

Mailchimp Template Test - "December 2023 #1 Long Newsletter"

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Hi to Everyone,

The final newsletter of 2023 is upon me - a chance to reflect on the past year of amazing encounters and safaris, and also pick my personal favorites from 2023. I only have to look back a week to the Bosque del Apache NWR and the Texas Wildlife Safari to find some great successes. It's a 26 hour drive (we stopped for the night in Phoenix) from Laredo, TX to Tulare, CA - about 1600 miles, plenty of time to organize my favorite images from 2023 in my head. Four of my favorite 20 came from the Texas safari, with an image of a male Northern Cardinal in a thorny mesquite climbing to #10.

To take a look at the 2023 top 20 images - click [HERE](#).

Before leaving for these safaris on December 9 I had done a preliminary ranking of the images. I had set aside 121 images from all the previous safaris this year, then with additional images from Bosque and Texas, I chose my favorites. These aren't the most publishable, nor the most professionally shot - these are just my favorites. I believe in shooting behavior and/or interaction, most of these have that element, some are just clean portrait images.

As is always the case, Bosque del Apache NWR in New Mexico, was cold. There wasn't any snow on the ground, but the ponds and skim ice every morning. Like most wildlife this year, I think the peak times came a bit later than normal. There were thousands of Snow Geese, but much more scattered than in previous years, no morning pond having more than about 1,200 birds (sunrise ponds normally have 5-8,000 birds) and the Sandhill Cranes were even more scattered. No matter, we worked hard each day to get the best images of what was available, and we did. We shot a wide variety of raptors - including

some I had never seen at Bosque, like white-tailed kites and a prairie falcon.

Texas was as great as ever. Shooting with my friend and fellow professional photographer Butch Ramirez, we shot the birding mecca of Solineno on the Rio Grande River south of Zapata. Then we shot the T5 Ranch (aka Tipps Ranch), finishing at the Rocking R6 Ranch (Butch's ranch). While we did shoot some Gray Hawks, we had a better encounter with them last year. On our final shooting day the sky finally cleared and we shot against a blue sky background. I hope you enjoy the images in the gallery from these two safaris. I finished with 35,000 images and it might take me awhile to actually get through all of those by editing, then processing the surviving raw files.

I'm writing this newsletter on December 24, and with Christmas tomorrow, I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season. I say this all the time, sorry if you have heard it a number of times before, but photography is the greatest hobby you can have. For folks who love nature, it is an opportunity to spend quality time outdoors. For folks who love all things technical, it provides a near constant source of problem solving as cameras (mirrorless) gain options and abilities. For folks who love thrills, there is nothing more thrilling than an unexpected encounter with some form of wildlife, be it wolves, bears, birds, or bobcats.

And lastly, for the adventurous - safaris into Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Glacier, southern Utah, San Juan Mountains of Colorado, Bosque in New Mexico, Magee Marsh in Ohio, Laredo in Texas, San Juan Island in Washington, and everything wild about California - all safaris at peak seasons capturing peak moments in the lives of wildlife. It is the most rewarding thing you can do outside your own family. **BRP**

There are short-cuts to happiness, and dancing (photography) is one of them. Vicki Baum

[White-tailed Buck \(T5 Ranch\) - Texas Wildlife Safari](#)

Click the link above to download the wallpaper in a new window, then right-click and copy it to your computer. You can see all **FREE** Wallpaper here: ([LINK](#)) The wallpaper is sized to 1980 px by 1080 px to easily fit most computer screens.



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White-tailed Buck | Texas Wildlife Safari

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All the currently scheduled upcoming 2023-2024 Photo Safaris and Workshops are shown on the Safari Page on my website. That is the most accurate location to view these events. Here is a [LINK](#) to that page. Below are links to the individual safaris for the next several months. New safaris are added every few weeks. Upcoming ZOOM Shows are here - [LINK](#).

2023 Safari Schedule

December 27 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

December 28 Northern Pygmy Owls Safari ([LINK](#)) **1 Opening**

2024 Safari Schedule

January 4 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

January 9 California Coast Wildlife Safari **1 Opening** ([LINK](#))

January 10-11 Bobcat Safari (**SOLD OUT**)

January 22-28 Yellowstone-Tetons Winter Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#)) (**SOLD OUT**)

January 29-30 Utah Raptors Safari ([LINK](#)) (**SOLD OUT**)

February 7-8 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

February 22 Southern CA Bird Safari ([LINK](#))

February 24 Blossom Trail Safari ([LINK](#))

February 27-28 NWR Safari (Sacramento, Lower Klamath, Merced) ([LINK](#))

March 4 Santa Cruz Island Gray Fox Safari ([LINK](#))

March 7-8 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#)) **1 Opening**

March 12 Bobcat Safari ([LINK](#))

April 2 Butterbreedt Springs Bird (Owl) Safari ([LINK](#))

April 4 California Poppy / Wildflower Safari ([LINK](#))

April 16-19 Southern Utah Spring Safari ([LINK](#))

April 24-25 Morongo Valley Bird Safari ([LINK](#))

May 1-3 San Juan Island Black Fox Safari ([LINK](#)) **1 Opening**

May 13-15 Magee Marsh (Ohio) Bird Safari ([LINK](#))

May 20 Peregrine Falcon Safari ([LINK](#))

May 23 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

May 29-June 5 Yellowstone Spring Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#))

June 11 Mineral King (if Open)

June 13 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

June 25-26 Black Bear and Songbirds in Sequoia Safari ([LINK](#))

July 2 Black Bear Safari ([LINK](#))

