



NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

My Passion

By Larry Petterborg

(Revised for 2026)

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

- I GREW UP IN UTAH
- I PREFER TO BE OUTSIDE
- I AM A RETIRED PROFESSOR
- I HAVE BEEN DOING PHOTOGRAPHY FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS

WHAT IS NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY?

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY IS THAT BRANCH OF PHOTOGRAPHY THAT SEEKS TO CAPTURE “ALL ASPECTS OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD, BOTH ANIMATE AND INANIMATE, THAT HAVE NOT BEEN MADE OR MODIFIED BY HUMANS”.

(ADAPTED FROM THE **P**HOTOGRAPHIC **S**OCIETY OF **A**MERICA [Division Definitions](#))

WHAT IS NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY?

FOR IMAGES ENTERED INTO A "PSA NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY" CONTEST:

"The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals is permissible. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement."

WHAT IS NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY?



Could this photo be
entered into a **PSA**
Nature Competition?



EXAMPLES OF NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

- LANDSCAPE
- SEASCAPE
- WILDFLOWERS
- TREES
- MACRO
- WILDLIFE
- OTHER

LANDSCAPES







BRYCE CANYON









LANDSCAPE TIPS

1. USE A TRIPOD
2. SHOOT BEFORE 10 AM OR AFTER 4 PM
3. PLAN FOR MAXIMUM DEPTH OF FIELD
4. CREATE DEPTH
5. USE A LONG LENS FOR DETAILS

SEACAPES











TIPS FOR SEASCAPES

1. USE A TRIPOD
2. GET OUT BEFORE 10 AND AFTER 4
3. CONSULT A TIDE TABLE
4. BE PREPARED FOR GETTING WET
5. MAKE SURE TO RINSE SALT OFF

