

Feedback for Gladstone Camera Club

2018 March Colour: Nature

Oh dear, the Nature category in Photography Competition has a great raft of rules that apply. And I am told you have been given these. The principal issue for a nature shot is the “story” which is told in the photo – many of mine have been rejected for being having no tale told in the image. So keep in mind, it is not just the quality of the image for nature – it is the behaviour, or activity, or interaction with the environment which gets the highest accolades.

Title	Feedback	Score
Afternoon Glide	The afternoon sun gives this image lovely warmth. Good capture, good technically, sharp, perfectly exposed, but without much story.	
Back with a Snack	Wonderful image of a tern by the sea, intent on its purpose. The fish has added behaviour to the image, given it a story of hunting and gathering, or even perhaps breeding. Technically excellent too. Well done.	Merit
Ocean Dusk	This is a fine time exposure, with subtle sunset colours and good detail in the foreground. Composition is appealing, and the movement in the waves adds interest to the image. Not much in the way of story though. Perhaps if there had been something more in the foreground for the viewer to wonder about, a story could have been imagined?	
Peaceful	I appreciate your seascape shot, with its understated colours of sea and sky, but the driftwood log in the foreground is so dark and dominant in comparison that it steals attention away from the rest of the image. I do like how the image has been divided into thirds horizontally though.	
Bath Time	The little silvereyes are well captured, with good choice of speed (frozen water droplet movement) and aperture (narrow depth of field). Great story of bathing behaviour. Consider a crop to remove some of the sand area above the action. A landscape pano (16x9) unfortunately puts your water edge at the centre of the image. If you had room on your original image, one third sand and two thirds water would be ideal.	Merit
New Arrival	Your image is very graphic and almost minimalist. The lighting is lovely, and your camera settings have done justice to the scene. Compositonally, if it were my image, I would crop the left side to move the larger mangrove to the thirds line, and to move the three subjects away from the centre of the image, whilst keeping the negative space on the right side of the image – it balances the image more.	
Poser	Your water dragon is a fine fellow, splendidly coloured, sharp and holding an interesting pose. Your crop very strange though. Since there must be some reason for cutting off his feet and tail, why not crop further to put the animal back into a more pleasing position within in the	

	image. Try leaving only the shoulder and head in a square frame.	
Ready to Rumble	This is a marvellous shot. Great interaction from the two subjects, perfect speed and exposure, and obvious story of squabble or intention between the birds. Brilliant.	Honour
Flying Free	The gull is sharp, well exposed to contrast against the dark sea background and pleasantly composed with looking room in front of the subject. You have done well to get detail in to the white feathers in that lighting situation. The behaviour is flight, and the gull is looking down, as if hunting, but the image would be helped if there was more story there.	
Hitching a Ride	Mwhahaha. That funny. Top points for engaging me emotionally. But it's also an image filled with story possibilities. The dragon fly is courting disaster by sitting there, and will probably be a tortoise meal very soon. For improvement, try a crop to square, and remove some of the less interesting right side of your image.	Highly Commended
Rainbow Bee-Eater	It's good, it's attention-grabbing, it's overexposed about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an F-stop. I suggest a crop to remove some of the right side of the image. That would concentrate the viewers' attention on the bird as well as improve your overall composition.	
Moorhen	That is a young one. Your image has good story because of the youth of the chick, and the tentative step it is taking onto that waterlily pad. Sharp as a tack, with impressive detail in the eye and feathers, as well as perfectly exposed. My suggestion for improvement is to remove the right side of the image up to and including the waterlily bud. That would leave looking room for the juvenile moorhen as well as taking away the brighter coloured distraction of the bud.	Merit
Peek a Boo	WOW, look at that detail. Your image is excellent technically and impressive as a subject. I'm struggling to find a story though.	Highly Commended
Sneaky Crab	Another WOW shot, extra points this time for degree of difficulty. Crabs are so flighty – I'm feeling jealous, and I'm wondering how you glued it into position??? Your camera settings are perfect for the job – look at those eyes. So sharp. The behaviour, about to disappear down a hole, is very accurate to the story of crabs. Well done.	Honour
VH9A4799	It's a pleasant shot, but there is not a lot of story. The strong diagonal of the leaf of grass contributes to good composition, and the close crop concentrates the eye on the dragonfly, but it is almost too close, as the wings could use a bit more room.	
VH9A4812	You know what – this is actually a good shot, and I love the composition with the subject well defined by both colour difference and position in the frame. But <i>Rhinella marina</i>	

	is a feral animal and as such, is disqualified under the rules of nature photography. Disappointing, isn't it?	
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Thanks for asking me to provide feedback. Would you do me the same courtesy? Tell me about your reaction to my image assessment.

- 1) One (or more) good aspect?
- 2) One (or more) thing that jarred or could be improved?
- 3) Were my assessments consistent within this group of images or within this subject?

Thanks

Fran McFadzen