

by the Editors

Outdoor photography encompasses a wide range of subject matter: wildlife, landscapes, close-ups, people, architecture and more. (It also includes sports action and aerial photography, but we'll save those specialized subjects for future special sections.)

It's great to get out in the fresh air and enjoy the works of nature...and the works of man. And it's great to bring back great photos of what you see while you're out there enjoying it all. The following pages will give you some ideas that will help you do just that.

You don't have to visit exotic locations to have a lot of fun and bring back great photos. Your own back yard and your own town will yield a wide variety of outdoor photo opportunities—parks, trees, flowers, zoos, outdoor outings with the family and the like. Sharp subject selection and creative cropping can give you great shots just about anywhere.

A few words about nature and photographic ethics: It's OK to photograph zoo and other captive or tame animals, and to manipulate your images with a computer (or in the darkroom). A great image is a great image, no matter how it was produced. But it's *not* OK to try to pass off photos of captive animals as having been taken in the wild, or to claim manipulated images are "straight" photos. Just be honest—it's that simple!

Outdoor Photography

THERE'S A WORLD OF GREAT SUBJECT MATTER OUT THERE, JUST WAITING FOR YOU. CHECK IT OUT!

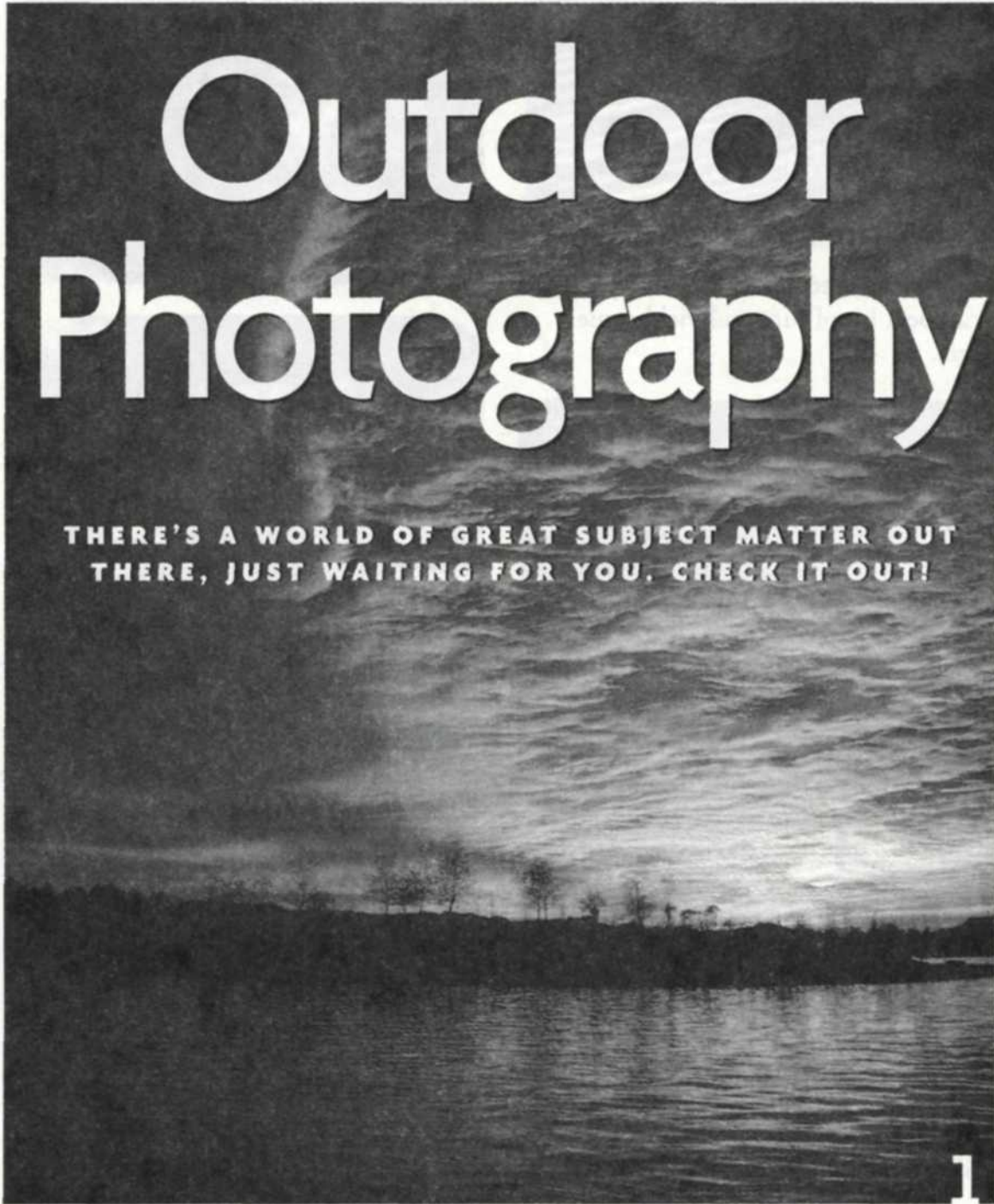


