

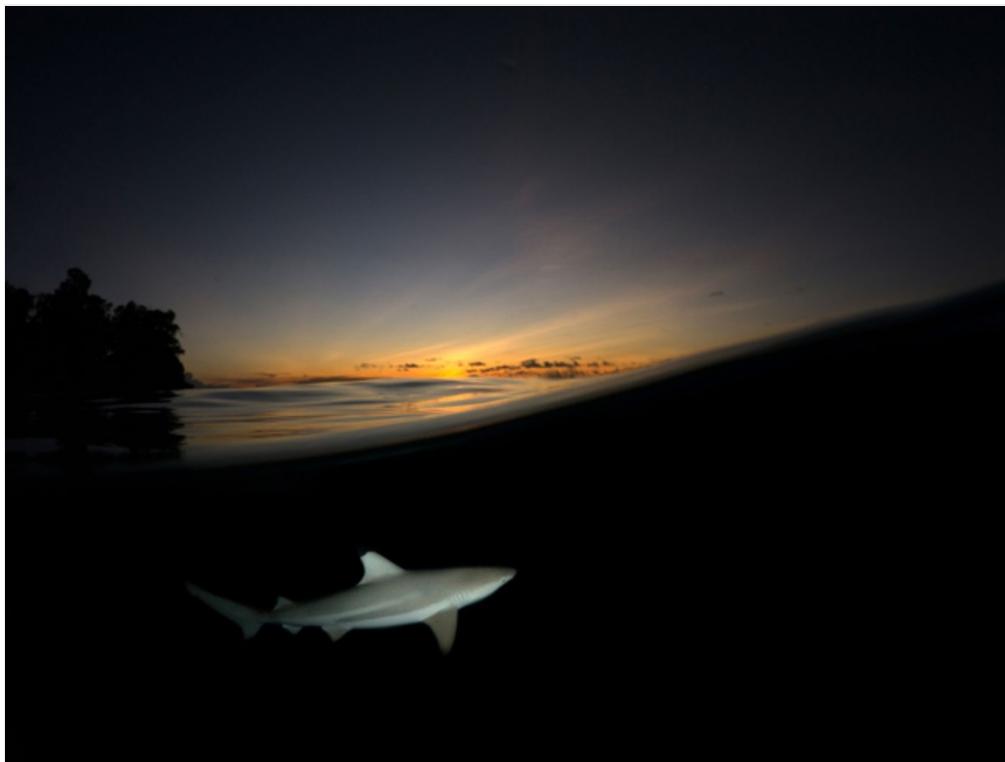
# Cruising sharks, fiery dragons and invisible dust

July's sharpest science shots, selected by *Nature's* photo team.

[Daniel Cressey](#)

29 July 2016

## Dusky shark

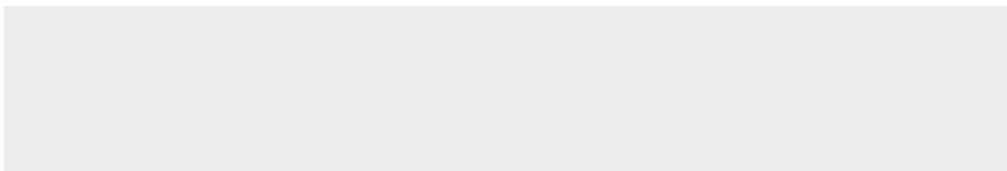


James Lea



A blacktip reef shark (*Carcharias melanopterus*) cruises at dusk in this picture by James Lea. The image was shot at D'Arros Island in the Seychelles, where [researchers have been tracking sharks](#) to test the effectiveness of local marine protected areas.

## Environmental Photographer of the Year





This year's [Atkins CIWEM Environmental Photographer of the Year](#) competition featured this remarkable reminder of what can happen when cities and the forces of nature collide. Taken by photojournalist S. L. Kumar Shanth in Chennai, India, it won the Atkins Built Environment Award.

