

# Photography Art Portfolio

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# Artist Statement: Context & Purpose of My Art

- Bird population worldwide is on a rapid decline
  - We need more people interested in Birding to accelerate conservation efforts
- My original bird photographs, uploaded on Unsplash have over 3 Million views, and have been used extensively
  - However, I doubt it creates lasting impact on viewers
- To spark the viewer's imagination, I have started creating bird "morphs" which blend features of different birds
  - I want viewers to ponder whether they have seen such a bird in real life
- I hope to expand birding's appeal by showcasing birds in this alternative light

# Additional information on this Art Portfolio

- Each photograph in this art portfolio comes with a statement describing the piece
- All pieces are made in 2023 and utilize Photoshop
- My unedited bird photographs are available on [Unsplash](#) (free to use)
  - <https://unsplash.com/@anishlk>

# ***Backyard Birds on a Branch***



Do you know the names of these birds? Maybe not, because they don't exist.

I've taken my bird photos and blended their visual appearances & features to create a new species through Photoshop. While this particular creation is rather subtle, other pieces vary in their unreality. Both birds depicted in this work have the frame of a female Lesser Goldfinch. The left bird has a Western Bluebird's blue and orange feathers with a Mourning Dove eye. The right bird has the feathers of a brown California Towhee throughout its lower belly. Lesser Goldfinches, Western Bluebirds, Mourning Doves, and California Towhees are four birds I see everywhere – on telephone lines, on my fence, on the street – they are my world. I hope to bring new attention to the birds surrounding us through these surreal bird creations.

## *Three-State Bird Trio*



This piece depicts morphs of my bird photographs from three states – California, Maryland, and New York. Both the left and right-most birds on this branch have the frame of a Northern Mockingbird. The left bird's upper feathers are from a Golden-Crowned Sparrow and lower feathers are from a Black-Crowned Night Heron. The Chipping Sparrow in the middle gets its brown belly from a California Towhee. The right-most mockingbird has streaky feathers from a Song Sparrow, purple tones from a Golden-Crowned Sparrow, and a black & white head from a Chestnut-Backed Chickadee. These birds all have the orange eye of a juvenile Black-Crowned Night Heron. This work is noticeably unreal compared to other pieces.

# *Size Switcheroo*



The two birds I most often see in my local area are Chestnut-Backed Chickadees and the larger Dark-Eyed Juncos. Chickadees stand out for their small body compared to other birds. For fun, I reversed the sizes: I made a chickadee much bigger and placed it next to significantly shorter Dark-Eyed Juncos on the branch. As a reference to the actual bird sizes, I put a realistically sized Chestnut-Backed Chickadee on the far left edge of the branch.

## *Sister Sparrows*



Many birds have a sister species. This piece focuses on one such pair, the White-Crowned and Golden-Crowned sparrows, which differ in the color of their heads. This photograph shows a White-Crowned sparrow (right) and a Golden-Crowned sparrow (left) looking at each other. This piece is also another bird fusion, though on the more subtle side. I did not alter their heads to maintain the distinction between the two species. The right sparrow has the underbelly of a Dark-Eyed Junco, and the left sparrow has slightly yellow feathers from a Hutton's Vireo.

## ***Subtle Songbird with a Half-Awake Hummingbird***



The left bird in this piece is a mashup of a Song Sparrow with a White-Crowned Sparrow. On the right side, I combined an Anna's Hummingbird with the blue feathers of a Western Bluebird. Out of all the pieces, I would say this one has the subtlest changes to the bird photographs.

# *Feeder Loop*



In this piece, I wanted to highlight bird feeders by using photos of birds resting on the same feeder. The bird on the bottom is a White-Breasted Nuthatch that has a unique ability to search for food not found by other birds on the underside of tree branches. I added a brown stripe and gray belly from a Chestnut-backed Chickadee to the Nuthatch. In the center, I placed an unaltered eye of a bright young male Townsend's Warbler, which sharply contrasts with the plain green background. The top bird is a subtle fusion of a Dark-Eyed Junco with the gray feathers of a Northern Mockingbird.

## ***Beautiful Aging of a Heron***



My favorite heron, the Black-Crowned Night Heron, dramatically shifts in appearance over time. Its young juvenile body has tan and dark brown feathers, which transform to white, gray, and blue when it becomes an adult. The first time I saw one such young heron, I couldn't recognize it as the same species as an adult one. In this work, I blend photographs I took of juvenile and adult Black-Crowned Night Herons. I added adult blue feathers to the heron on the right to contrast with its brown juvenile feathers on the rest of its body. Similarly, the left heron features juvenile feathers on the top of its head and adult plumage everywhere else. The eyes in both herons transition from orange to red, as occurs when Black-Crowned Night Herons age. The unnoticed magical transformations of birds accentuate their beauty.