

Contact Sheet

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Bird Spectacular

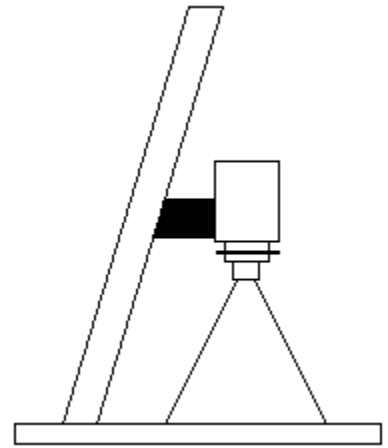
Every one of us has been down to the Greenbelt to shoot the various ducks that we see along the river. But somehow, we only see a couple of varieties. We take various photos of these flocks and then head home. But from our talk at the Eastern Idaho Photographic Society in April 2007, we are truly wrong about what we are seeing. We live in a veritable hotbed of different ducks and birds. We just lack the patience - - and local course knowledge - - of where those species are. And **Jason Briggs** of the local Audubon Society (meets on a monthly basis at the Idaho Falls Public Library) was the right person to direct our next sojourn into the bird world. He stated that we have a wealth of different birds that go through our area on regular migration patterns. And we have some incredible areas that are available for us to find those images.

One of the most productive areas that Jason has found for his bird photography is Market Lake north of Roberts. Many times he and his father will just go up to that area and sit on the road and wait. They basically use their car as a blind. If they don't get out of the vehicle and move around, within a very short period of time the birds and ducks will ignore their presence and come back to the locality. Jason uses an 80-400 image stabilized lens with his digital camera for almost all of his shots. He has his digital camera body set on

sports
photography
mode - - and then starts to take
photographs. F/stops and shutter speed
does not worry him since he is able to
get very good images with this setting on
his camera.

One of the reasons that he gets very good images is that he is patient and has studied the activities of the species he is trying to photograph. His favorite shot is a duck in flight. He finds that many species will flick their head up and down quickly before they take off. This means he has that split second head start to get ready to take the image as they are leaving the water. He knows which birds are quick to get airborne and which varieties take a long time to get up and going. With a zoom lens he can get the right composition so that he can photograph the splashes that their webbed feet leave as they are hopping along the water to get up to flight takeoff speed.

Another thing that has helped him get good images is being a member of the local Audubon Society. This winter a snowy owl was seen north of Rexburg. The location of this bird was basically followed by most of the members of the Society and their telephone network kept everyone apprised of the current location of the owl. They also share the times when the various waterfowl come into our region during their migration. This means March and April can be very busy months for them. Also, the mating



season is from the end of March through April so that some species have some very unusual mating dances that their society will share where this is happening with their fellow members.

To some degree that has been what we photographers do in that we share information on where wolves are currently working in Yellowstone, where there is a good image of a deserted barn, which flowers are blooming at Craters of the Moon, etc. But sometimes, we don't share as much as we should since we don't always know what types of images that the various members want. This is why we need to continue to share this information at each of the club meetings we have. We need to pick each other's brain so that we all get better images of more locations and more wildlife.

After showing us many of the waterfowl that he has found in our area, Jason treated us to a spectacular show of the birds that are found near Barrow, Alaska. Most of these photos were taken between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. since this seemed to be the best time for the bird activity in that area. But since you have 24 hours of sun, all of the birds had excellent light on them. Tundra, marsh, birds, waterfowl, and even a polar bear put on a show for Jason - - and he treated us to those images! Jason mentioned that if you go onto Yahoo and search for birds and then type in IBLE, there is a site where you can see incredible images of a lot of different waterfowl and birds.

Many times we kind of take birds and waterfowl for granted, but we saw some of the beauty that they add to our world at this meeting. Thanks, Jason, for sharing your love of birds and your images with us.

Club Notes

Again, we need to give special thanks to Farr's Jewelry for the use of the digital projector at the last Advancement Program. This has been an invaluable tool as more and more of the images are being taken with a digital camera.

Sue also has membership information about the PPA, the Professional Photographers of America, with entry blanks. This group has always been a strong supporter of the professional photographer with several national meetings that they also create each year.

