

# Contact Sheet

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## Wildlife Photography

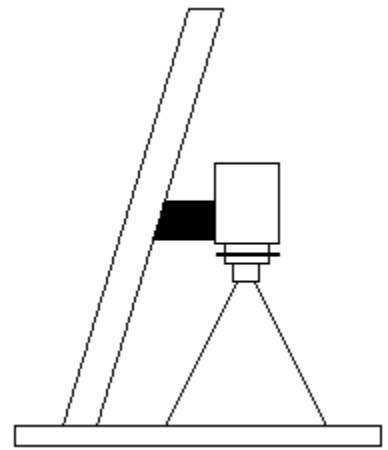
Many of our club members like to shoot wildlife photographs. Several have gotten their wildlife images published in national magazines. Were these just lucky shots or did they really know what they were doing? Those of you who have tried wildlife know that sometimes it ends up being a combination of both! We were treated to an excellent presentation of those facts at the April EIPS lecture. **Ron and Janet McBride** from Smithville, Utah gave us an excellent treatise on their philosophy of wildlife photography with some incredible images that they have in their portfolio. He commented on how lucky we were to have our home base in Idaho Falls, Idaho because of our proximity to Yellowstone National Park since so many of the wildlife images seen in national magazines of wildlife in the United States are taken right here in our backyard, Yellowstone. He and Janet make many trips to Yellowstone to get a good percentage of their images. Another thing that he mentioned as an aid to his photography is that he is a member of a group of people who network with each other to know where the animals are at any given time in the park. And we have four of our members that routinely contribute to that pool of knowledge and willingly share this information with us.

But luck still has a small component in the equation of a good image. Yes the swallows always come

back to Capistrano on a very specific day - - according to the *Chamber of Commerce* or the buzzards arrive on a set day in Hinckley, Ohio, etc. They will usually be close to that time each year - but there is the Mother Nature factor tossed in, VARIABILITY. Note this year with the eagle return in Utah where very few eagles were present whereas last year there were several hundred! Our hard winter and the presence of deep snow drifts remaining made the shooting of the leks of the sage grouse much more difficult this year.

Besides knowing where the animals are, what else is going to help you get good images? Ken stated that you must read a lot about the animals you want to photograph. What are their migration habits, migration routes, time of day they feed, the type of food they eat and when, their predators, etc. The more you know about the animal, the better are your chances to be where they are and getting images of what you want them to be doing. You may get pictures of bull elk in Yellowstone in the summer; but if you want them to bugle for you, you need to be there when they **are bugling** in their rutting season. Good wildlife photography means a lot of long days - - go out early and stay late. You may have to arrive in an area long before the animals are active in that area to get good image.

Researching good bear images meant that if you want an image of a bear catching a salmon in his mouth you



have to go to that area. Katmai Preserve in Alaska has those types of images. But you still have to be there at the right time (mid July is the salmon run) and be prepared well ahead of time since the area can only be entered via permit which you have to get two years in advance with additional costs of \$1000/night in the lodge or \$300/night in the cabin or \$7/night in the campground. No food is allowed in the campground and you have to buy your meals in the lodge so that bears won't be attracted to your tent.

Other things that you should do to get good images: Be quiet, don't wear red, use camouflage, use unscented detergent when washing your clothing, move slowly, and stay downwind to the animal. Animals detect **movement** rather than the human form. If you are in bear country, you must have bear spray at all times and it must be in your hand. Having it on a clip on your belt will not save you since the bear covers so much ground so fast. Bears protect their young and their kills, so be aware of the environment around you. Look for vultures circling so that you know where there is a downed/dead animal.

Now that you are in position to get that photo at sunrise in the middle of the Yellowstone wilderness, how do you get the image? Ron and Janet really like digital images taken on a sturdy tripod and early light means he needs a fast lens (f 2.8 400mm for most low light shots). If you are shooting birds, because of their relatively small size on your negative, you will probably need about a 1000 mm much of the time. He has found that the 1000 mm lens doesn't work as good for his bear/elk images since there is more vibration from the wind, the shutter closing, etc. (although image stabilizers to help offset this

problem to some degree). He feels that his 400 mm elk images just seem sharper than his 1000 mm elk shots. Also, he doesn't just want elk nostrils or eyes as the image. He wants to include some of the natural background, and the 400 mm lens allows him to do that. But since he still wants to emphasize the animal, he will use a shallow depth of field so that the background is thrown out of focus.

