



# WILDLIFE

IN NORTH CAROLINA  
2010 PHOTO COMPETITION

There's patience, and then there's patience. It took Jackie Orsulak 10 years to get the photo that won this year's photo competition. For the past decade, she has volunteered to guard sea turtle nests near her home in Duck. The idea is to have someone there when the hatchlings emerge to make sure they have a good chance at reaching their new home in the Atlantic. Orsulak was minding a nest at Southern Shores last summer when the hatchling in her Grand Prize photo made a break for it in the early evening while it was still light out. Usually, hatchlings do not emerge until darkness falls.

The photo is also unusual because both of the turtle's flippers are raised. Juvenile turtles usually drag themselves into the sea with an awkward "hand over hand" motion, which means that one flipper is up and the other down at any given time.

Some of our other winners were barely born when Orsulak started watching turtle nests. We had a surprising number of young photographers place in open categories this year, including 14-year-old Landon Carter (second place, Mammals), 15-year-old Nikolas Wall (second place, Invertebrates) and 11-year-old Nicole Howren (honorable mention, Outdoor Recreation, and first place, Youth 12 & Under).

In many ways, this aspect of the photo competition has surpassed our wildest hopes. When we started making plans in 2004 for the first competition, we wanted to encourage high-quality nature photography and to identify talented wildlife photographers working in North Carolina. We hoped that families would grab their cameras and head outside to learn about North Carolina's amazing wildlife and wild places through photography. We didn't expect that young photographers would compete for top prizes with the adults, but that notion disappeared last year when 16-year-old Kaylyn Gruber won the Grand Prize.

This year's field totaled 5,511 photographs. In the competition's sixth year, 1,270 photographers took part, including 149 junior shutterbugs in the two youth categories. The most popular subject was Birds (928 entries), followed closely by Invertebrates (881) and Wild Landscapes (786). Wild Plants received 657 entries and Animal Behavior 557, Outdoor Recreation 518, Reptiles & Amphibians 500, Mammals 425, Youth 13–17 143 and Youth 12 & Under 116.

We thank our corporate sponsor, Great Outdoor Provision Co., for its generous participation in this year's competition. Valuable support was provided by our co-sponsors, the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. UNC-TV really stepped up this year by producing the original special program "North Carolina Lens," which highlighted past winning photos from the competition and explained what made them great.

Our judges included *Wildlife in North Carolina* art director Vickie Cumbee; WINC graphic designers Marsha Tillett and Kristie Rhodes; magazine photographer Melissa McGaw; Mike Dunn, senior manager of outreach for the museum; and Charlie Peek, public information officer for Parks and Recreation and a former photojournalist.

All winning photographs may be seen on exhibit through March at the museum thanks to our exhibition sponsor, JW Photo of Raleigh. Various North Carolina state parks will exhibit selected photos from the competition throughout the year. Details and rules for the 2011 competition will be posted on [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) in May. The entry period will open on June 1 and close on Sept. 1.

—Greg Jenkins

## GRAND PRIZE WILDLIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA 2010 PHOTO COMPETITION



**Jackie Orsulak, Duck**  
Baby loggerhead sea turtles, Southern Shores

Orsulak is a member of the Network for Endangered Sea Turtles, a volunteer organization dedicated to the protection of turtles off the Outer Banks. She was on nest-watching duty last July 30 when this hatchling emerged at 7:15 p.m. "He was striving to reach the sea after shaking off the first wave that washed over him," Orsulak said. "With the next wave he began his long and incredible journey." The judges found this image compelling because it captures a dramatic moment of an animal's struggle to survive.

Technical specs: Canon EOS digital Rebel XT, 100–400 mm lens, ISO 400, 1/400, f/7.1



**BIRDS FIRST PLACE**

**Gene Furr, Raleigh**  
Great egrets fighting, Wilmington

Furr frequently photographs colonial waterbird rookeries on the coast. Great egrets fight for mating dominance both aloft and on the roost. Furr captured all the action of one of these mating fights and still managed to properly expose the white birds against the white sky.

