

Dapto Camera Club Magazine.

Viewfinder.

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Beginner's Corner.

sometimes it just doesn't work?

Ever noticed that when you use auto-focus on your camera, that sometimes it just doesn't work?

When sharpness is something that you usually aspire to in a photograph, your camera has a habit of letting you down?

Don't worry, we have all been at that point where you're looking at a series of photos from a shoot and none of them seem to be quite in focus. You're not alone on that one!

I want to show you a little trick to getting your camera's auto-focus to actually work as intended.

You see, most auto-focus systems are designed to work on contrasting lines. **So?** That means that if you point it at a big, uniformly lit and coloured area, it is going to struggle.

If you give it a high contrast area it is going to struggle.

- **Don't point at a wall** - point at the door frame.
- **Don't point at a cheek** - point where the eyelid meets the whites of the eyes.
- **Don't point at the sky** - point at where the land meets the sky.

Anything that you can find that contrasts in colour and tone will give you camera a lot better chance of being able to give you better auto-focus.

Technology is great, but we as photographers still need to know its limitations if we want to get those powerful sharp image results that people love.

Viewfinder cover photo taken by.

Jenny Hale

9 Tips for Ocean Photography (Seascapes)

by Anton Gorlin, Dora Jokkel

The ocean and its beautiful coast are fantastic subjects. But you need that wow factor to make your ocean photos stand out. And the ocean is so majestic! You want your photos to do it justice.

Here are some essential techniques you must know to get the most out of your ocean photography.

Reduced Glare

What Sets Ocean Photography Apart?

Ocean photography is different from landscape photography. And it's somewhat different than classic seascape photography. The reason is the ever-moving body of water.

Long exposure, for instance, has a bigger impact on ocean photography than on regular landscapes. It smooths a more significant part of the picture—the water. And because of this, it affects the complete look and feel of the image. The term seascape photography usually applies to both the sea and the ocean.

The ocean is restless and never quiet. There are always waves and splashes and a lot of action. So when shooting the ocean, you should always be careful to keep yourself (and your gear!) safe.

Ocean Photography Gear

Like other types of photography, ocean photography requires some specialized gear. Apart from the camera and your best lenses, here's what you'll need for better ocean photography.

Tripod: A good steady tripod is a must-have for ocean photography. Always be sure to clean your gear, as sea salt can corrode metal. The type of tripod head is important to ensure it works with your gear setup.



1. **Crocs or Waders:** To get the best seascapes, you'll need to get into the water. It depends on the season and ocean location. For cold climates, you'd better use waders. For warmer places, you can get away with Crocs or good water shoes.

Microfiber Cloth. There is a good chance the salty spray will cover the front of your lens. And it won't come off completely by rubbing it with your sleeve. I usually buy a whole bag of microfiber cloths and carry a bunch with me in the backpack.

Lens Pen. If your lens gets wet, the microfiber won't help. You need a lens pen to handle the issue after carefully wiping the water out with a napkin. It's easy to use and safe for your lens.

Filters. You'll need filters for seascapes and ocean photography. ND filters are the most important for seascape and ocean photography. Another useful filter is a circular polarizing filter. It can help you see through the water. It also improves the colors of the sea surface and enhances the clouds.

Staying Safe During Ocean Photography

The ocean is a dangerous environment. Before mastering any ocean photography techniques (such as shooting modes), you need to know how to stay safe.

Here are a few simple rules to follow:

1. Always have a headlamp when going out for the sunrise or the sunset. If you trip over a rock in the standard landscape setting, you fall. If you trip over on the cliff edge, you fly down.
2. Watch out for the rising tide. Check if the tide is rising before going out. Otherwise, you may find yourself locked out of the shore all of a sudden.
3. Always keep an eye on the ocean. Some waves (rogue waves) are much larger than others, and you need to be careful. A huge wave can wash you away or ruin your gear. Also, a regular wave can sometimes

have a very strong pull. Look out for rip currents and stay away from them.

4. Don't go to the clifftop if there are strong winds blowing towards the sea.

5. Watch the rocks. If they are wet, then some waves can hit them from time to time. Unless it's raining.

6. Some water plants are very slippery.

Never touch any animals. Here in Australia, for instance, we have deadly poisonous cone snails, blue octopuses, and some jellyfish.



Ocean Photography Techniques

Here are some fundamental techniques I use extensively for ocean photography. Feel free to use them on their own or combine to get new interesting results.

