

# BEST WILDLIFE

PHOTOGRAPHY 2022

99+

AMAZING  
**WILDLIFE**  
PHOTOS

from *Canadian Geographic's* Photo Club

**TOP SHOTS**  
FROM CANADA'S  
LAND, SEAS  
AND SKIES

**PLUS**

ANIMAL PERSONALITIES,  
#SHARENGEO INSTAGRAM COMMUNITY,  
PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS **AND MORE!**



# BEST WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY 2022

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By Jenny Wong

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The best of our #sharecangeo Instagram community



Wildlife quiz questions to test your knowledge of Canada's biodiversity (answers on page 86)



A Q&A with a *Canadian Geographic* Photo Club photographer and a portfolio of their work



Images taken by *Canadian Geographic* staff



Photos taken by *Canadian Geographic* Photographers-in-Residence

### ON THE COVER

A sea wolf on the shores of Vancouver Island, B.C.

Photo by Ryan Tidman  
[ryantidman.com](http://ryantidman.com)





## Shaggy stare

The late fall sun glows over Nunavik, one of the four Inuit homelands. Wildlife in this region includes polar bears, caribou and muskox. Umingmak, the Inuktut word for muskox, means "the bearded one."

Photographer: Jean-Simon Bégin  
Species: Muskox  
Location: Nunavik, Que.  
Portfolio: [jeansimonbegin.com](http://jeansimonbegin.com)

# Picture Perfect

This could be your photo.\*



Anna's hummingbird at Iona Beach Regional Park, Richmond, B.C.

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\* **Richard Topping**/Can Geo Photo Club  
Richmond, B.C.

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**PHOTOGRAPHERS-IN-RESIDENCE**

Daisy Gilardini, Michelle Valberg, Scott Forsyth

**NEWSSTAND CONSULTANT** Scott Bullock

**MEDIA SALES DIRECTOR** Nicole Mullin, Strategic Content Labs

416-364-3333, ext. 3051 nicole.mullin@stjoseph.com

**ADVENTURES** Lisa Duncan Brown

brown@canadiangeographic.ca

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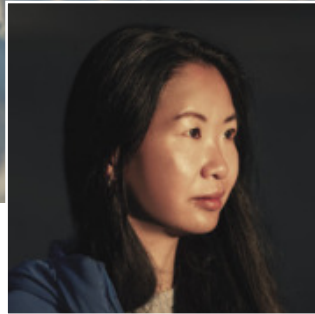
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Polar bear, Arctic Bay, Nunavut.



# At the heart of conservation

As a conservation photographer, I have always believed that if science is the brain that will decipher how to preserve our planet, then photography is the heart that drives us toward that action. A great image can bring a story to life, and inspire thought and conversation. And when we are able to normalize discussions over difficult conservation issues, that is when society can take meaningful action toward change. As an art form, photography is an eloquent and powerful way to give a voice to those without one; it delivers the intangible textures between lines of text.

Whether good or bad, humans have set foot on just about every habitat on the planet, inevitably becoming part of all wildlife stories. We are often both part of the problem and its solution. And in the eleventh hour for our beautifully biodiverse planet, the privilege of having our thoughts and ideas heard is reserved exclusively for humans. With that said, I am overwhelmingly proud to be part of the Can Geo Photo Club ([photoclub.cangeo.ca](http://photoclub.cangeo.ca)) and the #sharecangeo Instagram photo communities who have passionately shared their visual stories from all corners of the Canadian landscape. These images have connected us from all three coasts to the southern border, from flourishing old-growth forests teeming with life to the great expanse of Arctic sea ice.

In this issue, we celebrate both the wild characters in frame and the passionate drive and talent behind the viewfinder. Collectively, we hope the images here inspire you to join the conversation. We all need to understand the beauty of the natural world if we hope to save it for generations to come.

Jenny Wong  
[jennwong.ca](http://jennwong.ca) • [@jdubcaptures](https://www.instagram.com/jdubcaptures)

*Jenny Wong specializes in adventure, travel, wildlife and commercial photography. She is passionate about using her craft to spread awareness about the frontlines and last lines of climate change in the Arctic.*

# LAND





A bobcat stalks through the deep snow. A black bear holds a freshly caught salmon in its jaws. A woodland caribou grazes in the late fall. From tundra to forests to coastlines, the animals in this section show perseverance in the face of a changing climate and habitat disruption.

## Tread lightly

The bobcat lives in many habitats across North America, from deserts to forests. Its large paws help it move quickly over the snow.

Photographer: Leslie Poulson

Species: Bobcat

Location: Coast Mountains, B.C.

Portfolio: [lesliepwild.myportfolio.com](http://lesliepwild.myportfolio.com)



## Close encounter

"To this day, this remains one of the most wild and magical moments I've experienced here in Canada. While ski touring at Lake O'Hara in 2018, a group of friends and I were lucky enough to see a wolverine. I hunkered down in the snow and cold, hoping it would come back. Luckily, patience paid off."

Photographer: Will Lambert

Species: Wolverine

Location: Lake O'Hara, Yoho National Park, B.C.

Portfolio: [willlambertphotography.com](http://willlambertphotography.com)



## QUIZ

1. Which of the following facts about wolverines is *not* true?

- a) Their colour patterns are unique, like a fingerprint
- b) They hibernate for three months
- c) They have an acute sense of smell
- d) They travel up to 60 kilometres a day



## Pika portrait

“Since it was late summer, the pikas were still busy collecting grasses and vegetation for their haystacks to stockpile for winter. This particular pika grabbed a bunch of leafy vegetation and took off running back to the rocks.”

Photographer: Jamie Bussey  
Species: American pika  
Location: Kananaskis Country, Alta.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/jamiebwild](https://www.instagram.com/jamiebwild)



## Fight club

As the top Arctic predator, male polar bears are particularly territorial. While they sometimes fight other males for space, mates or food, they will also engage in play fighting to bond with family members and to practice for the real thing.

Photographer: Dave Sandford  
Species: Polar bear  
Location: Churchill, Man.  
Portfolio: [davesandfordphotos.com](http://davesandfordphotos.com)



## Tree house

"I just happened to be in my backyard when I saw a couple of baby raccoons feasting on a mulberry tree. I ran inside to get my camera and waited about an hour and managed to capture this shot."

Photographer: Nora Morris

Species: Raccoon

Location: Fenwick, Ont.

Portfolio: [norabeatricephotography.com](http://norabeatricephotography.com)



## Great grizzly

“For many years, this sow was mistaken for a male due to her size, but early this spring she was seen with cubs. Unfortunately, she lost them a few months later. What struck me the most was her fur colour, which looks like a mix of blonde and orange.”

Photographer: Carlos Marrero Reiley  
Species: Grizzly bear  
Location: Jasper National Park, Alta.





## Bear's breakfast

"October sees black bears fattening up on the last remaining salmon. We travelled to an island in the Great Bear Rainforest to photograph bears feeding. A couple of hours went by before a black bear waded into the creek directly in front of us and caught a salmon."

