

November 2023 Issue



Featuring
SANDY SELESKY
KEN JORDAN



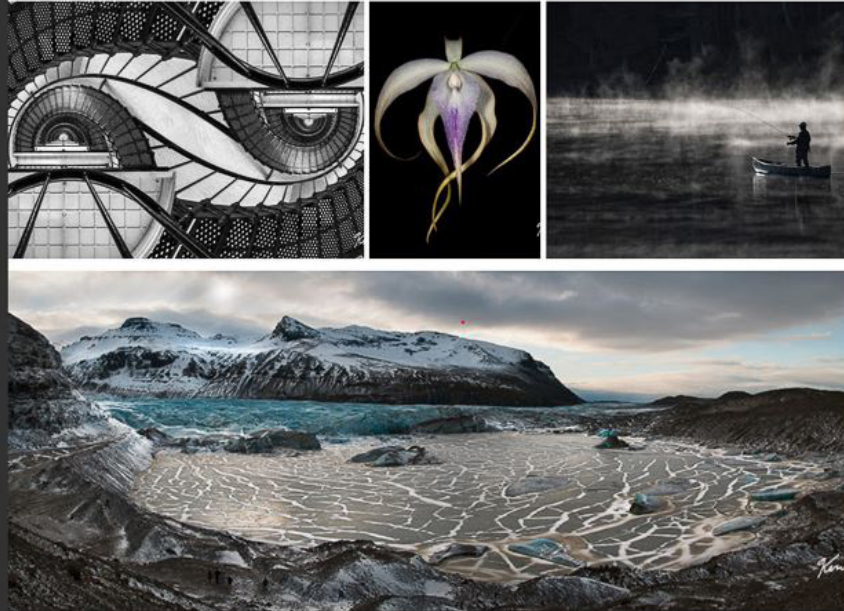
Massachusetts Camera Naturalists



Editor: Mary Doo
CamNatsNews@gmail.com

BREAKING NEWS!

ART EXHIBITION KEN JORDAN



NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 30

ARTIST RECEPTION:

NOV. 2ND FROM 5PM-6:45PM

For more information, please visit www.topsfieldlibrary.org

Artist Reception: Thursday November 2
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:45 PM

Lecture: Wednesday November 8, 2023
An Evening with Photographer Ken Jordan
Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Topsfield Town Library
1 South Common Street
Topsfield, MA 01983

<https://topsfieldlibrary.org>

MESSAGE FROM CAMNATS CHAIR



HELLO Mass CamNats members. As you know, in October of last year, I was the Vice Chair but took over as Chair a few months earlier than I had anticipated. It has been my pleasure to lead our camera club for the past 12 months, and I thank all of you for your support. I especially want to thank the other club officers and the Steering Committee for their continued guidance and help every step of the way.

We have a very unique camera club in CamNats, and I am humbled to be the one leading this organization at this time. We are special compared to all other camera clubs in New England because we help to celebrate the natural world in all its forms: from birds, mammals, and insects to landscapes, wildflowers, fall colors, oceans, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, and the beauty of the night sky. If it is connected in any way to the natural world, there's a good chance a CamNats member has photographed it. Everyone can appreciate the wonders of the natural world, whether you are photographing it or not. As CamNats members, we are out in the field on a daily basis, photographing all manner of things that captivate us as we create our own works of art using the natural world as our canvas. We owe a great deal of gratitude

to many other organizations, both private and public, that we, as nature and wildlife photographers, use to capture many of the photos we all collectively have taken. We are blessed here in Massachusetts to have many beautiful state parks, national wildlife refuges, and national parks like the Cape Cod National Seashore. We also have many local parks, as well as Mass Audubon and Trustees of Reservations properties throughout the state. This allows us photographic opportunities throughout the year, which is on full display at each meeting when we share photos with each other.

This past year, we have had some nice gatherings both in person and via Zoom. Our in-person Spring and Fall meetings were, by all accounts, a success with a very good turnout. Our CamNats club Zoom on March 8 was also well attended, with Ed McGuirk and Christopher Ciccone as our guest presenters. Thank you to Ed and Christopher for an excellent program. If all goes well, our next mini-Zoom program will take place on Thursday, November 16; stay tuned for more info on that Zoom gathering. We also recently had a very successful photo exhibit (the second in club

history) at Hunt's Photo in Melrose. A BIG thank you to all CamNats members that participated. This is a fantastic way for us, as a camera club, to share with the public the photos of many very talented CamNats photographers and to expose the public to the natural world. We received some nice feedback from that exhibit, and hopefully, we can find another location for 2023.