9. Long Exposure

Long exposure is one of the photography techniques that has the biggest punch in the final photo. This is especially true for seascape and ocean photography. In a standard landscape, the only thing that smooths out is the sky. In ocean photography, this also affects the water, one of the main subjects of your shot.



Ultra-long exposures produce fog-like or mirror-like water, depending on the actual activity happening there. The restless sea produces fog. The calm water creates a mirror.

For a shutter speed of 10 seconds or less, we are starting to see some smooth water structure. 5 seconds or less create a very smooth dynamic shot with some texture. The shutter speed below 2 seconds is my favourite. The picture will be very dynamic, full of texture, yet

retaining its fluidity.

To shoot long exposure images you often have to use an ND filter to stop down the exposure values.

8. Receding Waves in Ocean Photography

Almost every technique in ocean photography is related to the shutter speed. But they have different approaches, hence why I have separated them into sub-techniques.

Receding wave is by far the most popular ocean photography technique to master. It produces the modern classic look of your seascape photos with white water trails going from the edges towards the sea.

For this technique, you need to be standing in the water, and you need a shutter speed of 0.5 – 2 seconds. There are many things to remember:

1. Dip your tripod into the sand so that an incoming wave doesn't move or shake it.

2. Make a series of shots rather than a single one. The pattern changes every split second, so you never know which picture works best.

3. Look for free-standing rocks because water goes around them. It is forming exciting shapes and curves, and sometimes even circles.

Pay attention to the direction of the flow. Pre-visualise the composition with them in your frame.



7. Incoming Waves in Ocean Photography

Similar rules apply to incoming waves. But there is a difference. The incoming wave moves twice or even three times as fast. So take this into account when calculating your shutter speed. Such waves give you even more opportunities as they can wrap around rocks or cliffs and produce small temporary waterfalls. The other new subject is incoming rushing water. Be careful and stay strong! An intense wave can knock you down if you don't stay firm. The pro tip here is not to run away when a big wave is already just a few meters away.



You can run when there is a chance to get away ahead of time. But if it's too late, hold your ground and try to keep a position. The desired shutter speed for this type of ocean photos is also twice or three times as fast, i.e., 0.2 – 1 second max.

6. Reflections Over the Pool

As I have already mentioned, the ocean is never calm. Therefore getting reflections is becoming a sort of Holy Grail for ocean photography.

One way to get them is to find a rock pool and shoot over it. The trick is to get really low above the surface to get as many reflec-

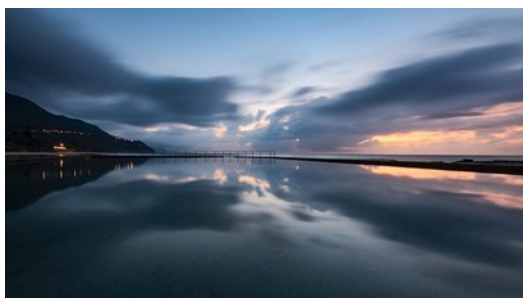
tions as possible.

Another way is to photograph after it's rained and look for puddles in the rocks. They sometimes can be quite large. You can easily incorporate them in your composition along with the leading lines produced by the rocks around them. Of course, this won't work on a windy day.

5. Reflections on the Sand

This is a more elusive type of reflection photography. Newbie photographers typically have no idea about it. Weather-wise, you need a low tide, so that the water recedes leaving a flatter part of the beach open.

Then, after each wave, the water goes away slower than during the high tide. The sand stays wet for longer giving you a chance to see the reflections.



You also need to be quite low but don't overdo it. The lower point of view kills linear perspective, and that's something you wouldn't want for your seascapes. Try to find the balance between the perspective and the number of reflections.

With these reflections, you can produce great shots even during windy days.

4. Abstract Seascapes

Abstract seascape photography is becoming more and more popular. Online galleries are full of such prints. But there is a difference between a snapshot and a good photo. And it is much more obvious for abstract photography.

In general, you need a little longer shutter speed and then zoom in and focus on the waves. They will smooth out nicely and produce various shapes and colors. But you need to avoid chaos and messiness!

Shoot many photos and then choose where the composition works best. If you include the sky, then regular composition rules apply. If you don't, then it becomes more about the lines and shapes.

Another way to create abstract seascapes is ultra-long exposure. But in this case, the photo should be absolutely clear. No rocks, no algae, nothing distracting. Only the water and the sand or just the water.

