Juergen Wuerfel, Germany

Winter afternoon at the Weir

Left shore at the Mangfall at Bruckmuehl, Townland Rosenheim, Bavaria, Germany

Until now Juergen had ignored the rivers tamed by weirs and dams. On a stroll to the Mangfall at Bruckmuehl in the afternoon of New Year's Day he noticed the dancing pastel colours and beautiful reflections of the trees that were growing on the dam. Juergen just had to capture this play of form and colour with his camera. This small river, that has its source at the lake Tegern and runs into the river Inn, had been partially brought back to its natural state by removing some of the weirs. This gave Juergen the chance to produce an artistic nature image that wouldn't have been possible under normal circumstances.

Fuji Finepix S 307, 22mm, ISO 200, f 2.8, 1/85 sec

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Danilo Porta, Italy

In the Centre

Valnontey, Gran Paradiso National Park, Italy

The many forms and colours of lichens fascinate Danilo. Each species is completely different and even within one species forms and colours can vary. So Danilo often keeps himself occupied with the challenge to capture lichens in unusual compositions. He often prefers black & white photography to focus on the shapes and forms. When taking this image of lichen growing on a tree he didn't realize at first that a moth was sitting right in the centre of the lichen.

Nikon D200, 2.8/55mm, ISO 200, f11, 1/60 sec

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Aleksander Cufar, Slovenia

Formed by Nature

Ajdovska Deklica, Prisojnik, Julian Alps, Slovenia

In the Julian Alps on the Prisojnik Pass the "Giant Girl" or "Heather Girl" can be found carved in stone by nature. The face is smiling at the visitor from the northern wall of rock. Aleksander was mesmerized that mother nature could create such a work of art. The image was made after sunset when the strong contrasts were gone from the stoneface and the shapes in the rock appeared more clearly.

Konica Minolta Dynax 7D, Tokina 2.8/300mm AF, Tripod

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Helmut Gries, Germany

Sand Figure

Bed of River Swakop at Goanikontes, Namibia, Africa

Most riverbeds stay dry for years in the arid climate of Namibia. Only after very heavy rainfalls inland the Riviere, as they are called in Namibia, fill up with water and transform the dusty riverbeds into impassable mud floods. But only a short time later the burning sun has dried up the surface again and depending on the concentration of loam, sand and moisture irregular fissures develop. Sometimes they form into fantasy figures of the most different shapes. Helmut discovered this life form made of loam and sand after many hours driving along a dry riverbed.

Nikon D200, Sigma 4.5-5.6/12-24mm DG HSM at 12mm, ISO 100, f20, 1/90 sec

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Gastone Pivatelli, Italy

The Singer's Split

Fan-tailed Warbler, Bergantino, Italy

Ever since Gastone started taking pictures it was his aim to capture the small songbirds. He is especially fond of the Fan-tailed Warbler. Whenever he roamed near his home he kept looking for this tiny singer. Gastone often goes out hunting for images in the meadows and bog lands of his home near the river Po. He discovered this fellow while the bird was most likely chasing a female bird out of his own territory. To capture this strange posture without driving the bird away, Gastone had to use extension tubes with his telephoto lens.

Canon EOS 1Ds Mark II, 4.0/600mm IS, 2 extension tubes EF 12, Tripod, ISO 100, f 8, 1/320 sec

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Jasper Doest, Netherlands

Who's eating whom?

Young Great Crested Grebe, Vlaardingen, Netherlands

In 2005 Jasper spent two months observing straight Great Crested Grebes near his home. Each and every sunny morning and evening he spent at the same place to photograph Great Crested Grebes that weren't shy at all. From the building of the nest up to the laying of the eggs and raise of the young all was documented with the camera. A special day for Jasper was when the parents started to feed the young with fish. Jasper was sitting on the shore and took as many pictures as he could, when this small Great Crested Grebe with a fish almost the size of himself in his beak swam by.

Canon EOS 10D, 2.8/300mm, 2x Converter EX 20 II, Tripod, ISO 200, f 8, 1/1000 sec

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Toni Kerschbaumer, Austria

Flying into the Blue

Rock Ptarmigan, Gesaeuse National Park, Styria, Austria

For many years Toni had occupied himself with the Rock Ptarmigan of his homeland. Again he was rambling with friends in the National Park when they reached the summit at 1500 meters. When going mountain-walking Toni always carries a camera with a short telephoto lens always ready to shoot. Thanks to this fact he could get this image of a Rock Ptarmigan

flying by. Toni had set the camera to continuous shooting in high-speed format and so he managed to get a couple of good images. This image is Toni's favourite because the bird is located perfectly between the mountain ranges in the background and had eye contact with Toni right in that moment.

