

Celebrating Animals

I'm the kind of person who works to travel. And when I travel, I try to connect it to animals.

My wife and I made the long journey from D.C. to Canada's Bay of Fundy to see thousands of sandpipers fattening on shellfish before their long migration south. We've camped on Santa Cruz Island off the California coast, where we saw the critically endangered island fox. During a trip to the Galapagos Islands, I spent an entire night sitting outside listening to the sea lions calling to each other. Closer to home, we often camp on the Maryland side of Assateague Island, where it's just you and the wild ponies and sometimes deer or bunnies. I feel very lucky to have experienced these things.

Sometimes the best encounters with animals happen when you are expecting to see something else entirely. On the day I took this picture, we were walking in Virginia's Huntley Meadows Park, just minutes from our home. I'd never been there before, and it struck me that I should have. It was an unseasonably warm December day, and while everyone else was watching the ducks and geese swimming in the pond, we noticed four or five small flecks of red flitting from tree to tree. It was a family of cardinals, and we stood there watching them for about 45 minutes.

Seeing things like this gives meaning to everyday life. It makes me feel like a kid.
— *Bill Ross, Washington, D.C.*

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YOUR BEST SHOT

Do you have an inspiring photo of a favorite pet or wild animal? Send it to us for possible publication in *All Animals*, along with an explanation of 150 words or fewer about why it's meaningful to you. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at a size of 5-by-7" and at least 2 MB.

To upload your photo and information, visit humansociety.org/yourbestshot. Send hard copy submissions to *All Animals—Your Best Shot*, The HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037. (Hard copies cannot be returned.)