

**British Wildlife
Photography
Awards
At
Astley Hall
2020**



0. Young Winner (2009) – Will Nicholls age 14
Red Squirrel(*Sciurus vulgaris*)
Northumberland

This is a red squirrel taken in Kielder forest, Northumberland. I spent many days in the hide waiting for the perfect moment, and on this particular day it didn't look too hopeful when the wind picked up. I put the ISO to 400 so to get enough light, with a shutter speed of 1/200 and F/6.3 aperture. The red squirrel ran down a post and stood staring at me for a few seconds and I managed to take the shot. When I saw the photo at home I was amazed to see its ears were blown across, giving it lots of character and a unique feel to the picture.

2. Young Winner 12 -18 years (2011) – Oliver Wilks age 16
Red Fox Yawning After His Afternoon Nap(*Vulpes vulpes*)
Warnham Local Nature Reserve, West Sussex

One sunny October afternoon on a trip to Warnham Nature Reserve in Sussex I came across a fox sleeping. Patiently I watched, camera at the ready, waiting for him to wake up. He did and I captured in this shot the moment when he showed me his brilliant white teeth as he yawned and stretched. I think the autumnal lighting compliments the red of the fox, giving great warmth and depth to the image.

4. Young Winner 12-18 years (2012) – Ashley Butterworth Age 14
Arctic Terns on the Farne Islands(*Sterna paradisaea*)
Northumberland

6. Young Winner 12-18 years (2013) – Joseph Amess age 15
Great Tit in Flight(*Parus major*)
Suffolk

1. Young Winner (2010) – Adam Hawtin age 14
Blue Beetle(*Blue leaf-beetle*)
Solihull, West Midlands

I took this photo after spotting the beetle while working my way along a grassy verge looking for insects. It was breezy with not very much light, so I had to wait for a gap in the wind to get the relatively long exposure. The beetle was making its way along the leaf.

3. Young Winner under 12 years (2011) – Walter Lovell age 8
Frog Checking its Spawn(*Common frog, Rana temporaria*)
Painswick, Gloucestershire

It was a sunny day and I went down to the end of my garden to the pond. I lay down and tried not to scare the frogs. I waited for about 20 minutes and there were about 10 frogs poking their heads in and out of the water. I then saw the perfect picture of a frog and its frogspawn and I took the picture of it.

5. Young Winner under 12 years (2012) – William Briggs age 8
Male Chaffinch Coming into Land(*Fringilla coelebs*)
Kent

7. Young Winner under 12 years (2013) – Liam Constantine age 8
Shocked Hare(*Common or Brown Hare, Lepus europaeus*)
East Yorkshire

8. Young Winner 12 – 18 years (2014) – Joshua Burch age 16

On The Prowl (*Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes**)
Carshalton Beeches, Greater London

For the past month or two I have been working with a vixen that visits our garden most nights in search of food and on occasion just to chill out and take a nap. Through patience I've got to know her character, gaining her trust to the point of her being almost within touching distance of my lens. Occasionally her partner, a one-eyed dog fox, visits, though he is much more cautious. The goal of my project has been to capture the essence of our suburban foxes and present them as the beautiful animals they are and as a contrast to their reputation as a villain and troublesome pest.

10. Young Winner 12 - 18 years (2015) – Kyle Moore age 18

Bokeh Frog (*Common Frog, *Rana temporaria**)
Lowestoft, Suffolk

While trying to photograph frogs one evening, a sudden downpour occurred. A quick but careful positioning of a flashgun coupled with a warming gel allowed me to illuminate the droplets of rain. A shallow depth of field helped to isolate the frog among the rain droplets. Finally the use of a shallow depth of field helped isolate the frog among a cascade of rain droplets, producing this dreamy bokeh affect.

12. Young Winner 12- 18 years (2016) – Rebecca Bunce age 18

Kung Fu Puffin (*Atlantic Puffin, *Fratercula arctica**)
Pembrokeshire

Taken on Skomer Island during a two-day stay on the island with my father. This photo highlights the more aggressive behavioural patterns of puffins that, up until the moment of capturing this image, I had not seen before.

9. Young Winner under 12 years (2014) – William Bowcutt age 11

Dipper With Grubs (*Dipper, *Cinclus cinclus**)
Dumfries and Galloway

got up early in the morning during the Easter holidays and had a very special day, sitting on the edge of a fast-flowing stream watching the dippers feeding their chicks. My feet were getting a bit cold by the end, but I didn't mind. There were lots of pictures I liked from the morning, but this was my favourite as the dipper is looking up with a mouthful of yummy bugs. I chose this for the competition because it was one of the clearest pictures from over 400 I took in the morning. Also, I knew I was lucky to have seen the dippers and taken photographs, as they are rare birds.

11. Young Winner under 12 years (2015) – Max Eve age 10

Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)
Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Dumfries and Galloway

I took this photo of the damselfly at the wetland centre on a grass beside a large pond. We stayed in a cottage on the reserve and got up early when it was cool so the insects moved less.

13. Young Winner under 12 years (2016) – Seren Waite age 10

Cygnets with Swan (*Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor**)
Millwall Dock, London

For several weeks I had been watching this family of swans, first waiting for the eggs to hatch, then following the cygnets as they grew up. They would often hitch a ride on their parents' backs, snuggling up beneath warm feathers.

14. Young Winner under 12 years (2017) – Ollie Teasdale age 9

Puffin in a Hole (*Atlantic puffin, *Fratercula arctica**)
Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire

I took this photo while I was visiting Skokholm with my Dad. We were hoping to see and photograph puffins, and although there weren't many, I was lucky enough to be sat by a side window of one of the hides when this little puffin poked his head out of its burrow. This is my favourite shot from the sequence as the puffin is well hidden by the sea campion growing at the entrance to the burrow.

16. Young Winner 12-18 years (2018) – Ivan Carter age 17

Eye of the Spawn (*Tadpole of common frog, *Rana temporaria**)
Kent

I was visiting Walmer Castle taking photos of the wildlife. I went into The Queen Mother's Garden to take some photos of the flowers and noticed three tadpoles trapped in a small pool of water on top of one of the water lily leaves in the ornamental pond. I realised that this tiny water scene would create the special shot I was looking for that day.