Nikon D2X, 2.8/80-200mm AF, High-speed Format

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Massimo Bottoni, Italy

Envy

Cattle Egret, Tuscany, Italy

Early one morning at a lake Massimo was watching a Cattle Egret hunting for frogs. After a short time the bird was successful and took to the air. Another Egret however had been watching closely and started a chase. The air raid and the quarrel about the food lasted for some minutes but the attacker wasn't successful. More success however had Massimo who was able to capture the row.

Nikon D200, 4.0/300mm AF-S IF-ED, 1.4x Converter TC12 E II, Tripod, ISO 200, f 5.6, 1/2000 sec

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Daniel Zupanc, Austria

Hold Me

Dalmatian Pelican, Zoo Schoenbrunn, Vienna, Austria

While visiting Vienna's Zoo Schoenbrunn Daniel noticed that due to the mild winter many animals were more active than usual at this time of the year. The members of the pelican colony had already started collecting nesting material. Courting was also on the way big time and Daniel was right in the middle of it. As common among Dalmatian Pelicans the male was holding the female at the throat during courting.

Nikon D2X, 4.0/500mm AF S, Tripod, ISO 400, f 5.6, 1/160 sec

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Axel Boehme, Germany

Feather

Swallow with nesting material, at Axel's house, Ostwestfalen, Germany

The challenge for Axel was to capture the Swallow not in front of only the sky but to show the bird in its now natural habitat – the farm. To get the result he had in mind Axel used a wide angle lens. Only so he was able to realize enough depth of field together with a short exposure time and an aperture of 4.5. The flashlights were used to brighten up the foreground because the Swallow would have been lost in shadow otherwise. Axel got the birds used to the tripod, camera and flash over a period of several weeks. When he wasn't there himself black cardboard took the place of flashlights and camera. Only one of the Swallow's three approach corridors had been fitted with a motion sensor so the birds had the choice. The photo shoot finally happened on a weekend, after that the Swallows were left in peace again. In the end they are Axel's guests and he wants them to return next year.

Nikon D200, 3.5-4.5/18-70mm AF S, Tripod, Motion Sensor, 4 Flashlights – FP Shorttime Synchronization, ISO 500, f 4.5, 1/8000 sec

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Hans Schouten, Netherlands

Is it the right one?

White Tailed Eagle and Steller's Sea Eagle, Hokkaido, Japan

In winter 2006 Hans travelled to Japan with a group of photographers to photograph the wintering fauna. From the island Hokkaido they approached the ice fields on the open ocean. Gulls and eagles were waiting. The photographers were using leftover fish they threw onto the ice to attract the birds. It didn't take long until the first gulls arrived, soon followed by eagles. Of course there were quarrels about the food. A White Tailed Eagle was waiting on the edge of the ice when suddenly a much bigger Steller's Sea Eagle arrived to claim the place. This moment was captured by Hans.

Canon EOS 20D, 2.8/70-200 IS, ISO 200, f 8, 1/1000 sec

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Danilo Porta, Italy

Swanlake

Mute Swans, Lake Pusiano, Lombardi, Italy

These Mute Swans are Danilo's direct neighbours. He sees them every day, watches where on the lake they are and how they interact with each other. On this particular morning the lake presented itself in a rare mood. Fog was rising from the other side of the lake and slowly crawled over the surface. Danilo wanted to capture the fog together with the swans. This was only possible because the birds were used to the presence of men and let Danilo approach very close. Using a wide-angle lens Danilo could add depth to the image just as he had envisaged for this situation.

Nikon F 90 X, 2.8/16mm Fish Eye Lens, Fuji Velvia 50, f 8, 1/250 sec

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Sebastien Descamps, Canada

Courting

Wandering Albatross, Colony on Possession Island, Archipelago Crozet

Some time ago Sebastien spent the winter on the archipelago Crozet. He was studying the behaviour of Albatrosses and Orcas. This image was made on Possession Island at the biggest colony of Wandering Albatrosses. Sebastien remembers that the birds were lost in their courting game and allowed him to come very close. Sebastien also heard Orcas swimming and hunting in the nearby bay. He was torn between the two and so he shared his time between the birds and cetaceans hoping that he was always at the right place and wouldn't miss anything at the other place.

Nikon FE 2, 2.0/35mm, Fuji Provia 100, f 8, 1/125 sec

Page 58

Diego Lopez Alvarez, Spain

Brake in the Flower Field

European Bee Eater in wildflower meadow, Seville, Andalusia, Spain

After a very dry winter in Andalusia, spring arrived with heavy rainfall. The plentiful water triggered a spectacular and rarely seen bloom of wildflowers. For Diego the colourful meadows were the perfect backdrop for watching the breeding behaviour of the Bee Eater. This image was made on a misty morning when the birds weren't very active while waiting for the warming sun on an elevated lookout. These places are also being used during the day. That makes it easy for the photographer to set up his hide near one of the lookouts and get the images he wanted.