The sky is not that important. If you include it, the picture looks more like a landscape. If you don't, it looks more abstract.



3. Telephoto Seascapes

You can, in fact, shoot seascapes with your telephoto lens. This lens allows you to balance out the composition without exaggerating the foreground. You can focus on the features or sea animals or shoot distant clouds, for instance.

Some of my best seascapes were created with a telephoto lens. You should also use this lens for waves and ocean photography.

2. Ocean Wave Photography

Wave photography is almost like another genre of photography. It's about the ocean water, yes, but it works differently.

If you are shooting from the beach, you must have a telephoto lens. The longer, the better. If you want to shoot close-up, you'll need a standard zoom or a wide-angle lens and a camera housing.

The trick here is to choose the right shutter speed. The more you zoom, the faster the shutter speed should be. The absolute minimum is 1/250 sec, but I recommend to go at least 1/800 or even faster. The speed varies, and the wave could be blurred.

Try to photograph the waves when the sun is behind or above them. Otherwise, the colors become dull and boring with unnecessary shadows from the rolling crest.

Sometimes blurring is the desired effect and you want to show how powerful the wave burst is. In this case, the maximum shutter speed you can go is 0.5 seconds, and that's only with wide-angle lenses.



1. Sunburst Technique

Seascapes and ocean photography are in general, very handy for creating sunburst effects. There are always some rocks and cliffs that you can make use of.

But first of all, you need to figure out the exact position of the sunrise or sunset and set up in advance. You can use a phone application such as Photopills for this.



The sun moves quickly, and you will have just a couple of minutes to get your shot. The general idea is to have something much darker next to the sun so that its rays become visible and prominent.

The sun is very strong even when it's low above the horizon. The other important thing is to partially obscure it. This could mean hiding it behind a rock, a cliff or just a cloud. By shifting your camera very carefully and slowly you can manipulate the size of the sunburst. You can also set the aperture higher (above f/11) to create spikes around the sun.

Not all lenses are born equal. Some of them cannot cope with direct sunlight and have their contrast reduced and colors faded. There is a way to deal with this issue. First, create a shot with the sun as normal. Second, cover it with your finger and create another shot.

When the sun is hidden behind your finger, the photo becomes clear of all flares and contrast issues. Later, blend the two shots in Photoshop.

Conclusion

Ocean photography is not an easy one to master. But it is extremely rewarding. Once you learn the key techniques and master your camera, every visit to the ocean becomes a joy, a new story, a whole new world. The same place won't look the same twice.

Always experiment with the shutter speed to manipulate the amount of action and fluidity. Play with the point of view to shrink or stretch the perspective and always stay safe.



Macrophotography of insects, spiders put new perspective on tiny creatures

ABC Great Southern/ By Olivia Di Iorio



Flynn Prall's photos capture the details of insects invisible to the naked eye. *(Supplied: Flynn Prall)*

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When Flynn Prall started working in the bush all day as a trainee conservationist, he began to take notice of the tiny creatures around him.

He was so intrigued that when his day job with Mandurah council finished he'd head back to the bush — but this time with his trusty camera in hand.

Key points:

- Flynn Prall says his magnified lens shows people a different perspective when it comes to insects
- His macrophotography has led to the discovery of a new species of peacock spider

Two other species of the peacock spider have recently been uncovered

His fascination with insects peaked when he spent hours watching a white-tailed spider try many different methods to trick a black spider to come out of its web.

"I realized there's a lot more to these things," the 25-year-old said.

A usual day for Mr Prall and his friends is picking a piece of bushland they've never been to, walking the trails, and then scanning the grounds and branches in the hope of finding some insects ready for their close-up photo shoot.



Flynn Prall spends his free time searching bushland in hope of finding interesting insects to photograph. (Supplied: Flynn Prall)

All these insects are visible to the naked eye, but Mr Prall said his magnified lens showed people a new perspective.

"All of them usually are [visible], but a lot of the details you can see in my photos are not," he said.

"It's really cool to hear from people that because of my photos they don't kill spiders anymore."

A savior to science

Not only do Mr Prall's photos catch the eyes of ordinary people, but they're also helpful to science.

"A lot of the time you go out and you take a photo of something, you'll come back and send it to a few groups of scientists, and half the time no-one's seen it before," he said.

"It's always awesome when you send a photo off to a scientist and they respond in all capitals freaking out."