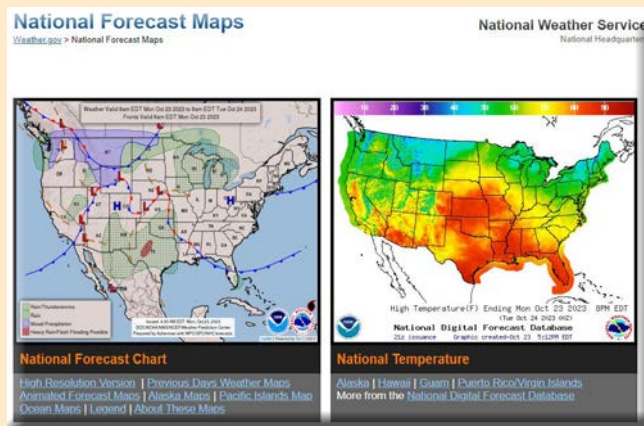
With that, I hope everyone has had a fun and productive past year in the field taking great photos and enjoying what we all love to do. As I have said at all the meetings I've presided over for CamNats, I ask that you remember this is your club, and I am only

here to help serve you for the two years as Chair. In that capacity, I will do my best to help CamNats thrive and make it a fun and exciting place for us to gather and share stories, photos, ideas, and generally have a good time. So, please get involved as much as you can, and if you have an idea that you would like to share with me and the club, let me know. Take care, happy shooting, and see you on Saturday, January 20, 2024, for the annual meeting at GLPA.

Cheers!

Shawn Carey

CAMNATS, this weather site will help you plan your next adventure!



<https://www.weather.gov>

THANKS to your patient support and beautiful contributions, our newsletter has sprung back to life.

Your involvement has not only enriched this publication but also provided me the opportunity to improve my Adobe InDesign skills. As our collective contributions grow, so will the vibrancy of the CamNats Newsletter. I'm eager to share your photographic experience, display your captivating images, and spread your expert advice. Whether it's a story behind a shot, a technique you've mastered, or a tip that might help a fellow member, we want to hear it. Please share your work with us at CamNatsNews@Gmail.com. Thank you!

Mary Doo

Up Close and Personal *with a* *Golden-Crowned Kinglet*

by Sandy Selesky



Several years ago I was lucky enough to come across a small flock of golden-crowned kinglets in the campground at Salisbury Beach State Reservation, a state park situated along the coast of Massachusetts just south of the New Hampshire border. These tiny little songbirds, not much bigger than our smallest hummingbird, are often found foraging either high up in fir trees or low down on the ground in grasses and among the fallen leaves for any small insects they can find in late fall or early spring. They breed in the northern and northwest boreal forests of Canada, Nova Scotia, and Alaska, and winter in much of the continent. Incredibly for such a small bird, they can actually survive temperatures as low as minus 40 degrees! However, they are not easily found because they are so frenetic and move so quickly from tree to tree. I don't see one very often and when I did see a flock of about 8 or so staying together along one particular area of pine trees along one of the campground roads for over an hour a few years ago, foraging for insects and staying close to the ground



after first flying from tree to tree, making it relatively easy to get decent images, I was thrilled. They're supposed to be around here all winter but usually appear more often late October to early November in this park and so I was determined to try to find at least one to photograph this year starting just before Halloween. I was with another photographer friend and asked him if he'd seen one. He hadn't. He had seen a ruby-crowned kinglet but not a golden-crowned, although another friend had spotted one earlier. We had just finished taking some pictures of a barred owl resting in a small pine grove close to the campground and I decided to go off by myself to search for any birds I could find in the park. I started walking through one of the open fields between some campground

parking spots and saw a flock of white-throated sparrows. I looked to the left and saw a tiny bird fluttering in the grass by the roadside pine trees and it was flitting around like a warbler or kinglet. When I held up my camera I realized it was as ruby-crowned kinglet. It was pretty tame and let me get quite close so I took many pictures of it as it poked around on the ground searching for insects. I was enjoying its tameness but still wishing it was a golden-crowned. After following it for awhile I happened to turn to the right and as I did so I noticed movement in the grass a few inches from my feet. All of a sudden I saw the bright yellow color on top of the bird's head and couldn't believe my eyes – it was actually a very close golden-crowned kinglet

pecking in the grasses near my feet!! I actually had to back up to start taking pictures and wait for it to come out in the open a bit more. I just couldn't believe my luck. I spent the next hour or so following it around trying to photograph it - and it actually followed me as well, coming towards me many times as it searched for insects (I read that it picks off aphids and the eggs of insects from the back sides of leaves and blades and grass); not so easy as it moved in and out of the grasses and various structures of the campground, but it did stay on the ground pretty much all the time. At one point it suddenly hopped right on my shoe for a few seconds! I looked down and talked to him - a magical moment!