Photographer: Simon Ager  
Species: Black bear  
Location: Great Bear Rainforest, B.C.  
Portfolio: [simonagerphotography.com](http://simonagerphotography.com)

## QUIZ

2. TRUE OR FALSE. Black bears and humans weigh about the same.



### Snail story

“It was macrophotography day and I was in my friend’s backyard searching for insects. At the bottom of a tree, there was a lot of wet bark and underneath I found these two snails.”

Photographer: Lise Simoneau  
Species: Brown-lipped snail  
Location: Lévis, Que.



## Dinner time

“While hiking along the shoreline, with guides from Arctic Kingdom, I was watching for polar bears during their annual migration out onto the freezing sea ice, and also watching for other local wildlife. This fox was curious and cautiously approached us.”

Photographer: Keith McLeod  
Species: Arctic fox  
Location: Hudson Bay, Nunavut  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/keithintheworld](https://www.instagram.com/keithintheworld)





## Amber silhouette

Caribou are particularly sensitive to changes in their habitat, and as humans continue to move to all corners of the globe, the species is in rapid decline.

Photographer: Jean-Simon Bégin  
Species: Woodland caribou  
Location: Nunavik, Que.  
Portfolio: [jeansimonbegin.com](http://jeansimonbegin.com)



## Bighorn beauty

“As my partner and I hiked back to the car, we came across some female bighorn sheep walking towards us. We took a brief pause to watch them and I took this image. A few moments later, they climbed up a rock wall with ease, and were out of sight!”

Photographer: Mike Markov  
Species: Bighorn sheep  
Location: Hidden Valley, Jasper National Park, Alta.  
Portfolio: [mikemarkov.ca](http://mikemarkov.ca)





## Sleeping giant

Kermode bears, or spirit bears, are a unique cream-coloured subspecies of black bear that live along the central and north coast of British Columbia.

Photographer: Daisy Gilardini  
Species: Kermode bear  
Location: Great Bear Rainforest, B.C.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/daisygilardini](https://www.instagram.com/daisygilardini)



## Quiet time

“This amazing little kit had just been playing with its littermates. Suddenly, it stopped playing and laid down, intently listening to the sounds of nature, while scouring its surroundings. That’s a good habit to have when there are bigger critters lurking nearby.”

Photographer: Jerry Schmanda

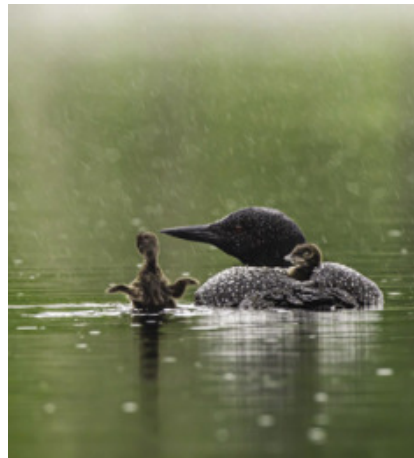
Species: Red fox

Location: Algonquin Provincial Park, Ont.

Portfolio: [instagram.com/schmandaphotography](https://www.instagram.com/schmandaphotography)

# GENERATIONS

A collection of shots celebrating animals  
nurturing their young



**Clockwise from top:** Black bear, Nipissing, Ont. (Megan Lorenz/[mlorenzphotography.com](http://mlorenzphotography.com)); Columbian ground squirrel, near Revelstoke, B.C. (Leslie Poulson/[lesliepwild.myportfolio.com](http://lesliepwild.myportfolio.com)); long-tailed weasel, Lethbridge, Alta. (John Krampl/[@johnkramplphotography](http://@johnkramplphotography)); great horned owl, Main-à-Dieu, N.S. (Kris Tynski/[kristynski.ca](http://kristynski.ca)); common loon, Muskoka, Ont. (Emma Jane Ball/[ejballf2be.myportfolio.com](http://ejballf2be.myportfolio.com)).



**Clockwise from TOP RIGHT:** Northern gannet, Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé, Que. (Alexandra Pope/[@xela.explores](#)); moose, Parc national de la Gaspésie, Que. (Michel Bury/[michelbury.com](#)); red fox, Belleville, Ont. (Mark Hopper/[@hop\\_the\\_shark](#)); Anna's hummingbird, Campbell River, B.C. (Michael Hack/[@michaelrhack](#)).



## FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER DAVID SANDFORD

### What is your most memorable moment in the field?

On a late fall day around Churchill, Man., I was driving along with two colleagues and my friend and guide, Drew Hamilton. All of a sudden, Hamilton saw a wolverine. He slammed on the brakes and we skidded off the icy road. The next thing I knew, we were in a ditch. We were fine, and no one seemed to care about the vehicle, as they all clambered out to catch a glimpse of the ultra-elusive wolverine. My door was jammed, so I climbed out of the window in a panic. I got out just in time to see the wolverine dashing across a frozen pond. It paused and turned back just long enough for me to capture two frames before it disappeared into the woods.

### How did you get into photography?

From a very young age, I loved animals and the natural world. In the early 1980s, the outdoors often revolved around fishing and hunting, so when I was nine, I told my dad that I wanted to be a hunter. His response changed my life. He said, "Why would you want to shoot an animal with a gun, when you could shoot it with a camera? That way, the animal gets to live, and you have a cool photo to show your friends!" That was all the convincing I needed.

### What is your favourite subject to photograph and why?

The polar bear. I loved and admired the species while I was growing up. And when I first saw one in the High Arctic, my love and care for them deepened. However, as beautiful as they are, they are apex predators that command a great deal of respect. And their mostly solitary life isn't an easy one.