The gorgeous peacock spider is a favourite subject. (Supplied: Flynn Prall)

Just recently, this was the case with a photo Mr Prall took of a peacock spider, which he describes as his favorite encounter.

Another spider enthusiast James McMulkin and Mr Prall sent their photos through to biologist and peacock spider expert Jurgen Otto, who confirmed the species *Maratus nubilus* had not yet been identified. Mr Prall said peacock spiders could be found all over Western Australia.

"We've got peacock spiders in our sand dunes, one [species] that's only found on Bluff Knoll, which is around 1,000 meters above sea level, which is just nuts," he said.

"Now my friends and I are heading up to Kalbarri to find one that's only found at Nature's Window — so they're just everywhere."

Three new discoveries

Mr Prall said his macrophotography helped scientists who couldn't visit the bushlands.

"Anyone can really help, you've just got to walk into local bushland and see what you can find," he said.

Recently two other new species of peacock spiders were discovered by citizens who unintentionally came across them in Western Australia's south.

Paul Winthrop, a construction planner, was searching for spider orchids between Margaret River and Nanup when he got distracted by a weevil.

Next thing he knew a tiny little insect jumped at him.

Mr Winthrop crouched down to check it out and when he realized it could be a peacock spider, he snapped a photo and posted it onto a peacock spider social media group.

Within the hour Dr Otto had contacted Mr Winthrop telling him he had discovered a new species — *Maratus pinniger*.

Mr Winthrop said it felt amazing to find out he'd discovered a previously unidentified species.



Paul Winthrop was searching for orchids when he discovered a new species of spider. (Supplied: Paul Winthrop)

"I've been reading up on peacock spiders for the last year or so and spent a lot of time out in the bush looking for other things, so to find one and for it to be a new species was just fantastic," he said.

Michelle Peak, a service station manager, was searching for a glimpse of a peacock spider, and on her third try she finally stumbled across one in Jalbarragup.

Thrilled she got to see one, she snapped a photo only to find out she discovered a new species — *Maratus candens*.

Ms Peak said she didn't believe she'd discovered a new species at first.

"It probably took a few days to properly sink in ... but it was so exciting," she said.

Dr Otto said the last season had been exceptionally productive thanks to four amateur photographers.

"Without them I would not have been able to photograph, film and describe a single new species in the last 12 months, let alone the three species that we ended up with," he said.

Find your lost or stolen camera with free online tools

Being reunited with a lost or stolen camera often comes down to the luck of the draw, but several online resources are available to improve your odds.

by Janice Chen,

Today, dear reader, let me tell you a story of heartbreak, redemption, and the kindness of strangers: It all began when my sister's beloved Canon S95 spent a long, multiple-theme-park weekend in Florida, happily snapping dozens of family photos. All seemed rosy until disaster struck: Mere minutes after accidentally leaving the camera on a hook in the ladies room, she dashed back to retrieve her prized shooter only to find it had already been snatched up and was nowhere to be found. After

frantically filing a report at the Legoland lost and found, and checking back multiple times throughout the day to no avail, my distraught sister had to come to terms with the fact that she would likely never again see the photos of her children frolicking under the Epcot sphere or floating past animatronic can-can dancers to the strains of "It's a small world." (Insert video montage here.)



Fast forward two months and imagine her shock and awe when she receives an email via her alma mater's alumni affairs office from a stranger who contacted them after viewing photos left on the camera from her college reunion. Armed with only her maiden name (from the caption of an old photograph she had snapped a picture of for laughs) and the year of her graduation (off the buttons fellow alums were wearing in other shots), he tracked her down and is shipping the camera back, refusing to accept reimbursement for his expense saying only, "I am happy to rescue your memories."

Unfortunately, not every lost camera story has such a happy ending, nor a good Samaritan protagonist with such sharp detective skills (though some do -- remember the viral Sea Turtle Finds Lost Camera story of 2010?). So for the rest of us, here are some tips to raise the odds of being reunited with your lost or stolen camera:

Firstly, in case your camera does find its way into the hands of a kind-hearted stranger, do him or her a favour -- leave a photo on your camera with your contact info. It doesn't have to be as elaborate as this; just a name and email address and a note saying "if found, contact..." will suffice.