18. Young Winner under 12 years (2019) – Ollie Teasdale age 11

In the Spotlight (*Razorbill, *Alca torda**)
Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire

When I took this picture I was walking with my Dad on Skokholm in Pembrokeshire. We saw a cliff with lots of razorbills on it and one of them was in a ray of sunlight. In black and white the bird stands out better from the dark background and adds to the dramatic location. We sat watching and photographing the razorbills for a little while, and this is my favourite photograph of them all.

15. Young Winner 12 - 18 years (2017) – Matt Roseveare age 18

The Golden Hour Hunt (*Short-eared owl, *Asio flammeus**)
Hampshire

As the light began to fade a short-eared owl emerged to hunt for prey above the marshes at Farlington in Hampshire. Standing on the sea wall I was amazed when it began to fly towards me – it is a moment I will never forget!

17. Young Winner under 12 years (2018) – Lucy Farrell age 9

Who Says Bugs Aren't Cute? (*Cockchafer, *Melolontha melolontha**)
Borrowdale, Cumbria

I took this photo at a caravan site in Borrowdale, in woodland on the shores of Derwentwater. I found this with five other cockchafer in my moth trap – it was amazing!

19. Young Winner 12-18 years (2019) – Jacob Guy age 18

Spiny starfish (*Marthasterias glacialis*)
Cornwall

The spiny starfish is the largest species of starfish in British waters, reaching a diameter of up to 70cm. Situated in the shallows close to shore, they are covered in white spines and prey on crustaceans, molluscs and other starfish. I was scuba diving off the shore in Falmouth at the end of February, when the Cornish waters reach their coolest, when I spotted this spiny starfish through the thick kelp a few metres below the surface. I adjusted my strobe and just waited for the kelp to move in the current for the perfect framing of the animal. This species is often spotted with less than five legs – this is because when disturbed or stressed this starfish can shed one or more of its legs, which can then regrow over time. Luckily, this one had all of its legs in perfect condition.

20. Overall Winner and Hidden Britain Winner (2009) – Ross Hoddinott

Damselfly Silhouette (*Blue-tailed damselfly, Ischnura elegans*)

Cornwall

Damselflies are among my favourite subjects. I found this insect early one fine June morning at a local reserve. Tiny droplets of dew had formed on its body and wings. I silhouetted the insect against the sky in order to create a simple, graphic image that highlighted the damselfly's delicate and beautiful form.

22. Overall Winner and Coast and Marine Winner (2011) – Richard Shucksmith

Jellyfish in the Blue Sea of Sula Sgeir (*Pelegia noctiluca*)

Sula Sgeir, Scotland

Living on a boat, the MV Halton, and diving off some of the remote islands off the west coast of Scotland is an exhilarating experience. Sula Sgeir (meaning Gannet Rock) is 41 miles north of the Butt of Lewis. These wild and exposed islands provide habitat for an astounding variety of marine life. Places like these feel all the more special because although remote and difficult to get to, they are a part of our heritage.

24. Overall Winner and Coast and Marine Winner (2013) – George Karbus

In the Living Room (*Bottlenose dolphin, Tursiops truncatus*)

Northern Ireland

One of the most incredible sights you can see in the ocean is a surfing dolphin. This photograph was taken in the most intimidating and surf-heavy spot on the north coast of Ireland, called Balintoy. I encountered this playful dolphin that suddenly started to surf the deep tube inside the waves. Each time he got into the wave, I dived underneath the water, held my breath and waited for the moment when he would swish through a silver barrel close enough to my lens. Water visibility is always very limited in Ireland, and I was very lucky to get a shot like this.

21. Overall Winner and Coast and Marine Winner (2010) – Steve Young

Herring Gull in Wave (*Larus argentus*)

Porthcressa Beach, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly

I'd watched this Herring Gull feeding along the shoreline seaweed for quite a while as the tide came in. Instead of flying up as the waves crashed down like the other gulls were doing, this individual just carried on feeding, letting the waves wash over it. This image was taken as the gull was surrounded by the wave just before impact...

23. Overall Winner and Coast and Marine Winner (2012) – Dr. Matt Doggett

Gannet Jacuzzi (*Northern gannet, Morus bassanus*)

Scotland

I wanted to capture gannets beneath the waves. Using dead mackerel we attracted a number of gannets as they searched for the fish amongst a maelstrom of bubbles. I like this image as almost every stage of the action is captured – gannets entering the water, gannets eyeing up the fish, gannets taking the fish, gannets eating the fish and then finally leaving. It looks like chaos but the gannets know exactly where the other birds are.

25. Overall Winner and Urban Wildlife Winner (2014) – Lee Acaster

The Tourist (*Greylag goose, Anser anser*)

London

I was set up for shooting a stormy cityscape with a manual-focus wide-angle lens when this goose landed on the river wall. I decided to see if I could get really close to him to fill the frame and keep the London skyline in the background for context. I underexposed and used a handheld flash in my left hand to enhance the drama.

**26. Overall Winner and Habitat Winner (2015) –
Barrie Williams**
On the Edge (*Northern gannet, Morus bassanus*)
Shetland Isles

Visiting Noss, I was blown away by the sheer volume of gannets surrounding me. I studied the scene for a while, soaking in the seabird orchestra and thinking about how to convey this. Looking down, it appeared to me that the gannets far below looked like stars against the dark backdrop of the sea. Add to this the nests scattered across the cliffs and I knew I had found my image.

28. Overall Winner and Urban Wildlife Winner (2017) – Daniel Trim
Heathrow Roostings (*Pied wagtail, Motacilla alba*)
London

In winter pied wagtails roost communally in urban areas, both for protection and for additional warmth give off by buildings and lights. This extra degree or two can make the difference in harsh weather. Here a single individual out of hundreds is silhouetted by the lights of terminal 5 at heathrow airport.

30. Overall Winner and Urban Wildlife Winner (2019) – Daniel Trim
Behind Bars (*Grey heron, Ardea cinerea*)
London

Grey herons thrive around London's wilder waterways, but they also do well in more urban settings such as the smaller parks and canals, despite the litter and large numbers of people walking by. This individual was hunting in the cover of a bridge – presumably the fish were taking shelter among the fallen leaves and plastic bottles. The morning light shining through a grill gives the impression that the bird is trapped as it gazes out through the mesh.