Nikon D200, 4.0/200mm, ISO 100, f 4, 1/250 sec

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Hugo Wassermann, Italy

Gourmet

Red Deer, Northern Scotland, UK

In mid June Hugo was travelling in Scotland. As usual the weather was dull. Behind a bend Hugo suddenly met two Red Deer feeding only a short distance from the road. When men and beast meet so suddenly the animal usually takes flight. Here it was different. The animals were ignoring Hugo completely and closing in on him still feeding. Only when Hugo

cleared his throat very loudly one of the Deer looked up long enough to get his portrait taken.

Canon EOS 1V, 4.0/300mm EF IS, 1.4x Converter, Fuji Velvia 50

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Eberhard Brunner, Alaska, USA

Who's there?

Young Brown Bears, Rainbow Creek, Alaska, USA

Eberhard was camping near a salmon river where a family of Brown Bears was staying to fish. After several days of rain and high winds it finally cleared on the sixth day. During the bad weather Eberhard had tried to stay as close as possible to the mother and her cubs and they started to trust him. After a few days the mother left her offspring to go fishing nearby. Eberhard's patience had finally paid off and he got a series of good images of the young bears. However Eberhard was concerned for the well being of the youngsters because several old bears were also hunting in the area. So he returned to Rainbow Creek in summer and found them all healthy and happy.

Nikon F100, 4.0/500mm, Tripod, Fuji Provia 100

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Jasper Doest, Netherlands

Tired

Arctic Fox, Svalbard, Norway

Over the past three years Jasper was travelling to Svalbard to photograph the Arctic Fox. This image was made on his first visit to the islands when he had only four hours before he had to leave again. After two hours of waiting the sun came finally out and with it the Arctic Fox cubs out of their burrow to explore the Arctic Tundra. Jasper watched them chase each other and engage in their play. After one hour they were exhausted and fell asleep. Jasper was waiting patiently for one of them to wake up again and finally he was rewarded with this image.

Canon EOS 10D, 2.8/300mm USM, Extension Tube EF 14, Tripod, ISO 200, f 8, 1/500 sec

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Eduardo Blanco Mendizabal, Spain

Ear Cleaning

Rabbit, Corella, Province Navarre, Spain

In the fields around Eduardo's home rabbits are very common. In late spring the youngsters come out of their burrows to explore the world. On sunny days Eduardo can watch the rabbits cleaning themselves. They are sitting at the entrance holes to their burrows cleaning their fur intensively for hours. Eduardo managed to get many images that portrait the behaviour of these cute mammals.

Canon EOS 10D, 4.5-5.6/100-400, Tripod, Hide, ISO 100, f 6.3

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Jochen Gerlach, Germany

Symbiosis

Impala and Oxpecker, Krueger National Park, South Africa

On his trips through the wildlife rich Krueger National Park Jochen regular encounters Oxpeckers searching the skin and fur of the big mammals for parasites. Both parties profit from this close relationship. The mammals get rid of blood sucking insects and the birds get an easy meal. Again and again Jochen tried to capture this relationship. But in the end he only got two images that tell the whole story before the fleeting moment was over.

Canon EOS 10D, 4.5-5.6/100-400mm at 330mm, from the car, ISO 400, f 8, 1/1000 sec

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Stefan Huwiler, Switzerland

In Company

Chamois reflection in mountain lake, Bernese Oberland, Switzerland

For many hours Stefan was on a ramble through the Bernese Oberland. In late evening when he was only a few miles away from home he had a very satisfying encounter. A Chamois had joined him on the other side of a small mountain lake. It was close to sunset and for Stefan's luck it was very calm. The Chamois was perfectly reflected in the clear water of the lake.

Nikon D2X, 2.8/70-200mm AF, ISO 100, f 8, 1/200 sec

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Roberto Bartoloni, Italy

Stretching

Cheetah Family, Masai Mara Conservation area, Kenya, Africa

In summer 2006 Roberto was following a family of Cheetahs through the Masai Mara Conservation area for several days. His aim was to capture as many images of the behaviour

of the family as possible. He observed closely how the mother showed the youngsters how to hunt, how she protected her cubs and how she played and rested with them. The mother preferred a particular place to rest and before she lay down she enjoyed a little stretching.