WILDFLOWERS









TREES









MACRO







TIPS FOR MACRO

1. GET CLOSE (FOR ME THAT MEANS A LONG FOCAL LENGTH)
2. PAY ATTENTION TO THE BACKGROUND
3. FOCUS STACK IF POSSIBLE

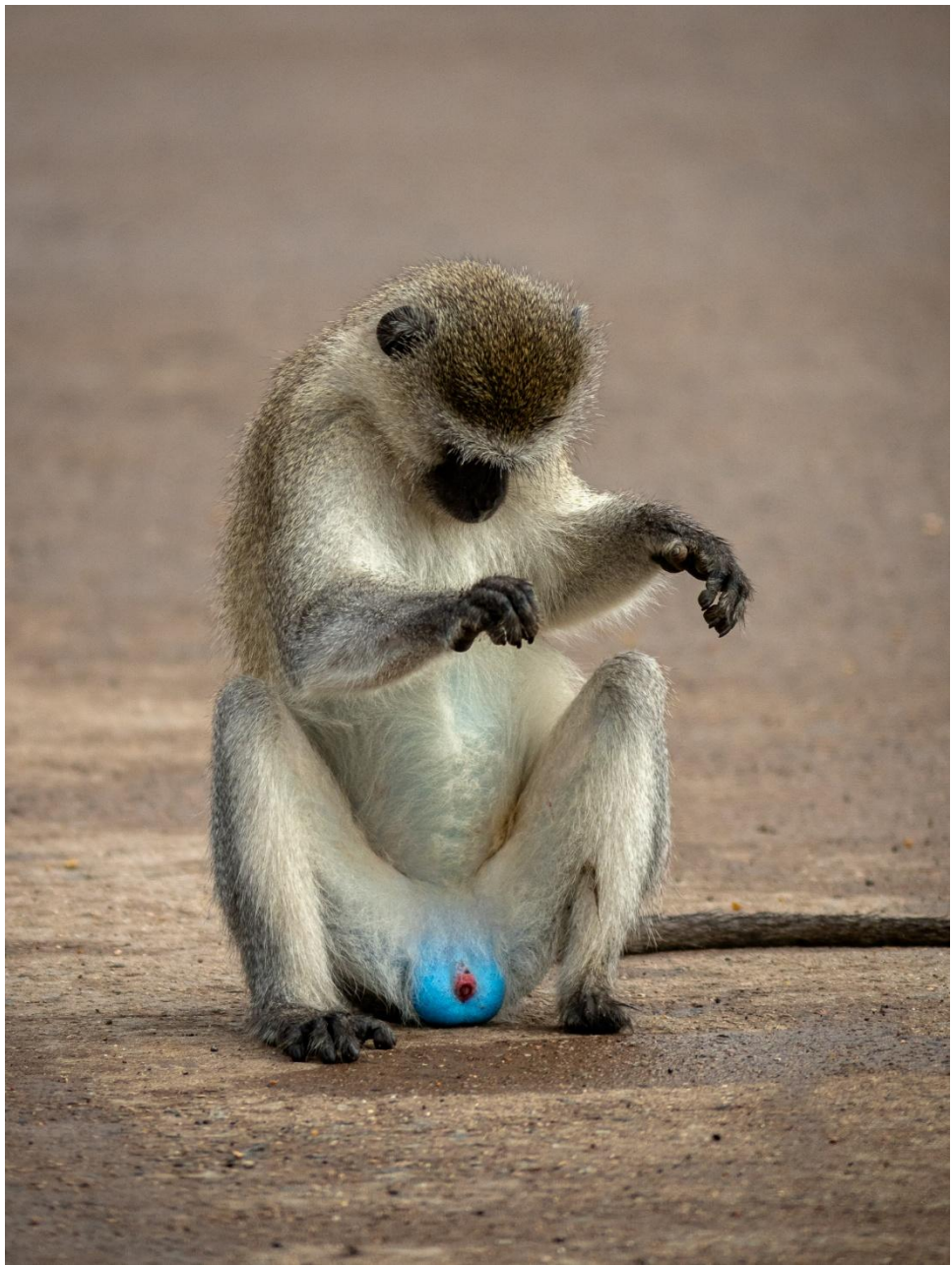