At last this beautiful little bird, who hardly noticed I was there and easily accepted my presence while it searched for food in front of me, flew across the road right after I photographed it one last time, while the ruby-crowned kinglet suddenly appeared and posed even closer on top of a park water faucet at the edge of that field. It almost felt like the golden-crowned kinglet knew I was looking for him and guided my body in the right direction so that I could find him and spend time with him.

From articles I read about golden-crowned kinglet behavior, one is lucky to see them for more than a few minutes since they usually forage high up in conifers and are so incredibly active and fast-moving that it's hard to keep them in view for very long. Even a week after this encounter, I was able to find another small flock of about 6 golden-crowned kinglets and once again was able to spend about an hour with them as they flitted on the ground or by the lower trunks of the pine trees of this park's campground grassy fields. Occasionally they would fly into the middle of the branches of the pine trees but would never linger there for more than





a few seconds before coming out into the open again and, as a week earlier, I often had to back up because they were foraging too close for me to focus on them. One almost flew onto my hat! So despite what one might read about the difficulty of seeing or photographing a particular species, being in the right place at the right time coupled with patience and luck can definitely increase such magical experiences!

Sandy is former President and now Print Coordinator at the Nashoba Valley Photo Club (NVPC) in Westford. She and her husband Don have been members of the Mass CamNats for several years. Sandy is also a long-time member of the Brookline Bird Club and has been passionate about bird and wildlife photography for over 30 years. She has won numerous digital and print awards/medals in NECCC interclub and conference competitions and in international competitions including a Best of Show award in the Glennie International Nature Exhibition as well as many digital and print of the year awards at NVPC. Sandy has had many articles and images (including 3 covers) published in magazines such as Nature Photographer; Nature's Best; Bird Observer; Wildlife Refuge, Birder's World, etc. Her image of a Young Wet Great Horned Owl was on exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. with other chosen winners of the Nature's Best International Photography Awards competition. A photo essay of 15 of her bird images taken at historic Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge is included in the book "Dead in Good Company" (published in August, 2015) and two of her images appear in the children's book "Skylar's Great Adventure" about a Great Horned Owl fledgling (published in 2018). Her most recent trip was a two-week photo safari in Tanzania with Don and a friend in January, 2019.



IN MEMORY

In the span of two years, we bid farewell to eight cherished members of our community. Their passion for photography and their invaluable contributions to our photographic circle will always be held close to our hearts. Les Campbell, FPSA, HonNEC stands out as the esteemed founder of CamNats. Les along with Henry Wiesenburger, APSA, MNEC were the oldest and longest members of the club, with Henry also the historian who held us all together for many years. George Nieske, APSA, MNEC and Harry Ahern, FPSA, PPSA, HonNEC attended all the meetings until ill health; Harry and his wife Lynn hosted a few CamNats weekends for us. Dan Charbonnett's, HonPSA, EPSA, HonNEC understanding of all things nature amazed us and his generous monetary and knowledge contributions to the photographic community are forever etched in our memories. The captivating works shown at many CamNats meetings of Karl Schanz, APSA, MNEC, Mike McGrath and John Fuller remain unforgettable. The generosity to Audubon from John Fuller, HonPSA, AFIAP, HonNEC will benefit many future bird lovers, photographers and watchers. We cherish the essence of who they were - their laughter, their guidance, their unwavering spirit, and the ways they inspired us to reach greater heights. May their souls find eternal peace.

~ Special thanks to **Susan Mosser** for her contributions to this tribute ~



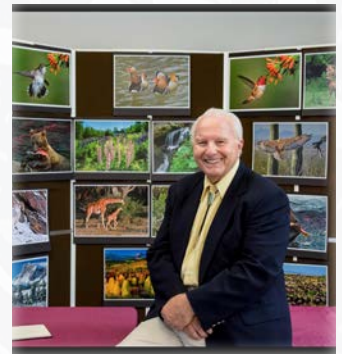
Les Campbell
2020



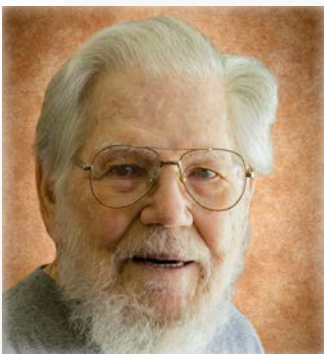
George Nieske
2020



Harry Ahern
2020



Karl Schanz
2021



H. Wiesenburger
2021



Dan Charbonnett
2021



Mike McGrath
2022



John Fuller
2023

The Miracle on the Beach

by Ken Jordan



One was coming right towards me as I stood on the sidewalk behind the concrete wall. I didn't know what they were doing. I thought it might be a mating display. It continued coming toward me, and suddenly it stopped about ten feet in front of me, covering a bunch of eggs. I thought there were about five or six eggs, but I couldn't tell; it happened so fast. I