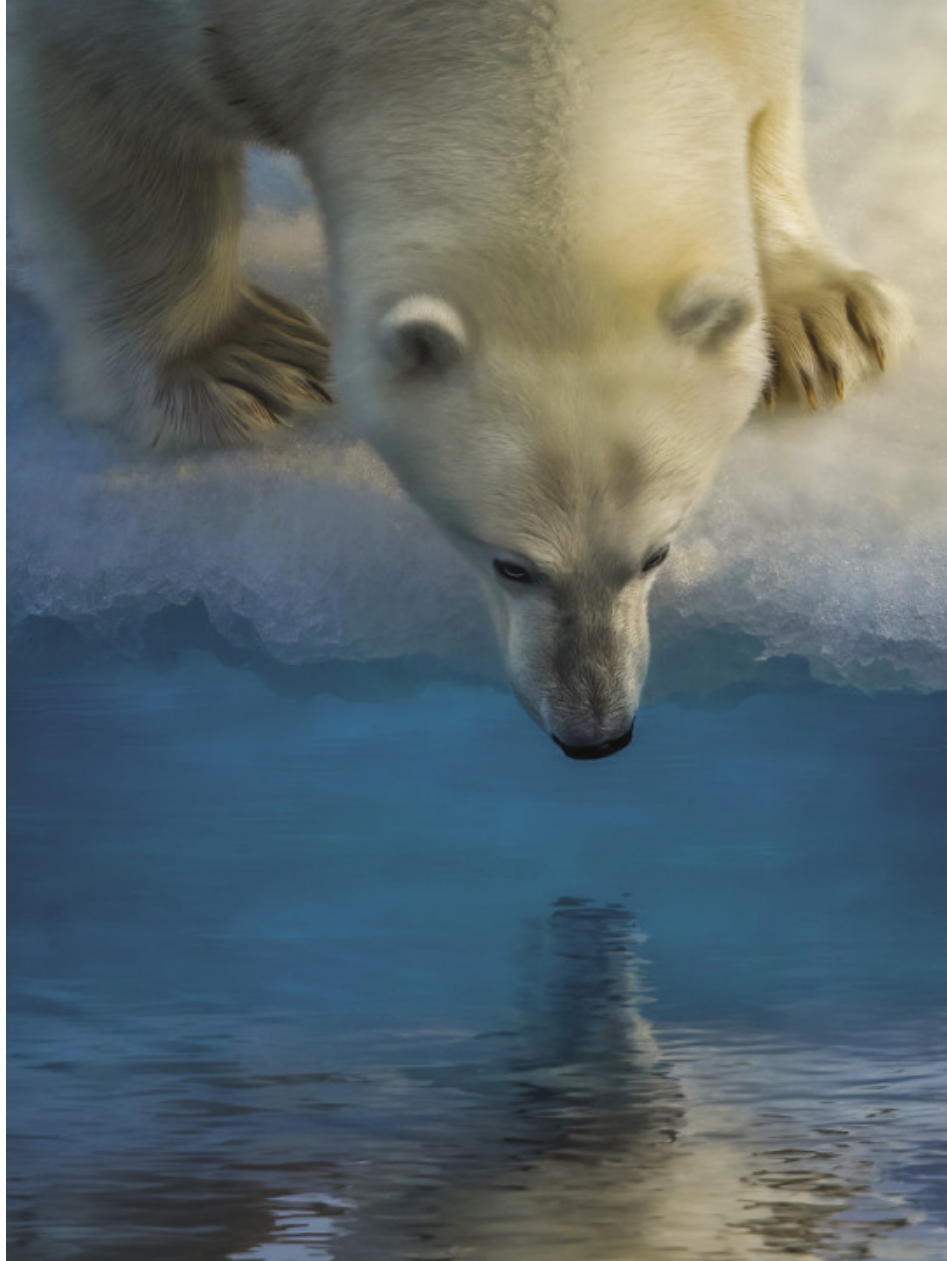
### What is the best advice you've received?

Always go into things with an open mind and never think that you know it all, because you don't. There is always something new to learn, and if you are open to it, you can continue to grow, evolve and become better at your craft.

*David Sandford is based in London, Ont. His work has appeared in Canadian Geographic, National Geographic, Outdoor Photographer and others.*

*[davesandfordphotos.com](http://davesandfordphotos.com); [@davesandford](https://twitter.com/davesandford)*

**Clockwise from TOP LEFT:** Polar bear, Lancaster Sound, Nunavut; white-tailed deer, London, Ont.; Arctic fox, Churchill, Man.; polar bear, Churchill, Man.; great blue heron, London, Ont.; Atlantic walrus, Dundas Harbour, Nunavut.







# WATER





A humpback whale spirals out of the cold Atlantic. A raft of sea lions dip and dive in the surf. A beaver slaps its tail on a still lake. From lakes to rivers to oceans, this section celebrates species that spend their lives in and around water.

## Breach behaviour

“While out on a Zodiac trip one evening, we came upon a playful whale. We watched it for some time, and then it decided to jump. It always gives me goosebumps seeing a multi-ton whale jump out of the Atlantic.”

Photographer: Michael Winsor  
Species: Humpback whale  
Location: Bonavista Bay, N.L.  
Portfolio: [michaelwinsor.ca](http://michaelwinsor.ca)



## Rainbow reef

“The vibrant colour of these anemones against the emerald green waters of the Pacific Northwest is a welcome sight nearly every time I dive here.”

Photographer: Maxwel Hohn  
Species: Fish-eating anemone  
Location: Port Hardy, B.C.  
Portfolio: [maxwelhohn.com](http://maxwelhohn.com)

## QUIZ

3. The iconic loon has four distinct calls. They are:

- a) Trill, buzz, scream, yodel
- b) Whistle, yodel, scat singing, bill tapping
- c) Wail, trill, tremolo, whistle
- d) Wail, tremolo, yodel, hoot



## Pond life

Each day, western toad tadpoles migrate to shallower waters to feed on micro plants and algae.

Photographer: Maxwel Hohn  
Species: Western toad tadpole  
Location: Campbell River, B.C.  
Portfolio: [maxwelhohn.com](http://maxwelhohn.com)

## QUIZ

4. TRUE OR FALSE. Moose can dive to depths of almost six metres.



## Walk on water

"While on an early morning kayak, I spotted this great blue heron fishing along the shoreline. I watched for about 15 minutes before it finally caught a fish and took flight with it. The early morning light highlighted the colour and brilliance of the plumage on this wonderful bird."

Photographer: Bill Maynard  
Species: Great blue heron  
Location: Big Rideau Lake, Ont.  
Portfolio: [coolwildlife.com](http://coolwildlife.com)



## Out of its shell

"This painted turtle was just begging to be photographed. However, I have found that turtles often slide back into the water if you approach too quickly. I observed the turtle from my kayak for 20 minutes without any movement until it relaxed and was no longer focused on me."

Photographer: Bill Maynard  
Species: Painted turtle  
Location: Big Rideau Lake, Ont.  
Portfolio: [coolwildlife.com](http://coolwildlife.com)



## Play time

“On a recent excursion, we encountered a raft of sea lions surfing in the waters off the north coast of Vancouver Island. Wind and weather conditions were not ideal for the Zodiac, but made for excellent conditions for the sea lions to play in the surf.”

Photographer: Colette Perras  
Species: Steller sea lion  
Location: North Vancouver Island, B.C.







## Slap shot

The size and shape of a beaver's tail is an individual and family trait. It may be shorter or longer, broader or more narrow.

Photographer: Lisa Adler  
Species: Beaver  
Location: Little Fishing Lake, Sask.  
Portfolio: [lisaadler.ca](http://lisaadler.ca)

## QUIZ

5. TRUE OR FALSE. The beaver is the second-largest rodent species in North America.



## Make waves

“At a local pond, this wood duck decided it was time for a little preening and splashing. All I had to do was get low, focus on the eye and enjoy the moment.”

Photographer: Bill Maynard  
Species: Wood duck  
Location: Ottawa  
Portfolio: [coolwildlife.com](http://coolwildlife.com)

# To the point

A narwhal's tusk is an elongated tooth that is extremely sensitive, with up to 10 million nerve endings. Some narwhals can grow two tusks, while others never grow them.

