



Photographing Birds: Tips & Tricks Presentation by Alan Murphy

BY TIM KATHKA

If you have ever attempted to photograph birds in natural settings, meeting PSA rules for nature, and come away frustrated with your results, please make a point to attend our meeting February 10. Our speaker will be Alan Murphy, a nature photographer based in Evergreen, Colorado. Alan will show his portfolio of beautiful bird photos, but most importantly, he has tricks to attract his photo subjects and will show us exactly how we can follow his methods to improve our success rate.

Alan's Bio:

Growing up surrounded by the beautiful countryside of both Ireland and England, at a young age, Alan developed a love for birds and nature. He was a quick study of birds, and upon immigrating to the United States in the early 1980's, Alan was thrilled to find many new species and their habitats. After studying field guides, he too wanted to capture similar images, and so began his quest to learn photography. Much of Alan's spare time became devoted to chasing the perfect shot. His artistic background cultivated his creative use of perches with uncluttered backgrounds and excellent lighting. Over the years this became Alan's signature: gorgeous perches paired with beautiful birds showcasing their natural environment with simple elegance.

What began as a peaceful and passionate hobby, Alan has refined into a photography business. Besides the numerous photographs he loves to acquire, Alan is equally enthusiastic about leading workshops and teaching other photographers how to capture the perfect image. He is an award-winning photographer with numerous publications, a Nikon Professional Service Member, a Wimberley Professional Service Member, and the author of several e-books and educational videos. He enjoys traveling the country, speaking at festivals and photo clubs. Alan and his wife, Kim live in Evergreen, Colorado. They like to travel domestically and abroad and enjoy nature and their rescue dogs.

For more information Alan and his upcoming workshops and to view his galleries, go to

<https://www.alanmurphyphotography.com/>

Club Meetings

Monthly club meetings are hybrid in-person plus Zoom; the Third Monday Review session is online only. *No pass code is needed for the online meetings*

Monday, February 10 Monthly Club Meeting

Trinity United Methodist Church
801 Cleveland Avenue, Loveland
Social time 6:00 PM

Meeting 6:30–8:30 PM

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93226580276?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93226580276?pwd=eWxtbVYzTGpWbWlYY3lscGNwbWZRdz09)

[j/93226580276?pwd=eWxtbVYzTGpWbWlYY3lscGNwbWZRdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93226580276?pwd=eWxtbVYzTGpWbWlYY3lscGNwbWZRdz09)

Monday, February 17 Third Monday Photo Review

6:30–8:30 PM

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95087721084?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95087721084?pwd=eXlMndWenQyaCt6WUV6RmpenlWdz09)

[j/95087721084?pwd=eXlMndWenQyaCt6WUV6RmpenlWdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95087721084?pwd=eXlMndWenQyaCt6WUV6RmpenlWdz09)

Tuesday, March 4 LPS Board Meeting

Perkins Restaurant
2222 W. Eisenhower, Loveland
6:30 PM

Open to All

The LPS Board meetings are open to all members. If you are interested in seeing how your leadership team tends to club business, you are welcome to attend, although only Board members can vote.



From the Board of Directors

At the January meeting of the LPS Board of Directors, Treasurer Jen Lammey took us through the financial information for the past year and the projections for 2025 income and expenses. While projecting income is not an exact science for an organization that depends on membership dues to handle all expenses, assuming our income and expenses remain fairly steady throughout this year, we are pretty much at break-even.

One of the regular expenses that is somewhat variable is the honorarium we pay to the presenters at our meetings. We realize that the \$50 we give to the presenters is a pittance compared to what they are able to charge for workshops and large conferences, but there is not a lot of wiggle room to increase that significantly without running our budget into the red, increasing the amount of dues, or charging guests to attend our meetings, none of which we would even think about doing. The Program Committee continues to look for ways to handle the issue by including hands-on activities at some of our meetings in lieu of having a presenter, which means in those months we would not have to pay any honorarium. And we continue to have presenters who simply like sharing their expertise with us even with the minimal remuneration we are able to provide.