Canon EOS 1Ds Mark II, 2.8/300mm, ISO 160, f 4, 1/500 sec

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Erich Kuchling, Germany

Relaxing Dinner

Hare, Seewinkel, Neusiedler See, Burgenland, Austria

Erich visited the National Park Neusiedler See in May looking for some photographic opportunities. From his car he was able to watch this Hare. The animal was lying close to the ground in a field of Clover and was enjoying his meal. From time to time the Hare looked up to scan his surroundings for other gourmets who might consider taking away his meal. Erich had just the time for one shot before the finally satisfied Hare run away.

Nikon D2X, 4.0/500mm, car window frame as support, exposure compensation – 0.7 EV, ISO 200, f 6.3, 1/800 sec

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Daniel Zupanc, Austria

Family Cuddle

Barbary Macaques, Zoo Schoenbrunn, Vienna, Austria

While staying in beautiful Vienna Daniel regularly took the opportunity to visit the Zoo Schoenbrunn to take some images. For this mild winter it was an unusual cold day. Again and again the Macaques came together in small groups to cuddle and warm each other. Daniel spent many hours at the Macaque pen to capture this and other cuddly moments.

Nikon D2X, 4.0/500mm, Tripod, ISO 400, f 4, 1/250 sec

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Meethil Momaya, India

On the watch

Hanuman Langur, Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, India

Meethil has been on the prowl for two days at the Pench Tiger Reserve chasing a herd of Indian cattle through the forest. On the second day at dawn he discovered a group of Hanuman Langurs feeding up in the treetops. Not far from Meethil the alpha male sat on a

branch scanning the area, always ready to warn the group should an enemy approach. The winter sun was just about to set behind the horizon and the last beams of sunlight created a corona around the watchman's head. Meethil captured this his calm and peaceful moment with his camera.

Canon EOS 1D Mark IIN, 4.0/500mm, IS UMS, Bean Bag, TV, Exposure Compensation -1.0 EV, ISO 400, f 4, 1/200 sec

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Robert Mayer, Germany

Stilt Jumper

Decticus verrucivorus, Haunstetter Heathland, Augsburg, Bavaria, Germany

In spring Robert regularly visits the meadows of the Haunstetter Heathland near Augsburg. At a height of 1.66 meter Robert is always very close to his macro subjects. Through his viewfinder Robert was watching two Common Blues mating when a upcoming breeze made him stop his photography. Waiting for the calm conditions to return he started looking around and discovered this amusing "Stilt Jumper". He had to carefully move his tripod to properly frame the Decticus verrucivorus. He managed to take five shots before the stalks were abandoned.

Canon EOS 5, Sigma 3.5/180mm Macro, Tripod, Fuji Velvia 50, f 5.6, 1/60 sec

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Gergely Szabolcs, Hungary

Piano Player

Mosquito, Timar, Hungary

In spring Gergely was visiting his grandparents who are living near the village of Timar at the edge of the forest. Every year the forest gets flooded by the little river Tisza and often the waters stay for the whole summer. The ideal place for Mosquitoes their offspring to raise. Gergely took this image of a Mosquito in his grandparent's flowering back garden. Luckily it was very calm and the sun had just set. The resulting soft light made the ideal conditions for this image of the Mosquito on the yellow flower.

Canon EOS D60, 4.0-5.6/70-300mm, Extension Tube, Tripod, Mirror Lock Up, ISO 100, f 16, 1/25 sec

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Hans-Martin Braun, Germany

Owlfly on Flower

Owlfly on Sainfoin Flower, Kaiserstuhl, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

On his way back from the Nature Photography Festival in Fuerstenfeld Hans-Martin took a little detour to the Kaiserstuhl. While Hans-Martin was looking for Green Lizards he noticed a Sainfoin flower, which was visited by Owlflys again and again. His attempts to photograph this beautiful animals, however failed because of his own movements. Only when he had covered the whole plant in foil just leaving out one panicle, stayed completely still and kept this one flower in focus, Hans-Martin managed to get this image.

Canon EOS 5D, 3.5/180mm Macro, Tripod, Manual Focus, Exposure Compensation -2/3 EV, ISO 200, f 7.1, 1/500 sec

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Uwe Hilsmann, Germany

Hoarfrost Dress

Darter Female, Dortmund, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

In November 2005 the nights were often cold and clear in the Ruhr area and forming beautiful hoarfrost. Almost every morning Uwe was out and visited the same meadow beside a small lake. He was moving carefully against the light of the rising sun and was able to capture beautiful images over and over again. One morning he discovered a strange shape on a dead plant. On close inspection he realized it was a Darter. The dragonfly was covered in hoarfrost and Uwe took this opportunity to take some images. When he returned later in the afternoon the insect was gone.