There were also some questions about the possibility of going to the Triple D Game Farm near Kalispell.

Don't forget to get your things ready for the August Show and Sale on the Duck Race Weekend. This is a busy time of the year for families and sometimes we put something like this on the back burner until it is too late and we have missed participating in a very worthwhile venture.

Gene Sherman of the Snake River Art Society is setting up an art show on the July 4 weekend. Please contact him at their museum or at the Chamber of Commerce. Entry was \$50 if before April 15 (which those of you who came to this month's lecture knew about in time) or \$75 if after April 15. This is for a 10 x 10 booth size area. There is space for some 10 x 20 tents also. They feel this should be a good show, even though it is their first venture, because of all the people that come to the Greenbelt on that weekend.

Field Trips

We had many members go on the field trip on the opening day of Yellowstone National Park. The gates opened at 8 a.m. and we were there. Tim also shared with us about Grouse Day in Dubois. In May we will be going to the Cinco De Mayo celebration; and in June we will go to Bannack State Park, and possible Virginia City, depending on what members choose at the next meeting.

Field trips are a very good learning experience as you get to see how other photographers work a particular subject. No two photographers work the same and you can learn a lot just seeing how someone else approaches a subject. Please come with us and share your knowledge so that we all will continue to improve with our skills.

Remember, you can get a working schedule on our internet site, www.eips.net, which would have any of the corrections listed in a more timely fashion since this newsletter only comes out once a month.

Advancement Program

The theme for November is: **Photographer's Choice.** Please bring three of your favorite slides, prints, or digital files on that subject and join us on 17 May 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at 1900 Grandview. Everybody learns!

Don't forget that there are bonus points given for images that were taken during a club activity. We want to see some of the photos from the field trips!

Depth of Field

We talk about depth of field a lot when we try to decide how much of an image will be in focus. But part of the problem with this term is that it constantly changing depending on where you are focusing. The depth of field gets shallower as you get closer to your camera. It is also very shallow when you open your shutter up. With an f/2.0 shutter opening on a 50 mm lens focused at 1.5 feet from your camera body, you will have only 1.4 inches of depth of field. Using the same lens set at infinity for focus, your depth of field will be from 40 feet to infinity.

Now let's change our f/stop to f/16. This same lens focused at 1.5 feet will increase the depth of field to 2.5 inches. This may not sound like much but you have almost doubled the area in focus (1.4" vs. 2.5"). This same process happens with an infinity setting in that you are now in focus to 15 feet from your camera body instead of to 40 feet. (Because the f/16 opening is smaller in a 20 mm lens – see discussion in newsletter 2 months ago - this lens focused at infinity will be clear up to 2 feet away from the camera body.)

From this discussion you can now appreciate why many portrait photographers choose about f/8 for their aperture since this will give a depth of field with their 70 – 120 mm lens of about 6 inches so that if you have properly focused on the subject's eyes, the nose back to just behind the ears will be perfectly in focus and the background will be thrown out of focus and just be a blur.

Monthly Meeting

Date: May 3, 2006

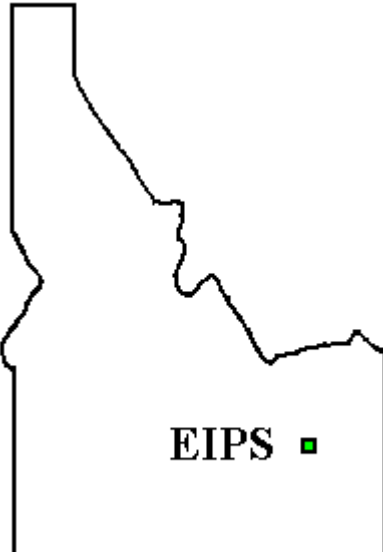
Time: 7:30 p.m.

**Location: Conference room
at 1900 Grandview Avenue**

Program:

David and Jamie Gale along with **Roger Heng** are going to treat us to a Barn Exposition. There are many specimens in this area but there are special tricks to get good images. Come and learn. After all, we all want the perfect barn photo, don't we?

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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!