Technical specs: Nikon D300, Nikon 200–400 mm lens, 1/2500, f/4

**BIRDS SECOND PLACE**

**R.D. Decker, Newport**  
Greater yellowlegs, Rachel Carson Estuarine Reserve

Decker shot this photo from a kayak gently grounded on a shoal a few yards from two birds fishing in the same pool. He said he prefers to photograph birds at the reserve at high tide, because the birds bunch up on the few remaining shoals. This photo was taken just before low tide, giving him an opportunity he would not have had if the tide was high.

Technical specs: Canon 40D, Sigma 50–500 mm lens @ 500mm, ISO 400, 1/800, f/8.0



**BIRDS THIRD PLACE**

**Ed Erkes, Seven Springs**  
Common yellowthroat, Seven Springs

Erkes lives on 25 acres, including a 1-acre pond, landscaped to attract wildlife. The yellowthroat had established its territory in some shrub/brush habitat at one end of the pond. Another yellowthroat established territory at the opposite end of the pond, and they would often sing to one another.

Technical specs: Nikon D300, Sigma 300–800 mm lens with 1.4X teleconverter, ISO 400, 1/640, f/7.1





**BIRDS HONORABLE MENTION**

**Ellen Devenny, Kings Mountain**  
Great horned owl,  
Carolina Raptor Center, Huntersville

Mattie the owl has been a resident of the raptor center since 2000 after becoming entangled in barbed wire and damaging one wing irreparably. Devenny was touring the facility in January 2010 and was able to capture this lovely portrait.

Technical specs: Canon Powershot SX20 IS, 58 mm focal length, ISO 200, 1/100, f/5.6



**BIRDS HONORABLE MENTION**

**Jay Wickens, Powells Point**  
Snow geese, Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge

Wickens, a frequent photographer of coastal scenes, took this iconic image of these winter waterfowl flying through snow in February 2010.

Technical specs: Canon 50D, 100–400 mm lens, ISO 640, 1/3200, f/5.6



**MAMMALS FIRST PLACE**

**Mark Stanley, Wilmington**  
Black bear, N.C. Zoo, Asheboro

Stanley and his family were visiting the zoo when they noticed a crowd gathered at the black bear enclosure. “We must have missed something because the crowd started thinning out,” Stanley said. “I was thinking, ‘I wish the bear would stop and pose for me.’” The bear did exactly that, walking over, sitting down and looking directly up at Stanley, who leaned over the retaining wall to get this portrait.

Technical specs: Canon 40D, 70–200 mm f/4 IS lens, ISO 400, 1/250, f/6.5; Spot metering used to properly expose the bear’s snout



#### MAMMALS SECOND PLACE

**Landon Carter, Cary**

Red wolf, Western North Carolina Nature Center, Asheville

Even a captive animal can seem wild with the right framing. Landon, who is 14, was visiting the nature center with his grandparents. He was having a tough day photographically because the light was low and he often had to shoot through glass or fences. However, this red wolf stood still long enough for him to compose a nice image.

Technical specs: Nikon D60, 55–200 mm lens, ISO 400, 1/320, f/5.6

#### MAMMALS HONORABLE MENTION

**Gene Furr, Raleigh**

Fox squirrel, Brunswick County

Using a shallow depth of field and an interesting perspective, Furr was able to separate the background from the subject and capture this handsome portrait last March. Fox squirrels are found in North Carolina's northern mountains and in the eastern part of the state in sandy pinewoods.

Technical specs: Nikon D300, 200–400 mm lens, 1/125, f/5.6



#### MAMMALS THIRD PLACE

**James T. Allen, Zebulon**

Juvenile squirrel, Nags Head

While visiting Nags Head, Allen was photographing squirrels when he noticed this young juvenile poking its head out of this opening. Contrasting shadows and light enhance the textures in this up-close and personal image.

Technical specs: Fujifilm HS10, ISO 400, 1/450, f/5.6



#### MAMMALS HONORABLE MENTION

**Chuck Carmack, Wilmington**

Red fox, Airlie Gardens, Wilmington

A female fox watches cautiously from the brush as her kits run about. Carmack noticed the animal and the unique lighting and captured this image.

