

placer color

Newsletter of the Placer Camera Club



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Placer Camera Club meets the third Tuesday of each month, except August, at 7:00PM in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Placer County Library, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn, Ca. **Visitors Welcome!**

This month's meeting will be Tuesday **May 18th**. Informal gathering at **6:30** with the meeting starting **promptly** at **7 PM**.

This month.....

We will have our regular **image evaluations**. Categories are Nature, Travel, Open and Photo Journalism for projected and Nature, Travel, Open and Monochrome for prints. 4 entries per member in either **Prints** or **Projected** or a combo of both. Our judge this month will be **Truman Holtzclaw**.

Jim Bennett will give a short presentation on traveling with photo gear.

Entries for the **annual competition** are due **by June 1st**. You may bring your print and slide entries to the May meeting or deliver them to Judy Hooper by June 1st. May entries are eligible as well. **No framed prints** will be accepted.

Digital projected entries: you can send me the file names of the entries you want for the annual. I should have the images on file. Please include the month they were entered in image evaluations if possible. Members are allowed 2 entries per category. So that means a total of 8 for projected and 8 for prints for a grand total of 16. Awards will be given out at the June meeting.



Event Calendar

May 18

Monthly meeting
Image evaluations
Projected & prints
Annual entries due

June 15

Monthly meeting
Annual awards
Theme is **Portraits**

July 20

Monthly Meeting
Theme is **Sinuous**

August

Club picnic
No monthly meeting

*See last page for club
officers & committees*

White Balance

Getting Your Colors Right

by Sue Barthelow

Getting your whites in balance is critical when you want your photo to look right from the start. Sure, you can make color corrections when you process, but wouldn't it be better if you didn't have to? Light in the shade differs from direct sunlight. Incandescent light is different from fluorescent light. Each situation comes with its own color cast. Without adjusting for these color casts, your photo can end up looking too blue, green, yellow, orange or red.

Light's Color Temperatures

Light is often described as being cool or warm depending on its color temperature. Although color temperatures vary depending on intensity, the following examples give you an idea of how the temperatures change. Twilight has the highest temperature (12,000 degrees Kelvin), and makes the light appear a cold dark purplish blue. The blue color temperatures move down the color palate towards aqua as they move through shade (7500 degrees) and clouds (6500 degrees) to direct sunlight (5600 degrees) and warm fluorescent (4000 degrees). The color temperatures then move into the greens, yellows, oranges, and reds as they continue down from fluorescent through tungsten (3200 degrees), sunrise/sunset (3000 degrees), incandescent (2800 degrees) and candle (1800 degrees).

You can adjust for your scene's color temperature by changing your camera's white balance setting or by using a color compensating filter. In both cases, you're removing unwanted color casts by making slight corrections such as adding warm colors to cold or cold colors to warm. The resulting combination brings the white tones closer to pure white.

Digital Cameras

Most digital cameras let you set your white balance. Other than auto and flash settings, typical settings include direct sunlight, shade, cloudy, fluorescent and incandescent/tungsten/halogen. The shade and cloudy settings compensate for the overly blue tones by adding warming filters to balance out the blue casts. The fluorescent and incandescent settings add cooling filters to correct for the green/yellow/orange/red casts. Many digital cameras let you define your own custom setting for a color temperature that doesn't quite match the standard choices.

If you're not sure which white balance to choose, take a picture or two and view them on your camera's monitor. Then, pick the setting that matches your scene the best.

Color compensating filters work with digital cameras too. Want to use a filter? Set your white balance to direct sunlight, which is your base color temperature, and then go ahead and use a filter.

Film Cameras

If you're using daylight film, you can use a filter to compensate for the color cast caused by a non-daylight situation. Filters that correct for blue color casts are called warming filters or CTO for color temperature orange. Filters used for red/orange color casts are called cooling filters or CTB for color temperature blue. Those that remove the green color casts caused by most fluorescent lights are called minus green. You can buy color compensating filters in varying strengths.

If you're using black and white film, you can use a filter to emphasize different colors in your scene. That lets your photo show more levels of light and dark. Use a yellow filter for an outdoor photo to improve the sky. Use an orange or red filter if you want to darken the sky. Add a deep green filter to lighten trees or to give you better contrast for red and orange toned bricks, dirt or rocks.

Example Photos

The photos show what happens when you try different white balance settings on a digital camera. These photos were taken indoors with light coming from incandescent lights along with daylight coming through a window. Notice how the shade camera setting gave the image an orange cast. Having been told to expect an outdoors scene taken in the shade, the camera added its own warming filter to compensate for the blue tones you get from shade. A similar result happened when using the fluorescent camera setting. The camera added a color filter to balance out what it thought was fluorescent lighting. Although there was a mixture of lighting, the image came out with the best colors when the white balance was set to incandescent.

