

THE LOOKOUT:
An immature eagle
keeps an eye out for
his next meal.

Hunters With Film

By Joe Callan

Local Photographers Zoom in on Nature

Have you ever gazed at the pristine Delaware from a cliff overlooking the valley? Maybe you've been lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a bobcat at daybreak? From wildflowers to the elusive red fox to the iconic bald eagle, this region serves as a reminder of just how lucky we are to have so much natural space so near the northeast megalopolis.

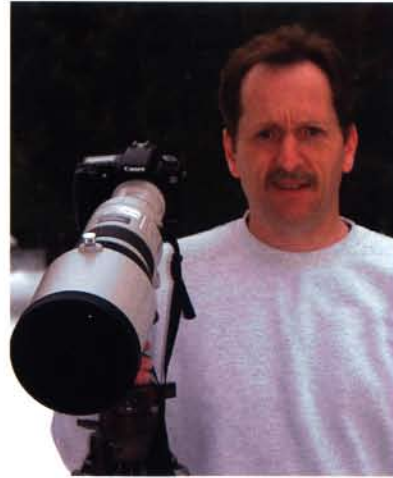
In that spirit, here's another reminder of the biological diversity and beauty of our environment, found through the lenses of four local nature photographers. So rather than paint our scenery in the written word, I am cashing in my nouns and adjectives to let the real authors of this story—our local photographers—speak for themselves in their best language: the image.

STEPHEN DAVIS

The Digital Director

“*D*awn and dusk,” Stephen Davis of Eldred, NY says. “I get the best light before I go into work and again after I get out.” Balancing his time between his family, his photography, and a job at Future Homes Technology in Port Jervis, Davis is anything but a part-timer. His color-rich photos reflect the work of an artist comfortable with the digital medium. “I shoot in RAW format,” Davis explains, “This means that instead of getting the usual compressed

image that comes with using digital, I get something closer to what I’m seeing.” While Davis admits that eagles are his favorite subject, some of his most impressive subjects are the great and small of nature—panoramic skylines and detailed close-ups.



Near & Far: Below, an expansive rural scene in Sullivan County. Far left: a yellow garden spider, a common sight in backyards of the tri-state region.





JOHN SERRAO

A Focus on Education

Naturalist John Serrao didn't grow up amid forests; his open spaces were the vacant lots and parks of Queens, New York. "I learned about nature wherever I could find a spider or a snake or a butterfly," says Serrao. "I had that interest, even as a kid."

Today Serrao offers educational and interpretive programs at several parks and sites in the region, including the Pocono Environmental Education Center, Skytop Lodge and Resort, and Hemlock Farms, a residential community. Serrao also contributes a weekly column to the *Pocono Record*.

Photography fits seamlessly into Serrao's role as a naturalist. With slide programs as an educational staple, he has been photographing as many plants, animals and habitats in the region as possible. Serrao has also published two books: *The Seasons of Skytop* and *The Mammals of Northeastern Pennsylvania*, available by writing to: John Serrao, 2113 Rosemont Dr., Tobyhanna, PA 18466, or by calling him at 570.894.9791.

Mammals of our region: Clockwise from above, river otters in Lehigh County bask in the sun, a snowshoe hare, and a fox cub peering from his den.



PATRICE CARSON

The Moment as a Medium

“Some mornings, I’ll brew a pot of coffee, set up my blind in the backyard and shoot until noon,” says photographer Patrice Carson. “I’ll have the telephoto focused on the garden, and a hummingbird will hover just long enough for me to take my shot. When I have a moment like that, it gets my adrenaline going.”

Originally from Union County, NJ, Carson now has a home in Montague, making High Point Park and her backyard prime wildlife locations. For Carson, each shoot is like a miniature retreat—a chance for her to return to nature. “I got my first camera when I was 17 or 18 years old. I haven’t stopped since.” Walking into Carson’s home, you can see that this is the case. In her den are a collection of her prints ranging from sea turtles to hummingbirds, from black bears to bobcats. Carson’s photography has been displayed at a number of venues in Milford, and shots can also be found on her website, www.pcnaturephotography.com.



Whiskers & Wings: Clockwise from top right, a bobcat at Lakota Wolf preserve in New Jersey, double-crested cormorants on Swartswood Lake in Sussex County and a hummingbird in the photographer’s backyard.





MIKE GADOMSKI

Poet of the Landscape

“I grew up at a small private lake in Wayne County,” says Michael Gadomski of Sterling, PA. “I couldn’t escape nature if I wanted to—it was all around me.” Gadomski has been shooting stock photography since the 1970s, but until recently his primary job had been working as a park ranger at Promised Land State Park.

When Gadomski went full time in 2002, some of his photos had already been published in science and nature textbooks as well as a few magazines. With a little bit of self-promotion, Gadomski soon found his dream project: He was solicited to be the sole photographer for a book called *Wild Pennsylvania*. “The publisher emailed me and asked if I’d be interested. At first I thought it was junk mail,” Gadomski laughs, “I mean, this was exactly what I had wanted.” *Wild Pennsylvania*, available on Amazon.com, showcases the beauty of our region through Gadomski’s lens.

Fantastic Views: Opposite page, a section of Dingmans Falls, in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Below, a view of Mt. Minsi in the Delaware Water Gap as seen from Mt. Tammany, NJ.