Technical specs: Canon 40D, 100–400 mm lens, ISO 500, 1/400, f/7.1





REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS **FIRST PLACE**

**Linda Grant, Burlington**  
American toad, Burlington

Last summer there were toads all over Grant's neighborhood. She was trying to complete an assignment for a photography course, and following the toad around didn't work because the animal hopped away too quickly. Grant's daughter placed the toad on the trunk of a car, where it sat still just long enough for Grant to capture this double image. The toad was returned unharmed to the grass.

Technical specs: Canon 50D, Canon EF 50 mm 2.5 macro lens, ISO 100, 1/100, f/3.5

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS  
**SECOND PLACE**

**Charlotte Wilcox Ware, Belmont**  
Green salamander, Davidson River near Brevard

Interested in teaching her children the fun of salamander hunting, Ware visited the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education last August. Center educators pointed her in the right direction and provided field guides, and Ware found this seldom seen salamander in its crevice habitat. The judges liked the offset, well-lit subject and the focus on the animal's face.

Technical specs: Canon EOS Digital Rebel XSi, 105 mm focal length, 1/5, f/2.8



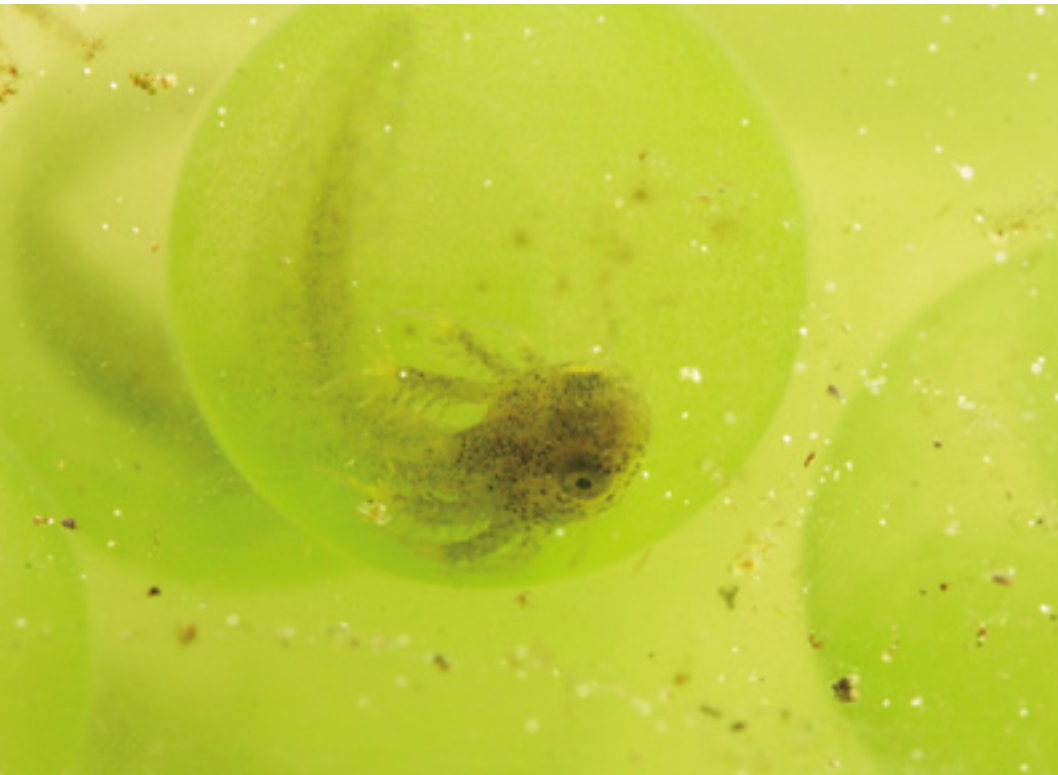
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS  
**THIRD PLACE**

**John Smalldridge, New Bern**  
Rough green snake, Indian Beach

Smalldridge was resting on a hammock at a public beach access when he heard a commotion among some birds. As he approached the scene, he saw a blue jay and another bird fly away, leaving the beaten and stunned snake. He grabbed his camera and photographed the snake as it recovered.

