Photo-GracieMcMahon-13

ABA YBYC 2020
“Don’t Tell Me to Chew with My Mouth Closed!”
Yellow-Crowned Night Heron
Nyctanassa Violacea
Wildlife Drive, J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge
Sanibel, Florida
15 July 2019
Nikon D3500
Tamron 100-400 @380mm
ISO-220
f/6.3
1/500 sec.
Manual mode
When I took this photo, we were on Wildlife Drive in the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. I noticed a Yellow-Crowned Night Heron on the side of the road and got my camera. Then, the heron snapped up a crab that was scuttling nearby on the ground. I was very lucky to get this shot where the crab is suspended in mid-air in the heron’s mouth. Herons are typically very easy to photograph, but this photo shows action with a heron that is not easy to capture.
“Sky Raisin”
Loggerhead Shrike
Lanius Ludovicianus
Shady Hollow Blvd. W.
Naples, FL
11 July 2019
Nikon D3500
Tamron 100-400 @400mm
ISO-100
f/6.3
1/250 sec.
Manual mode

When I took this photo, we were returning to the main highway from CREW Bird Rookery Swamp. We were driving along Shady Hollow Blvd. when I noticed a bird on a piece of barbed wire. At first I thought that it was a Northern Mockingbird, but when I pulled out my camera, I noticed that it was a shrike. I was able to watch it snatch a bug from the air. This photo shows typical shrike behavior: catching a bug and impaling it on barbed wire.
I was standing on Wildlife Drive in J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, when I noticed that there were many fish jumping in the water, and many Snowy Egrets hunting them. I took up my camera and started taking photos of individual egrets. Then I noticed many standing along the shore, and snapped this picture. I like this photo because all of the egrets are exhibiting typical behavior.
July 12 was my birthday so we headed to Bunche Beach to see some shorebirds. The beach was covered in rust-gray seaweed. The Ruddy Turnstone is one of the most gorgeous shorebirds. It really is perfectly camouflaged against the seaweed. It was looking for small crustaceans to eat, and it did find some crabs eventually. The goal with this photo was to capture enough contrast between the turnstone and the similarly colored seaweed, and I think I have captured that.
“Sstretchhh!”

Osprey

Pandion Haliaetus

Island Inn (3111 W Gulf Drive)

Sanibel, Florida

13 July 2019

Nikon D3500

Tamron 100-400 @270m,

ISO-100

f/6.3

1/250 sec.

Auto mode

When I stepped outside my hotel room to admire the crashing surf, I noticed an osprey sitting in a tree to my left! I ran in, got my parents and my camera, and we walked up to the second floor balcony where we were almost eye level with the raptor. I love how its wing is stretched out because I have never seen them do that before. The goal was to capture action in the osprey, and I have captured action in the sense that it is stretching its wing downward.
• “Midday Beauty”
• Tricolored Heron
• Egretta Tricolor
• Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
• Fort Myers, Florida
• 13 July 2019
• Nikon D3500
• Tamron 100-400 @270mm
• ISO-200
• f/6
• 1/800 sec.
• Manual mode
• Today my family and I traveled to the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve in Ft. Myers, Florida. When we first stepped onto the boardwalk, we were greeted by this gorgeous Tricolored Heron. You can see a single down feather in its bill. This is because it was preening its feathers. The heron was only 5 feet away from the boardwalk. I captured all of the beautiful colors of the Tricolored Heron in this photo; typically they look muddy, but in this photo the heron has an oil-spill look to the feathers.
“Surprise Guest”
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
Polioptila Caerulea
5412 Regents Park Road (my backyard)
Rockford, Illinois
13 August 2019
Nikon D3500
Tamron 100-400 @250mm
ISO-800
f/6
1/500 sec.
Auto mode
I was sitting inside on my sofa when I heard an unusual bird song. I peeked outside and saw a gray bird dart into our birch tree. I grabbed my camera and binoculars and went outside. I spent a good 30 minutes before I finally found the bird: a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher. The challenge with this photo was to capture a non-blurry photo because it was always moving, and I succeeded in this challenge.
“Where is that Crab?!”

White Ibis

Eudocimus Albus

Wildlife Drive, J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge

Sanibel, Florida

16 July 2019

Nikon D3500

Tamron 100-400 @270 mm

ISO-3200

f/6.3

1/1000 sec.

Manual mode

We had just started driving around Wildlife Drive in the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, when I noticed a White Ibis on the right side of the road. It was hunting for small crabs and bugs. In this picture it is mid-step hunting a crab which it caught a moment later. I then stepped out of the car and the ibis flew away. The challenge with this photo was to capture movement because Ibis are normally very still, but this ibis is mid-step.
“Backyard Beauty”
Downy Woodpecker
Picoides Pubescens
5412 Regents Park Road (my backyard)
Rockford, Illinois
16 June 2019
Nikon D3500
Tamron 100-400 @250mm
ISO-640
f/6
1/500 sec.
Manual mode

I was sitting inside my house, when I noticed an unusual number of Downy Woodpeckers in my yard. I grabbed my camera, and went outside to sit on our stoop and wait for the woodpeckers to come closer. This woodpecker was holding onto the pole on our suet feeder. I was able to get very close to the woodpecker, and snap this picture. The goal with this photo was to get a sharp picture because woodpeckers move a lot, and I achieved my goal by getting a very sharp woodpecker image and a blurry background.
“MINE!!”
Osprey (and Fish Crow)
Pandion Haliaetus
Rabbit Road (Sanibel Health Club parking lot)
Sanibel, Florida
13 July 2019
Nikon D3500
Tamron 100-400 @350mm
ISO-100
f/8
1/500 sec.
Auto mode
We were driving to J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge when I noticed this Osprey sitting on an electrical pole with a piece of a fish. There were Fish Crows sitting on wires nearby trying to steal the Osprey’s meal. I snapped this shot of the Fish Crow squawking at the Osprey, and the Osprey holding its catch away! This picture shows bird interaction (the Osprey holding the fish away from the crow), and I think I have captured this motion in a humorous way.
Adult Mentoring

• My parents graciously bought me my new camera
• They also drove me birding to use my camera
• My parents offered me selection help on choosing my ten photos