PHOTO BY JACK & SUE DRAFAHL

PHOTO BY MIKE STENSVOID



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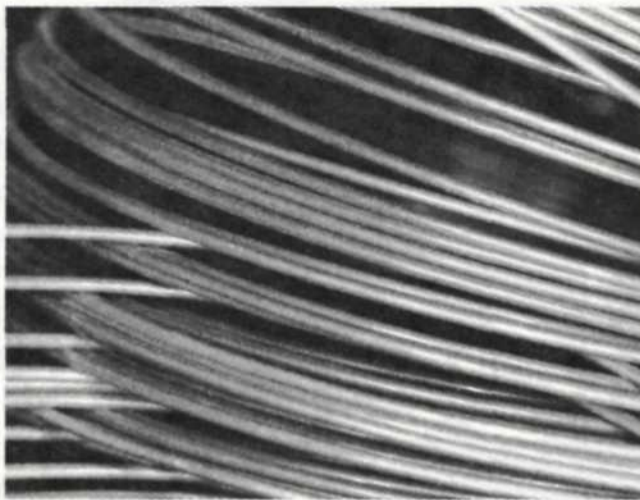
PHOTO BY MIKE STENSVOID



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10. Product shots often require close-up equipment and techniques.



12. Moving in close to abstract an everyday subject can be a lot of fun, and yield some nice images.



16.



13. As in normal photography, silhouettes can be fun.

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17.



11. It's often a good idea to include something of known size in a close-up shot, for scale.



18.



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14. Leaves lighted from behind have a translucent appearance that can be very effective close-up.



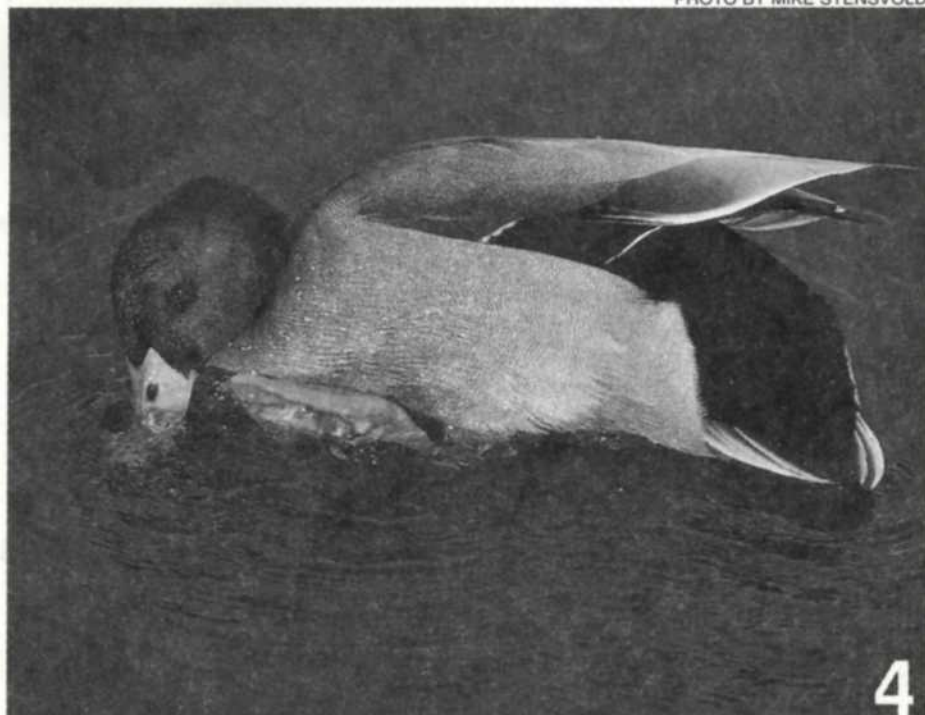
15. Coin and stamp collectors will find close-up techniques invaluable for recording their treasures. Coins generally work best with cross lighting, to show off the pattern.



19.

16-19. Here the photographer combined close-up techniques with an intervalometer to record a sequence of flowers opening. ■

PHOTO BY MIKE STENSVOLD



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PHOTO BY JACK & SUE DRAFAHL

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PHOTO © LYNNE EODICE

1. Sunsets can make for colorful photos. If the sky is the most interesting part of the scene, position the horizon low in the frame to include more of the sky.