27. Overall Winner and Coast and Marine Winner (2016) – George Stoye
Hitchhikers (*Lion's mane jellyfish, Cyanea capillata*)
St Kilda

St Kilda, off the coast of the Hebrides. I was working for Scottish Natural Heritage on a project to assess the current biological status of major sea caves around some of the UK's most remote islands. At the end of one of the dives I was swimming back to the boat when I came face to 'face' with the largest jellyfish I've ever encountered. As I approached cautiously I noticed that a number of juvenile fish had taken refuge inside the stinging tentacles.

29. Overall Winner and Black and White Winner (2018) – Paul Colley
Contrails at Dawn (*Daubenton's bats, Myotis daubentonii*)
Coate Water Country Park, Wiltshire

Ghostly contrails reveal the flight paths and wingbeats of Daubenton's bats. An infrared camera and lighting system that were 14 months in development overcame the challenge of photographing the high-speed flight of these small mammals in the dark. The in-camera double exposure caught the foreground bat milliseconds before insect intercept. As these bats are a protected species they were photographed in the wild following advice from the Bat Conservation Trust and Natural England.

31. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2010) – Des Ong
Angelic Swan (*Mute Swan, Cygnus olor*)
Leicestershire

As it snowed, I set out to take portraits of birds by our local reservoir. The swan looked elegant in this serene setting and I wanted to capture it. I photographed the swan with the beak out of sight, giving a monotonous feel. It was then that it infolded its wings, providing this angelic image.

32. Wildlife in my Backyard Highly Commended (2010) – Steward Ellet
Frog Spawn (*Common Frog, Rana temporaria*)
Haydock, Merseyside

Whilst clearing the small area of garden at the rear of our sheds, I came across a small hollow in some grass which had some frog spawn at the bottom. I was attracted to the patterns and colours with the green the grass showing through. I grabbed my camera and macro lens and took a few images.

34. Coast and Marine Highly Commended (2010) – Charles Hood
Portugese Man o' War (*Physalia physalis*)
Penberth Cove, Cornwall

On a very still, calm day this rare visitor to the English coast was spotted from a boat while looking for basking sharks. Sailing into the wind I approached it in a small boat, positioning the sun behind me to get the maximum reflection.

36. Animal Portraits Winner (2010) – Marcin Zagorski
Mountain Hare (*Lepus timidus*)
Derbyshire

It was -15°C that day on top of the plateau and the wind was overwhelming. Just before the sun set the sky cleared suddenly, unveiling magnificent winter scenery. This was my only chance to fulfil a dream – to capture the spirit of an animal perfectly adapted to living in such a hostile environment.

33. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2010) – Gail Johnson
Wild Welsh Pony (*Wild Ponies from Snowdonia*)
Anglesey

I was shooting pictures of these shy ponies, with the sea in the background when suddenly they decided to run past me. I just stayed still and panned as they ran past. It wasn't until I looked at the photos I saw the dark sky behind, which then drenched me before I got back.

35. Wildlife in my Locality Highly Commended (2009) – Steve Young
Knot in Another Place (*Knot, Calidris canutus*)
Merseyside

Wader flocks were a common sight but due visitor numbers to the site to see Anthony Gormley's "Another Place" the regular wader flocks have been forced to leave the area and feed elsewhere. This shot shows a fast disappearing flock moving along the beach to feed at another site, the statue watches as they fly away...

37. Animal Behaviour Winner (2011) – Andrew Parkinson
Grey Heron Walking on Water (*Ardea cinerea*)
Derbyshire

It was dawn at a secluded fishing lake when this heron suddenly plunged, osprey-like into the middle of the lake, emerging moments later with a fish. This image captures the moment that it powered out of the water and took flight.

38. Animal Portraits Winner (2011) – Mark Smith
Mystical Mist (*Fallow Deer, Dama dama*)
Surrey

I love photographing deer in the autumn and a forecast of mist just makes me even more eager to get out photographing them. I heard this deer before I saw it and using the mist and wind direction as cover I managed to get in place with tripod set up before he knew I was there. I was able to get a few shots before he slowly ambled off into the mist in the background.

40. Wild Woods (2012) – Alex Saberi
Fairytale 1 (*Red Deer, Cervus elaphus*)
Surrey

Almost right at the end of the morning's shoot I saw these stunning deer pass by. It was a magical moment because of the light, the mist and the colour. One of my all-time favourites.

42. Wild Woods Winner (2014) – Peter Cairns
Autumn Jewels (*Mixed Woodland*)
Cairngorms National Park, Highland

In wet weather I love exploring the shapes, colours and textures of local native woodland. Here on the shores of Loch Insh, this lichen-encrusted birch stands against a backdrop of rich autumnal colour. A slightly impressionistic effect is created by an in-camera multi-exposure.

39. Habitat Winner (2014) – Ruth Asher
A Life at Sea - Nesting Gannets (*Morus bassanus*)
Shetland Isles

I was fascinated by the gannets nesting on this rocky outcrop as they seemed so content while perched in the midst of crashing waves. I wasn't sure how I was going to capture this scene, but with a love for slow shutter speeds I decided to fit my big stopper ND filter to see what happened. I feel the resultant image portrays the ease these birds have with the harsh environment in which they live.

41. Hidden Britain Winner (2015) – Alex Hyde
Dew-covered Crane Fly (*Tipula paludosa*)
Derbyshire

Early on a crisp September morning I noticed scores of crane flies clinging to the tops of grass stems. Dew drops covered every surface including their delicate bodies, each droplet creating a tiny inverted view of the surrounding landscape.

43. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2014) – Keith Thorburn
King of Rannoch Moor and Glencoe (*Red Deer, Cervus elaphus*)
Glencoe, Highland

This wild stag, which frequents Rannoch Moor, is known in the area and can be seen with the herd getting scraps from a local hotel. Patience and slow, deliberate crouching low to the ground allowed the stag to feel unthreatened. To help with the shadows I used flash from the right, from my helper wife.

44. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2015) – Steve Race
Watchful Eye (*Eurasian otter, Lutra lutra*)
Shetland Isles

While on a recent trip to the Shetland Isles I spent several hours searching for otters. I came across this single female otter deeding along the shoreline. I kept my distance, sat quietly and to my surprise the otter decided to move closer and then curled up to sleep. Occasionally she would open her eyes to check for danger.

46. Habitat Highly Commended (2015) – Trevor Rees
Hermit Crab in Brittle Star Bed (*Pagurus bernhardus*)
Lochcarron, Highland

For this image I used a fisheye lens and teleconverter combination and got very close to the subject. This enabled me to capture the crab in a wideangle scene showing a green water background and the habitat of a sea bed of brittlestars.

