

2019 AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS SHOW

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Grand Prize Winner

Photographer: Kathrin Swoboda

Species: Red-winged Blackbird

Location: Huntley Meadows Park, Alexandria, Virginia

"I visit this park to photograph blackbirds on cold mornings, often aiming to capture the "smoke rings" that form from their breath as they sing out. This particular bird was very vociferous. I looked to set it against the dark background of the forest, shooting to the east as the sun rose, backlighting the vapor."



Professional Winner

Photographer: Elizabeth Boehm

Species: Greater Sage-Grouse

Location: Pinedale, Wyoming

"I spent a number of cold spring mornings photographing the courting display of the Greater Sage-Grouse from a blind on the perimeter of the lek. Along with the strutting, I watch for the dominance fights between males. The two contestants sit side by side until, upon some invisible cue, they suddenly throw blows, hitting each other with their wings."



Amateur Winner

Photographer: Mariam Kamal

Species: White-necked Jacobin

Location: Dave & Dave's Nature Park, Sarapiquí, Costa Rica

"On my fifth trip to Costa Rica, my favorite spots produced a few measly sightings. So I drove six hours to a reforestation site. For an hour I photographed a troop of White-necked Jacobins consuming nectar from heliconias that swayed and bobbed in a forceful wind. As I snapped I felt that I, too, was fighting to hang on!"



Youth Winner

Photographer: Sebastian Velasquez

Species: Horned Puffin

Location: Alaska SeaLife Center, Seward, Alaska

"Traveling through Alaska I saw puffins from afar, always hoping to get closer. I got my chance at the SeaLife Center. Amid the chaos of native birds swimming, fishing, and zipping past me, I waited for hours for the perfect shot. At last I spotted this secluded puffin in a moment of stillness, preening its feathers."



Professional Honorable Mention

Photographer: Kevin Ebi

Species: Bald Eagle

Location: San Juan Island National Historical Park, Friday Harbor, Washington

"I was panning with this kit running with its prey when an unmistakable cry made me look up. I just knew the eagle was after the fox's rabbit. I expected to have only a split second to capture the theft in one explosive frame; instead the eagle snagged the fox and rabbit, carrying both 20 feet off the ground."



Amateur Honorable Mention

Photographer: Melissa Rowell

Species: Great Blue Heron

Location: Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Delray Beach, Florida

"A storm was on the horizon when I arrived at one of my favorite wetlands. These herons immediately grabbed my attention: The male, obviously attempting to entice the female, was doing a stretch display. When serious bill duels erupted between the pair, I was fascinated by their intense expressions as they sparred."



Youth Honorable Mention

Photographer: Garrett Sheets

Species: Bobolink

Location: Dunn Ranch Prairie, Lincoln Township, Missouri

"At sunset the Dunn Ranch Prairie becomes a field of golden grasses, which provided a perfect setting for this male as he perched briefly for a curious glance at my camera. The robotic tone of his song was echoed by dozens of other Bobolinks. I secured a burst of photos before he took off, flying far out over the grasses."



Plants for Birds Winner

Photographer: Michael Schulte

Species: Hooded Oriole

Location: San Diego, California

"Soon after moving to San Diego last year, I noticed a pair of orioles that frequented the California fan palm in my backyard. When I saw the female gathering palm fibers for a nest, I grabbed my camera. I love this shot; it shows the relationship between two native species. And the radiating palm fronds behind the female give a sense of radiance to her diligent efforts."



Plants for Birds Honorable Mention

Photographer: Joseph Przybyla

Species: Purple Gallinule

Location: Circle B Bar Reserve, Lakeland, Florida

"The normally elusive Purple Gallinule comes into the open when fire flag blooms. I spotted this one making its way up the plant mid-morning on an overcast day, eating as it went. When it reached the top, I captured images as it moved from stem to stem, side to side, up and down, ultimately getting this photo of the bird mid-snack."



Fisher Prize

Photographer: Ly Dang

Species: Black-browed Albatross

Location: Saunders Island, Falkland Islands

"On a steep, windy slope of Saunders Island, several breeding colonies of Black-browed Albatrosses were tending their chicks and squawking at the neighbors. As I sat watching, I started to notice the simple, elegant beauty of the adults' eyes. After several positions looking for a clear view and a good light angle, I took this shot."