



Anna's Hummingbird Nest

by Brian E. Small

The Anna's hummingbird is a species commonly found throughout my home state of California. They are often seen at backyard feeders and can sometimes be found nesting in city gardens. A friend of mine called one day and said he had a hummingbird nest in his yard. He asked if I'd like to photograph it. I immediately said yes and was in his yard with my camera equipment that afternoon. The female Anna's hummingbird was very tame and allowed me to take many beautiful photos as she came and went from her nest, feeding her babies.

Red-tailed hawk

by Mundy Hackett

I was watching this hawk circle over an area of crops that had just been plowed under. I realized this would be a good opportunity to try to catch the hawk with prey, since the tilling would have disturbed the rodents in the field. I situated my car on the highest piece of land in the field and then stood up through the sunroof to get a slightly higher perspective.

The hawk was zeroing in on something and paying little attention to me. Using a 500mm telephoto lens, I was able to capture this photo right as the hawk banked to dive-bomb at prey. The bird was still about fifty or sixty yards away, but the 500mm telephoto lens brought him in much closer. Of the series I took, this one appeals to me the most because it is a less-frequently-seen perspective of these majestic raptors in flight.



Red-necked Phalarope

by Mark Petersheim

I was photographing the diverse bird life on the Canadian tundra near Arviat, Nunavut when I found several phalaropes swimming and flying

around a small pond. Interestingly, these small shorebirds swim readily, often spinning in small circles as they cross the water. Unlike many species of birds, female phalaropes are larger and more colorful than the males. Like some species of sandpipers, it is the male phalaropes that care for the eggs and young.

To photograph this male at eye level, I lay on my stomach and was able to get this shot just as the phalarope stretched his wings. The mosquitoes nearly drove me crazy in this swampy area, and, needless to say, I got wet, but the discomfort paid off when I got this shot.



Great Blue Heron with Banded Water Snake

by Ronald Gaubert

I was using my truck as a blind to photograph birds in a local swamp when this great blue heron flew by me with a banded water snake in his bill. He landed on the gravel road about 100 yards behind me. The road was very narrow, and it took me a few minutes to turn the truck around and ease close enough for photos without scaring the heron away. Thankfully, I was able to get a few shots before he flew off with the snake.