48. Habitat Highly Commended (2016) – Peter Cairns
Life and Death (*Golden Eagle, Aquila chrysaetos*)
Assynt, Highland

Golden Eagles in Scotland are incredibly wary and are nigh on impossible to photograph away from the nest. They will come to carrion in winter, however - or at least individual birds in specific areas will. Working with estate staff in Assynt, I set up a camera trap on this remote ridge and although I had eagles down regularly in three months I secured just four usable images.

45. Hidden Britain Highly Commended (2015) – Andy Sands
Anthophora Bimaculata Feeding on Fleabane (*Mining bee, Anthophora bimaculata*)
Iping Common, Surrey

These small bees have wonderful green eyes. When they collect nectar the bee lands on a flower and does a sort of 360-degree rotation as it feeds then flies straight to the next flower. You have to choose your flower and wait. When a bee arrived I waited and as it got side-on I took a shot, then waited for the next bee to visit!

47. Animal Behaviour Winner (2015) – Kris Worsley
Pheasant Display (*Common pheasant, Phasianus colchicus*)
Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire

It's always good to photograph wildlife on the doorstep, and I particularly like photographing wildlife within walking distance of my house. The farmland around where we live provides fantastic opportunities for this, and the spectacle of spring means you don't have to wait very long to catch the sight of pheasants displaying in the fields where we walk.

49. Animal Behaviour Highly Commended (2016) – Andy Rouse
Great Crested Grebe Courtship (*Podiceps cristatus*)
Wales

Two great crested grebes crash together during their weed dance, part of their courtship.

50. Animal Portraits Winner (2016) – Jamie Mina
Contemplation (*Mountain Hare, Lepus timidus*)
Tomatin, Inverness

The idea for this shot was to take the camera off the tripod and get down low to the same level as my subject, placing the camera on a small mound of heather for stability. This allowed me to throw the foreground out of focus and make the hare stand out more. The lone grass stalk was an unintended bonus and I think adds further interest to the composition. Conditions were typical for spring in the Highlands: wet and very windy. My subject was very tolerant of my approach and showed no sign of distress as I crawled on my back, camera on chest, to my viewpoint. I spent around 20 minutes with him before leaving him as I found him, contemplating that last piece of grass.

52. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2015) – Max More
Waiting for the Next Meal (*Cormorant, Phalacrocorax carbo*)
Gower, West Glamorgan

While walking the coastal path eastwards from Rhossili I spotted this solitary cormorant sitting on a rock, but even with a 600mm lens it was initially beyond usable reach. The challenge was to close in on the subject without scaring it off. To do this I moved very slowly, taking photographs at regular points. When I was as close as I could get, it was then a matter of waiting for a flattering profile to present itself.

54. Black and White Winner (2014) – Alex Mustard
Blue on Black (*Blue Shark, Prionace glauca*)
Penzance, Cornwall

I wanted to capture the elegant, sinuous shape of this blue shark as it cruised effortlessly through the ocean. The blue sharks of the north Atlantic are one population and regularly cross the ocean between the USA and Europe. This angle shows the efficiency of their streamlined bodies for travelling such distances through water.

51. Coast and Marine Winner (2015) – Paul Colley
Beautiful Blues (*Blue shark, Prionace glauca*)
South of Penzance, Cornwall

The blue sharks approached our small boat about one hour after a fish scent trail was laid in the water. After letting the sharks get used to the boat, I slipped into the cold water wearing a wetsuit, mask and snorkel. The sharks were curious and made a few close approaches. In this case, a large shark passed by accompanied by a slightly smaller one, creating this pleasing composition, captured using natural light.

53. Coast and Marine Highly Commended (2014) – Trevor Rees
Safety in a Snakelocks Anemone (*Blue Shrimp, Periclimenes sagittifer*)
Babbacombe, Devon

Blue shrimp have only made a relatively recent appearance in Britain, possibly as a result of warming seas. At present they are only seen at a number of sites on the south coast of Britain. This one was photographed in the shallows off Babbacombe beach. The biggest challenge, apart from finding one, was to get a pleasing composition of the shrimp with its host anemone.

55. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2015) – Andy Rouse
Grebes Displaying (*Great-crested grebe, Podiceps cristatus*)
Wales

A pair of great-crested grebes during their courtship ritual, shot backlit to show the amazing colours on the water.

56. Animal Behaviour Highly Commended (2014) – Peter Whitehead
Is it a Bird? (*Common Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris**)
Shapwick Heath, Somerset

We were watching thousands of starlings coming into roost over Shapwick Heath at dusk. The large numbers attracted predators like peregrine falcons that kept attacking the flock. I would like to think that the starlings mounted their own form of defence by forming themselves into this outline of a massive bird. Needless to say, the shape which lasted for a split second soon morphed!

58. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2011) – Ron McCombe
Brown Hare (*Lepus Europaeus*)
Roxburghshire

It was the end of a nice sunny day and the light was fading fast. I was watching brown hares in a wheat field that was being harvested. The hares were scurrying around as the tractors went about their business. I noticed a brown hare on the left-hand side coming towards me along the hedgerow. It stopped briefly and I managed to get the picture before it moved off.

60. Wild Woods Highly Commended (2013) – Danny Green
Dormouse Hibernating (*Muscardinus avellanarius*)
Paignton, Devon

One of the most beautiful mammals in the UK is the Dormouse. Sadly, this animal has undergone a drastic decline and it is now only found in a few places. This Dormouse is hibernating and so I used a qualified handler to help me obtain the image.

57. Urban Wildlife Highly Commended (2009) – Paul Bunyard
Stoat in a Drain (*Mustela erminea*)
Warwickshire

Many of my shots are taken from the window of my car. This image was taken on the side of the road in Warwickshire. As I drove past I noticed this stoat peering out and managed to shoot three frames before it went back to the safety of the drain. I have not seen it since.

59. Hidden Britain Highly Commended (2011) – William Richardson
Ladybird on Rose (*Harlequin Ladybird, *Harmonia axyridis**)
London

In the early morning after a brief shower of rain I was taking photographs of roses in the rose garden. I took a picture of this ladybird on a perfect rose, bathed in raindrops.

