

May
2014

The BELLOWS

Delta Ponds, Fern Ridge, Finley, Ankeny, Ridgefield, Klamath, Malhuer & the Coast

Spring Bird Photo Trips *Start Now*

Field trips this time of year can be for the birds. This is not a smart-alecky derogatory comment. This is an annually anticipated opportunity for many photographers when spring finally appears to be seriously on the way as millions of migratory birds wend their way back to nearby nesting sites.

Often the most interesting birds arrive by mere handfuls and present a technical and esthetic challenge for experienced bird photographers as well as beginners. So much to learn in such a small amount of time. Art Morris, probably the best known professional bird photographer in the U.S. today, tells beginners to pick no more than three species, close to home, start learning their habits and prepare to be disappointed by not having “keeper shots” for many days.

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Photo - Bruce Bittle

Juv. Am. Bittern, Finley mitigation pond, Bruce Rd.

New EPS Print Stand May Be Non-Starter

A recently completed EPS Board approved project, a one-of-a-kind-in-the-world portable print judging stand, could perhaps become yet another victim of rapidly changing photo technology.

This project was approved after major procedural changes were approved for the way EPS conducts its business that would appear to encourage prints. This includes combining digital and print competitions in a single night, instituting the new Challenge night with digital or print submissions acceptable and finally starting a “Before & After” discussion

of prints to be posted on bulletin boards that are to be installed on our meeting room walls.

All three changes would lead most folks

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Birding *continued*

Locally we're lucky to have many bird photo hot spots. Less than 20 minutes away for most of us are the Delta Ponds and Fern Ridge reservoir. Then gradually farther from Eugene there are Finley and Ankeny Wildlife Refuges within an hour's drive. Further still is the Ridgefield WR about ten miles north of the Columbia River in WA.

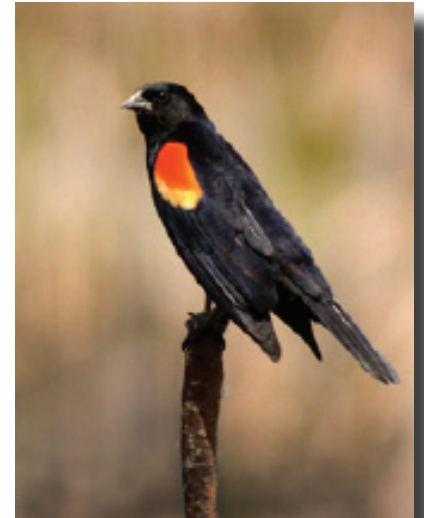
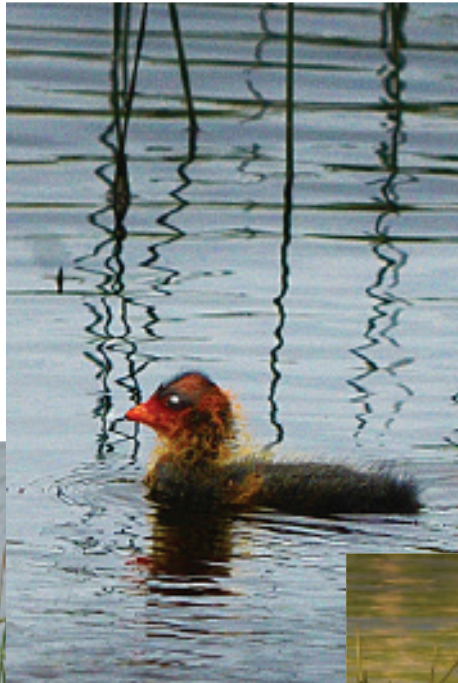
There are two giant wildlife refuge destinations in OR, the Klamath WR southeast of Klamath Falls and the Malheur WR east of Burns. Finally don't forget the pelagic birds on the OR coast.