Photographer: Michelle Valberg  
Species: Narwhal  
Location: near Arctic Bay, Nunavut  
Portfolio: [michellevalberg.com](http://michellevalberg.com)







## Pelican party

“At the dam, I noticed a large group of pelicans fishing. I watched them move as a group, seemingly working together to catch the fish swimming below them. As soon as a fish was caught, however, it was every pelican for itself.”

Photographer: April Stampe  
Species: American white pelican  
Location: Lockport, Man.  
Portfolio: [aprilstampephotography.com](http://aprilstampephotography.com)



## My tern

“On this spring morning, I’d hoped to photograph osprey fishing. After several hours, a Caspian tern that had been zipping past on the lookout for a meal all morning suddenly crashed into the water. It broke the stillness of the pond, just for a moment, and flew off with a small fish.”

Photographer: Josh Kraemer

Species: Caspian tern

Location: Sunfish Pond, Hamilton, Ont.

Portfolio: [joshuakraemer.photoshelter.com](http://joshuakraemer.photoshelter.com)



## Take a dip

More than half of Canada's grizzly bear population lives in British Columbia, with the rest divided between Alberta and the territories. Unfortunately, around the world, grizzlies only inhabit about half of their historic range.

Photographer: Carlos Marrero Reiley

Species: Grizzly bear

Location: Atnarko River, Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, B.C.





# IN THE MOMENT

A collection of photos capturing  
animals' personalities



**Clockwise from top:** Harbour seal pup, Tofino, Vancouver Island, B.C. (Taylor Lundin/[@taytaylundin](#)); Blonde grizzly bear, Jasper National Park, Alta. (Carlos Marrero Reiley); American red squirrel, Macnamara Nature Trail, Arnprior, Ont. (Tanya Kirmishni/[@tanyakirmishni](#)).



**Clockwise from TOP RIGHT:** Hooded merganser, Markham, Ont. (Forest Qiao); Atlantic puffin, Elliston, N.L. (Sharif Galal/[@sharif\\_galal\\_photography](#)); humpback whale, Work Channel, Khutzymateen Provincial Park, B.C. (Javier Frutos/[@javier\\_s\\_wonderplanet](#)); barred owl, Ottawa (Bill Maynard/[coolwildlife.com](#)); snowy owl, Ottawa (Joe Wilson/[joewilson.ca](#)).



## FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER DENNIS LIU

### What is your most memorable moment in the field?

While photographing a great blue heron a few years ago, I saw a mallard duck trapped in a fishing net in the middle of a pond. There were so many people just watching it, without doing anything. So, with the help of two other photographers, I used a long pole to pull the duck over to the shoreline and free it. I missed the moment when the blue heron caught a fish, but freeing the duck was the most rewarding part of the day.

### What has been your biggest challenge?

Time and money are very challenging for every amateur wildlife photographer. As a busy engineer and father of two kids, I always have to manage both. To get more shooting time in, I usually get up two to three hours earlier than the rest of my family to take some photos. Then I come back home and drive my son to school.

### What is your favourite subject to photograph and why?

Red foxes are one of my favourite subjects to photograph. They have piercing eyes and cute faces. The challenge in photographing foxes is getting the proper focus and exposure, and telling a story with the image. The red fox is the most widespread predator in the world, and they are active year-round near cities or suburban areas. And, unfortunately, their survival rate is quite low. On average, they live less than three years of a seven- to nine-year lifespan, due to predators, such as coyotes, a lack of food, and accidents, injuries or diseases. I like to use my photos to show people where they live and the challenges they face.

### What is the best advice you've received?

"If I don't go out and get what I want, it likely won't be handed to me."

—Brooke Shaden, fine art photographer

*Dennis Liu is based in Mississauga, Ont. His photography has won many awards, including runner-up in Canadian Geographic's 2021 Canadian Photos of the Year Competition, and gold in the World Photography Awards 2021 presented by the North American Photography Association and World Cultural Arts Organization.*

[1x.com/pictureart](https://1x.com/pictureart)

**Clockwise from TOP RIGHT:** Sandhill crane, Long Point, Ont.; pine marten, Algonquin Provincial Park, Ont.; short-eared owl, Toronto; red fox, Toronto; great horned owl, Greater Toronto Area.





# SKY





Puffins settle on sun-warmed rocks after a day on the water. A male great grey owl tenderly feeds its mate as she sits on her nest. A luna moth spreads its captivating wings. This section is dedicated to the incredible species that take to our skies.

## Sunset cruise

Puffins return to their roost at sunset to catch the last of the sun's warm rays. Puffins spend most of their lives at sea, fishing and bobbing on the waves.

Photographer: Jacques-André Dupont  
Species: Atlantic puffin  
Location: Île aux Perroquets, Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve, Que.  
Portfolio: [jadupontphoto.com](http://jadupontphoto.com)



## Food fight

“The parents were feeding their young bluebirds, and one baby was getting pressure from the other two to give up its food.”

Photographer: Steven Rose

Species: Eastern bluebird

Location: Ajax, Ont.

Portfolio: [stevenrosephotography.com](http://stevenrosephotography.com)



## QUIZ

6. Which of the following is *not* another name for the Canada jay:

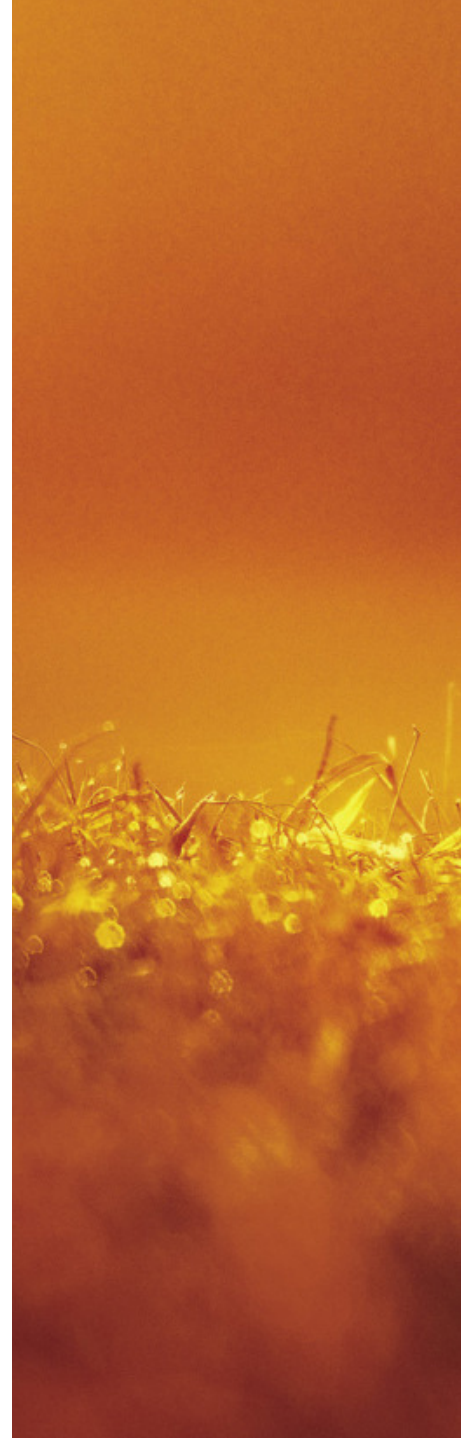
- a) Grey jay
- b) Whisky jack
- c) Nest stealer
- d) Camp robber



## Free delivery

A male great grey owl brings a meal to a female on her nest. Great grey owls tend to use old raptor nests or lay their eggs in broken tree trunks, like this female.