61. Animal Behaviour Highly Commended (2009) – Mark Darlington
Sneezing Foz with Cockerel in its Mouth (*Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes**)
Derbyshire

Patiently waiting, curled around a tree root for a shrew to re-emerge, I saw this beautiful vixen casually walking towards me, cockerel in mouth. She occasionally dropped it and mouthed loose feathers from her throat. This shot captured her sneezing.

62. Urban Wildlife Highly Commended (2011) – Doug Mackenzie Dodds
Tabby Cat with Blackbird Nestling (*Blackbird, Turdus merula*)
Reading, Berkshire

A contentious subject I know – of a domestic tom tabby cat raiding a blackbird's nest in a town-house garden. I didn't know whether to even take this shot, but I think I'm glad I did. I didn't relish the photographic subject of course, but love it or hate it, I hoped the eventual image itself would have a certain power to it.

64. Animal Portraits (2010) – Andrew Parkinson
Adolescence (*Gannet chick, Morus bassanus*)
Hermaness NNR, Unst., Shetland Isles

I spent three months on the Shetland Islands working on a magazine assignment on northern gannets. In order to access this remote part of the gannetry I had to abseil down a 300ft (90m) cliff before scrambling over a tidal boulder field. I had wanted to capture an image of a young gannet gaping and was delighted when this one, with its unique hairstyle, finally did directly down the barrel of my lens.

66. Animal Behaviour Highly Commended (2016) – Jamie Hall
Prey's Eye View (*Little Owl, Athene noctua*)
Suffolk

I was lucky to spend the summer of 2015 working on photographing a pair of little owls. The owls would sit on fence posts along the edge of a field to look into the long grass for prey. If they didn't find anything they would move to the next post and wait patiently again. This shot was taken as an owl flew from one post to another; it momentarily stalled above the camera and hovered briefly, which was just enough time to get a few images.

63. Animal Portraits (2012) – John Taylor
Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)
Cresswell, Northumberland

On a photography trip I encountered this bird hunting on the roadside, flying from post to post.

65. Animal Portraits (2011) – Mark Sisson
Mute Swan Cygnet in Canal (*Cygnus olor*)
Shropshire

The family of Mute Swans who nest on the canal in my home town are in many ways local celebrities, so last summer I spent several evenings sitting in the canal to habituate them to my presence there alongside the usual fishermen and gain their trust. The young cygnets were increasingly nosey, swimming up to me to stare down my water-level lens.

67. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2012) – Mark Hamblin
Red Squirrel at Woodland Pool (*Sciurus vulgaris*)
Cairngorms National Park, Highland

Red squirrels frequent the pine woodland near my home where I have been feeding them at a regular spot for the past five years. In an attempt to get something different I began to hide nuts along the edge of my woodland pool that was specifically constructed for low-level shooting from a hide that is sunk into the ground. This shooting angle allows for a perfect reflection when conditions are still.

68. Animal Portraits (2012) – Neil McIntyre
Wild Goat in Snow (*Feral Goat, Capra hircus*)
Highland

With the first fall of snow of the winter I headed to the hills in search of mountain hares. I was making my way up the hill towards some hares I could see in the distance when, out of the blue, this wild feral goat appeared before me. We both looked at each other at the same time. The look on its face suggests it was just as surprised as I was.

70. Urban Wildlife Winner (2015) – Tomos Brangwyn
London Starling Gang (*Common starling, Sturnus vulgaris*)
London

I placed a fisheye lens in a car park favoured by starlings during the winter. Using a remote trigger and flash I sought an eye-level view as I wanted to bring out some of their cheeky and curious character. Starlings are often overlooked by birdwatchers and photographers and as a bird in decline, need to be appreciated as highly intelligent, inquisitive and beautiful birds.

72. Hidden Britain (2010) – Robert Brocksmith
Butterfly in Colour (*Small White, Pieris rapae*)
Northamptonshire

I was looking round the garden with my camera, waiting for something to inspire me, when I spotted a butterfly sitting on a red flower. The contrast between the white of the butterfly and the intense red of the flower made a striking image.

69. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2016) – Alannah Hawker
Admiration (*Red fox, Vulpes vulpes*)
Merstham, Surrey

I was waiting near the den of the fox family I have been following for many years for the vixen to return. After a wait, she appeared with a fresh catch for her cubs. One young cub had been waiting at the entrance for mum, and raced over when he saw her, allowing me to capture this shot as the two raced past each other.

71. Urban Wildlife Highly Commended (2015) – Damian Kuzdak
London at Night (*Wood mouse, Apodemus sylvaticus*)
Wimbledon Common

Parks in London are not only wonderful places to pleasantly pass the time but also a home for many animals like the wood mouse. This night image shows the wood mouse feeding on the waste thrown from cars next to the busy roads of London.

73. Coast and Marine (2011) – Alex Tattersall Dobbin (*Spiny seahorse, Hippocampus hystrix*)
Dorset

Whilst out on a dive we came across this beautiful specimen of a spiny seahorse. Taken under the licence of Dr Alex Mustard.

74. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2011) – Des Ong
Home Sweet Home (*Water vole, Arvicola amphibus*)
Derbyshire

There are a few popular locations where you can photograph water voles, but I really wanted to capture them in a more natural setting. When I came across this spot, I knew it would lend itself to the imagination of 'Ratty', the character from the children's fairytale *The Wind in The Willows*. This enchanting little fellow looked right at home. He busily tidied his home as if for visitors. Maybe Mole was coming to tea?

76. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2012) – Craig Churchill
Adult Little Owl in the Falling Rain (*Athene noctua*)
Oxfordshire

I had watched a pair of little owls feeding from the top of a small conifer. They would drop down onto a post then to the surface of a ploughed field to feed. I placed a post on its side and erected a hide next to it. The owls visited on several occasions but I had to wait for a week for the rain, which lasted just five minutes, so was I lucky to have it visit during that period.

78. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2013) – Samuel Morris
Fox Glance (*Red Fox, Vulpes vulpes*)
Thetford Forest, Norfolk

I was lucky enough to spot a fox by chance while out getting landscape shots of the surrounding forest. Then, an opportunity arose to get an intimate photograph. This moment came as the sunlight broke through the trees; he turned with a glance of curiosity that gave me the unusual composition I was looking for. I think the image conveys the hidden beauty of our wilderness.

75. Habitat Winner (2011) – Ian Paul Haskell
Brown Hare in Morning Light with Hoar Frost (*Lepus europaeus*)
Norfolk

A morning spent in a hoar frost with beautiful morning light. The hare was running towards me through a lovely avenue of trees. The light was spectacular and enhanced by the frost.