Photographing birds is a good way to learn your birds by shooting them first and learning them later. After all, that's what the best known

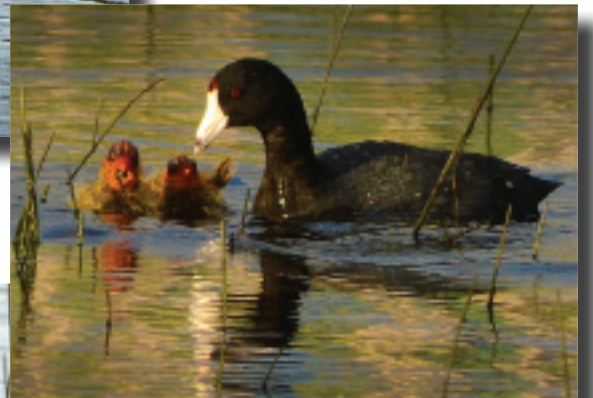
birder in America, James Audubon, did. However, our method is far less destructive. Audubon used a gun.

Happy shooting.

Bruce Bittle



Bittle photos



All photos taken on May 1 & 2 at the Finley mitigation pond on Bruce Rd. located about 5 miles north of Monroe on Hwy 99 W.





Judging Stand *continued*

to believe that prints were still a viable part of EPS activities. This was what propelled two EPSers, **Bruce Bittle** and **Tom Elder** to begin work on the judging stand that had been an idea for a number of years.

Another EPS event happened that looked like it too was going to encourage more print activity. This was the sale of nearly 40 new Canon photo quality ink jet print-



Folded for storage

ers to EPS members in March. It looked like the time was right to invent the judging stand.

Designed by Bittle and fabricated in Elder's well equipped shop, construction began over the holidays and after two months of pretty much non-stop work, the stand became a reality.

Now after a couple of months use, it is being well received by all EPSers and appears to work better than most would have anticipated.

This success is due to paying

attention to details as it was being built. The nearly 200 daylight corrected (5600 Kelvin) LED lights contained in two 20 inch strips are



Open for business

the most important and expensive part of the unit. Built to accept up to 22" down to 8" images in non-reflective light is the second important capability.

Rounding out the details are hidden automatic drop-out support legs, a self-contained 25' power cord and a flat black interior with dark silver metallic exterior that makes the stand disappear as intended when room lights are off and only the images are illuminated.

Finally having everything fold up into a compact 26" x 24" x 4" portable carrying unit maximizes ease of storage. Total cost was \$920 with lights at \$670 the largest portion of the total outlay.

Yet, now that the stand is



Judging in progress

available for use there appears to be diminishing interest by club members for displaying prints. This may be due to the ease of and zero cost for displaying digital images. It can also be noted that there are now clubs in the 4Cs that purposely display only digital images while print images entered in monthly competitions sponsored by 4Cs are declining.

There is one thing to remember about displaying print vs. digital images. We continue to hear complaints that projected digital images just don't look as good as they do on computer screens. There is no cure for this because affordable projector technology just can't overcome this discrepancy even with careful calibration all around.

So the best advice still is, if you want your images to appear at their best exactly as you want others to see them, show your prints!

Bruce Bittle





Field of Vision Upper Half Gets More Attention

People pay more attention to the upper half of their field of vision, a study shows, a finding that could have ramifications for traffic signs to software interface design.

“Specifically, we tested people’s ability to quickly identify a target amidst visual clutter,” says Dr. Jing Feng, an assistant professor of psychology at NC State. “Basically, we wanted to see where people concentrate their attention at first glance.”

Researchers had participants fix their eyes on the center of a computer screen, and then flashed a target and distracting symbols onto the screen for 10 to 80 milliseconds.

Researchers found that people were 7 percent better at finding the target when it was located in the



Participants fixing their eyes on the center of a computer screen were then asked to indicate where a flashed target had been located on the screen. Photo: Jing Feng

upper half of the screen.

“It doesn’t mean people don’t pay attention to the lower field of vision, but they were demonstrably better at paying attention to the upper field,” Feng says. “For example, this could make a difference in determining where to locate traffic signs to make them more

noticeable to drivers, or where to place important information on a website to highlight that information for users.”

Published online in the open-access journal i-Perception.

*North Carolina State University
Science Daily - April 22, 2014*

[This is not new information.

You can prove this to yourself by blocking out first the top half of a line of type and try to read it, then block the bottom half and see how easy it is. For photographers this could easily be the reason that the most common element missing from otherwise good photos is a foreground element usually found at the bottom of the image. Ed.]