Photographer: Leslie Poulson  
Species: Great grey owl  
Location: Cariboo region, B.C.  
Portfolio: [lesliewild.myportfolio.com](http://lesliewild.myportfolio.com)



## Balancing act

"I love watching meadowlarks hunting for large insects. They have some of the most beautiful bird songs. On this day, I was driving on the back-country roads and saw this male meadowlark jumping from one blade of grass to another."

Photographer: Sharif Galal

Species: Western meadowlark

Location: Brooks, Alta.

Portfolio: [instagram.com/sharif\\_galal\\_photography](https://www.instagram.com/sharif_galal_photography)



## Lek's dance

On spring mornings, male sharp-tailed grouse gather in leks to engage in elaborate courtship displays. They bend low to the ground, point their tail feathers to the sky and stamp their feet wildly.

Photographer: Jean-Simon Bégin  
Species: Sharp-tailed grouse  
Location: Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Que.  
Portfolio: [jeansimonbegin.com](http://jeansimonbegin.com)

## Chance of flurries

"I caught sight of some movement along the side of the road, and I knew that snow buntings often foraged there. They are very skittish and fly fast, so I slowly drove closer, then quietly stood and watched and photographed the flock."

Photographer: Mary Hindle

Species: Snow bunting

Location: Ottawa

Portfolio: [mhindle.smugmug.com](http://mhindle.smugmug.com)







## Eagle has landed

“As the tide went out, many bald eagles and great blue herons gathered to feed on the creatures stuck in the tide pools. It was a feeding frenzy with feathers flying and talons locking. This eagle had just stolen a heron’s fish.”

Photographer: Windy Corduroy  
Species: Bald eagle  
Location: Surrey, B.C.  
Portfolio: [windycorduroy.com](http://windycorduroy.com)



## Grey day

These little songbirds live year-round in North America's boreal and sub-alpine forests. Their ability to cache food, by glueing it to trees with saliva, is partly why the species is able to endure the regions' harsh winters.

Photographer: Albert Michaud

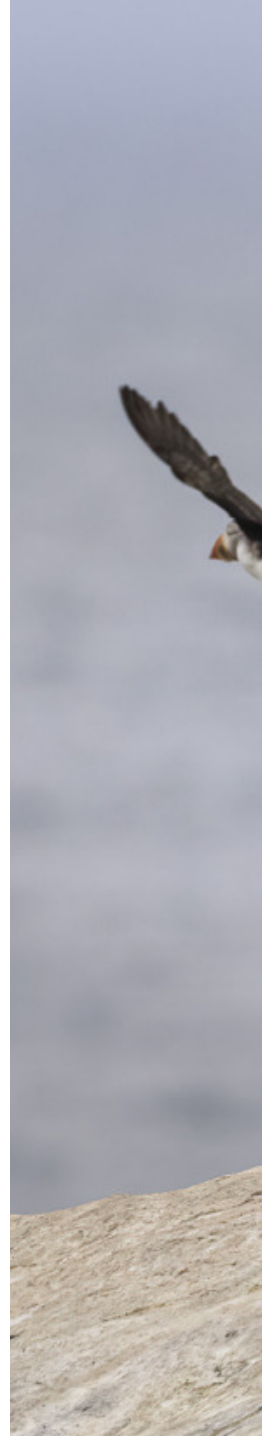
Species: Canada jay

Location: Parc national des Grands-Jardins, Que.

Portfolio: [instagram.com/albert.m.photo](https://www.instagram.com/albert.m.photo)

## QUIZ

7. TRUE OR FALSE. Luna moths are found on every continent except Antarctica.



## Bella luna

Lime-green luna moths are elusive in Canada's deciduous forests, only appearing as moths for a brief seven- to 10-day period to lay eggs, and then dying shortly after.

Photographer: Brittany Crossman

Species: Luna moth

Location: Riverview, N.B.

Portfolio: [brittanycrossman.com](http://brittanycrossman.com)





## King of the rock

“During the nesting season, Machias Seal Island becomes home to thousands of pelagic birds. Photographing puffins was the purpose of my trip, but while I was there a northern gannet landed on a rock and proceeded to strut among some razorbills and a puffin.”

Photographer: Lynn Fergusson  
Species: Northern gannet, Atlantic puffin, razorbill  
Location: Machias Seal Island, N.B.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/lynnfergussonphoto](https://www.instagram.com/lynnfergussonphoto)



## Spotlight on me

Ruby-throated hummingbirds abound in most of southern Canada during the warmer breeding months, but by early fall, this jewel-toned species is bound for Central America.

Photographer: Dennis Liu  
Species: Ruby-throated hummingbird  
Location: High Park, Toronto  
Portfolio: [1x.com/pictureart](https://1x.com/pictureart)

## QUIZ

8. How many hummingbird species live in Canada?

- a) 5
- b) 10
- c) 15
- d) 20



### Great escape

"I grow milkweed in my garden for the monarchs. They lay their eggs on them and when the caterpillars hatch, they eat the leaves. One day I noticed a chrysalis on a rue plant, next to the milkweed. I kept an eye on it, checking several times a day."

Photographer: Brenda Doherty

Species: Monarch butterfly

Location: Ariss, Ont.

Portfolio: [instagram.com/rendoherty](https://www.instagram.com/rendoherty)



## Flight path

"A cold wind swept in off Lake Erie that morning and after shivering at the edge of a frozen marsh watching hundreds of sandhill cranes fly overhead, I decided to try my luck from the warmth of my car. I found a few cranes hunkered down in a field, just behind a fence, so I waited with the window down, hoping they would take flight."

Photographer: Josh Kraemer

Species: Sandhill crane

Location: Near Port Rowan, Ont.

Portfolio: [joshuakraemer.photoshelter.com](http://joshuakraemer.photoshelter.com)





## Eagle eye

A bald eagle perches in an old-growth forest in the Khutzeymateen, a protected area for grizzly bears and other species.

Photographer: Javier Frutos

Species: Bald eagle

Location: Khutzeymateen Provincial Park, B.C.

Portfolio: [instagram.com/javiers\\_wonderplanet](https://www.instagram.com/javiers_wonderplanet)



## Heron reflections

"Hérons are frequent visitors to the shallow areas along the shores of the Ottawa River and in the marshes and inlets around Petrie Island. Photographing from a kayak allows me a much quieter and closer approach, with excellent low angles."