Canon EOS 600, Sigma 3.5/180mm APO Macro, Tripod, Fuji Sensia 100, f 16, 1/30 sec

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Bernhard Brautlecht, Germany

Jump

Longhorn Beetle, Ossa Mountains, Greece

Bernhard had promised himself to capture insects in flight, especially the Longhorn Beetle, Europe's most beautiful beetle. Equipped with the knowledge of a specialist he went out to find the insect in the area around mount Olympus in Greece. He set up his outfit for high speed photography in the field and exposed several rolls of film. Only after developing the films he found out that he had managed to capture this amazing image of a Longhorn Beetle.

Rollei 6008i, 4.5/150mm, Bellows, Tripod, 4 Flashlights Nikon SB 26, Motion Sensor, Fuji Provia 100

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Sergio Vaccher, Italy

Look me in the Eye

Hoverfly, Magredi Friulani Friuli Venezia, Giulia Region, Italy

Sergio has been interested in the fast life of these small insects for a long time. His aim was to capture Hoverflies in flight, which proved to be extremely difficult. After uncountable attempts he discovered a suitable place on a leaf of grass where the insects always stayed quietly for a few moments before they quickly took to the air. Here Sergio positioned his camera and started waiting for the right moment to take his picture. He knew he would have only a few seconds to press the trigger.

Canon EOS 10D, 3.5/180mm Macro, Tripod, ISO 100, f 3.5, 1/250 sec

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Guenther Gailberger, Austria

Dangerous Love

Mantis, Nature Reserve Dobratsch/Schuett, Kaernten, Austria

At one of his favorite places for Guenther used the last autumn days to make his photographic dreams reality. One soft evening he discovered a pair of mating Mantis, which had become more widespread again in Austria. The spectacular colours of a sunset provided the perfect background for Guenther's work. A strong wind however only allowed only a few satisfying exposures.

Nikon D2X, 4.0/200mm, Tripod, Mirror Lock Up, ISO 250, f 5, 1/15 sec

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Elisabeth Schmidbauer, Germany

Rest on Poppy

Oak Bush-cricket on Poppy Flower, Ingolstadt, Bavaria, Germany

Near Elisabeth's hometown lay several disused train tracks. Elisabeth likes to go there for a stroll because she likes the fact that nature quickly claims back places that are no longer used by men. Especially the red Poppy flowers are an eye catcher. And quite often Elisabeth discovers resting insects on the delicate flowers. On an afternoon last year in late autumn she found this Oak Bush-cricket. The strong contrast between the red and green colours make this image special.

Canon EOS 20D, 2.8/100mm Macro, Exposure Compensation -1 EV, ISO 200, f 11, 1/30 sec

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Harald Farkaschovsky, Germany

Poppy Fly

Fly on Poppy, Munich, Bavaria, Germany

Harald was told about a huge field of Poppies near the BUGA in Munich. Without further ado he went there. When he arrived there the sun was just setting and flooded the red carpet with beautiful light. Harald noticed that flies regularly landed on still closed or faded Poppy capsules. He became lucky when one fly landed on the flower he was just photographing. Harald used an extension tube with his telephoto lens to leave the insect undisturbed.

Canon EOS 20D, 4.0/500mm L IS, Tripod, Extension Tube, ISO 400, f 4, 1/60 sec

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Roberto Gonzalez Luis, Spain

Ghost

Mantis, near Artziniega, Alava, Northern Spain

On a cold winter morning Roberto wanted to take some shots of his son and the songbirds in his back garden. Suddenly his son appeared with a strange insect in his hands and proudly presented it to his father. Roberto's son had found the Mantis in the shrubs of the garden. Together they brought the insect to an old, rusty fence and Roberto took some pictures.

Canon EOS50, 4.0/300mm, Extension Tube, Tripod, 3 Flashlights, Fuji Sensia 100, f 11, 1/125 sec

Page 85

Meethil Momaya, India

Light Arch

Feather of a bird, Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary, Jamnagar, Gujarat, India

Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is an important wintering place for sea birds as well as for freshwater birds. Therefore it is possible to watch a huge amount of different species at the sanctuary. Meethil was taking photographs at the salt plain as the day drew to a close. As he was watching the now empty plain he saw the many legacies of the countless birds that had been staying here today. He noticed a tiny almost fluffy feather that was lying in a puddle. The last golden light of the evening illuminated the feather and its reflection in the water.

Nikon D100, Sigma 4.0/500mm EX HSM, TV, Exposure Compensation – 0.5 EV, ISO 200, f 9.5, 1/125 sec

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Eduardo Blanco Mendizabal, Spain

Pinions

Bee Eater feather, Alfaro, Spain

Eduardo found this Bee Eater that had been killed by traffic on the road. The sun brought out the beauty of the feathers. Despite the sad fact that the bird was dead, Eduardo was amazed by the colourful feathers and he just had to capture these shapes and colours with the camera.