Shade Setting



Fluorescent Setting



Incandescent Setting



A Lakeshore Full of Flowers

By Jim White

Are you interested in a new place to photograph wildlife and foothill landscapes this time of year? It is out of the way, remote in many ways and yet nearby. How about the El Dorado County peninsula into Folsom Lake? This time of year few people are there. On one trip into the area, Shirley and I saw Deer, Turkeys, a Great Blue Heron and Ruddy Ducks on the lake. Along the road going in was a Great Horned Owl sitting in the grass.



Check out the wildflowers along the road and the flowering Chaparral brush after leaving the ranch land and climbing the high brushy old gold mining area on your way in. After the brushy area are a few ranch homes with grazing horses to shoot. If you are quiet when you get out of the car in this area and listen you will hear wild turkey gobblers calling.

When entering the park be sure to pay your \$10.00 entrance fee at the entrance kiosk by filling out the envelope and dropping it into the green pipe with a slot at the top. Just past the entrance the road forks, with the road to the right going to a picnic area and the 1st boat ramp. At this fork in the road you will see the flower covered shoreline of Folsom Lake. This is a good place to start your photography of the lake since the heavy rains this spring have sprouted



thousands of beautiful Blue Lupine and flowering Vetch growing in the exposed lakebed. After photographing this area, we drove toward the campground. As the road curves hard right headed toward the campground is a small wetlands which is always loaded with birds in the high grasses and shrubs. This time of year we sometimes park in the middle of the road and shoot the birds right from our vehicle. We drove down to the campground boat ramp where we walked down the ramp a few yards to sit on a log and

glass the waterfowl on the lake. Bad Move! A Bald Eagle flew low over our heads and I am sure he could hear me moan, because our cameras were in the vehicle. The beaches in this area were also covered with blue flowers everywhere so there was good photography in every direction. The melting snow-pack is filling the lake fast this year, so don't delay this trip. Once the lake is full the shoreline flowers will be under water.

How to get there? Easy! From Auburn go south on state highway 49 to Pilot Hill. Turn right at the gas station on the Russell Hollow- Rattlesnake Bar Road (signs pointing to Folsom Lake) and stay right on this road. You will pass thru some of the most beautiful cattle ranch and historic country in the state. Drive at a slow speed and keep your camera handy, you never know what will run across this road. It is a Mountain Lion and Bobcat friendly area.



Sinuous

by Sue Barthelow

The photographic theme for our **July 20** evaluation meeting is *sinuous*. Just what does that mean? An old Webster's Dictionary defines sinuous as "bending, having in and out curves, winding, ... erring, crooked as in conduct or policies." How you interpret the theme it is up to you. So, don't forget to keep your eyes open and your mind free so you can capture some photos for this evaluation. Think about what sinuous means to you. As always, we encourage thinking outside the box and creatively interpreting our themes.

Our theme evaluations are lead by a club member with the attendees participating in the discussions. Richard Myren has done a fantastic job leading the group in the past and will hopefully continue to entertain us with his dynamic style.

As with most of our evaluation categories, you may make only basic adjustments to your image. Feel free to adjust brightness and contrast, to correct colors, to dodge and burn, to sharpen and to crop. However, adding or removing objects, applying artistic filters and otherwise making major adjustments to your image are not allowed. Enter no more than **2** color and/or monochrome images in a **projection** format only. E-mail your digital photos to Mike Schumacher being sure to give Mike plenty of time to receive them and to move them to the club computer. If you're entering slides, please bring them to the meeting.

Remember to keep an eye out for sinuous photo ops over the next month and see what you can find to share with the group in July.



Arthur Bell sends this tip.....

One tip I picked up at the presentation at Sierra College by Jennifer Wu.
Use a Chamois cloth to clean your lens with. A lens cloth tends to smear water drops around and a chamois cloth absorbs moisture.