Photographer: David White  
Species: Great blue heron  
Location: Ottawa



## FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER LESLIE POULSON

### What is your most memorable moment in the field?

I spent a mid-winter morning out and about for a few hours looking for moose, but found nothing. As I was starting my drive back, a white shape flew across the road in front of my truck. I pulled over and moved as quickly as I could through the knee-deep snow in the direction of the bird. I thought it was long gone, so I watched some mountain chickadees. When I got up to leave, a boreal owl was sitting on a low branch directly behind me. It stayed put for a few minutes; my presence seemed barely on its radar.

### What has been your biggest challenge?

Finding wildlife, hands down. Living in the mountains, I have had a lot of incredible chance encounters, but locating regular sites, especially for some mammal and owl species, has been, and continues to be, a challenge.

### What is the next animal on your bucket list?

I've started learning about macrophotography, so in the immediate future, I would really like to find a few cool frogs, dragonflies and spiders to start showcasing the beauty in the tiny creatures to which we pay little attention. Maybe I could help to change people's attitudes towards the so-called creepy crawlies.

### What is the best advice you've received?

If you want to make photos like a pro, you have to act like a pro. If you go for a walk at midday when the sun is high in the sky and the animals are inactive, and are hoping to come away with an amazing shot, chances are you'll be disappointed. Would a professional photographer do it that way? No. They would plan to make images in the golden hour light, in a purposely chosen scenic space with a nice background, seeking a particular species they've spent time researching.

*Leslie Poulson is based in the Coast Mountains, B.C. Her work has been published in Canadian Geographic and has won numerous awards, including first place and runner-up in a competition run by Journal of Wildlife Photography. [lesliepwild.myportfolio.com](http://lesliepwild.myportfolio.com)*

**Clockwise from TOP RIGHT:** Common loon, Cariboo region, B. C.; barn owl, Lower Mainland, B.C.; rufous hummingbird, Coast Mountains, B.C.; red fox, Cariboo region, B.C.; polar bear, Churchill, Man.; barred owl, Lower Mainland, B.C.







# #SHARECANGE0





Gentle waves lap over a sea star at low tide in the St. Lawrence River. A mountain goat grazes in an alpine meadow. A harp seal pup rests on the ice in Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Que. These photos highlight the best of Canada's biodiversity, shot by our #sharecangeo Instagram community.

## ◀ Super star

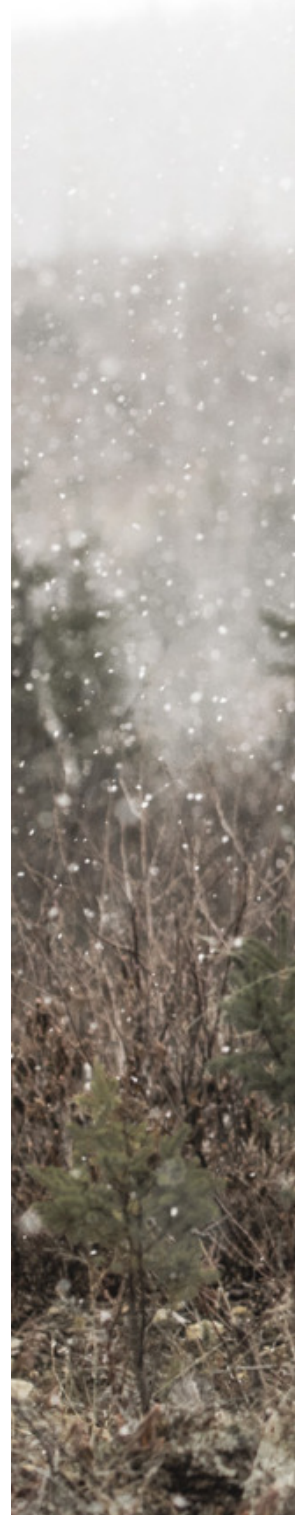
"I've been to this particular spot in the St. Lawrence Estuary a few times. I noticed that at low tide, sea stars come to the surface and offer a great opportunity for an over-under photo at sunset."

Photographer: Jean-Christophe Lemay

Species: Polar six-rayed star

Location: Rimouski, Que.

Portfolio: [instagram.com/jclemayphoto](https://www.instagram.com/jclemayphoto)



## ▲ Face time

“This shot was taken on a freediving trip to Hornby Island off the coast of Vancouver Island. Steller sea lions are incredibly inquisitive animals and we were lucky enough to have amazingly clear water conditions that helped make a shot like this possible.”

Photographer: Daniel Carr  
Species: Steller sea lion  
Location: Hornby Island, B.C.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/dancarrphoto](https://www.instagram.com/dancarrphoto)

## ▶ Hey, 'boo

“I have been observing this small herd of woodland caribou for several years now. Habitat loss is causing them to disappear. When I took this photo last year, this male was very curious and often came to observe me. This year, I did not see them.”

Photographer: Jean-Simon Bégin  
Species: Woodland caribou  
Location: Charlevoix, Que.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/jsb\\_wildlife\\_photography](https://www.instagram.com/jsb_wildlife_photography)







## ◀ Mother's love

"Driving on the Alaska Highway through Kluane National Park and Reserve on a summer afternoon, we came across this beautiful grizzly and her two cubs. We were the only ones on the road, so we pulled over onto the shoulder. Mum and cubs were tickling each other, chasing each other, hugging each other, jumping on each other and playing hide-and-seek in the bushes. I felt like I could hear them speaking to one another."

Photographer: Rukshan de Silva  
Species: Grizzly bear  
Location: Kluane National Park and Reserve, Yukon  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/rukdesilva](https://www.instagram.com/rukdesilva)

## ▲ Kit nap

"This photo was taken near a sandy area where urban foxes have been denning for generations. This fox was one of four kits, two of which were black, a melanated colour variant, and two were red."

Photographer: Marcus Jackson  
Species: Red fox  
Location: Yellowknife  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/wildknifepphoto](https://www.instagram.com/wildknifepphoto)







## ◀ Lynx look

In the North, lynx mainly prey on snowshoe hares. The two species have evolved together, and the link between them is so tight that their populations fluctuate in almost perfect synchrony.

Photographer: Megan Lorenz  
Species: Canada lynx  
Location: Northern Ontario  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/mlorenzphotography](https://www.instagram.com/mlorenzphotography)

## ▲ Whale waltz

"This was the first time I decided to go whale watching in a Zodiac, and it was the best decision I ever made! In the distance, we saw humpbacks breaching, so our guide approached at a safe distance. I braced myself trying to keep as still as possible, and then a whale breached straight up out of the ocean!"