We do maintain a savings account, which we will probably need to tap into to purchase a new laptop for our meetings. A committee will be looking into our requirements in order to upgrade to Windows 11, to continue with our Visual Pursuits software, which runs our website and competition system, and to handle Zoom issues, and will research an affordable laptop that will meet those requirements.

Another topic discussed at the January Board meeting is a question of couples who are both members of the club. While guests are welcome at our meetings, many times both of the partners are

active photographers who want to participate in all activities of the club, including participating in our competitions and being able to submit photos for the PSA interclub competitions. The Board has voted to charge the full \$45 for the first member and \$15 for the second member. This new LPS policy will take effect immediately for the 2025 year.

The Board also discussed the spread of 9-score averages to determine participation in the competition groups. It was decided that even though the number of participants are skewed mostly to Groups 3 and 4, the alternatives to try to have a more even distribution from 2 through 5 are not workable. It should be of note to members that the 9 scores used to determine group placement need to be within a 12-month period, so if you do not submit at least 9 photos in a 12-month period, you will drop down to Group 1 until you have submitted 9 images.

Our Board meetings are open to any members to observe, and if you have any questions about club business, you are welcome and encouraged to reach out to any of the Board members.

Training for LPS Judges

At the beginning of 2025, there are 7 members who are available to serve as judges for our monthly competitions. Because we have a three-judge panel for each of the 11 competitions from January through November, these judges are judging from 4 to 6 competitions throughout the year.

Qualifications for being a judge include significant experience as a photographer; an understanding of the elements that comprise a well composed photograph, the ability to recognize aspects of an image that could be improved, and the ability to explain their critiques. It also involves the time to examine 50 to 75 photos and provide scores and ranking within a time frame of 3 days, plus being available to break ties if necessary.

Three more members have indicated an interest in going through our judge training process. The Board indicated a willingness to also use non-member judges who meet the qualifications and will go through the LPS training process.

The Board has set up a committee to take a look at the current judge training process and then plans to take all judges, current and prospective, through the training to become familiar with a more consistent method of scoring our competition photos.

If you feel you are adequately qualified to join the judge roster and would like more information, contact Competition Chair Rob Huffsmith, rhuffsmith2@gmail.com.

LPS Board of Directors

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VICE PRESIDENT

— MALCOLM PATTEN

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP

— JEN LAMMEY

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— ARDETH CARLSON

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MIKE TESKA

PROJECTIONIST

— MALCOLM PATTEN

MENTOR

—MIKE WILCOX

PSA REPRESENTATIVE

—LISA SCHNELZER

SCHOLARSHIPS

— RUTH SPRAIN

NEWSLETTER

—ARDETH CARLSON

FIELD TRIPS

—JIM ROODE

PUBLICITY

—KEVIN FETTIG

FORUM DIRECTOR

—INGRID JACOBSON

GREETING HOST

—BILL LUNDQUIST

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 7604
Loveland, CO 80537

Members-Only Facebook Group

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/237033251716/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/237033251716/)

Public Facebook Page

[https://www.facebook.com/
LovelandPhotographicSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/LovelandPhotographicSociety/)

Competition Corner

Submitting Pictures for Competition or the Photo Review Session

- Log on to the LPS website
- Mouse over the **Competitions** dropdown on the Home Page.
- Select
Submit images to a Competition
- Select the Competition category or the Third Monday Photo Review
- At the bottom of the screen, click on **Upload images into the Competition.**
- Then click on the button **Select** which will open a window on your computer to select an image.
- Click on **Save Images and Proceed to Edit Page.**
- Type in a title and click on **Save any changes and return to original page.**
- You can replace any photo, up to the submission deadline, if desired.

The monthly competitions allow a single image per category. The photo review session allows up to three images.

New Members

We are happy to welcome new member Misty Sovereign

Monthly Competitions

Competition Categories

Open Projected (included every month)
Monochrome (rotating category)
Monthly Topic: Winter Wonderland

Submission Deadline

Before Midnight Monday, February 3

Please keep the judging criteria in mind:

Impact and Viewer Interest—"Wow" factor is the nebulous quality where an image "pops." This subjective aspect of judging should not preempt the technical or composition aspects of an image.