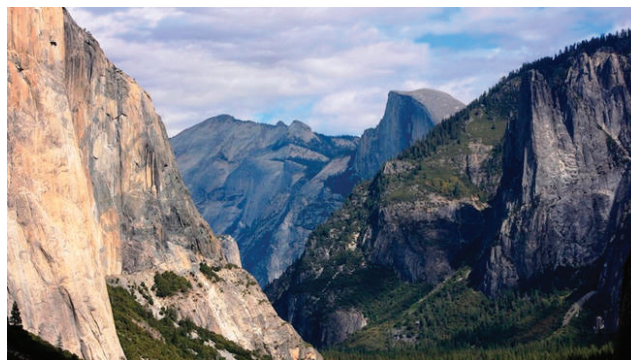


Park Service Bans Quadcopters At Yosemite

The National Park Service says drone aircraft are “prohibited within park boundaries” of Yosemite National Park.

Officials say, in recent years, the park has experienced an increase in visitors using drones inside the park to film climbers and views above the treetops in the national park. “Drones can be extremely noisy,” wrote the Park Service, “and can impact the natural soundscape.”

The service referred to a section of the Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR 2.17, which reads,



“delivering or retrieving a person or object by parachute, helicopter, or other airborne means is illegal, except in emergencies.”

The law exempts “official business of the Federal government” and

emergency rescues. Indeed, actual military drones have been deployed to help with fire fighting as recently as last year.

Federal law has been particularly unclear on the use of drones by citizens. The Federal Aviation Administration has not yet drafted full regulations for the domestic use of drones and is not expected to until the fall of 2015. And this year, a federal judge ruled that the FAA doesn’t even have the authority to regulate hobbyist aircraft.

[The game is afoot. Ed.]





How Can You Ask “What If?” If You Can’t “Undo”?

I once had the pleasure of dining with fellow photographer Bill Atkinson here on Molokai. Bill is not only a great visionary; he is also a true master of color digital printing.

Bill had been deeply involved in the development of the original Macintosh interface. In fact, he wrote the original MacPaint software. He was already a great photographer in my book. This made him close to a god.

For Bill, however, this part of his life was ancient history and he really wasn't keen to talk about it. Never one to heed subtle hints, I kept pushing and eventually he said, “Well, O.K. there is one thing that you really do owe me for.”

“What's that?” I asked.

“I was the champion of the Undo command.”

I was flabbergasted. I stammered, “You mean before you there really wasn't one?”

“No,” he continued, “not really. None of the early PC's had it. They weren't going to put it on the Mac either. I couldn't believe it! I remember standing up in a meeting and shouting, ‘HOW CAN YOU ASK ‘WHAT IF?’ IF YOU CAN'T ‘UNDO’?’”

How can you ask “What if?” if you can't “undo”? There are many gifts that Bill has given me, but none greater than this.

Think about it a minute. How many things in your photography or in your life have you refrained from doing either because they couldn't be undone or because the time and cost of undoing them was just too overwhelming?

What a drain on our creativity to live without an undo command!

Today we have undo commands not only on our computers

would have seen or tried if I'd been back in the days of film thinking about how much money I was spending every time I clicked the shutter.

If you want to be creative, you can't be afraid of mistakes. And when you've got an undo command on your camera and your computer, you can't be afraid. Play! Experiment! Go for it! No pressure, just fun!

I once read that “if you're careful enough nothing good or bad will ever happen to you”. OK, but folks, if you follow

that maxim, you'll lead a pretty dull life and I guarantee you'll never be creative.

We live at a time when technology offers us thousands of creative possibilities. Hidden within all that technology, thanks to good Mr. Atkinson, is an incredible incentive for experimentation -- that little undo command.

So, say a word of thanks to Bill, for always allowing you to ... undo.

Dewitt Jones, April 21, 2014

Jones is a regular contributor to Outdoor Photographer magazine.

[Atkinson represents, in my estimation, 1% of programmers capable of comprehending the freewheeling randomness of creative thinking, while the remaining 99% are locked into the visionless concentration required by lock-step linear-logic. Ed]

Thanks to EPSer Ron Green for finding this article. Ed.



What a drain on our creativity to live without an undo command!