WILDLIFE

























TIPS FOR WILDLIFE

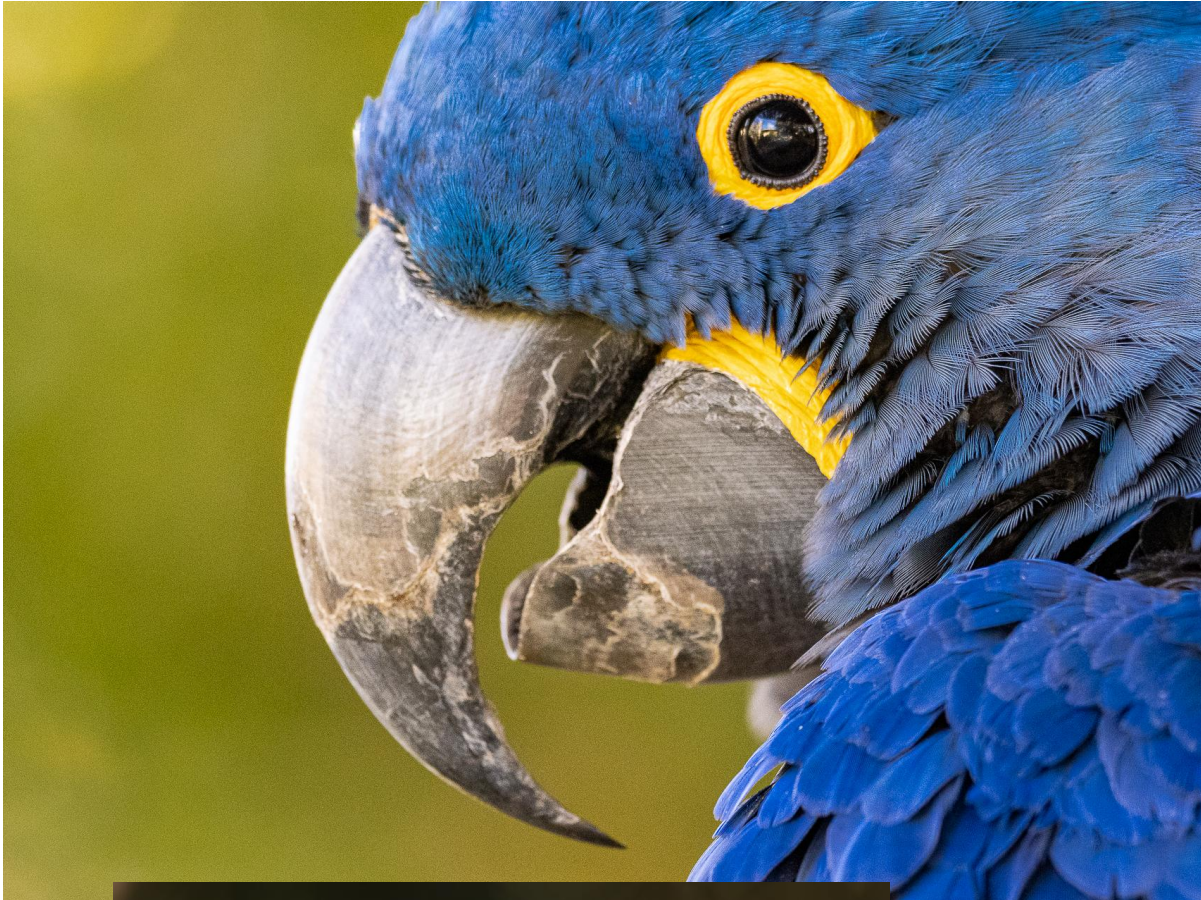
1. DO YOUR HOMEWORK
2. BE PATIENT
3. PAY ATTENTION TO THE BACKGROUND
4. BE ETHICAL
5. FOCUS ON THE EYE