Composition—Good composition is a pleasing arrangement of the elements in an image. There are many guidelines for good composition that judges may consider.

Technical Quality—This includes sharpness, focus, color, tonal scale, contrast, appropriate depth of field and other qualities. Consideration is also given for the effect the photographer was trying to achieve such as high key, multiple exposure, or selective focus.

Monthly Topics—The subject matter should be related in some manner to the topic. While there are no formal deductions or penalties, judges may reduce their overall score if they feel the image does not align with the monthly topic. With that said, creative interpretation is encouraged, except in categories with specific rules such as monochrome.

Open Projected—The image must begin as a photograph. From there, it is up to you. Any photograph may be entered in the Open Projected category.

February Competition Groups

Participation in a group is determined by the average of the member's 9 previous LPS competition scores. Here are the groups for the February competition:

Group 5—Max Coopwood, Dan O'Donnell, Ed Ogle, J.R. Schnelzer, Lisa Schnelzer, Jeff Stephenson

Group 4—Gerald Baumann, Ardeth Carlson, Tim Hitchcock, Robert Huffsmith, Tim Kathka, Malcolm Patten, Alan Schuppan, Ruth Sprain, Mike Teska, Guy Wagner

Group 3—Jenny Anderson, Kevin Clarke, Kevin Fettig, Kurt Flock, Jerre Johnson, Rich Krebs, Bob McDonnell, Octavio Noda, Laurie Paulik, Josemaria Quera

Group 2—Jim Roode, Wayne Snodderly, Dave Van Riper

All other members will compete in Group 1 until the member has 9 submitted images within a 12-month period that reach an averaged score for a different group. An individual member's competition group might vary from month to month.

One Best of Show and 1 or more Awards of Merit will be given in Groups 2-5; in order to receive an award for a competition, an image must receive a score of 18 or above.

Group Range of 9-Score Averages

Group 5 > 22.3
Group 4 <= 22.3
Group 3 <= 21.3
Group 2 <= 20.0
Group 1 <= 18.6

2025 Competition Topics

Specific assignments are to be determined on a month-by-month basis; these are the topics for the year, listed alphabetically:

Cityscapes
Down on the Farm
Fall Spectacular
Focus on Faces
Leading Lines
Long Exposure Photography
Macro Images
Panoramic Images
Street Photography

LPS January Winners

All of the photos can be viewed on the LPS website under Competition Results. Select a competition and check the box "Display All." Click on an individual photo for an enlarged image and to see critiques, if any.



BOS Topic, Group 5
Jeff Stephenson



BOS Topic, Group 4
Gerald Baumann



BOS Topic, Group 3
Mike Teska



AOM Topic, Group 5
Lisa Schnelzer



AOM Topic, Group 4
Laurie Paulik



AOM Topic, Group 3
Bob McDonnell



BOS Travel, Group 5
Lisa Schnelzer



BOS Travel, Group 4
Malcolm Patten



BOS Travel, Group 3
Mike Teska



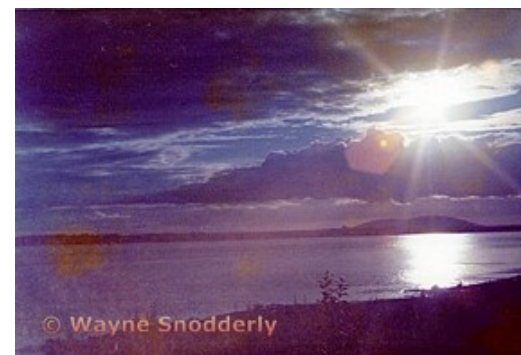
AOM Travel, Group 5
Ardeth Carlson



AOM Travel, Group 4
Tim Kathka



AOM Travel, Group 3
Kurt Flock



BOS Travel, Group 2
Wayne Snodderly



BOS Open, Group 5
Max Coopwood



BOS Open, Group 4
Ruth Sprain



BOS Open, Group 3
Kurt Flock



AOM Open, Group 5
Dan O'Donnell



AOM Open, Group 4
Tim Kathka



AOM Open, Group 3
Mike Teska



BOS Open, Group 2
Wayne Snodderly

PSA Interclub Competitions

LPS is a member club of the Photographic Society of America and participates in four divisions of interclub competition: Nature, Photojournalism, Print, and Travel. There are three rounds of competition per season, with deadlines on November 15, February 15, and April 15.

