In Focus

Tri-State

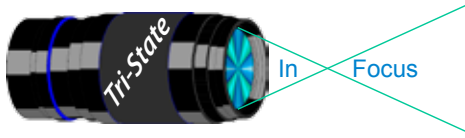**Short-Billed Shellbird**
by Donna Loughry
Canon 60D, 100mm Lens, ISO 100, 6.0s, f/32.

On the Cover

The Short-Billed Shellbird

Short-Billed Shellbird,
Digging in the black sand.
Searching with its curved beak,
Finding all it can.

Super Family: Naticoidae
Family: Naticidae
Genus & Species: Neverita duplicate

On the Cover (cont.)

The Short-Billed Shellbird

What is known, or can be surmised, is as follows.

It has seemingly been spotted in the NE US along sandy beaches. However, it is unknown where this particular specimen is from.

As the photograph on the front page implies, the Short-Billed Shellbird prefers black sand (*it's easier to see things*?) But, it has been seen in natural sand as well. However, those seen in natural sand seem to be smaller and are not quite as colorful. They may also not be as easily seen as their color is closer to that of natural sand.

They are seen most prominently on black sandy beaches. Since black sand is related to lava flows, it is thought that they may be found most easily in volcanically active areas. This author is not sure where there are volcanically active areas in the NE US coast or for that matter along the Atlantic coast. Black sand beaches can be found in Hawaii, Iceland and some places in the Caribbean.

There are many variations of size and color of this organism. Their color ranges from dark brown to white & gray with accents of yellow. They seem to be slightly larger than a mature Hermit Crab.

Its sustenance is whatever it can find in the sand. This seems to be bits and pieces of other organisms and plant life. Therefore, they are probably omnivorous. They seem to glide along the surface of the sand plowing their beaks ahead of them to find food. There are some anecdotal accounts of the Short-Billed Shellbird being able to "drill" into the shell of another shelled organism to get at the soft parts within. This would make them a predator of other shelled organisms.

Because of the size of their most abundant food source, it is assumed that they are slow growing and long-lived baring a conflict with their primary predator, the Hermit Crab. Towards the end of their life, in a conflict with a mature Hermit Crab, the Hermit Crab *always* wins. However, the Short-Billed Shellbird will always win when the conflict is with a baby Hermit Crab. This type of conflict rarely occurs. It is unknown exactly why.

The Short-Billed Shellbird's breeding habits and complete life cycle are unknown and could benefit from further study. While some things can be assumed by others of this family, further study of this organism may add to our knowledge of the natural world. There are additional photos to the one on the cover as well as (non-living) samples which may be provided upon request.

What is it *really*?

Donna

Answer is on page 8.

In Focus
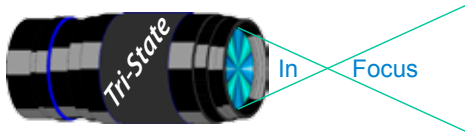
How to Prepare An Image For Pdi Display.

Many people have asked over and over again "How do I make my image ready for PDI competition?" This is a a description of how I do it which seems to be successful for me.

We all have our favorite way of processing our images - from shooting jpegs to shooting in raw files and making some adjustments ourselves. Note that, *if the image you took is bad, no amount of making adjustments will fix it*. That said, when we display an image, the amount of light, color & contrast falls off depending on the distance between the projector and the wall due to the light scatter in the air amongst other issues. Figure the distance between the projector and the wall, is about 10-15 feet.

On my computer with it's monitor, I prepare my image to my satisfaction. Everyone has their own way of preparing/correcting/editing their images with their favorite software. You can adjust these steps to fit the software you use. Note: Step 4 is an optional step that I use for my computer. The rest of the steps are pretty general.

1) **Backup.** Save the image as a PSD file at full size so you can redo the entry file as needed.
2) Because I use layers in processing my image, I flatten the image and make sure that it still looks good.
3) **Resize the image.** In *Photoshop*
    1. (image/image size), in "pixel dimensions"
    2. set the longest side to 750 pixels.
    3. The shorter size should automatically adjust to less than 750 pixels.
   In *Photoshop Elements:*
    1. Open the image to be re-sized
    2. Image>Resize>Image Size
    3. A box will open - The top two boxes will show the image size in pixels.
    4. Change the largest size to 750.
    5. If the Resample box is checked at the bottom all other adjustments will automatically adjust.
    * Review the image to make sure it looks good