Canon 30D, 2.8/100mm Macro, Tripod, ISO 100, f 8, 1/6 sec

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Ottorino Mazzucco, Italy

Caught in the Web

Common Jay feather in the web of a Garden Spider, Dolomiti, Bellunesi National Park, Italy

One summer afternoon Ottorino went out to take some pictures in the mountains near his log cabin. The rain had just stopped and the raindrops in the meadows were in the sunlight glittering. Ottorio discovered this Common Jay feather caught in a spider's net. Hidden below in the grass the owner of the net was waiting for prey. Ottorio gently touched the net and the spider immediately crawled to her net to catch the supposed prey.

Canon EOS 5, Sigma 2.8/105mm Macro, Tripod, Fuji Velvia 50, f 11, 1/15 sec

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Eduard Lux, Germany

Arranged

Bird of prey feathers, Steinenbronn, Germany

In a pine forest on an autumn afternoon Eduard discovered a huge amount of feathers. Around the same time he got a tip from his photo club regarding this competition and this new category. So he went out with his field camera and digital SLR body to capture this image. The modern digital body was used on the field camera instead of a film back so Eduard was able to use the Scheinpflug effect to increase depth of field. He placed the feathers on a lichen covered tree trunk to achieve a maximum of 7 cm depth. For light he used two halogen lamps.

Technika 13x18 made 1948, Apo Ronar 9.0/240mm, Canon EOS 5D, 2 Halogen Lamps, ISO 100, f 22, 1/6 sec

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Heiko Roemisch, Germany

Feather of a Dove

Home-Studio, Reinbek by Hamburg, Germany

Heiko had a particular composition in mind and new that it could only be realized in a studio setting. It wasn't easy setting up the tripod and lighting correctly. Positioning the feather and framing it proved to be the next problem and it took patience to get in right. Heikos aim was to make each single line in the feather's structure visible without casting a shadow on the water droplet.

Nikon D2X, 2.8/105mm Micro, Tripod, ISO 100, f 14, 1/4 sec

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Daniel Zupanc, Austria

Feather Fan

Bird Park at Turnersee/Lake Turner, Kaernten, Austria

This image was made at the Bird Park "Turnersee" in Kaernten. The Peafowl in the open-air enclosure were taking a sunbath close to the fence. This gave Daniel the chance to get this close-up image of a Peafowl's tail feather.

Nikon F5, 1.8/105mm Micro, Tripod, Fuji Velvia 50, f 16

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Armin Paul-Proessler, Germany

Out of Turn

Yellow –Crowned Night-Heron, Weedon Island, Florida, USA

While being on a business trip in Florida Armin used the weekends to explore the area with his camera. Weedon Bay is a small nature reserve at Tampa Bay where many different species of herons including the Yellow –Crowned Night-Heron, Little Egret and Spoonbills can be found. This tiny Yellow –Crowned Night-Heron wasn't shy at all and let Armin photograph away. Armin was especially amused by the little out of turn feather on his wing.

Minolta Dynax 7D, 4.5/400mm, Tripod

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Andreas Held, Germany

Big Comb for Small Feathers

White Pelican, Zoo Wuppertal, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

When Andreas arrived at the White Pelican enclosure, the birds were very busy cleaning themselves. He was fascinated how these birds with their huge bills were able to carefully and accurately clean even the tiniest of feathers. This can't be easy with such a huge "comb". To draw attention to the contrast between the mighty bill and delicate feathers, Andreas choose a tight composition that concentrated on the shape of the feathers and the bill working on them. Only this one image turned out like Andreas had imagined.

Canon EOS 20D, 4.0-5.6/100-400mm, Monopod, ISO 200, f 6.3, 1/125 sec

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Sepp Hackhofer, Italy

Feather on Moss

Krahmoos, St. Lorenz, Southern Tyrol, Italy

As many other photographers, Sepp has some special places where he enjoys his photography most. The Krahmoos, a protected bog area in the middle of Foehrenwald near Bruneck, is such a place. The soft ground requires special caution if you want to avoid destroying the uniqueness of a place like this. Sepp walks gently; looking for images, listening to the sounds of the forest und usually discovers something special. Like on this September morning when he found this small feather of a Grey Heron caught gently in the moss.