LPS members who are interested in having their photos considered for our club's submissions to a PSA interclub competition can contact the LPS rep for more details.

NATURE DIVISION:

Dan O'Donnell, LPS Rep
djod@me.com

Nature Division (ND) image guidelines can be found at <https://psa-photo.org/page/nature>. Dan is looking for images that illustrate an interesting behavior or a unique point of view, not just a landscape or wildlife that is in good focus! Storytelling is an important part of the image. Maximum image size is 1920x1080 pixels.

PHOTOJOURNALISM DIVISION:

Ardeth Carlson, LPS Rep
ardeth.carlson@gmail.com

Information about the Photojournalism Division (PJD) and guidelines for photojournalism images can be found at <https://psa-photo.org/page/photojournalism>. Ardeth is looking for photos that contain informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world. The image should contain a strong visual story. Maximum image size is 1920x1080 pixels.

PICTORIAL PRINT DIVISION:

Lisa Schnelzer, LPS Rep
western-exposure@hotmail.com

The five image categories in the Pictorial Print Division (PPD) are: Small Color, Large Color, Small Monochrome, Large Monochrome, and Creative Altered Reality. For further information regarding submissions, contact Lisa.

TRAVEL DIVISION:
Rich Krebs, LPS Rep
rkrebs318@gmail.com

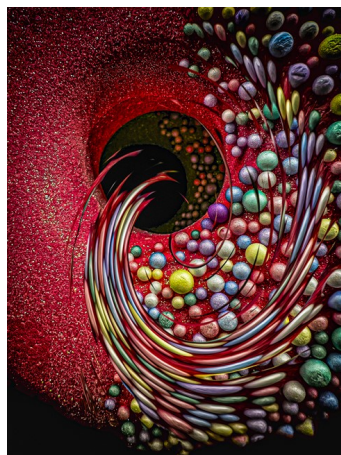
A definition of a travel photo and a PDF of the Travel Division (PTD) guidelines can be found at <https://psa-photo.org/page/photo-travel>. Rich would like images that show characteristic features of a place or a people. Image size should be a maximum of 1920x1080 pixels.

PSA Interclub Winning Images

The winning images in Round 1 of the PSA interclub competitions were listed in the January newsletter. Here are the winning images.



Imposing—Jeff Stephenson
1st Place, Large Monochrome Print



Donut Delight Dream
Rob Huffsmith
3rd Place, Creative Altered
Reality Print



Duck Family—Lisa Schnelzer
Honorable Mention, Nature



Delivering the Necessary Goods—Rob Huffsmith
Honorable Mention, Photojournalism



St. Catherine of Siena Chapel—Ed Ogle
Honorable Mention, Travel

Photography When You Don't Want to Go Out!

BY ARDETH CARLSON

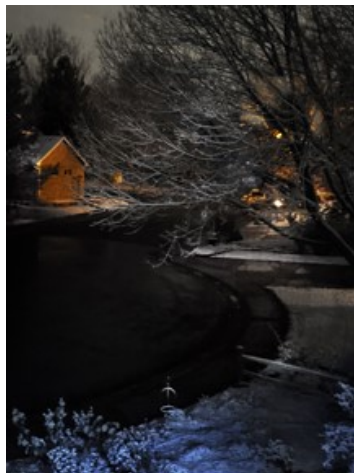
Face it—there are times when you just don't want to/can't get outside with your camera, but what else can you get interested in shooting? (No, nothing vengeful!) It can actually be a fun challenge to find interesting subjects without leaving the house.

Through the Window

One of the easiest ways to take photographs indoors without much, if any, special equipment or supplies is to shoot through your window. Sometimes what you see outside gives you an interesting perspective, and sometimes it works to include the window.

From my bedroom window I can see glimpses of the morning sun, and I like the diffused light of early morning with the soft feel of the patterned voile curtain panels.