Technical specs: Nikon D90, 105 mm macro lens, 1/200, f/4





REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS  
**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Cal Wong, Chapel Hill**  
Spotted salamander inside egg, Hillsborough

Wong photographed this larval salamander while teaching photography techniques to an environmental educator last April. The educator had collected the eggs from an ephemeral pond that was in danger of drying up, and was propagating them in a pool at her home. Wong's experience in macro photography resulted in this interesting and uncommon image.

Technical specs: Canon 40D, Canon 100/2.8 mm macro lens, ISO 250; 1/200, f/16; Canon 550EX flash on off-camera cable with LumiQuest soft-box; flash bias 0.0.



REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS  
**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Travis Arnold, Cary**  
Fence lizard, Old Fort

Arnold and his wife were hiking at Old Fort along these railroad tracks when he spied the lizard. Carefully getting into a low position at track level, he composed a unique image of a fence lizard in one of the few places its camouflage can't conceal it.

Technical specs: Olympus Camedia C-750



INVERTEBRATES **FIRST PLACE**

**Mark Stanley, Wilmington**  
Leaf-footed bug nymphs, Wilmington

Stanley's daughters noticed the nymphs on some vines in their back yard, and ran inside to tell their dad to get his camera. The bug is so named because the adult has leaf-shaped formations on its rear legs. The crop and dynamic angles create an interesting and unique composition.

Technical specs: Canon 40D, 70–200 mm f/4 IS with extension tubes, ISO100, 1/25, f/8, handheld fill flash with diffuser, underexposed a half-stop.



**INVERTEBRATES SECOND PLACE**

**Nikolas Wall, Hillsborough**  
Ant, Hillsborough

Nikolas, who just turned 15, is home-schooled and has many opportunities to be outside exploring and taking photos. On a cool afternoon, he was walking beside a creek near his house and saw this ant on an exposed root in a patch of filtered sunlight. By bringing the viewer down to the ant's perspective, this photo seemingly brings us into another world.

Technical specs: Sony Cybershot point-and-shoot

**INVERTEBRATES HONORABLE MENTION**

**Ed Erkes, Seven Springs**  
Carolina mantid, Seven Springs

Erkes noticed the praying mantis on some goldenrod near his backyard pond. He took advantage of the mantis' inverted pose and the goldenrod's arc to create a unique composition.

Technical specs: Nikon D300, Nikon 200–400 mm zoom lens, ISO 800, 1/125, f/9.0



**INVERTEBRATES THIRD PLACE**

**Bill Birkemeier, Southern Shores**  
Ghost crab, Southern Shores

Birkemeier was on the beach with nice evening light, learning how to use the tilting screen on his camera to take ground-level shots with a super wide-angle lens. "I found a willing subject in this particular ghost crab, but it was moving fast and running among the footprints and staying in the shadows," Birkemeier said. "Focusing was a challenge, and I took a lot of out-of-focus images. When it finally tired of my antics, it ran out into the sun and I snapped this lucky image."

Technical specs: Nikon D5000, Sigma 10–20 f/4–5.6 lens at 19 mm, ISO 400, 1/500, f/7.1

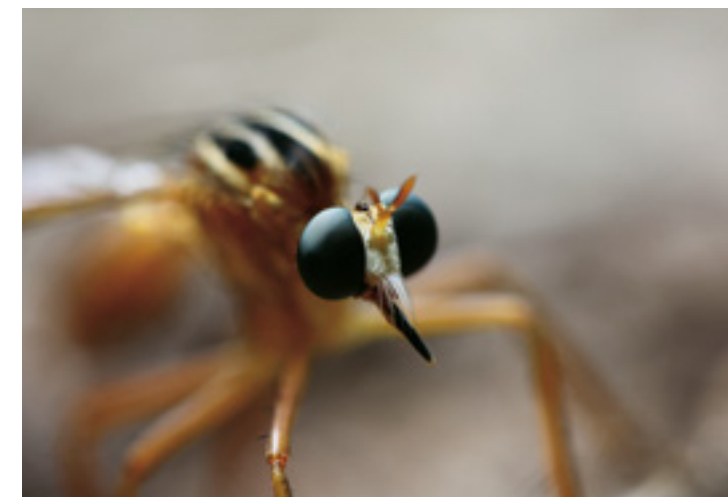


**INVERTEBRATES HONORABLE MENTION**

**Alan Sykes, Raleigh**  
Crane fly, Raleigh

Sykes' super-close image of this insect taken with a macro lens shows that a good photo can be taken anywhere—even in your own back yard.

