

B Grade Nature

Judge Rebecca Bowater FPSNZ AFIAP

01 Sunbeam

Here you have seen a tree fern with dead fronds hanging down in the sunlight. For a nature competition you should put the name of the subject for your title. I would like to see more of the live fronds of the tree fern to give interest. Next time photograph your subject in the shade by using a tripod and a large depth of field. NA

02 Wild Chimp, Kibale National Park

How fortunate you were to see a chimp up on a tree. What lets this down are the blobs of out of focus leaves and foliage. It isn't easy to get a good position of an animal in a tree without being in a higher position. Sadly, the chimp is not in focus, for this competition I need to be able to see good definition of most of the animal. NA

03 Madikwe Brothers

I love seeing these lions in their natural environment. You have done well capturing the lions face and especially his eyes amongst the grass. It is difficult to have strong sunlight on these animals, however that shows they live in a hot dry country. Well Done Honours Alyson Baker

04 Forest Phantom

You have spotted a beautiful little fungus; however, it is lost in this frame where there is nothing of interest. Fungus should be your title and if you take this image closely you would have a point of interest in a nature competition. Fill your frame with your subject. NA

05 Lean On Me

It is good to have seen 3 small fungi together. This is where the interest is, so photograph this image closer and concentrate on the clump of fungi. As it is, three-quarters of the image has nothing else to catch your eye on. Get close, use a tripod and a good depth of field and it will then be a wow! NA

06 Male Aix Galericulata

I wonder where you saw this mandarin duck? There was one living up at Lake Rotoiti for years. You have done well filling the frame with your subject with good focus. The only suggestion I would make is give it less saturation. Good effort Honours Malcom Carlaw

07 Juvenile Nycticorax nycticorax

Well spotted seeing this night heron with a large fish. It is good seeing its eye and the definition of its patterns of its plumage. I wonder if this heron did manage to eat the whole fish. My suggestion would be to crop it right round the frame to give impact. Merit Malcolm Carlaw

08 **Anthornis melanura / korimako #3-3**

You have done well capturing the male bellbird showing its beautiful red eye. If possible, try to photograph birds on a cloudy or overcast day. This will give more definition of its feathers without shadows. You will notice the breast of this bird is out of focus, put your ISO up higher and do not take the photo in bright sunlight. Merit John Duffield

09 **Prothemadera novaeseelandiae-Tui2**

This Tui is well placed in the frame and standing in a good position looking at you. It is well composed. Sadly, its feathers are burnt out from the sunlight. I always take my Tui photos at home on an overcast day and the clarity of its coloured feathers and patterns are fantastic, you try and see the difference that makes. accepted

10 **Welcome Swallow Hirundo neoxena**

You had to be quick to have captured this swallow getting insects from the surface of the water. The plain blue/ grey background is good without any distractions. However, I need to see more of the swallow and less of the reflection to give a clearer image for this competition. NA

11 **Pied oystercatchers Haematopus finschi**

You have seen these oystercatchers probably on a beach. Sadly, these birds are lost in the frame where most of it is plain white with no interest. Also, the line running across above the birds is annoying. For a nature competition I need to see the birds in their natural environment close up filling the frame. NA

12 **Grace and Elegance**

What a stunning white heron you have captured flying above the water. The plain blue background is brilliant without any distractions. I would like to see 4cms cropped off the bottom and a little off each side to give it balance. Title your image with the name of your subject. To gain a well-focused image try putting up your ISO and time higher. A good effort Honours Carol Neame

13 **Breaking Free**

What a timely moment this was to have seen this butterfly emerging from the chrysalis. It is well placed in the frame with a non-distracting background. It is great to see the coloured wings and the split chrysalis. My only recommendation would be to be able to see more detail on the black area of the butterfly. A good effort Honours Carol Neame

14 **A little giant from the South Island**

What stunning gold and blue tones in this image. This is taken from a plane and it is a landscape image. For a nature image I need to see a nature subject with a point of interest. NA

15 **Camouflage**

You have seen a praying mantis amongst tomatoes on a platform or shelf. I would like to see this insect as your focal point of interest without any distractions for this competition. The red tomatoes and the

white area behind them are very distracting from your subject. You need to photograph your insect on a tree or similar showing it in its natural environment. Acceptance

16 Oyster Catcher Farewell Spit

You have done well spotting this bird flying across the sand. I would like to see this bird cropped all around the frame to make it your focal point of interest, leaving some of the background showing the environment. Watch that the bird is not right in the center of the frame. Acceptance

17 Sparrow with Toi

You have spotted a sparrow peeping around the toi toi. Sadly, there is nothing in focus in this image. For this competition you should just sit down and wait for a bird to come near and take the photo where there are not any distractions, eg on the lawn, in a park. Practice this and you will see a huge improvement in your photography. NA

18 South Island Robin - toutouwai L

I love the angle of the robin looking at you while standing on a branch, well seen. For improvement I would like to have seen this bird sharply focused especially around its head. Keep trying and focus on the bird's eye and you will see how different it makes to your bird image. Merit Tom Young

19 Laccaria masonii

You have seen a lovely group of fungi in good condition showing me their caps and stems. I would like to see these fungi well focused for this competition. Use a tripod set your camera setting with a high F stop to get a good depth of field. I feel the background in this image is over saturated which takes your eye away from your subject being the fungi. Acceptance

B Grade Prints

Blue Damsel fly

You have spotted this damselfly on grass with a non-distracting background. Well Seen. I love the angle of the damselfly clinging onto the grass. I can see detail of hairs on its legs and body and the patterns on its wings are well focused. A good effort. Honours Tom Young

Fantail Piwakawaka

This would be one of the most difficult birds to photograph as they flit around so quickly. The brown tones in the background are good and you have captured its eye and beautiful coloured tones on its breast feathers well. What lets this down is the out of focus back and tail feathers. A good effort with a difficult subject. Merit Tom Young