4) *(My optional step)* This next step may or may not need to be done with your image. But, I have found with my computer that if what is on my screen is already dark I may not need to do anything. Otherwise, I darken a light image by using a gamma setting of about .90. This is not much of a change but it has kept my images from looking dull and lifeless when projected.
5) **Save as a JPG**. I save the image file as a JPG file with baseline "standard" and a quality of 12 (maximum – least amount of JPG compression). JPG files are compressed by nature – you want the least amount.
    *   Remember - you can only open and save a Jpeg file 6 times before you notice pixelation and degradation of image quality.
    *   For the best display, I avoid opening and saving the Jpeg file after this point. If I need to make a correction at this point, I go back to my pre-jpg file to make the correction and then resave it as a jpg.
    *   Yes, the JPG is significantly smaller than your original file. But it is the correct size for sending to Jerry Fritsch for your competition entry.
6) **Review your image at 100%.** Photoshop Hint: Double click the magnifying glass in the tool bar to get 100% magnification. This is what will be displayed.
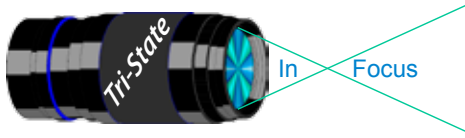
After following this procedure, you have a file that should be ready for PDI display. Send it as an attachment with title to **tristatepdi@yahoo.com** by Thursday Midnight before the Friday meeting.*(Note you can send attachments to this e-mail but not the Listserv.)*

I hope this helps everyone with the process. If you have any questions, feel free to ask. *Donna*

Thanks for Bob Ihrig for the Photoshop Elements instructions.
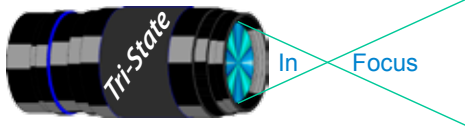
This is the image used to calibrate the Projector for PDI images. *(Note - do not use this image in the newsletter as it has been enlarged and therefore degraded.)* The file of this image is located on our website at http://www.tristatephotographicsociety.com/Documents/TristateProjector.jpg Once the image is open, right click on the image and choose "save image as" to save to the directory/folder where you want to keep the image. For any other questions, see Jerry Fritsch or Bob Ihrig.

July Pictorial -
Open - Formal

July Nature -
Flowers - Informal

Slides - Accomplished
1 Fritsch, Jerry — Osprey Lunch
2 Jones, Margaret — Indian Paintbrush

PDI - Tyro
1 Charette, Nee — One Boat On the Beach
2 McGill, Teresa — Mission Conception

PDI - Accomplished
1 Kraus, Mark — National Bird
2 Haakenson, Bryan — Nashville Lights
3 Thompson, Dan — Yellow Burst
4 Carpenter, Jerry — Baby Beach Balls

Prints - Tyro
1 Denman, Ted — Jellyfish
2 Scheall, Ted — Looking Good, Feeling Great

Prints - Accomplished
1 Voelker, Dale — Washington Monument
2 Charette, Nelson — Howard Johnson's

B/W Prints -Tyro
1 Hathorn , Lisa — Watching For the 9:17

B/W Prints -Accomplished
1 Jones, Richard — Riverfront
2 Kubler, John — Gates To Freedom
3 Ihrig, Bob — Soft Carmen
4 Loughry, Donna — Ocean Sunrise

Slides - Accomplished
1 Jennings, Miriam — Pink Lady
2 Jones, Richard — Passion Flower
3 Fritsch, Jerry — Hocking Jack
4 Jones, Margaret — Royal Flamboyant

PDI - Tyro
1 Charette, Nee — Purple And White Flowers
2 Beck, Ron — Water Lily

PDI - Accomplished
1 Charette, Nelson — Sunflower
2 Carpenter, Jerry — Nice Back Side
3 Kraus, Mark — Water Flower
4 Thompson, Dan — Sessile Trilliums

Prints - Tyro
1 Sallee, Ramona — Buttercup
2 Denman, Ted — Royal Catchfly
3 Scheall, Ted — Orange On Violet

Prints - Accomplished
1 Sallee, Joy — Arizona Roadside Flower
2 Ihrig, Bob — Jack In the Pulpit
3 Kubler, John — Bleeding Heart
4 Loughry, Donna — Mimosa Blossom