Canon EOS 1N, 2.8/100mm Macro EF USM, Tripod, Fuji Velvia 50

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Fritz Poelking, Germany

Cleaning Session

Osprey, Sanibel Island, Florida, USA

One of his many photo projects is the subject "Osprey". Many times Fritz has travelled to all regions of Florida to closely observe and photograph this bird of prey. The small island of Sanibel in the Gulf of Mexico is still a hot tip among nature photographers and a haven for the Osprey. The bird is used to human presence and let Fritz watch closely while cleaning his feathers. Every single feather is carefully cleaned and put back into place.

Canon EOS 1V, 4.0/500mm, Tripod, Fuji Sensia 100

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Jo Bogaerts, Netherlands

Thunderstorm over Grootkolk

Grootkolk, Kgalagadi Transfontier Park, Kalahari, South Africa

Last January Jo went on a roundtrip through the beautiful Grootkolk region, a part of the Kalahari. The weather during this season is unpredictable; no one can foresee what weather the photographer will encounter. Often thunderstorms occur, quick and unexpected, strong and intense. After only one or two hours all is over again. It was a challenge for Jo to capture this moment. But all came together perfectly: The early morning light, dramatic clouds, lightning and a strong, warm light over the land.

Nikon D2X, 3.5/15mm, Bean Bag on car window, ISO 100, f 3.5, 1/8 sec

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Guenter Ziesler, Germany

Storm in the West

Coastal region Snaefellsnes National Park, Snaefellsnes Peninsula, Iceland

It was stormy and overcast all day. Only towards evening the wind eased and the clouds opened up from time to time. For a few moments only the sun found its way through the clouds to the rough sea. The contrast between the wild surf together with the glittering sunbeams and the black volcanic coast makes this image special for Guenter.

Nikon F5, 2.8/80-200mm, Tripod, Fuji Velvia 50, f 8.1, 1/125 sec

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Erlend Haarberg, Norway

Winterstorm

Reindeer, Forollhogna National Park, Norway

During the winter months days are short in Norway, the sun barely rises over the horizon. This was the situation in January when Erlend made this image. It was a stormy winter day. Erlend discovered the Reindeers around noon up in the mountains. Because the animals are used to the arctic temperatures and gale force winds they were less affected by the storm than the photographer. At 18 degrees below zero it was a tough undertaking that Erlend remembers very well.

Nikon F5, 5.6/500mm, Tripod, Velvia 50

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Andreas Volz, Germany

Storm Tide

Sardinia's East Coast, Italy

The east coast with its red porphyry stone is a must see when visiting Sardinia. When Andreas arrived in the area he was surprised by the first autumn storm. The coast was battered by gale force winds and heavy rain. The force of the elements fascinated Andreas but the conditions were difficult. Sea spray that filled the air and the constant rain were a danger to the photographic equipment. When the rain stopped for a moment Andreas managed this shot of the roaring surf breaking on the red boulders.

Canon EOS 5D, 4.0/17-40mm EF USM, Tripod, ISO 50, f 16, 1/8 sec

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Jo Bogaerts, Netherlands

Storm over the Kalahari

Kalahari, South Africa

Rain is very rare in South Africa's Kalahari region. A storm in the Kalahari usually is a combination of hot winds and dust storms just like Jo had documented in this shot. This time however it also started to rain. Close to sunset the dust and wind were joined by heavy showers, dramatic clouds and strong colours. Jo witnessed a very rare side of the Kalahari. He was happy with the resulting images and the Kalahari enjoyed the rare water.

Nikon D2X, 3.5/15mm, Bean Bag on car window, ISO 100, f 7.1, 1/125 sec

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Prof. Sepp Friedhuber, Austria

Arctic Storm

Champ Island, Franz Joseph Country, Russian Arctic

For many years Sepp has been working as a scientific lecturer on a Russian icebreaker in the arctic. Champ Island is a regular anchorage. Sepp knows of the changeable weather during the arctic summer and the low sun produces an amazing play of light over and over again. The tripod had already been set up when the sun broke through the clouds for only a few moments. No one else saw this spectacle and for Sepp it was only a tilt with the camera to capture the moment.

Canon EOS 10D, 3.5-5.6/28-300mm, Tripod, ISO 200

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Jari Kostet, Finland

Storm in the Draken Mountains

Draken Mountains, Mpumalanga, South Africa

Jari visited the Draken Mountains while being on a roundtrip through South Africa. A storm brews, when he approached the mountains. Jari waited in the car and watched the thunderstorm close in on the mountains. Lightning struck and the sky turned black. Jari tried to capture the bolts of lightning that struck the mountain again and again. It wasn't easy pressing the shutter in time and Jari only got one image out of forty attempts.