At night, I can take atmospheric photos of our street, with its lights creating a gentle glow in the darkness.



Indoor Setups

Objects you can choose for a vignette- or still-life-style photo do not have to be *objets d'art*! Most of us have more flower vases than we can count, and if not, do like LPS member Max Coopwood does and visit your local thrift store to find some really unique colors and shapes!

You can also check out your garage workshop for items with interesting shapes and textures or your kitchen drawers or pantry shelves. Food makes a great subject and can be arranged in many different ways. Consider both high-key and low-key styles of lighting, and try shooting from different angles.



Composites

I am a bit of a hoarder when it comes to keeping a lot of photographs that I never post, but someday they come in really handy for composites! If you are not experienced with post processing, this might seem more daunting, but becoming familiar with using layers will really add to your photography toolbox. And if you are bored, this is a really fun way to just play!



*Cabbage + Rabbit
+ AI-generated
beret =
Little Peter Rabbit*



Women's Winter Photography Conference

By ARDETH CARLSON

What: A special conference for women photographers

When: February 6-9, 2025

Where: Estes Park, Colorado

A message from organizers Jeanie, Martha, and Shanda: "Have you ever wanted a stronger community of women to talk photography with? Have you ever wished you had someone to photograph with? Have you ever been nervous to venture out on your own in the early morning and after sunset? Have you ever felt stuck with learning or creativity in photography? We hear you.

"Our goal is to create a comfortable space for everyone to be inspired, share challenges, and learn more about our craft, whether you are a hobbyist or professional. We invite you to join us in Estes Park, Colorado, this February for a unique opportunity."

After a welcoming reception and dinner on Thursday, some of the leading women nature photographers will be giving presentations over the next three days of the conference. The conference hotel is the Holiday Inn, and registrants are given a 10% discount or are also welcome to stay at a different hotel.

For complete information about the schedule and a list of speakers and their bios, go to <https://www.outdoorphotoalliance.com/womens-photography-conference>.

I have registered for the conference, and if you are interested in sharing a ride to Estes Park, contact me. If you know of other women photographers who would be interested in this wonderful opportunity, please share this information.

Ladies, treat yourself to an amazing time learning and being inspired.

Sharing Your Photos

If you use the subscription Adobe Photoshop CC, you can take advantage of their Adobe Portfolio feature. Examples of portfolio layouts can help you get started. Having your own portfolio gives you a link to provide on social media sites or give to people who are interested in seeing your work.

Another way to share photos is on Flickr.com. You can set up a free account or pay for an annual "Pro" subscription. Either way, you can receive comments on your photos and participate in various challenges such as Crazy Tuesday and Flickr Friday. Get out there with your camera, and then don't let those photos just sit in a computer file!

ViewBug offers a free option to upload your photos and view the photos of other photographers. There are also several subscription options. There are always multiple contests to enter, with a variety of prizes, and you can earn "coins" to get discounts on purchasing items or services. The sharing is a little more complicated than with Flickr, and the contests usually have thousands of entries, so the odds of winning are somewhat low!

2025 Programs

The 2025 Program Committee consists of Tim Kathka, Ardeth Carlson, and Rich Krebs. The committee is working on the schedule for 2025 and always welcomes ideas from members for speakers at our club meetings.

We are open to suggestions for special in-person photography opportunities at our meetings, such as macro setups or meet & shoot events. It is helpful if you also have practical ideas about how to coordinate these activities.

If you have suggestions or other information for the Program Committee, you can contact Tim Kathka at tkathka@gmail.com.

Photo Challenges

Stretch your photo skills and find motivation by participating in various online photo challenges. Here are a few suggestions.

18 Fun Photography Challenges—challenge ideas to try at any time.

<https://fixthephoto.com/blog/contests/photography-challenges.html>

Flickr Challenges

Flickr.com is an online photo sharing website that includes several weekly challenge groups:

Crazy Tuesday—The challenge is posted on Tuesday, and the photo may be taken any time during the week but can only be posted on the following Tuesday. Recent challenges:

- Different objects, same color
- Reflections
- Flowers in Black & White

Friday Friday—A new challenge is posted each Friday; photo must be taken and posted by the following Thursday. Some recent challenges:

- Measure
- Mask
- Toolkit

Smile on Saturday—A new challenge is posted each Saturday; photos can have been taken at any time but cannot have been previously posted on Flickr.