In Focus
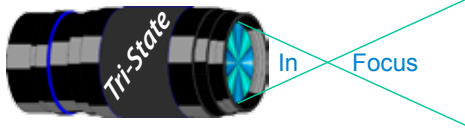
TRISTATE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
COMPETITION CATEGORIES - 2015

Pictorial (1st Meeting)		Month	Nature (2nd Meeting)	
~~Open~~	~~Informal Prints~~	~~January~~	~~Landscape of a season~~	~~Informal Prints~~
~~Bridges~~	~~Informal Prints~~	~~February~~	~~Open~~	~~Informal Prints~~
~~Open~~	~~*Formal* Prints~~	~~March~~	~~SkyScape/Cloudscape~~	~~Informal Prints~~
~~Urban/City Landscape~~	~~Informal Prints~~	~~April~~	~~Animals with Fur~~	~~Informal Prints~~
~~Open~~	~~Informal Prints~~	~~May~~	~~Open~~	~~*Formal* Prints~~
~~American Pioneer~~	~~Informal Prints~~	~~June~~	~~Open~~	~~Informal Prints~~
~~Open~~	~~*Formal* Prints~~	~~July~~	~~Flower(s)~~	~~Informal Prints~~
Abstract or almost	Informal Prints	**August**	**Moving Water**	Informal Prints
Open	Informal Prints	**September**	Open	*Formal* Prints
Urban Wildlife	Informal Prints	**October**	Open	Informal Prints
Open	*Formal* Prints	**November**	**Trees**	Informal Prints
Wheels	Informal Prints	**December**	Open	Informal Prints

Reminder:
Limit 1 print for <u>Competitions</u>.
A <u>Formal</u> print is Matted only - no Frames
and no thicker than 1/4 inch.
An <u>informal</u> print must be no thicker than 1/8th of an inch.
Additional print(s) will be for <u>Display and Discussion</u>.

For PDI (Projected Digital Image)

If you would like to participate in the **P**rojected **D**igital **I**mages competitions you can email them to **tristatepdi@yahoo.com** up through the Thursday Midnight before each Friday meeting. They should be JPEG format (.JPG file type) with the longest side having 750 pixels or less.
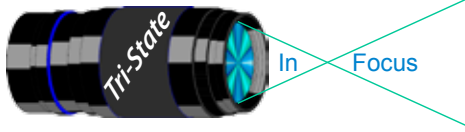
You can re-size the images in your digital processing software, usually under Image, then Image Size. Change the scale to pixels (not inches or cm), and modify the longest side (height or width) to 750. The other dimension should automatically adjust.

If you don't know how to adjust the size, or can't, feel free to email the image to **tristatepdi@yahoo.com**. The size of image will be adjusted. For best color results, your JPEG image should also use a sRGB color profile.

Please include your name, the image title, and if you are competing in Tyro or Advanced categories in the e-mail.

The file used to Calibrate the Projector for PDI images is located on our website at http://www.tristatephoto-graphicsociety.com/Documents/TristateProjector.jpg Once the image is open, right click on the image and choose "save image as" to save to the directory/folder where you want to keep the image.

Topics for 2015 with Descriptions

Topic		Category	Guidelines/Suggestions
Landscape of a season	January	Nature	Image illustrating a season (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter.)
Bridges	February	Pictorial	Whole or part of a bridge(s) of any size, shape, use or condition.
SkyScape/Cloudscape	March	Nature	Just the sky, including but not limited to Sun, Moon, Clouds and/or Stars or other atmospheric conditions or elements with minimal other Nature objects in the frame. Example: Sunset Illuminated Clouds with a very few tree branches on an edge just to anchor the image.
Animals with Fur	April	Nature	Non-Domesticated animals with fur that is of any color, length or type. Definition of fur: fine, soft hair on an animal. May be course or fine, of any color and of any length. This does not include Feathers or Scales.
Urban/City Landscape	April	Pictorial	A scene which includes but is not limited to traffic, clustered housing, street games, people gathered on the street corners , waiting to cross the street, day or night or anything in between or any season.
American Pioneer	June	Pictorial	Depiction of people and life styles of times past in America. This would include but is not limited to living history exhibits or museums showing settlers, farmers, ranchers--their homes, ways of life, and activities.
Flower(s)	July	Nature	Any Single or Multiple, Non-Hybrid Flower(s) in a natural setting. Examples might be but are not limited to: a field of flowers or a flower(s) in the woods.
Moving Water	August	Nature	Including but not limited to Waterfalls, Streams, & Rivers.
Abstract or almost	August	Pictorial	An image of part of a subject so that it may not be obvious what the whole subject is. Definition of abstract photography: A photograph that does not attempt to represent external, recognizable reality but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colors, and textures etc.
Urban Wildlife	October	Pictorial	Any non-domestic animal that might be found in a city or suburb. This could include but is not limited to: deer, squirrels, raccoons, Opossums, Coyotes, Insects, Lizards,birds such as pigeons, etc.
Trees	November	Nature	Whole or part of a tree(s) Including by not limited to bark, branches, leaves, flowers, seeds etc.
Wheels	December	Pictorial	Can be a wheel(s) (or gear(s)) of any kind. Definition of a wheel: a Circular frame or disk that revolves or can revolve around an axle or rod.