Technical specs: Canon XSi



**INVERTEBRATES HONORABLE MENTION**

**Bill Birkemeier, Southern Shores**  
Marginal sea stars, Ocracoke Island

On a May 2007 trip to Ocracoke, Birkemeier took advantage of willing photo subjects and a beautiful day, capturing a great picture of a beach that seems to go on forever.

Technical specs: Nikon D5000, Sigma 10–20 f/4–5.6 lens





**WILD PLANTS FIRST PLACE**

**Kevin Council, Chapel Hill**  
Mushrooms, Chapel Hill

Council shot this nice arrangement of late-season mushrooms in November 2009. Because they were growing under a log, he had to prop his camera on the ground directly under the mushrooms. The light illuminating the mushrooms' edges and gills provides a fresh perspective to a common subject matter.

Technical specs: Canon 50D, Sigma 17–70 mm lens, ISO 800, 1/160, f/4.0

**WILD PLANTS  
SECOND PLACE**

**David Blevins, Fuquay-Varina**  
False rue-anemone, Eno River

Blevins photographed this rare and tiny flower in Durham County using a macro lens and 68 mm of extra extension tubes to give enough magnification to fill the frame with a single flower. A shallow depth of field helped simplify the background and further focus attention on the point of convergence.

Technical specs: Nikon D3, 105 mm f/2.8D macro lens, ISO 200, 1/100, f/5.6, off-camera fill flash through a diffusion screen



**WILD PLANTS  
THIRD PLACE**

**John Tisdale Harding, Kinston**  
Autumn olive, Lenoir County

Harding discovered this plant while on his daily walk and returned later in the day when the light was more favorable. He squirmed his way into the dense, prickly bush to compose the olives backlit by the sun. When he returned the next day, birds had stripped the invasive plant bare of berries.

Technical specs: Nikon D40X, 200 mm focal length, ISO 200, 1/800, f/5.6







WILD PLANTS  
**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Mike Baker, York, S.C.**  
Wild blueberries, Grandfather Mountain

Baker ascended the mountain in August 2009 to photograph the sunrise, but fog blocked it out. Instead, he switched gears and began shooting close-ups. The blueberries in various stages of ripening, covered with fine dew, made for a striking but quiet image.

Technical specs: Nikon D3, Nikon 200 Micro f/4 lens, ISO 1600, 1/180, f/8



WILD PLANTS  
**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Allyson Brown, Manteo**  
Gaillardia, Salvo

Brown liked the bright bursts of red, orange, and yellow flowers blanketing the dunes along Cape Hatteras. Her composition made for a nice image of a common but lovely coastal bloom.

Technical specs: Nikon D70, 1/640, f/5.6

**OUTDOOR RECREATION** WILDLIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA 2010 PHOTO COMPETITION



OUTDOOR RECREATION **FIRST PLACE**

**Joel Arrington, Oriental**  
Waterfowl hunting, Pamlico Sound

Arrington stood knee-deep in waders looking for interesting composition in a scene with an abundance of empty sky and water and without overhead flights of waterfowl. The goose decoy closest to the viewer became the anchor for an imaginary line leading the viewer to the hunters in the skiff and the blind beyond.

Technical specs: Canon 40D

OUTDOOR RECREATION  
**SECOND PLACE**

**Eric D. Peterson, Cary**

Kite flying, Jockey's Ridge State Park

Peterson took this photo on his nephew's first trip to Jockey's Ridge in June 2008. As Peterson was walking up the dune, he noticed that his nephew was isolated from the other people and thought it would lend itself to a good composition. "Anyone who has been there on a beautiful summer day knows finding a spot without any other people is not an easy task," Peterson said.