July 9-10 Black Bear and Songbirds in Sequoia Safari ([LINK](#))

August 13-16 Mt. Evan's Goats and Rocky Mtn Wildlife ([LINK](#))

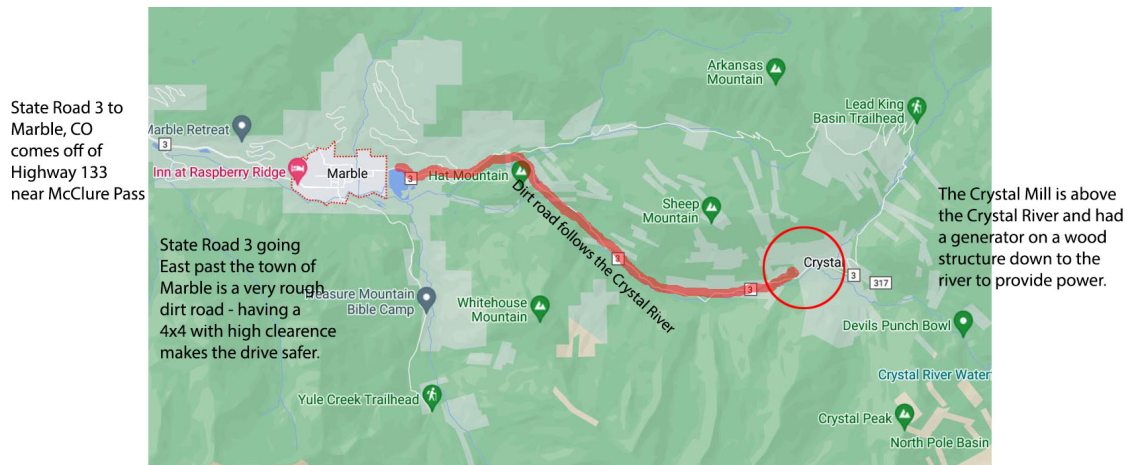
September 9-13 Glacier National Park ([LINK](#))

September 23-28 Yellowstone-Tetons Fall Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#))

September 30-Oct 3 San Juan Mtns Autumn Landscape Safari ([LINK](#))

Specific Locations

The Crystal Mill, Marble, Colorado



Iconic. That is the word for the Crystal Mill near Marble, Colorado. I shoot this location on my San Juan Mtns Autumn Safari in Colorado. It is an afternoon shoot - so we shoot the morning at Maroon Bells, then drive over McClure Pass to Marble - then drive the very tough dirt road along the Crystal River to the Crystal Mill. This road is for higher clearance, 4x4 vehicles. If you continue on the road past the Crystal Mill you come to a mining ghost town of Crystal. Surrounded by colorful aspens in the afternoon, everybody has seen a photo of the mill without ever knowing where it was. It's on my safari schedule this year ([LINK](#)).



BRENT PAULL PHOTOGRAPHY

The Crystal Mill - Colorado Autumn Landscape Safari

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Crystal Mill, Marble, CO AMWESTPHOTO.COM

Bosque del Apache NWR Images



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Snow Geese at dawn | Bosque del Apache Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Redhead Ducks | Bosque del Apache NWR Safari amwestphoto.com



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Sandhill Crane | Bosque del Apache Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Sandhill Cranes landing | Bosque del Apache Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Cooper's Hawk | Bosque del Apache NWR Safari amwestphoto.com



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Loggerhead Shrike | Bosque del Apache NWR Safari amwestphoto.com



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Snow Geese | Bosque del Apache Bird Safari amwestphoto.com



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Prairie Falcon | Bosque del Apache NWR Safari amwestphoto.com



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White-tailed Kite | Bosque del Apache NWR Safari amwestphoto.com

Texas Wildlife Images



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Harris Hawk | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Incoming Crested Caracara | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Northern Cardinal | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Sharp-shinned Hawk | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Flying Chachalaca | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Nine-banded Armadillo | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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White-tailed Buck | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Blackbuck | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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White-tailed Buck | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Javelina | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Female Northern Cardinal | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Harris Hawk | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Chachalaca | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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White-tailed Buck | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Green Jay | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Long-billed Thrasher | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Black-throated Sparrow | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Great Kiskadee | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com



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Golden-fronted Woodpecker | Texas Wildlife Safari amwestphoto.com

Last Call Notes:

With the Yellowstone Winter Safari sold out, my next big set of safaris is in May - Black Foxes on San Juan Island, WA (1 Opening) ([LINK](#)), Magee Marsh in Ohio ([LINK](#)), and the always awesome Yellowstone-Tetons Spring Wildlife Safari ([LINK](#)). In 2023 my best bobcat safari ran in February and March, let's hope that continues this year ([LINK](#)).

With the damage to Sequoia NP roads from the spring storms, my black bears safaris were really delayed until July, and Mineral King never opened at all - for the Sooty Grouse. So I'm looking forward to getting back after the black bears, always a staple of my summer safaris ([LINK](#)). I haven't added all the dates, but I will over the next few months.

Lastly, I'm going to add another ZOOM Show for Monday, Feb 12 at 6pm PST. It will be on Photoshop, though I haven't decided what aspects of it to explain. If you have questions, send them to me and I will answer them during the show.

Check on my 2023 Top 20 Images ([LINK](#)).

Again, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone.

Kind Regards,



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Please forward this e-mail to your photographer friends, maybe we can make a connection that otherwise would never happen. The world of photography is vast and only getting bigger. Also, I can sometimes change safari dates to accommodate folks, so if you would like to do a custom date, or see if I can switch a date, just let me know.



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