2. Sidelighting brings out texture and form in this Alaskan bear.

3. Outdoor action is easy to capture, because bright light lets you use fast shutter speeds to freeze the motion, even with slower films.

4. On-camera fill-flash can bring out the color in close-up shots.

5. Crop in on a section of wildflowers for a colorful image.

6. Fisheye lenses were originally made for sky studies. This was made with a full-frame fisheye pointed straight up at the clouds.

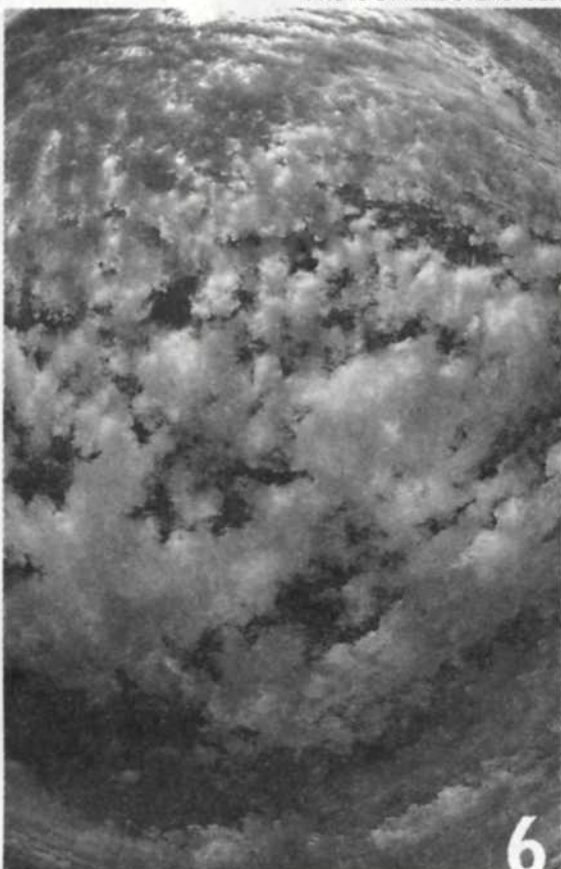
7. Move in close to your subject, either physically or with a long lens, for maximum impact. This is most easily done with captive animals.

8. You can add interest to a grand scenic vista by including a colorful foreground subject, such as these flowers.



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PHOTO BY MIKE STENSVOLD



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ANIMALS

1. Professional wildlife photographers study up on their subjects, then spend lots of time in the field. Most of us don't have the time for that, but there are some "shortcuts" to great animal photos. One is to shoot from established animal viewing areas. This brown-bear family was captured on film from a well-known shooting platform in Alaska. Long lenses (and a tripod to brace them) are a must for photographing big and dangerous wild animals—300mm and longer for 35mm cameras. (Original image in color.)

2. You don't need wild subjects to get good animal photos. You can make some nice shots of domestic animals, too, and such beasts are generally more accessible. Since domestic animals are tamer and less dangerous than wild ones, you can get closer and use shorter lenses—but you should still be careful. (Original image in color.)

3. Don't forget about small, common animals—they can make for good photos, too, and can be found just about anywhere. (Original image in color.)

4. There's nothing wrong with photographing captive animals in a zoo, as long as you don't try to pass the shots off as having been taken in the wild. (Original image in color.)

5. While animals themselves are fascinating, don't forget about good photographic principles—composition and lighting, for example. Spot metering yielded a perfect exposure of this meerkat (suricate) in tricky but dramatic lighting. (Original image in color.)

6. Some AF SLRs can handle birds in flight (use continuous AF mode), but you should be prepared to focus manually if yours seems to have trouble. One good way to get in-flight close-ups is to set up near folks who are feeding the birds—that way, the birds will come to you. (Original image in color.)

7. Lighting is a key element of every picture, and that includes pictures of wildlife. Here, the right lighting adds

life to the great blue heron's eye. (Original image in color.)

8. Photos of the animal in its environment tell the viewer something about its lifestyle. Great egrets can be found in fields as well as in water. (Original images in color.)

9. Animals interacting can be more interesting than animals just standing there. The photographer reports that this conversation was something about one good tern deserving another. (Original image in color.)

10. For variety, try using a long lens to tightly crop the subject. About the only way to get this close without exotic equipment and lots of patience is to photograph captive birds. There's nothing wrong with this—a great photo is a great photo, however obtained—but don't try to sell the shot as having been made in the wild. (Original image in color.)

11. Simple backgrounds keep attention focused on the subject—here, a pied-billed grebe. (Original image in color.)

12. Keep on the lookout for exciting lighting and backgrounds that can turn an ordinary shot into an extraordinary one. (Original image in color.)

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