Photographer: Nancy Dempsey  
Species: Humpback whale  
Location: Near Brier Island, N.S.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/njdempsey](https://www.instagram.com/njdempsey)



## ▲ Showdown

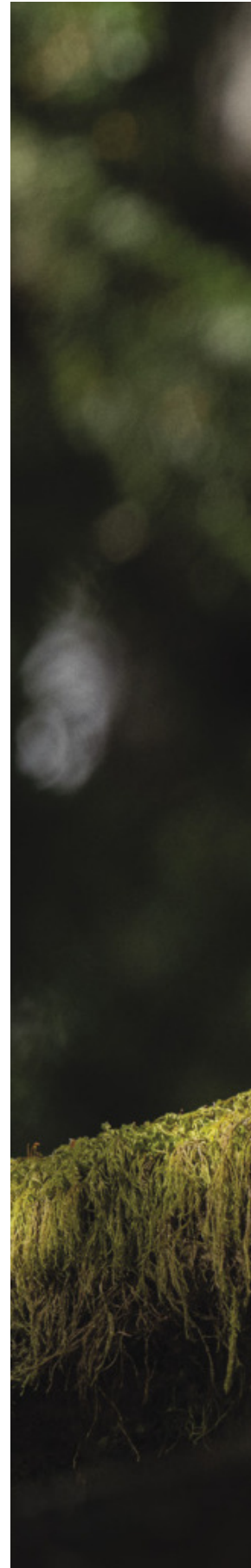
"It was a blustery -15 C morning when I spotted this silver fox going up a trail. I could see he had stopped and was hunting a vole. It was so windy and cold that I just tried to focus and keep my lens steady on the scene. I didn't realize what I had captured until I returned home."

Photographer: Carol Ann Ryan  
Species: Red fox  
Location: Signal Hill National Historic Site, St. John's  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/carol\\_ann\\_ryan\\_photography](https://www.instagram.com/carol_ann_ryan_photography)

## ▶ Grouse house

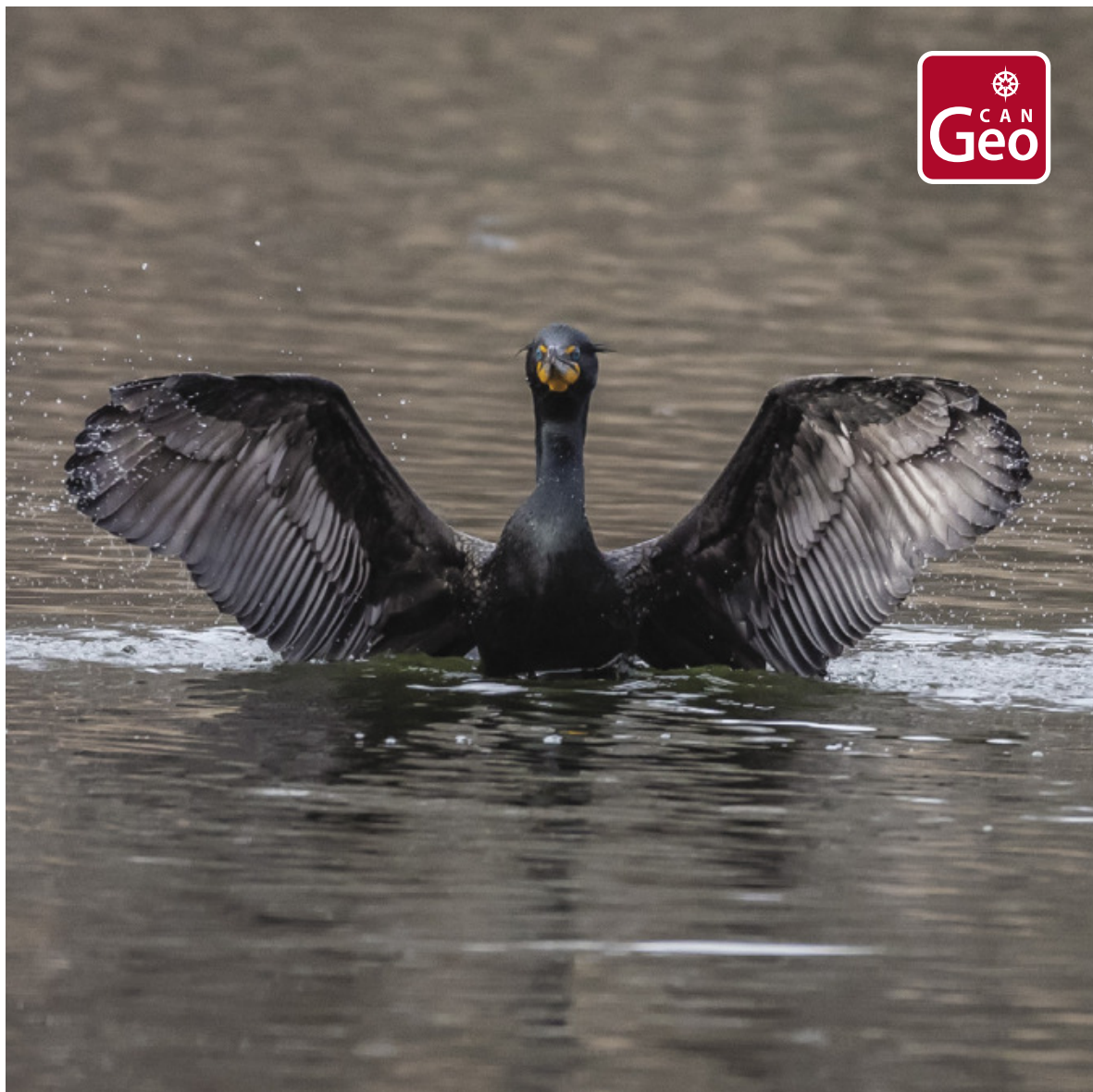
A male sooty grouse rests on a branch high up in a tree. During courtship, the males reveal orange eye combs and yellow-orange air sacs in their necks as they display from their perches.

Photographer: Amedeo Cortese  
Species: Sooty grouse  
Location: Mount Matheson, Vancouver Island, B.C.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/wildlifephotobydeco](https://www.instagram.com/wildlifephotobydeco)









## ◀ Branching out

"I was walking around the lake, which still had a thick slushy ice crust on it, when I saw a flash of colour. To my surprise, a yellow-rumped warbler was floating around the trees. They are our first warbler to migrate north and often show up when there's still snow covering the ground."

Photographer: Melanie Palik  
Species: Yellow-rumped warbler  
Location: Gillies Lake, Timmins, Ont.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/melaniepalik](https://www.instagram.com/melaniepalik)

## ▲ Swim and stretch

A cormorant stretches its wings wide on the water. This species has less preen oil on its feathers than other waterbirds, meaning they can get more easily waterlogged. This is actually a good thing for the birds, as wet feathers help the double-crested cormorant hunt faster underwater.

Photographer: Javier Frutos  
Species: Double-crested cormorant  
Location: Ottawa  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/javiers\\_wonderplanet](https://www.instagram.com/javiers_wonderplanet)



## ▲ Peekaboo

“I was at the end of a winter road in Algonquin Provincial Park. This American marten ran across the snow and popped up to check me out. They are very curious animals, and pretty quick. I got a few blurry shots, but guessed where it would pop up next — and got lucky!”