Dewitt Jones

but on our cameras as well. How different the process of photography has become.

Last week I went out to photograph a gathering here on Molokai. Didn't know what I was really looking for, just documenting the lifestyle and hoping for a great composition. The light was rather harsh. If I'd had film in the camera, I probably would have taken five or ten frames, made a quick cost/benefit estimate of continuing and packed it up for the day. With digital? I shot two hundred images. How many did I keep? Maybe ten. The rest? I “undood” them.

I tried everything that morning, every technique, angle, and filter I could think of. Why? Because if it didn't work I could undo it. No harm, no foul. Almost all of the ones I kept were gems I never



Q&A With Tim Grey

Q: *Importing into Lightroom I've been using Minimal instead of Standard setting on Rendering Preview option. Can that and Build Smart Previews both be changed after the download?*

A: Yes, generating Standard previews ensures each image is suitable for viewing at a normal (non-zoomed) setting on your monitor and that there won't be a delay rendering previews on the fly. If you need to wait [between] images it's time to generate previews for those images.

To do so, start by navigating to the folder containing the images you want to generate previews for. Then select all of those images (you can choose Edit > Select All from the menu to do so, or press Ctrl+A on Windows or Command+A on Mac) and choose Library > Previews > Build Standard-Sized Previews from the menu. Lightroom will process previews as for any images that are missing standard-sized previews.

Similarly, you can discard the Smart Previews to reclaim the additional storage space those consume. You need to have the source images available first, so make sure that is the case. Then select the images you want to discard the Smart Previews for. From the menu, choose Library

> Previews > Discard Smart Previews, and the Smart Previews for the selected images will be discarded.

Q: *What are your recommendations for default settings in Lightroom for noise reduction and sharpening?*

A: Default settings for noise reduction in Lightroom and Adobe Camera Raw are actually very good [knowing] that final images will need to be fine-tuned.

I recommend no Luminance reduction and for Color I [use] the default setting [as is] that applies minor noise reduction.

For sharpening high-detail images, I use the Radius value of 0.5 to 0.7, and increase Amount to 50. For images with large areas of smooth texture and minimal detail, I use a higher value of 1.0 to 2.0 for Radius, but a lower Amount of 25.

Keeping the Detail default of 25 [with] Masking default at 0 works as a starting point for all images and compensates for digital capture, not for final output.

[My]conservative default values are sure to work for nearly all images, with the understanding that [you'll] need to fine-tune final images.

Q: *I want to add text to a photographic image in Photoshop. A preview of the text on the font menu is too small for my eyes. Is there a way to get a larger preview of the fonts?*

A: There is a very simple solution built right into Photoshop.

When you click on the Options bar to select a font when working with the Type tools, a preview of what each font looks like is shown to the right. The default size is small and can be difficult to see.

To change the size go to the Type option on the menu bar, select Font Preview Size, then choose size options. (Small, Medium (the default), Large, Extra Large and Huge.) I personally like Huge, so I have a clear indication of the fonts I'm choosing. I'll happily [accept] more scrolling to gain a larger preview of the fonts.

It's worth noting there's a None option for those familiar with fonts and [don't] need previews.



Tim has written a dozen books, published hundreds of magazine articles and is a member of the Photoshop World Dream Team.

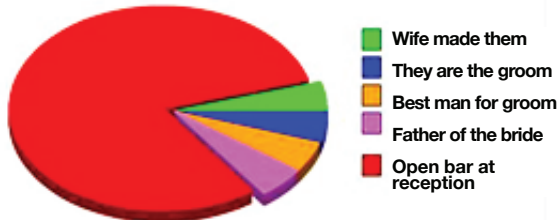
[Ed Note: Articles are reprinted with permission and abridged to fit available space.]



Stolen From The Internet

Today's everyday truths explained by graphics

Why Do Men Attend Weddings?



