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Wyoming Wildlife

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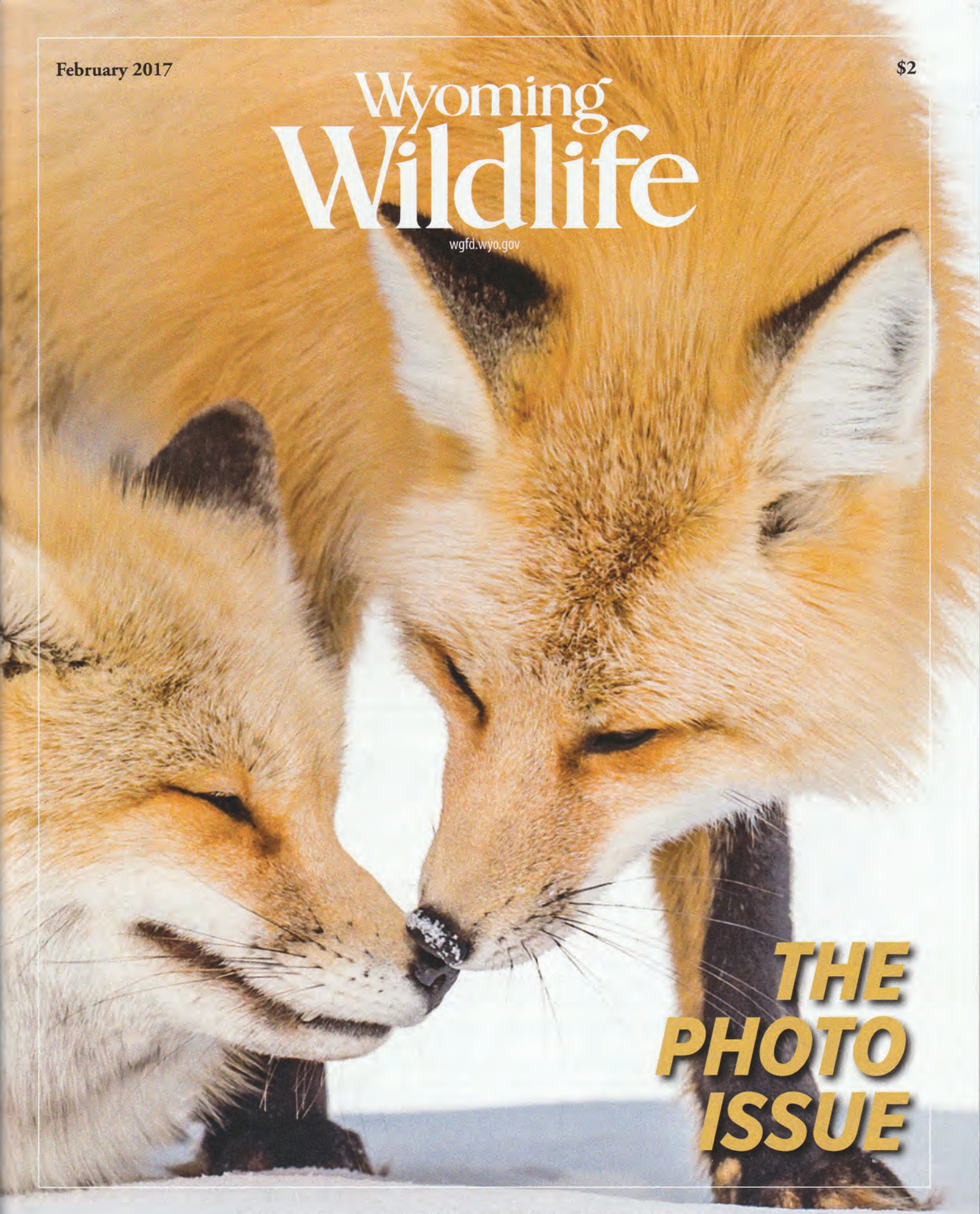

THE PHOTO ISSUE

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First Place
RED FOX

Grand Teton National Park
Dawn Y. Wilson | Fort Collins, Colorado
Nikon D4S: 500mm lens,
1/2500 second @ f/8, ISO 1000

Each winter I travel to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to photograph wildlife in beautiful snowy landscapes. I enjoy photographing foxes because their winter coats get thick with down fur, and the red fur seems even more vibrant set against a white landscape. Last winter, I spent some time with a fox hanging out near some closed-up buildings. This fox seemed content to settle into the snow and watch the one or two people passing by. On this particular afternoon I was all alone with her. She curled up on a snow bank and started to nap when another fox came out of the woods behind her, walked up to her and nuzzled her on her nose. They did this for several minutes before he curled up beside her. Besides the unique interaction, I particularly liked the clean landscape of white snow. I was hoping to photograph snowflakes falling around a fox on my trip, but it wasn't meant to be. Most of the days were partly cloudy or full sun; weather most people enjoy. But as a wildlife photographer, I am always looking for moments that capture the feeling of the season.

Grand Prize
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Sublette County
Elizabeth Boehm | Pinedale, Wyoming
Canon 7D Mark II: 500mm lens, 1/250 second @ f/4, ISO 800

It was a calm, gray morning in mid-May, my favorite time of year when most of Wyoming's migrating birds have returned. I was sitting in a blind at the edge of a wetland pond that is quite animated with marsh wrens, red-winged blackbirds, soras, Virginia rails and more, all calling before the sun comes up. I typically walk into this area about 45 minutes prior to sunrise and sit quietly, letting my presence be forgotten by the wildlife. This particular morning, a male red-winged blackbird was patrolling his territory with gusto. He landed on one of the several tiny islands in the pond, checking things out while continuing to proclaim his territory. But he would not turn toward the camera. I stayed on him and finally he turned, posed and belted out a loud "kon-ka-ree" as he spread his wings, showing his colorful red and yellow wing patches. The reflection was perfect — he looked as though he was trying to scare off the reflected intruder. This was definitely an endorphin-rushed photo moment!

Honorable Mention

Bison
Grand Teton National Park
Dawn Y. Wilson
| Fort Collins, Colorado
Nikon D3S