Photographer: Erika Squires  
Species: American marten  
Location: Algonquin Provincial Park, Ont.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/erikaesquiresphotography](https://www.instagram.com/erikaesquiresphotography)

## ▶ Billy goat

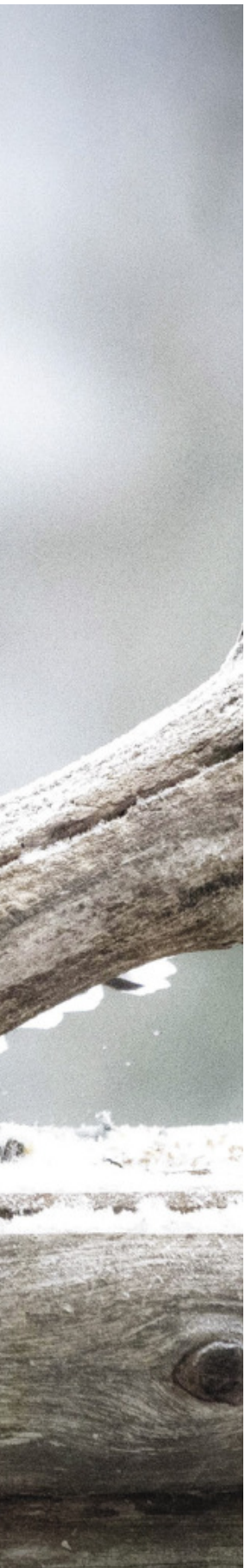
“I spent a few nights camping in B.C.’s alpine wilderness with a herd of wild mountain goats. I developed a lot of respect and love for these incredible animals. Mountain goats are facing new threats; climate change is impacting their environment, resulting in unusual weather and altered plant growth that forces them to change habitats and diet.”

Photographer: Liron Gertsman  
Species: Mountain goat  
Location: Southeastern B.C.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/liron\\_gertsman\\_photography](https://www.instagram.com/liron_gertsman_photography)









## ◀ Feathers fly

Blue jays are very intelligent birds, often mimicking hawk calls to warn other jays of danger, or to deceive other species into leaving their roosts. Captive blue jays have also been observed using tools to get hard-to-reach seeds.

Photographer: Danièle Lavigne  
Species: Blue jay  
Location: Sainte-Adèle, Que.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/augerlemaitre](https://www.instagram.com/augerlemaitre)

## ▲ Snowy sheep

“During a gloomy spring day on a hike in Banff National Park, I came across a small herd of bighorn sheep enjoying some peaceful grazing on the alpine grasses. This particular ram was situated in an open meadow. After we had been watching him graze for some time, an unexpected late-season snow flurry blew into the meadow.”

Photographer: Jayden Daniels  
Species: Bighorn sheep  
Location: Banff National Park, Alta.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/jay.inthewild](https://www.instagram.com/jay.inthewild)



## ▲ Harp, a seal!

Female harp seals give birth to their young in large colonies on the sea ice. Pups are born with long white fur that helps keep them warm while they pack on blubber.

Photographer: Daisy Gilardini  
Species: Harp seal  
Location: Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Que.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/daisygilardini](https://www.instagram.com/daisygilardini)

## ▶ Frosty moose

A moose peers from a frozen clearing on Cape Breton Island. The moose on the island are distinct from those on mainland Nova Scotia, and descended from just 18 animals introduced to the island from Alberta in the 1940s.

Photographer: Kris Tynski  
Species: Moose  
Location: Cape Breton Highlands National Park, N.S.  
Portfolio: [instagram.com/tynskiphoto](https://www.instagram.com/tynskiphoto)





## FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER JEAN-SIMON BÉGIN

### What has been your biggest challenge?

Trying to make a living out of photography without compromising my artistic vision. It's a two-way street. I believe in my art and continue to create it, and my audience encourages me by buying it. That has led me to start my own publishing house and to publish two books in the last three years. My next big challenge is to publish a book about my travels to Nunavik.

### How did you get into photography?

Since I was 12, this has been my passion. For me, photography is my one and only dream in life. And I have so much more to explore.

### What is the next animal on your photo bucket list?

I am currently working on an expedition to photograph polar bears in Nunavik. It would be really easy for me to pay for a workshop and go to Churchill, Man., but for me photographing wildlife is about making discoveries. I think those kinds of shots bring a lot more to the understanding of the North. A beautiful picture without a good story is not powerful enough for me.

### What is the best advice you've received?

In Quebec, specifically, I didn't grow up looking at successful wildlife photographers; there weren't many. So, I would say that Vincent Munier [a wildlife photographer from France] was — and still is — my greatest inspiration. All I can say about my success as a wildlife photographer is that I never stopped believing in myself. I work hard, very hard, and I have sacrificed a lot to be where I am today.

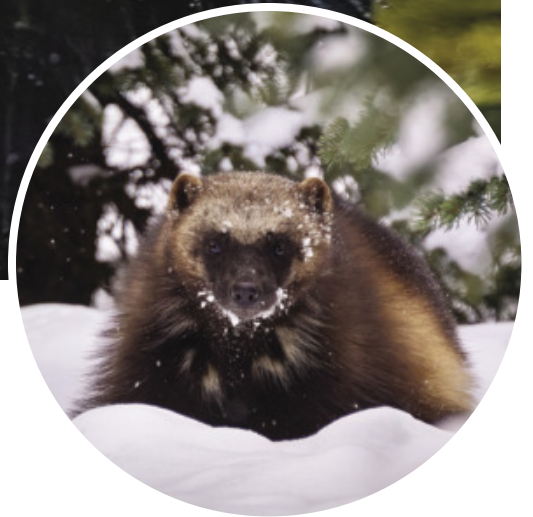
*Jean-Simon Bégin is based in Quebec. His work has earned more than 50 awards from local and international contests, including Canadian Photographer of the Year from Canadian Geographic, and has been featured in the magazine. [jeansimonbegin.com](http://jeansimonbegin.com); [instagram.com/jsb\\_wildlife\\_photography](https://www.instagram.com/jsb_wildlife_photography)*

**Clockwise from TOP LEFT:** Canada lynx, Ontario; muskox, Nunavik, Que.; short-eared owl, Ontario; woodland caribou, Nunavik, Que.; grey wolf, Ontario; black bear, Nunavik, Que.





# ANSWERS



1. b) They hibernate for three months. Wolverines do not hibernate.
2. True! Females weigh 45-70 kgs, while males weigh 70-80 kgs.
3. d) Wail, tremolo, yodel, hoot
4. True! And they can hold their breath for up to a minute!
5. False. Growing up to 29 kgs and just over a metre long, beavers are the largest rodents on the continent.
6. c) Nest stealer
7. False. Luna moths are only found in North America.
8. a) 5

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