GraphJam.com

BEER



Uses for Bubble Wrap

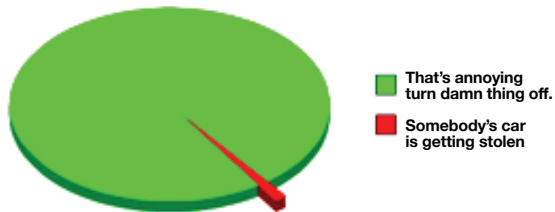


Content of a Beatles Song



GraphJam.com

Thoughts When A Car Alarm Goes Off



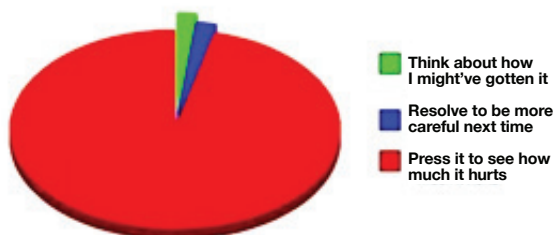
GraphJam.

Lyrics of YMCA that people know



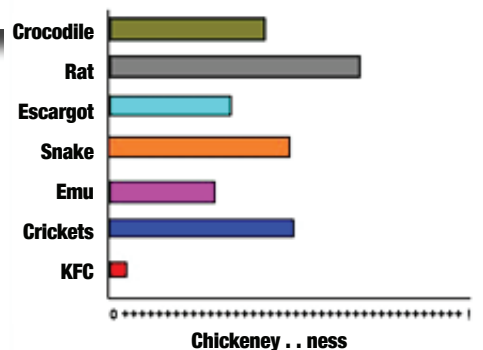
GraphJam

When You find a bruise on yourself

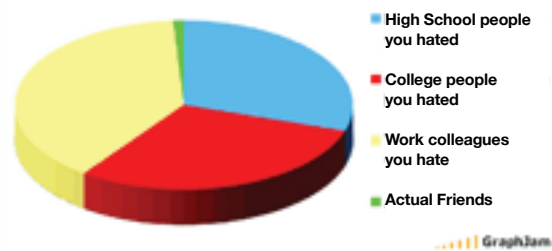


Thanks to
Graphics Jam
(Whoever
&
wherever
you are)

Things that Reportedly Taste Like Chicken



People who find you on Facebook



GraphJam

Thanks to Don Lown for finding this on the net.





What To Know

May 2014

- 6 Challenge Night - Theme "FIVE"
- 13 Ed. Night, **Cam Ranger Demo**
- 20 Print & Digital Competition night
- 27 Beginners Q & A – Demo night

June 2014

- 3 Challenge Night - Theme TBA May 6.
- 10 Ed. Night, **TBA**
- 17 Print & Digital Competition night
- 24 Beginners Q & A – Demo night

**NO MEETINGS
JULY & AUGUST**

September 2014

- 2 Challenge Night - Theme TBA Aug. 5
- 9 Ed. Night, **TBA**
- 16 Print & Digital Competition night
- 23 Beginners Q & A – Demo night

October 2014

- 7 Challenge Night - Theme TBA Sept. 2
- 14 Ed. Night, **TBA**
- 21 Print & Digital Competition night
- 28 Beginners Q & A – Demo night

November 2014

- 4 Challenge Night - Theme TBA Oct. 7
- 11 Ed. Night, **TBA**
- 18 Print & Digital Competition night
- 25 Beginners Q & A – Demo night

December 2014

- 2 Challenge Night - Theme TBA Nov. 4
- 9 Ed. Night, **TBA**

**ONLY TWO MEETINGS THIS
MONTH**

Where To Go

• Carmen Bayley

Exhibits in May: Photos of children from our travels, at Full City Coffee Roasters Pearl Street Cafe, at 842 Pearl St., Eugene, will be up until May 11.

Exhibit at the Washburne Cafe in Springfield, 326 Main St., during the month of May.

And photographs up at the Creswell Bakery. 182 S. Second, in Creswell, for at least for another month or two.

• Fall Trip to Yellowstone & The Tetons

National Park images by **Bruce Bittle** can be seen through May, at 212 Main St., Springfield in the Neighborhood Economic Development Commission (NEDCO) offices.

Do you have a show?
*Send complete details
(location, time, theme,
etc.)*

Have photos published?
*Send complete details
(Publication, date, etc.)*

**Before the last week
of the month to:**

<bittled70@gmail.com>

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**Contact:
Bruce Bittle 541.343.2386**

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