It started with a bicycle ride along Revere beach, looking for plovers. As I rode, I saw two right away. As I watched them, they were calling and walking around very strangely. Their heads twisted with one eye looking up and the other looking down at the ground. They were running without moving their bodies up and down (it looked like they were floating), going one to two feet each time and stopping between each sprint.

thought this would be a great nest to watch. It would be great if I could keep an eye on it whenever possible and try to see them when they start to hatch, but yeah, right!

Three days later, when checking the nest, the plover was still sitting on it. I went to the other end of the beach, and on the way back, I saw other people looking at it. When



I got there, the plover was just walking up to the nest, and I finally got to see for the first time that there were four eggs.

After several bicycle and car trips, the plover was still sitting on the nest. Finally, on the evening of Friday, June 5th, I went to Revere Beach. With the sun setting behind me as I looked over the wall at the nest, I saw what I was waiting for: a broken egg with a newborn next to it. I got there just in time.

Two minutes later, he took off with the eggshell, with the mother about ten feet away, watching and guarding the area. I could see the wet chick, and the little white tooth at the top of its beak that they use to break out of the egg. Trying to get comfortable with the three big eggs under the adult male wasn't easy. This made the adult try to adjust several times, but it wasn't working, so he just kept getting up and down on the nest. When you look at the chick next to the egg, you think, "How did he fit in it with those big feet?" After about twenty minutes and a few peeps, the mother came running back for her first turn to sit on the newborn chick. She faced the same problem on the nest. The chick just



wouldn't sit still with the three hard eggs and its big feet.

The sun was now setting, and the wall's shadow was on the nest. I called it quits after two hours of interesting plover behavior. So, on the

way home, I was thinking about how I couldn't let this opportunity pass me by with three eggs to go. Even though tomorrow's weather doesn't look good, I decided to return at sunrise.



The next day, at sunrise, I was back at the wall, looking

at the mother on the nest, and now there were two fluffy chicks. Another chick had hatched overnight. The weather was cool with clouds that might bring rain. I think it was a little easier for the mother to sit on the nest with two fluffy chicks and only two hard eggs. The two chicks were leaving the nest to eat their first meals, wobbly on their feet and staying very close to the nest (amazing that they can feed themselves at less than a day old!). After twelve minutes, the father returned for his turn on the nest. While sitting on the nest, I noticed that the adults kept picking up small pieces of shells to place around the nest.

After about ninety minutes, the third egg hatched with the mother, and she got rid of the shell right away. The weather was improving; I could see more blue in the sky. Two hours went by, and the two chicks that hatched yesterday were wandering further away from the nest. Both adults were now busy, one sitting on the new hatchling and the one egg that was left, the other staying with



the two older chicks as they ran around looking for food.

After three hours, I left and went home. What an incredible two days!

I returned the next day, and the last chick had hatched. All four chicks were now running around, looking for food. I checked on them again the following day, and all was good.



It's amazing that they can survive in such an urban area, with people constantly walking by, fire trucks blasting, dogs, hawks, gulls, and crows flying around. You'd think they would not survive. It's a good thing that the DCR put fences around their nesting sites; otherwise, they wouldn't have a chance!

KEN JORDAN MNEC



Ken is a member of the Greater Lynn Photographic Association (GLPA) where he has served on the Board of Directors for many years. He is also a member of the Massachusetts Camera Naturalists (CamNats) and actively contributed to the NECCC annual conference as a member of the equipment committee for over 15 years.

Ken has judged several interclub competitions and PSA Nature International Exhibitions. While nature photography holds a special place in his heart, Ken is interested in photographing any subject that catches his eye. Notable is his architecture work, both interiors and exteriors.

Ken has received many awards/medals for his images in International Exhibitions, NECCC and PSA interclub competitions and GLPA club competitions. He clinched the 'Best of Show' in the PSA Council Challenge, representing the NECCC Council, and also the PSA Nature Wildlife Image of the Year for his "Peregrine Falcon Defeathering Meal" image.

You can explore more of Ken's work at www.kenjordanphoto.com

