



WILD & SCENIC[®] FILM FESTIVAL



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Wonderful Wildlife

Iridescent, Iridescent



When it comes to the discovery and documentation of birds, Tim Laman is one of the best in the world. As he entered the final curation stages of his forthcoming book, *Bird Planet*, fellow bird lover and National Geographic photographer Keith Ladzinski reached out with an opportunity to go on safari in one of the world's birding hotspots, Brazil's Pantanal region. It had been on Tim's bucket list for years but he had yet to visit, so he jumped at the chance to photograph some of South America's best birds.

Eco-Hack!



Biologist Tim Shields has watched Mojave desert tortoise populations plummet since the 1990s. The latest threat? Ballooning raven populations, from increased human activity. Tired of "taking notes on a catastrophe," Tim exchanges observational biology for direct intervention. Building drones, rovers, laser cannons, and exploding tortoise shells, Tim wages technological war on ravens in a final effort to save the species.

Counting Cranes



For the past 20 years, the Crane Trust has conducted aerial surveys of Sandhill Crane roosts to determine the number of birds that pass through the central Platte River Valley every spring. Andy Caven and his team take us behind the scenes to show us how this process is done, what they have learned, and why it's important.



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The Rock Pool Waltz

The Rock Pool Waltz centres around a boys affinity with nature which helps to ease his worries and loneliness during the COVID lockdown. This leads him to an incredible friendship with an unlikely creature from the ocean. This inspiring film brings awareness to our connection with nature and the importance of caring for our environment and the amazing creatures we share this world with.



Bear Witness: Subarctic

We see so many images every day. The question is, can an image still make people care? Bear Witness: Subarctic is a 2022 documentary short film about sea ice loss and its impact on polar bear populations in Canada. As sea ice shrinks to record lows and polar bears spend more time on land, a photographer sets out to document what increased interactions between bears and people mean for communities living in the North. In pursuit of an image that might still stir us to act, we all become witnesses to the consequences of a warming world.



Shaba

After losing her mother to poachers, an unruly elephant named Shaba is rescued to the mountains of northern Kenya to be rehabilitated back to the wild. The women keepers of Reteti Sanctuary have a maternal solution to soften Shaba's heart.



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Game Hawker



Shawn Hayes leads a life of devotion. For him, falconry is more than a deep partnership with raptors: it's his life's work. As an American falconry ambassador, he's carved a space for himself where people of color haven't always been welcome. It's taken him across the globe, into strongholds of tradition and conservation. This film is about more than what humans can train birds to do—it's about what those birds can teach us about living in partnership with wild creatures and wild places.

Song of the Hermit



The hermit thrush's song has been a magical part of a visit to Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Researcher Allison R.P. Nelson and collaborators are working to better understand the subspecies that breeds along coastal California and identify impacts that the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire had on the park's population of thrushes.

Returning England's Forgotten Frog



As scientists were discovering a surprising detail about an often-overlooked frog, the last local population of the species was winking out of existence. This is the extraordinary story of England's pool frog and the effort to bring it back.