In Focus
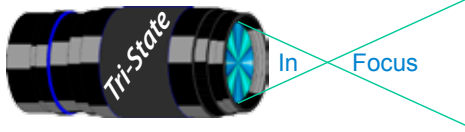
August 2015 Meeting Dates:

~~Friday, Aug. 07, 2015 - Pictorial - 1st Friday~~
~~Campbell County Extension Service Office.~~
~~Time: 7:00 pm~~

Friday Aug. 21, 2015 - Nature - **3rd** Friday
Campbell County Extension Service Office.
Time: 7:00 pm

September 2015 Meeting Dates:

Friday, Sept ??, 2015 - Pictorial - 2nd Friday
Campbell County Extension Service Office.
Time: 7:00 pm

Friday Sept. ??, 2015 - Nature - 4th Friday
Campbell County Extension Service Office.
Time: 7:00 pm

Editor's Note:

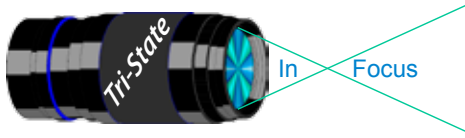### Deadline for the Next Issue is
September 1, 2015.

Answer to "What Is it really?"
   Full Proper title: "*Reverse side of an Altantic Moon Snail Shell {also known as a Shark's eye} closeup.*"
   As the genius & species specifies – Neverita duplicate - (*never to be duplicated?*)
   Does the Short-Billed Shellbird ever really exist at all or just a figment of my imagination? But, what about the photograph? Can a photograph lie?
   How it was done: The shell was pushed into the black sand opening side down. The "glint" is simply some water placed in that spot. The shark's eye is on the back of the shell from this vantage point.

Website:
http://www.tristatephotographicsociety.com/

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/tristatephotographic

PSA:
http://www.psa-photo.org/

E-mail Address Change Reminder.

If you change your e-mail address there are lots of people to notify, and it is easy to forget someone who needs to know your new address.

Remember to let Bob Ihrig (rdihrig@fuse.net) know of any address change so he can update this on the ListServ. Please put "Tri-State" in the subject box.

2015 Tri-State Officers & Chairpersons

President	Donna Loughry	**Pictorial Slide Chairs**	Margaret Jones
Vice-President	Margaret Jones		Alt Mark Kraus
Secretary	John Kuhbler	**Slide Projector Operator**	John Deering
Treasurer	Bryan Haakenson		Alt - Dale Voelker
Refreshments	Teresa McGill	**Print Chairs**	Jane McBreen - Chair
Banquet	Teresa McGill & Wilda Everman		Roger Ginn
Equipment	Jerry Carpenter (Chair)		Ron Beck
	Dale Voleker		Ken Knipper
	Ron Beck	**PDI Chair & Equipment**	Bob Ihrig
	Teresa McGill	**PDI Pictorial**	Mark Kraus
Location & Setup	Bob Ihrig	**PDI Nature**	Bob Ihrig
List-Serve Manager	Bob Ihrig	**Newsletter**	Donna Loughry
Exhibits/Publicity	Open	**Website**	Donna Loughry
Field Trips	Joy Sallee	**Points/Awards**	Margaret Jones
	Lisa Hathorn	**Programs**	Richard Jones
Membership	Jerry Carpenter	**Refreshment Supplies**	Lisa Hathorn
Nature Slide Chair	Margaret Jones	**FaceBook Manager**	Nelson Charette
	Alt Mark Kraus	**PSA**	Joy Sallee - Club Rep. & PID
			Donna Loughry - Nature