77. Animal Behaviour Winner (2014) – Richard Shucksmith
The Otter and the Puffin (*Eurasian otter Lutra lutra, Atlantic Puffin Fratercula Arctica*)
Shetland Isles

It is said you make your own luck. Spending a lot of time out in the field, eventually you will see the rare and the unusual, and this is exactly what happened. Working a particular stretch of coast that I know intimately, an otter was foraging along the shore. It moved to a reef that was 30m out from the coast and as it dived, so did a puffin several metres away. I was astonished when a few seconds later the otter appeared on the surface with the puffin in its mouth.

79. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2014) – Jamie Unwin
Hungry Vole (*Bank Vole, Myodes glareolus*)
Islip, Oxfordshire

I was producing some images of rodents for my zoology coursework for university and wanted to capture something slightly different. The bank vole was located in a patch of daisies, which added a nice dimension to the picture. I just had to wait until it did something interesting. When it started to eat a blade of grass, I captured the image I was after

80. Animal Behaviour Highly Commended (2016) – Michael Durham
Predator and Prey(*Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus*,
Coal tit Parus ater)
New Abbey, Dumfries

This was part of a long-term project working with the sparrowhawks that visited my garden. I spent many hours trying to photograph a sparrowhawk catching a bird as it dive-bombed the bird-feeding station. After many failures, this was what I managed to capture.

82. Habitat Winner (2017) – Ben Hall
Wren on Frost-Encrusted Fern(*Troglodytidae*)
Cheshire

Following a cold clear night I visited a local woodland to photograph deer. The temperature had dropped well below freezing during the night and on arrival frost clung to the trees and foliage completely transforming the landscape. A heavy mist hung in the air, making the deer difficult to spot. After some time I noticed a wren flitting around in the frost encrusted ferns. Eventually it alighted on the top of a fern close by and I inched back to show the wren in a wintry environment.

84. Animal Portraits Winner (2017) – Melvin Redeker
Natural Beauty(*Atlantic Gannet, Morus bassanus*)
Isle of Noss, Shetland Isles

If the eyes are the windows to the soul, what do these eyes tell you? Looking for a different perspective for a gannet portrait, I positioned myself on top of the cliffs on the Isle of Noss. Looking straight down I had an intimate view of a group of gannets sitting on a higher ledge. I talked to them and one gannet looked up, revealing its rounded head, symmetry and beautiful blue eyes against its white feathers.

81. Animal Behaviour Highly Commended (2016) – Leslie Beardmore
Great Crested Grebe Feeding Young(*Podiceps cristatus*)
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Located on my local pond. It was a nice light evening while photographing the grebes feeding their young. I got down low to the water level and waited for one of the grebes to come back with food. I was in the right position at the time it happened.

83. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2018) – Ian Todd
Icy Blue(*Common kingfisher, Alcedo atthis*)
River Ayr, Catrine, Ayrshire

I had been watching this male kingfisher visit the same quiet spot on the River Ayr on an almost daily basis during the autumn and winter of 2017. I learned its favourite perches and eventually set up my camera with an IR remote control on this particular perch. After a couple of hours he arrived, and after using a few other less photogenic perches he eventually sat here and I could take my shot.

85. Wild Woods Highly Commended (2018) – Max More
Beech Trees in Winter(*Fagus sylvatica*)
Hackpen Hill, Wiltshire

It was a winter's afternoon in December and snow had fallen. The bare beech trees seemed to glow a bright metallic white in the soft side lighting of the setting sun and I was particularly taken by the potent mix of colour provided by the broken sky and the almost monochromatic trees touched and punctuated by the golden light of the sun.

86. Coast and Marine Highly Commended (2013) – Trevor Rees

Long-spined Sea Scorpion with Eggs (*Taurulus bubalis*)

Loch Fyne, Argyll and Bute

A Long-spined Sea Scorpion photographed next to its bright red eggs. This benthic creature was guarding its eggs and reluctant to leave its hiding place in the rocks and kelp. This allowed me to approach with a close-focusing wide-angle lens to capture the scene. This was a large specimen at about 25cm, and although quite a common British fish, finding one next to its eggs gave added interest.

88. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2012) – Gerald Robinson

A Swan Like You Have Never Seen Photographed Before (*Mute Swan, Cygnus olor*)

Nottinghamshire

Kingsmill Reservoir, Mansfield. I wanted to capture a different view of a swan other than the usual swan photos. I had the idea of the type of photo I wanted. I sat on the ground with about 15 swans to let them get used to me. I was surprised how at ease they were with me after a while, though some were very inquisitive. Some seemed like they almost wanted to pose for me.

90. Animal Portraits Winner (2012) – Neil McIntyre

Red Deer Stag in Pine Forest (*Cervus elaphus*)

Cairngorms National Park, Highland

Over the winter months some estates subsidise the feeding of the red deer to help them over the hard times. The estate where this shot was taken feed them in a pine wood, perfect for the shot I was after. After a few near misses, eventually one stag stood in the perfect position and I got the shot I wanted, with the out-of-focus tree trunks framing the stag.

87. Animal Behaviour Highly Commended (2013) – Kevin Elsby

Arctic Terns Fighting (*Sterna Paradisaea*)

Northumberland

I went to the Farne Islands to photograph terns in flight. I was focused on one bird when another adult came rapidly into the frame and attacked it. The confrontation was over in less than five seconds but I just managed to catch the moment of impact.

89. Close to Nature Winner (2013) – Michael Gallagher

Cuttlefish Eye (*European common cuttlefish, Sepia officinalis*)

Dorset

I was scuba diving under Swanage Pier last summer when I encountered this European Common Cuttlefish, which seemed intrigued by the camera-wielding, bubble-blowing intruder that had invaded its territory. With a courage and boldness that surprised me, the cuttlefish directly approached the front of my underwater camera, allowing me to capture this close-up detail of its inquisitive eye and intricately patterned skin with the macro lens.

91. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2012) – Mark Hamblin/2020Vision

Pine Marten in Scots Pine (*Martes martes*)

Kinlochewe, Wester Ross, Highland

I'd been given access to a site where a family of martens was visiting a feeding station during the day. A hide was set up, so all I had to do was wait. Twelve hours later at 8pm I was still waiting when suddenly I heard strange playful noises just out of sight. After several minutes two young martens burst into the clearing quickly followed by two more, and I was richly rewarded with a fantastic 15-minute encounter.

92. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2012) – John Moncrieff
Over the Shoulder Seal(*Common Seal, Phoca Vitulina*)
Troswick, Shetland Isles

I initially went out early in the morning looking for otters. I had no luck with the otters, but came across a small group of common seals hauled up on rocks as the sun began to rise. They remained at ease as I crept closer for several photographs, and this particular one rewarded me with an 'over the shoulder' pose.

94. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2018) – Csaba Tokolyi
Shy Puffin(*Fratercula arctica*)
Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire

Preening is a very important activity for puffins, second only to feeding. During this process, the bird removes dirt, dust and parasites from its feathers; well maintained, they stay waterproof and provide perfect insulation. As the puffin is a seabird that nests underground, there are a lot of things to do to keep the plumage in top shape.

96. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2019) – Andrew Parkinson
Vogue(*Mountain Hare, Lepus timidus*)
Tomatin, Highland

Working at close quarters like this requires an in-depth knowledge of one's subject and a lot of patience. Huge periods of inactivity are broken occasionally by brief moments of activity. Here, the hare's two paws come up to wash its face, the reflected light from the snow below creating a wonderfully even tone throughout the image.

93. Animal Portraits Winner (2019) – Mark Kirkland
Peeping Through the Darkness(*Small-spotted catshark, Scyliorhinus canicula*)
Loch Fyne, Argyll and Bute

Controlling light underwater is always a challenge. I had been experimenting with spotlighting, but this was my first attempt with four static lights. A cooperative subject helped; however, coordinating all four narrow-beamed lights (two on tripods and two on my camera rig) while in full scuba gear tested my buoyancy skills and patience.

95. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2016) – Adrian Clarke
The Remains of the Jay(*Sparrowhawk, Accipiter nisus*)
Jackson's Coppice, Eccleshall, Staffordshire

This was purely a lucky encounter. I had travelled to a new area and not long after arriving I heard the noise of a bird in distress and tracked it to its source. I was surprised to see a sparrowhawk finishing off the kill of a jay and starting to eat it. The bird was not bothered by my presence; as I slowly inched closer it continued to eat, looking up occasionally.

97. Close to Nature Highly Commended (2018) – Oliver Wright
Dragonfly Stained Glass Window(*Four-spotted chaser, Libellula quadrimaculata*)
Skipwith, Yorkshire

The image was taken early in the morning, while the dragonfly was torpid and covered in dew. I positioned myself so the sun was behind the dragonfly and effectively lit the wings like stained glass windows in a church. I used focus-stacking to create a greater effective depth of field in the final image.

98. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2018) – Philip Selby
Collision Course (*Mute Swan, Cygnus olor*)
Swindon, Wiltshire

Throughout a photography session at a local lake, this mute swan continually chased and harried the resident Canada geese, to the annoyance of all. My opportunity for this shot arose when a gosling settled just a few feet in front of me. Sure enough, the swan locked on to his victim and thundered towards me, rapidly filling the frame. I managed to take several images before I had to pull away, expecting to be collateral damage in the ensuing melee!

100. Wild Woods Winner (2019) – Francis Taylor
A Magical Morning (*Silver Birch, Betula pendula*)
Bolehill Quarry, Peak District National Park, Derbyshire

Thick fog drifted through the eerie silver birches at Bolehill Quarry in the Peak District National Park, creating a magical morning of light.

102. Hidden Britain Highly Commended (2017) – Keith Trueman
Humble Bumble (*Garden Bumblebee, Bombus hortorum*)
Braunton, Devon

This photograph was taken in my back garden on a very warm day. The bee stayed motionless for several minutes, allowing me to shoot multiple images to focus stack together.

99. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2018) – Neil McIntyre
Inquisitive Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)
Cairngorms National Park, Highland

This lichen covered picket fence was a regular approach route for the Red squirrels that visited our garden to feed on the bird feeders. I positioned a remote camera down by the fence and retreated back in to the house and I watched from the window behind the squirrels head. After a few squirrels past by this one stopped and inquisitively looked straight into the camera clearly curious of what was going on.

101. Animal Portraits Winner (2018) – Tesni Ward Bean (*Badger, Meles meles*)
Peak District National Park, Derbyshire

With muted light leaking through the woodlands, a Badger cub emerged from the sett, slowly shuffling into the open before pausing briefly to observe his surroundings. Whilst the light was difficult to work with, he stayed still long enough to allow me to capture one frame before heading into the bushes and out to his foraging grounds.

103. Coast and Marine Highly Commended (2019) – Mark Kirkland
Stare of the Sea Scorpion (*Myoxocephalus scorpius*)
Loch Leven, Perth and Kinross

This current-whipped rocky outcrop protrudes from an otherwise still bay – as a result, there is plenty of life clinging on, feeding on the passing nutrients and plankton. It was here that I came across the largest scorpionfish I've ever seen, although battling with the current made framing and flash positioning difficult. With a subject that didn't hang around for too long I feel quite lucky to have got this shot of it glaring back at me.

104. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2018) – Chas Moonie
Eye Contact (*Northern goshawk, Accipiter gentilis*)
Galloway Forest, Ayrshire

A wild female goshawk mantling over a pheasant. This project took many months and around 200 hours in a freezing woodland hide. It proved to be extremely challenging, which is to be expected when trying to photograph the unpredictable and nervous 'phantom of the forest'. Very cold conditions are required for a goshawk to eat carrion, as the need for food increases in late winter. The pheasant, which was roadkill, provided a nutritious meal.

106. Coast and Marine Highly Commended (2016) – Drew Buckley
Sad Ending (*Northern gannet, Morus bassanus*)
Grassholm Island, Pembrokeshire

I headed over to Grassholm Island near my home in Pembrokeshire to document the yearly work undertaken by wardens and volunteers who go out every autumn to cut entangled birds free from marine waste. In recent times, fishing nets, string and rope discarded by boats have ended up in the seas. The gannets gather this for material to line their nests with, thinking it's seaweed. Unfortunately, some birds get tangled up in it, losing limbs through garrotting and also being strangled.