Canon EOS 3, 4.5-5.6/100-400mm IS, Fuji Sensia 100, f 5.6, 1/30 sec

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Fritz Poelking, Germany

Emperor Penguins in a snowstorm

Dawson-Lambton Glacier, Antarctica

On one of his journeys to Antarctica, Fritz started an extraordinary experiment. He wanted to find out how Emperor Penguins felt during a snowstorm and he also wanted to capture it with the camera. Therefore he had to stay close to the birds come what may. So it happened that Fritz was buried in snow during the blizzard just as the penguins in the image. The photographer's comment: It's no fun taking images while lying on the ground at 20 degrees below zero during a snowstorm.

Nikon F5, 2.8/70-200mm, Hand Held, Fuji Sensia 100

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Dieter Schweitzer, Germany

Storm over hot Earth

Hot Spring Blahver, Hveravellir, Iceland's Uplands

The unique light and the volcanic activities are two reasons for Dieter's many journeys to Iceland. These two components are united in this picture. The hot springs at Hveravellir are a heaven for taking images like this. Hot springs are surrounded by both volcanic rock and glaciers offer countless photographic possibilities. To achieve a long exposure time Dieter was using a strong neutral density filter. This resulted in the rising hot steam to dissolve while the sediments on the spring's edge are clearly visible.

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Rene Winter, Germany

Cloud Roller

Cumulonimbus Arcus, Fahner Hoehe near Eschenbergen, Townland Gotha, Thuringen, Germany

Rene has specialized in photographing weather phenomena. Whenever the sky turns dark, lightning strikes or the wind turns to gale, Rene is outside with his camera. This threatening cloud did built up last summer near his hometown. In only ten minutes Rene had shot more than one hundred frames. The last ones he shot close to his car that was waiting with doors wide open and the engine running, always ready to get away quickly.

Konica Minolta Dynax 7D, 3.5-5.6/17-70mm AF DT, ISO 200, f 5.6, 1/125 sec

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Mart Smit, aged 15, Netherlands

Curious

Squirrel, Ratanger, Norway

In the far north of Norway Mart had built himself a hide. In front of it he put twigs and an old tree trunk, hoping that it would attract animals. On the first day he had to show a lot of patience. Only a few birds visited him. On the second day however a squirrel showed up and was looking very curiously in Mart's direction. This was the moment he pressed the shutter.

Canon EOS 20D, 2.8/300mm, 1.4x Converter, Tripod, ISO 400, f 4.0, 1/400 sec

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Alberto Fantoni, aged 13, Italy

Scuffle

Fighting Alpine Ibex, Gran Paradiso National Park, Italy

Each year Alberto spends a week with his father and brother at the Vittorio Sella cabin in the Gran Paradiso National Park. It's not easy to encounter fighting Ibex in summer. Mating season, when the male animals are fighting for the female, starts much later in the year. From time to time however you can see young males scuffle to get ready for the serious fights when the males will have to impress the female animals. Alberto was lucky to come across such a training session and took his chance to take some pictures.

Nikon D70 S, 4.0/300mm, Tripod, ISO 400

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Ville Heikkinen, aged 13, Finland

Winter Meal

Fieldfare in Rowan, Kouvola, Finland

It was a beautiful but freezing day in November when Ville went out into the forest with his father to take some pictures. Last year the Rowan trees had produced plenty of berries, more than enough food for the birds during the winter months. Ville discovered one tree that was visited by a flock of Fieldfares. He took many pictures. Only later when he was checking the images at home on his computer he realized that one bird had been throwing the berries into the air. This image became his favourite.

Nikon D70, 4.0/100-300mm APO EX HSM, ISO 400, f 5.6, 1/2000 sec

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Atte Hannula, aged 17, Finland

Golden Flower

Yellow Loosestrife, Lake Kyyroesjarvi, Ikaalinen, Finland

In summer the sun rises very early in Finland. So Atte woke at half past four in the morning and was on his way to Lake Kyyroesjarvi. Some days ago he had noticed a beautiful Yellow Loosestrife at the lakeshore. Luckily the mosquitoes that can make photography a living hell had been gone. Atte could make his composition in peace and try different angles. He tried to keep the background calm and combine the warm colours of plant and sky into the perfect image.

Canon EOS 20D, Sigma 2.8/105mm AF EX DG, ISO 200, f 4, 1/60 sec

Page 113

Max Eicke, aged 17, Germany

World of Droplets

Water Droplets on Feather, Tuebingen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

This image was made on a dark rainy November day at Max's garden. He was bored and decided to try out his new digital camera. The feathers he had found in the forest were covered in countless water droplets after the rain. He set up his tripod exactly above the feather and experimented with his macro zoom lens until he had found the right composition. His aim was to reduce the feather and droplets to abstract shapes and forms.

Canon EOS 20D, Sigma 4.0-5.6/70-300mm, Tripod, ISO 100, f 25, 1 sec