PSA 365-day Challenge

If you are a member of PSA, consider joining the 365-day challenge. Some participants take photographs specifically for each daily topic; others pull from their archives for an image that fits the topic. You can jump in at any time, and there is no requirement to submit for every topic. Even though there is not an option to like or comment on photos, it is fun to see how other photographers interpret the topics, often very creatively.

Third Monday Photo Review

An excellent way to get feedback on your photos and for experienced photographers to share their knowledge is to participate in the Monday photo review sessions via Zoom on the third Monday of each month. Participants are allowed to submit three photos no later than noon of the session day. The review is mentored by Mike Wilcox, who welcomes and encourages comments and suggestions by all participants. Many members have reported that they have received a greater knowledge of photo techniques and also found it helpful to see their photos in the eyes of other photographers. Because judges of the monthly competition most often do not have time to offer critiques on all of the competition photos, the Third Monday Review provides that helpful aspect of improving our craft. Click on the link on page 1 of the newsletter to join the Zoom meeting.

Invitation to Submit an Article

The newsletter editor is always looking for material that would be of interest to our members for future issues of InFocus. There are many subjects for which you can share your expertise or experiences, such as post-processing techniques, camera equipment, and great locations to shoot. If you aren't confident in your writing ability, the editor will help polish your article for publication. Send your ideas or articles to ardeth.carlson@gmail.com.

Newsletter Index

To find articles in previous issues of the LPS InFocus newsletter, go to the Newsletter Index on the website. The titles of the articles are displayed in alphabetical order. To find a specific article, the index shows the year and month of the issue of the newsletter and page number on which the article appears. In order to look at the article, you then need to go back to Newsletters and select the issue you want.

Submitting Third Monday Review Photos Into Competition

Several members have noted that they are having difficulty with entering a photo in a monthly competition that has previously been submitted to the Third Monday Review. To do that, the competition image must be selected from your Image Library on the LPS website, not uploaded again from your computer. If you have made changes to your Third Monday photo and want to enter that in the competition, which is allowable, you need to delete the first image from your Image Library before submitting the updated photo in the competition.

A photo that has been entered in an LPS monthly competition cannot be entered again during that year (even if you want to submit it to a different category or changed it a little), and if the photo has received a BOS or AOM award in monthly competition, it can then no longer be entered in any LPS competition except the December "Best Of" for that year.

LPS Website Discussion Forums

Log in to www.lps.cc as a member

🔑 Click on *Discussion Forums*

🔑 You can select any of the headings, such as *Upcoming Photo Opportunities & Events* or *Meet & Shoot*

🔑 Click on *View Topics* to see the posts.

If you would like to receive notifications with the latest posts for that topic, click on the Subscribe button.

The board decided to auto subscribe all members to the Field Trips heading, but if you do not want to receive notifications of those posts, click on Edit Subscription and choose your desired option.

LPS InFocus The e-Newsletter for the Loveland Photographic Society

EDITOR

Ardeth Carlson

ardeth.carlson@gmail.com

Newsletter issues available at
<https://www.lps.cc>

LPS Speaker Recordings

Most meeting presentations have been recorded for viewing by members only. You can find links to the videos on the LPS website; go to **Membership>Resource Links>Videos**. Please *do not share* these links with non-members unless they are marked as shareable in the list.



Our Facebook group **Members of Loveland Photographic Society** provides information on club meetings and events and is a place to share your photos and initiate conversation about photography topics that interest you. You must be a current member to join the group.

JOIN THE CLUB

If you are reading this newsletter as a non-member and would like to join the Loveland Photographic Society, go to the main page on the www.lps.cc website and click on **Membership > Join or Renew**. Annual dues are \$45. Membership dues may be paid by credit card online, mailed to the P.O. box address on page 2, or by cash or a check made out to Loveland Photographic Society and given to the LPS treasurer.