Good wildlife photographers must still remember the components of a good photograph. The rule of thirds still is important. Give your animal/bird some room in front of him so he can walk into the picture. If you are shooting wildlife, the exposure must be correct for the animal. A buffalo shot on a bright sunny day in a snow field will either be an excellent buffalo image or an excellent scenic with this dark object (oh, it's a buffalo). Our computer chips/film can not yet give correct exposure for both - - but PhotoShop may help correct some of this disparity. If the animals decide not to show up at that time for you, switch to scenics of the area. Look close for the little critters and go macro. Enjoy the fact that you are outdoors taking photographs, doing what you really like to do.

Ron and Janet then closed their presentation with a full slide show and video of their efforts with music, etc. The joy of their efforts was obvious. Thank you for sharing this love of wildlife photography with us.

## Club Notes

**We are trying to create an ongoing list of events to keep all members apprized of what photographic opportunities are available in this area. Special thanks go to Shannon for her efforts in**

creating a club calendar that will have a listing of all the upcoming events that we might want to photograph. We need all of your input for this project.

We also need to thank Farr's Jewelry for the use of the digital projector at the last Advancement Program. The projected files will be added to our web pages on an ongoing basis since the Advancement Program selections will be posted and we will try to cycle each month's images to keep a fresh look to our website.

The August Show on the Greenbelt will be here much quicker than you realize. And we know the amount of preparation that is needed for this type of event. It is a good way to get your images exposed to the community and is a way of marketing your work.

Roger was able to get the October Show scheduled at EITC in the same manner that we had last year so that we will be able to participate in the Gallery Art Show to the general public. We had a lot of people attend our open house that night – and it was our first attempt at this venue. This year should be even better since we will be able to get that information out to the public in a more timely fashion.

## Field Trips

Did you get the image of the saw whet owl at the Camas NWR? Those who went on the field trip did! We also had a couple of members who went to the Annual Sage Grouse Days in Dubois, so hopefully we will see some of their images. This month's

field trip was the opening day and weekend at Yellowstone National Park. We are ready for winter to be over!

## Advancement Program

The theme of the Advancement Program for May is is: **Birds**. Please bring three of your best images, slides, digital image files and join us at 1900 Grandview in the Conference Room at 7:30 p.m. on May 15. It is amazing how all of our photography improves as we share these images with one another.

We recently had three members go to several of the bird sanctuaries in Florida in the past month. Hopefully, they will share some of their images with us at this month's meeting. I expect to see some of the saw whet owl images, too. The remaining themes for the year are as follows:

June – Photographer's Choice

**July – Sports**

August – Photographer's Choice

**September – Long Shutter**

October – Photographer's Choice

**November – Barns**

December – Photographer's Choice

Our objective with these themes is to keep the camera in your hands for many, many images. And we want to keep you shooting a variety of subjects so that you will not become bored with your efforts. What you learn in one aspect of photography will help you with other types of images. Only by continuing to use your knowledge will you get better at photography. Let us see your improvement! Have fun out there!

## Monthly Meeting

**Date: May 1, 2008**

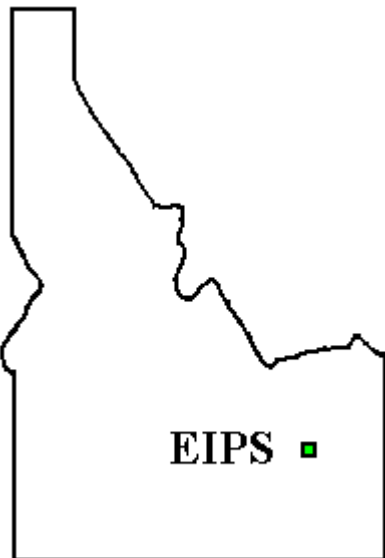
**Time: 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: 1900 Grandview  
Ave. Conference Room**

### **Program:**

Last month I threw you a curve as to the program since we ended up having a Ron and Janet talking about wildlife instead of a video. At press time a decision about this month's program had not been made. But we will give you an exciting program. The program will be posted on our web site as soon as possible.

Chris Leavell – President  
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Membership Info:  
Web address: [www.eips.net](http://www.eips.net)



## Graffiti

EIPS is a group of amateur and professional photographers who have joined together to further the art and craft of photography. Please join us and expand your horizons. Sharing knowledge makes all participants better at their craft. We meet on the first Thursday of each month for our educational lecture. Then the third Thursday is our Advancement Program where we share some of the images we have done. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in the 1900 Grandview Ave conference room. We all become better photographers!

**Dues are due! \$25 per year for the entire family. Thank you.**