Technical specs: Canon 710 point-and-shoot, 1/320, f/8



OUTDOOR RECREATION  
**THIRD PLACE**

**Christopher Chao, Raleigh**

Snowy hike, Round Bald on Roan Mountain

Several inches of fresh snow and some early afternoon sunshine convey the frigid temperature. The sign is the marker for Round Bald, and the two hikers in the background are Chao's wife and a friend. Departing clouds are visible in the horizon.

Technical specs: Sony W-300 point-and-shoot



OUTDOOR RECREATION  
**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Christiana Nicole Howren, Cary**

Windsurfing, Buxton

Nicole, who is only 11 years old, captured this dynamic image one May evening on the Outer Banks. She and her family were watching the sunset and saw windsurfers doing tricks in the high wind. "The sand was blasting and burning from the wind, but we could not stop watching," Nicole said.

Technical specs: Nikon D40, 55–200 mm f/4.0–5.6 lens, ISO 200, 1/1250, f/5.6

**WILD LANDSCAPES** WILDLIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA 2010 PHOTO COMPETITION



WILD LANDSCAPES **FIRST PLACE**

**Paul Malcolm, Garner**

Beach landscape, Fort Macon State Park

Malcolm, a viola player in the N.C. Symphony, takes photographs at the many locations he visits on his travels with the symphony. He tried several different compositions this October 2009 evening at Fort Macon, pointing the camera in different directions relative to the sun. This was one of the last pictures he took before the sun set behind the dunes. "I didn't get a good sunset picture that day," Malcolm said, "but sometimes pointing the camera away from the sunset can get the best shot."

Technical specs: Canon 5D Mark II, 17–40 f/4L lens at 17mm, ISO 800, 1/180, f/8



**WILD LANDSCAPES SECOND PLACE**

**George Bissinger, Greenville**

Lake Mattamuskeet, Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

Bissinger visits Lake Mattamuskeet frequently and has photographed this scene a few times. This shot was taken in May 2010 on one of those perfect coastal days with a mirror water surface and low, puffy clouds. He cropped the image a bit to create a more panorama-like photo.

Technical specs: Nikon D300



**WILD LANDSCAPES HONORABLE MENTION**

**Gary Carter, McLeansville**

Waves, Outer Banks

Carter is a veteran outdoor photographer who often leads photo outings and seminars. The abstract simplicity of this stormy scene made for a dramatic, beautiful image of these crashing waves.

Technical specs: Nikon D700 D3S

**WILD LANDSCAPES HONORABLE MENTION**

**Jason Marshall, Harrisburg**

Little Hump Mountain, Appalachian Trail

Marshall captured this image on a backpacking trip along the Appalachian Trail. "The clouds and fog were breaking up in the morning and it was quite a sight," he said. The judges liked how the trail leads the eye off the edge of one hill and back to the trail in the distance.

Technical specs: Canon Rebel XSI



**WILD LANDSCAPES THIRD PLACE**

**Kevin Council, Chapel Hill**

Icicles, Jordan Lake

Council, a native of central North Carolina, loves winter images because of the scarcity of truly cold weather near his home. The interesting shape of these icicles was created as they melted and refroze, creating interesting shapes.

Technical specs: Fuji Finepix IS1, ISO 80, 1/340, f/4.5





**ANIMAL BEHAVIOR FIRST PLACE**

**Mike Baker, York, S.C.**

River otter shaking off water, Grandfather Mountain

Baker saved the animal exhibit for last on his June 2010 visit to Grandfather Mountain. "Only one otter was active, and it would dive, swim, shake, repeat," Baker said. He set his shutter and aperture to stop action, and the otter cooperated before retiring for a nap.