ZOOS











TIPS FOR ZOOS

1. USE A LONG LENS
2. BLUR BACKGROUND
3. ARRIVE EARLY
4. BE PATIENT
5. DON'T IGNORE PEOPLE



WEATHER



















TIPS FOR WEATHER

- 1. BE CAREFUL!!!**
- 2. BE PREPARED**
- 3. GO WITH AN EXPERIENCED PERSON**

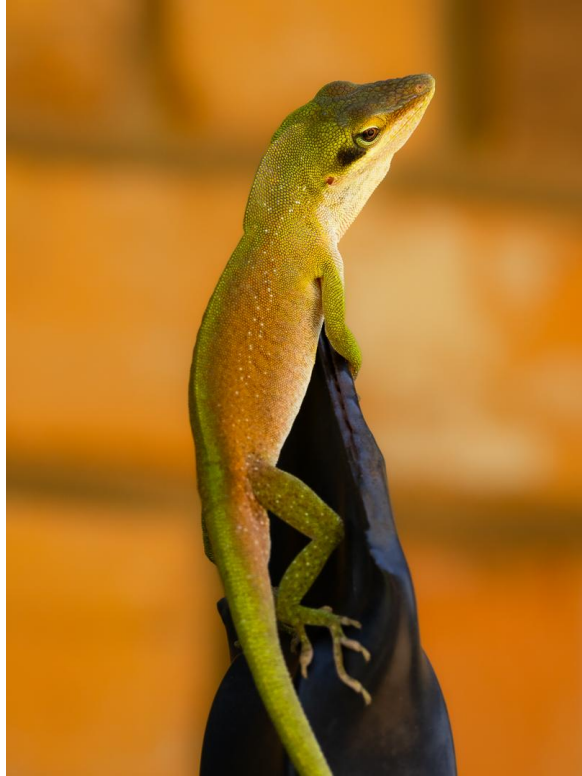
BACKYARD



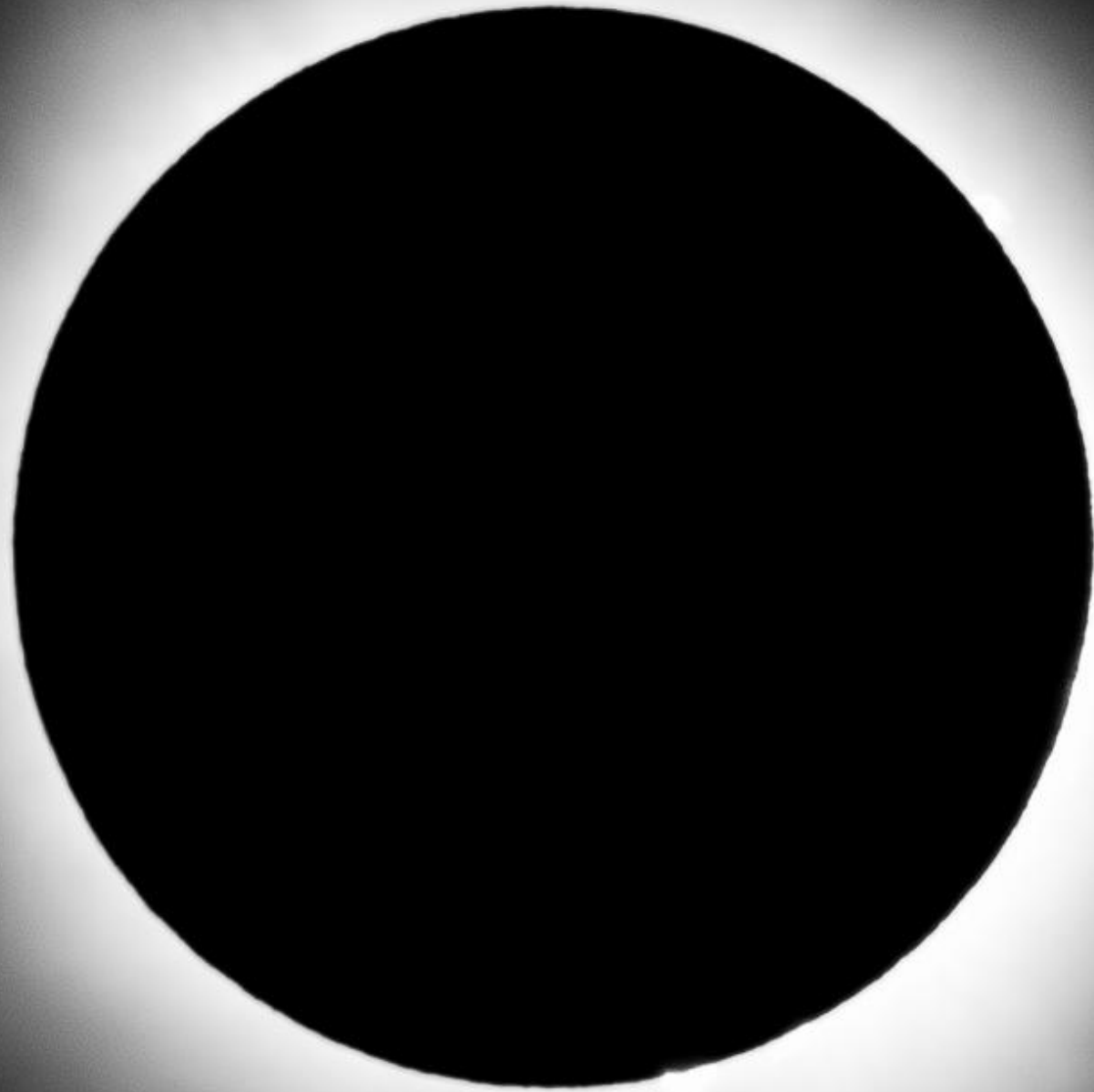
















TIPS FOR BACKYARD NATURE

1. KEEP YOUR CAMERA READY
2. PLANT NATIVE PLANTS
3. PROVIDE A SOURCE OF FRESH WATER
4. LIMIT THE USE OF HARMFUL
CHEMICALS

Q & A



THE END