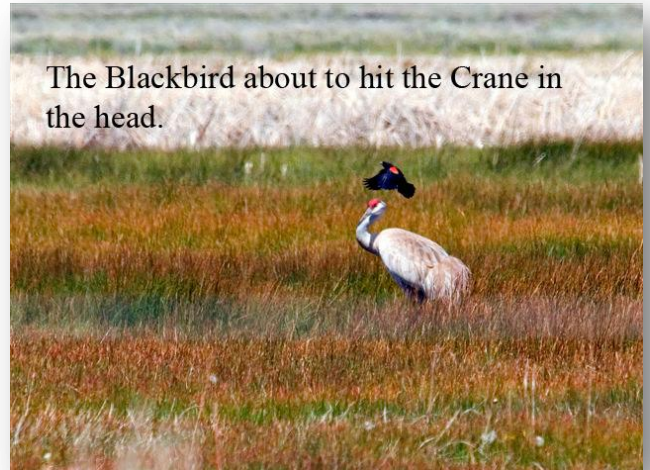


SIERRA VALLEY BIRD WARS

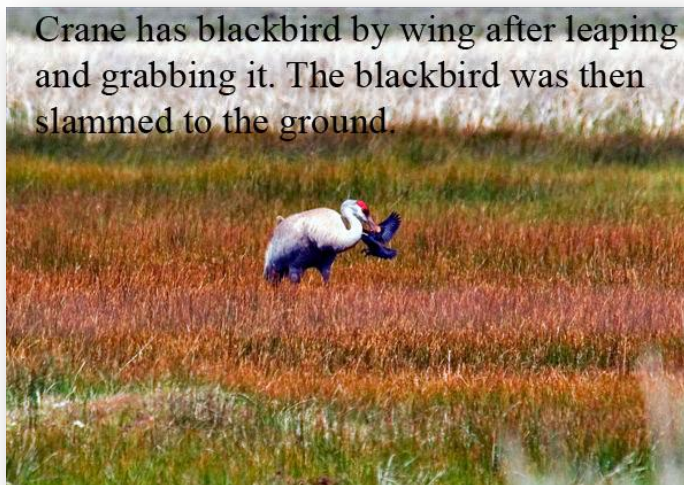
And other wildlife adventures

By Jim L White

It was my wife Shirley that first spotted the pair of Sandhill Cranes. We were driving our usual wildlife beat, Marble Hot Springs road in Sierra Valley. It was 9:30 am on a Saturday morning and I felt bad because we got here so late in the morning. What could we possibly see this late in the day? It was just a pair of cranes ambling slowly along parallel to the road, maybe 250 feet away. The lead bird was moving faster, feeding off the ground from time to time when we noticed a Tricolor Blackbird diving at the Cranes head. At first it was just a “fly-by” dive, several feet away from the Crane’s head and a more or less “watch where you are going” message. Our Outback’s engine was now off and our cameras were trained



The Blackbird about to hit the Crane in the head.



Crane has blackbird by wing after leaping and grabbing it. The blackbird was then slammed to the ground.

and firing at the action. What started off as a warning slowly turned into an attack by two Blackbirds with a third standing by? Finally the most aggressive bird struck the Crane on the Crane’s rump. The next dive the Blackbird almost struck the Crane in the head. The Crane begins to dodge and weave, trying to avoid the strikes. Finally the Crane was struck multiply times and was un-able to dodge fast enough to miss the blows to the head. With wings out-stretched and flapping and a giant leap into the air the Crane grabbed the most aggressive bird by a wing while at least four feet in the air and with one quick and violent swing of it’s head and neck, the

Blackbird was slammed to the ground! This action was followed by the Crane’s two vicious stabs with his bill and the Blackbird lie flapping on the ground. “I can’t believe that Crane killed that Blackbird” I said to Shirley. “Not yet” said Shirley, as the Blackbird slowly lumbered into the air and flew away.

After the Blackbirds flew away, the Cranes ambled toward our car and we ended up photographing them from 30 feet away. Another Crane landed nearby which caused one of our nearby Cranes to point

The pair of Cranes after the Blackbird battle wandered near our car.



skyward with his head and emit a loud melodious call of warning. Quickly both Cranes leaped into the air and flew by our window at 20 feet away. Although I got one full frame shot of one bird, the lens could not focus fast enough and the frame was blurred.

I should have known that any day this wet spring in Sierra Valley was going to be great. In fact before we left the pavement Shirley had spotted two other Cranes standing along the shore of a shallow pond. I had to turn around and go back, but it was well worth the bother. One of these Cranes had a large very red band on one leg with what appears to be a radio transmitter on the other leg. Our pictures of this Crane will help the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service determine where the Crane was tagged and other valuable wildlife management information.

What followed this day was watching and photographing a pair of Harlequin Ducks, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Tri-colored Blackbirds, Willits, Black-necked Stilts, Cliff Swallows and many White Faced Ibises.

As we drove slowly back up the road around 2 PM in the afternoon, I spotted a nesting White Faced Ibis sitting on a nest almost under the fence-line. I shot several shots of the bird on the nest from the car and then the bird stood up, stretched, and with its bill, reached down and turned the eggs before sitting down again.