Technical specs: Nikon D3, Nikon 300 f/2.8 lens, ISO 400, 1/2000, f/5.6

**ANIMAL BEHAVIOR  
SECOND PLACE**

**Christopher Chao, Raleigh**

Red-winged blackbirds, Pocosin Lakes  
National Wildlife Refuge

This was Chao's favorite photo of a day at the refuge because of the flight formation. "The birds took off in a circular pattern, which looked like a giant tornado," he said. He knew the photo was special when his father-in-law, a retired ornithologist, was impressed.

Technical specs: Canon EOS Rebel T1i, 100–400  
mm L f/4.5–5.6 lens, ISO 400, 1/640, f/10.0



**ANIMAL BEHAVIOR  
THIRD PLACE**

**Donny Taylor, Goldsboro**

Cardinal fighting sparrow, Goldsboro

Taylor was set up on the back porch of his home, focusing on a sparrow feeding on birdseed he had placed in a log. While he was waiting for the sparrow to look back toward the camera, he saw a blur, pressed the shutter, and saw the cardinal flying off. "Great timing on the part of the two birds," he said. "If I had been trying for this exact moment, I probably would not have gotten the shot due to shutter lag."

Technical specs: Nikon D300, ISO 200, 1/1600,  
f/5.6





**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 13-17  
FIRST PLACE**

**Caroline Lore, Smithfield**  
Crab in angler's hand, Surf City

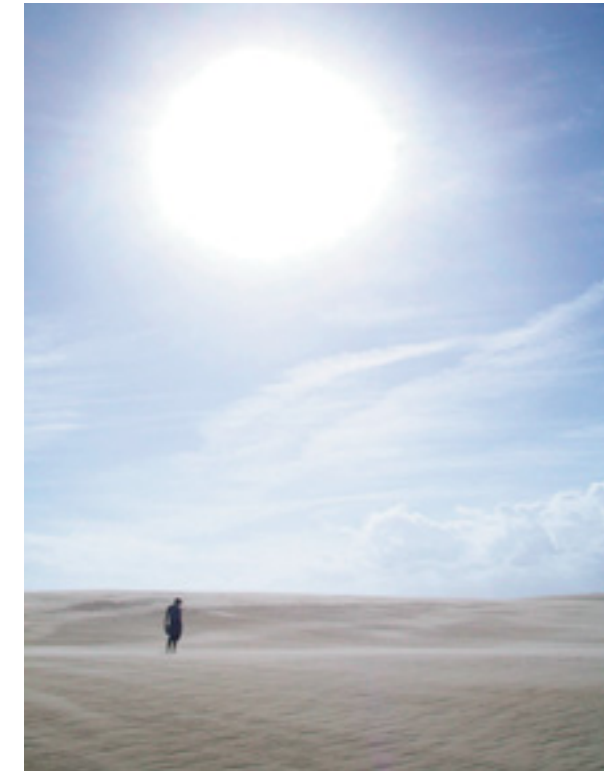
Caroline's dad owns Surf City Pier, and this photo is of one of the pier regulars showing his bait before placing it on the hook. Caroline, 17, created a great composition and further enhanced the picture by converting it to black-and-white.



**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 13-17  
SECOND PLACE**

**Jacob Forrest Creasman, Mills River**  
Chipping sparrow, Mills River

Jacob, 16, was trying out his mom's new camera on this shot. He was searching his back yard and the cornfield that adjoins it when he noticed the sparrow singing on the fencepost. A little morning light and interesting composition made for a nice image.



**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 13-17  
THIRD PLACE**

**Alex Prevatte, Greensboro**  
Beach landscape, Jockey's Ridge State Park

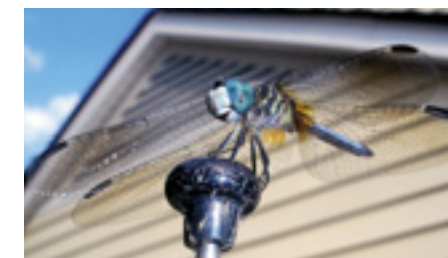
Composition is everything in this image by Alex, 16. A big sun, a small person and sand that seems to go on forever make Jockey's Ridge look like the Sahara Desert.