## Juno in July



*NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/MSSS*

NASA's Juno probe became the [first spacecraft to visit Jupiter](#) in more than two decades earlier this month. This shot is a composite of some of the images [it took on 10 July](#) as it orbited the gas giant.

## Dragon down



SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket not only blasts off, it also blasts down as it lands for re-use. Photographer [John Kraus](#)'s image shows both burns from the 18 July launch and landing.

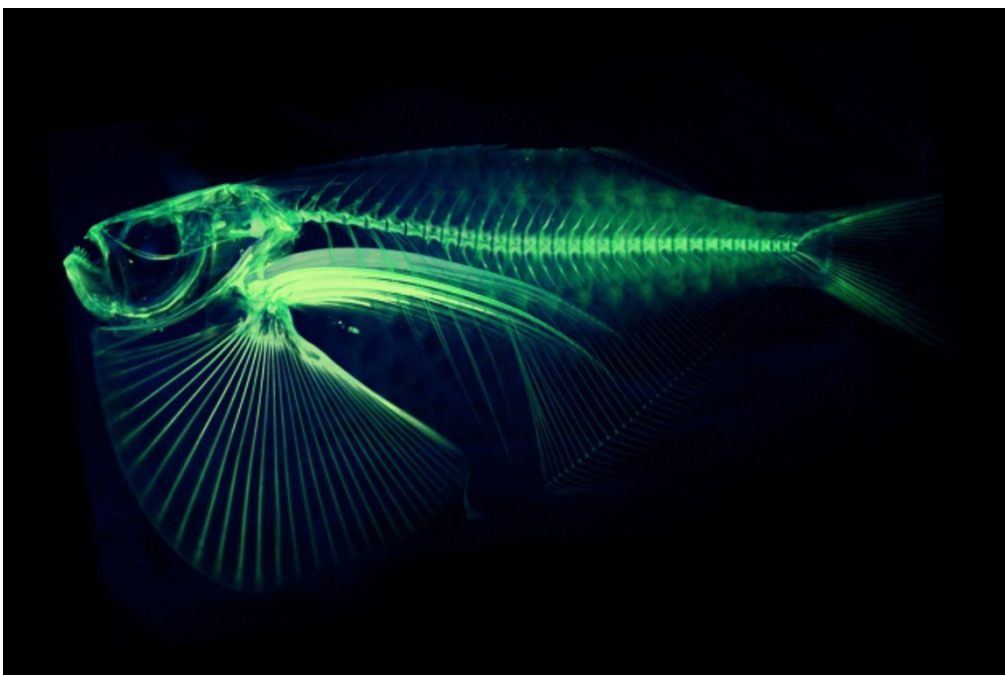
### Mountain parrot



Tom Walker/BBC

Described by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as an “[inquisitive alpine parrot](#)”, the kea (*Nestor notabilis*) is at risk: just a few thousand are thought to be left in New Zealand. This image was captured by the BBC as part of its series *New Zealand: Earth's Mythical Island*, which began this month.

### Hatchet job



Adam P. Summers/Friday Harbor Labs/University of Washington

Because we at *Nature* never get tired of seeing what ‘[Fish Guy](#)’ and University of Washington biomechanist Adam Summers can do with a fish skeleton. This is a freshwater hatchetfish (*Thoracocorax stellatu*), dyed to reveal its internal structure.

## Human sensor



Nick Harrison

The 'human sensor' costume designed by artist Kasia Molga reacts to local air pollution by changing colour. This month it went out and about to reflect local air quality in Manchester, UK, supported by the [Invisible Dust science-art project](#).

## Solar triumph



Aya Batrawy/AP Photo

The fuel-free plane *Solar Impulse 2* finally completed its round-the-world trip this month, more than a year after it set off. It is shown here landing in Abu Dhabi at the end of its circumnavigation — the first by a solar-powered plane.

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