108. Hidden Britain Highly Commended (2017) – Victoria Hillman
Edges (*Four-spotted chaser, Libellula quadrimaculata*)
Westhay Moor, Somerset Levels

Dragonflies hide deep among the long grasses of the Somerset Levels, and early mornings of May find them covered in hundreds of dew drops. To illustrate just how well they are hidden I focused manually on the very edges of the wings and used an aperture that would reveal the shape of the body, but simultaneously keep it almost concealed.

105. Urban Wildlife Highly Commended (2019) – Sam Stonestreet
City Living (*Mute Swan, Cygnus olor*)
London

After photographing the buildings on the Isle of Dogs, I noticed the swan resting on its nest in the middle of the canal. I balanced the tripod on top of a wall to get the shot as the light was fading and a slow shutter speed was a must. The swan stayed perfectly still on its little oasis, creating a beautiful display of nature and the city.

107. Coast and Marine Highly Commended (2018) – Kirsty Andrews
Ta Da! (*Grey seal, Halichoerus grypus*)
Northumberland

This juvenile grey seal in the Farne Islands kept circling the rocks to get a closer look at me. I moved into a position that enabled me to capture the afternoon sun rays, and waited for the seal to approach. Grey seals are incredibly photogenic, with big, Labrador-like eyes and expressions, and with its flippers outstretched, this one really seemed to be posing for the camera.

109. Habitat Highly Commended (2019) – Jack Perks
Grass Snake in Garden Pond (*Natrix helvetica*)
Retford, Nottinghamshire

Grass snakes spend a lot of time by water and one of their favoured prey items is frogs. I was told about a garden pond that had lots of frogs and the odd grass snake entering it to catch an easy meal. I went along, not overly optimistic, but, sure enough, I found a grass snake near the edge of the lilies in the warm shallow waters of the pond.

110. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2017) – Ian Watson
Balancing Act (*Little owl, Athene noctua*)
Kirkbride, Cumbria

This little owl was photographed early in the morning, in poor light, from an old outbuilding I use as a hide. Having regularly watched the bird, I had seen it land on this perch many times before where it would sit motionless for minutes at a time.

112. Animal Portraits Highly Commended (2017) – Keith Trueman
Bug Eyed (*Damselfly*)
Braunton Burrows, Devon

This was taken in the early morning, when the air temperature was still relatively cool and the morning breeze had yet to develop – a time when insects are still roosting. I was incredibly excited when I had taken all the images for this focus-stacked image and just hoped I had captured a clean stack. When taking stacked images of insects a gust or wind, an increase in the breeze or the insect flying away are huge issues!

114. Coast and Marine Highly Commended (2017) – Alex Mustard
Beneath the Kelp Forest (*European lobster, Homarus gammarus*)
Northumberland

Unusually, the chilly waters of the North Sea were clear and the sun was shining when I took this shot. I was in the Farne Islands to photograph seals, but couldn't keep my eyes and my camera away from the scenery. I was excited when I spotted this brilliant blue lobster emerging from its den amongst colourful soft corals, with backlit kelp reaching upwards overhead.

111. Coast and Marine Highly Commended (2018) – Keith Thorburn
Otter And Water (*European otter, Lutra lutra*)
Loch Linnhe, Highland

I was out for a walk with my dog in an area that I know otters frequent, when I spotted this fellow coming in to feed on its catch. I lay in the rocks among the seaweed with my dog until it landed on the rock, then it just sat there eating while I was photographing. Every now and again, when the waves hit its back, it would look straight at us, but then carry on eating.

113. Animal Behaviour Winner (2018) – Sunil Gopalan
Life and Death at the Edge of the World (*Great Skua Stercorarius skua, Atlantic puffin Fratercula arctica*)
Fair Isle, Shetland

Seabird colonies are among my favourite places. One morning on Fair Isle, I heard a great racket arise from the other side of the cliff. The cliffs are periodically cased by predators, which cause all the puffins to flush. I have never seen any action before, but this 'bonxie' (great skua) closed the loop on the circle of life right in front of my lens.

115. Botanical Britain Winner (2018) – Robert Canis
Kelp Bed At Dawn (*Oarweed, Laminaria digitata*)
Kingsgate Bay, Kent

My initial intention was to simply photograph the beach at sunrise, but noticing the exposed kelp beds as the tide receded I instead focused my attention on illustrating those as the tide ebbed and flowed under the blue light of dawn.

116. Hidden Britain Winner (2016) – Stephen Darlington
Emergence(*Common clubtail, Gomphus vulgatissimus*)
Goring, Oxfordshire

Dragonflies spend the majority of their life underwater – aquatic killing machines that after one to five years emerge from the water and in a few hours transform into the flying insects you see around ponds and rivers. Here I have captured the moment when the dragonfly has got its thorax free, before pulling its abdomen from the empty larval case (called the exuviae). The process always reminds me of the chest-bursting scene in Alien.

118. Wild Woods (2017) – Chaitanya Deshpande
A Vision In The Mist(*Red deer, Cervus elaphus*)
Greater London

This scene came out of nowhere, and I still can't believe I witnessed it in person. I was transfixed and it felt like the deer were too, as they held their poses perfectly. Being able to get this image required one key ingredient: knowing my subject and its environment well enough to be able to foresee that this could be possible.

120. Animal Behaviour Highly Commended (2013) – Peter Cairns
Mirrored Osprey(*Pandion haliaetus*)
Cairngorms National Park, Highland

Photographing fishing Ospreys as they plunge into the water is a real challenge – one I've met on only a couple of occasions. At first I thought I'd missed the shot, but then realised that this Osprey, resting before it took off with its submerged prey, was forging its own near-perfect reflection in the mirror-calm loch.

117. Overall Coast and Marine Winner and Coast and Marine Scotland Winner (2019) – Alex Mustard
Seal in Seaweed Garden(*Grey Seal, Halichoerus grypus*)
Isle of Coll, Argyll and Bute, Inner Hebrides

Seals in England are used to divers and are very friendly. Seals in Scotland are still persecuted by people and are much more wary, so I was pleased to meet this curious individual that came into photographic range. In such a beautiful setting, I wanted the seaweed garden to be as much of the story as the seal.

119. Animal Portraits Winner (2013) – Mark N Thomas
Tommy(*Tompot Blenny, Parablennius gattorugine*)
Trefor Pier, Gwynedd, North Wales.

The disused and derelict pier at Trefor is home to several of these charismatic little fish. Tompots are very inquisitive and often leave their shelter to investigate divers. This fish could be found in the same place on several dives, peering out from a discarded metal pipe.