**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 13-17  
HONORABLE MENTION**

**Katelyn Auger, Southport**  
Clouds and water, Boiling Springs Lakes

Katelyn, 14, captured beautiful clouds, light and reflections in this lakeside landscape.



**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 13-17  
HONORABLE MENTION**

**Kimberly Moran, Matthews**  
Dragonfly, Matthews

A car antenna provided a good photo opportunity for Kimberly, 15.



**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 13-17  
HONORABLE MENTION**

**Kayla Ellison, Boone**  
Linn Cove viaduct, Blue Ridge Parkway

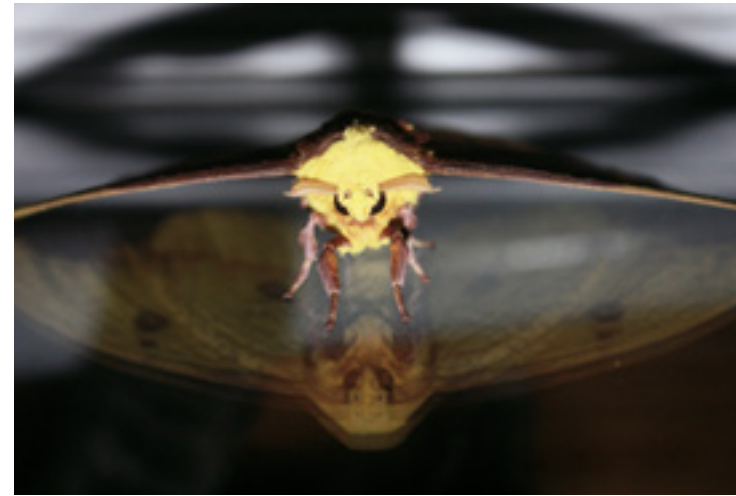
Kayla, 16, took this iconic image during a parkway visit during peak leaf time in October 2009.



**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 12 & UNDER  
FIRST PLACE**

**Christiana Nicole Howren, Cary**  
Skipper, Apex

Nicole, 11, returned to her school, St. Mary Magdalene, on a Sunday last August to photograph butterflies on butterfly bushes. Her skilled macro work was not without a cost, however. "While shooting, we got bitten by an army of ants and had to pour cold water over our feet," she said.



**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 12 & UNDER  
SECOND PLACE**

**Cailin Lucero, Hillsborough**  
Moth reflected, Hillsborough

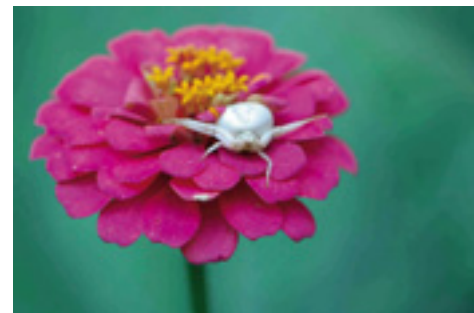
Cailin, 12, was outside with her dog when she saw this large moth land on the glass front door of her home. She bolted into the house, grabbed her mother's camera and got a low angle to capture this neat image.



**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 12 & UNDER  
THIRD PLACE**

**Scout Hayashi, Chapel Hill**  
Angler, Watagua River

Scout, 10, and her dad were wading the river looking for a good fishing spot when she took this photo in April 2010. The conversion to black-and-white gives it an even more serene feel. Scout caught 10 fish that day, which was also her 10th birthday.



**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 12 & UNDER  
HONORABLE MENTION**

**Emma Kate Halstead, Walkertown**  
Crab spider on zinnia, Walkertown

Frequent winner Emma, 9, captured this pleasing combination of white, pink and green in her own back yard.



**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 12 & UNDER  
HONORABLE MENTION**

**Nathan Lemonds, Troy**  
Skink with eggs, Troy

Flipping logs while looking for snakes revealed this skink nest and Nathan, 11, did the rest.



**YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHER 12 & UNDER  
HONORABLE MENTION**

**Zachariah B. Arnold, Carolina Beach**  
Beach landscape, Carolina Beach

Zach, 12, visited the tidal pools on the north end of the beach last New Year's Eve to take this photo.