Our day was just another incredible wildlife photo adventure in Sierra Valley.

White Faced Ibis standing next to her eggs.



If you go: Travel I 80 to Truckee and then north on highway 89 to Sierraville. Turn left at Sierraville and drive north to Sattley where you turn right on road A23. After about 5 miles keep an eye open for a power transformer sub-station on your right. Turn just before the sub-station on the Marble Hot Springs road. Other advice: watch for wildlife along A23. We see Sandhill Cranes, Coyotes, Bobcats and Bald Eagles from time to time along this road. Work your way south on the Hot Springs rd. to A24 and south to Harriet Lane. Turn right on Harriet Lane which crosses lots of marsh land with birds everywhere. If you do not see much, you are driving too fast. DRIVE SLOW TO SEE WILDLIFE. Enjoy!

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Sterling Pointe Trail

by Bill Stenwick

In the last week, Corina and I have gone down the Sterling Pointe trail to take photos. Take Auburn Folsom Road past Horseshoe Bar Road to Lomida lane and turn left. Turn at the Stirling Pointe development and continue toward the river. follow the signs to the equestrian staging area and park. You can take the trail for about 100 yards to a fork. You can either go downhill directly to the river (turn left at the Express Trail) or bear right and continue on for about 2 miles till it goes to the river. Either way is really great. I got about 150 photos and they are really nice.



Notes from the Field

by Ardath Winterowd

This is a cropped and re-processed photo of a Widow Skimmer Dragonfly I took back in 2007, in the driveway of some friends I know in Lincoln Hills. I wish I could remember how I got the depth of field correct. Of all the photos I've taken over the years, this one is my favorite for all the reasons that I'm pretty sure a judge would be looking for...am I right? ...comments, critiques, all appreciated



For Sale

I have a Canon 70-200 f4L IS lens FOR SALE. Its one year old. The current new price at BH is \$1200. I am asking \$1050 for the lens. This is one of the sharpest zooms that Canon makes. I am selling because I am now am using a Canon 100-400L IS and I don't need both of the lens.

Gary Kramer

home email address is gary@gbkramer.com

home phone is 916-253-3442

day work phone is 30-888-666

FOR SALE

Sue Barthelow wants to pass her price savings on to somebody. She ordered 3 SanDisk memory cards for her camera and selected the wrong type by mistake. Since she can't use this type of memory card and the company won't take them back, she'd like to pass the discount on to one or more of you. She has three new 4GB SanDisk Extreme III CompactFlash Cards she'll sale for \$30 each. This is a great savings for somebody - Best Buy's website lists them for \$53 each. Contact her at sue_barthelow@yahoo.com or (530) 305-4546.

SLR For Sale

Canon Eos 20d digital slr with 18-55mm kit lens. \$400 b/o
Contact Tony Middleton at 916-630-1487 or t.k.middleton@att.net

WHAT JUDGES LOOK FOR IN PHOTOS

You're probably wondering why we pick one image over another; there actually are some simple rules of photography we look for in each photo. Common mistakes are:

- (1) A photo out of focus, either the whole photo or part of it in an important location such as the bottom front of the print
- (2) Too much "clutter" in the picture. We want our attention to go directly to the subject, not see a lot of competing, but not necessary, clutter around it.
- (3) Exposure - is the picture too light or too dark to easily see the subject.
- (4) Poor lighting, a "flat" image where rocks, subject, sky, etc. all blend together without different shadows, colors, etc. or the opposite where the sun might bleach out the lighter parts of the image, giving no texture to those areas.

There are other more subtle criteria we look for; placement of the subject, size of the subject within the image, etc. but the 4 listed above are the first and foremost most commonly seen, easily correctible problems that usually cause a photo to be eliminated.

For more specific guidelines, please feel free to drop in on any of our Placer Camera Club meetings and ask questions! We have meetings the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 at the Beecher Room in the Library off Nevada Street. We have short programs, critique our own images, have "how-to" presentations and to end it all, great desserts!!



Board Members

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Kristi Middleton

Greeters & Badges

Jim Bennett

Placer Camera Club Webpage

Check out the Placer Camera Club webpage.

<http://placercameraclub.org>

Mike Schumacher (Newsletter) 530-367-4505

radioman@ftcnet.net

*Don't forget our tutorials webpage. It's
at:*

<http://www.placercameraclub.org/tutorials/index.html>

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Huey Monitor Calibration

The club has a Huey monitor calibration system for use by club members.

Contact Judy Hooper to 'check out' Huey.

530-888-8308.