With that said, there are a number of online resources that you can use to search for your camera. IFoundYourCamera.net - Launched in 2008 by Canadian blogger Mathew Prepost, the ifoundyourcamera.net blog lets folks post images from found cameras in hopes that a visitor to the site will recognize someone among the images and get them in touch with the camera's finder. The site has had over 7 million visitors since 2008 and has posts from hundreds of lost cameras. Roughly 30 "found cameras and orphan pictures" as Prepost calls them, have been reunited with their owners since the blog's inception.

CameraFound.com - Similar in concept but a bit more technically savvy, this site lets you upload photos and uses a Google Maps platform to let you mark the exact location of the lost or found camera. You have to create an account to upload photos (there are currently over 12,500 members) and you can even create an RSS feed to publish your lost or found entry across Google, Yahoo, and Bing search engines to increase your reach.

About.com Lost and Found for Digital Cameras - About.com's Lost and Found for Digital Cameras similarly tries to connect owners of lost cameras with those who have found cameras, but it works more like personals ads, with short headlines and descriptions. Losers and finders enter information into a form (e.g., camera description, date and time lost or found, etc.), and can optionally upload images from found cameras. It's harder to scroll and search through than the previous two sites (and listings include the questionably useful but mildly amusing "Lessons Learned" section for each listing), but it does have the advantage

of About.com's greater reach and traffic.

stolencamerafinder.com - Created by British software engineer Matt Burns, this site takes the hidden EXIF metadata that is attached to every photo you take with your digital camera (e.g., make, model, date, and serial number), and scours the web looking for new photos that have been uploaded from a camera with the same serial number. All you have to do is drag and drop a saved JPEG image that you know was taken with your missing camera and the site extracts the EXIF information and submits it for matching. If you don't have a JPEG, but do have your serial number, you can also manually enter the number to be searched. Unfortunately, stolencamerafinder.com cannot crawl sites that remove or modify EXIF data when photos are uploaded (e.g., Facebook and MySpace). Some cameras don't store serial numbers in EXIF data and therefore aren't compatible with the site -- there's a list of compatible cameras here. As with CameraFound.com, there's an integrated Google Maps function that allows you to pinpoint lost, stolen, or found cameras. You can do a basic search for free, or sign up for Pro or Business plans which provide more search results (maximums of 100 or unlimited, respectively) and search for more data points, such as lens serial number and copyright, making them useful for pro shooters looking to protect their copyrights. Fees for Pro and Business plans are £4.99 and £99.99 a month, respectively (yearly plans are discounted by one month).

CameraTrace.com - CameraTrace.com works in a similar way to stolencamerafinder.com, by crawling photo sharing sites like Flickr and 500px for matching EXIF data. You can trace a single serial number for free or pay a \$10 fee to register your camera so the service will keep searching as new photos get uploaded to sharing sites (and as they index more sharing sites) and email you if they find a match in the future. The fee also buys you a durable metallic CameraTrace tag to adhere to your camera, providing anyone who finds the camera with a URL and code to enter that will allow the person to communicate with you anonymously. Brought to you by ActiveTrak, Inc. (makers of GadgetTrak theft-recovery solutions), CameraTrace also offers an online system for filing police reports with many local police departments and even offers to speak to the police on your behalf.



HOW TO GUIDE: Basic DSLR Astrophotography Settings

	MOON	STAR TRAILS		MILKY WAY	
SHUTTER EXPOSURE LENGTH	1/160 TO 1/400 SEC	30 SECONDS		10-20mm 25-30 SEC	20-30mm 15-20 SEC
ISO	100 - 200	URBAN 400 - 800	DARK SKY 800 - 1600	URBAN 400 - 800	DARK SKY 1600 - 6400
APERTURE	F/6 - F/10	1-STOP HIGHER THAN WIDE OPEN		WIDE OPEN, AS LOW AS POSSIBLE	

* The settings above are recommended starting points for most DSLR or manually-controllable cameras. The best settings will differ by location, sky quality, and your photo goals.

ESSENTIAL SETTINGS



LENS: Image stabilisation off. Autofocus off.
CAMERA: All settings to manual.

IN CAMERA NOISE REDUCTION: Disabled for star trail shooting. Optional for Milky Way shooting. Post processing software can eliminate noise effectively.

WHITE BALANCE: Location dependant. In light polluted skies, 2900-3800K, in darker skies, 3500-4500K. Shooting RAW format allows you to change WB in post.

STAR TRAILS: Use continuous drive mode with a remote shutter release locked on.
MILKY WAY: Enable 2-sec delay shooting to minimise camera shake



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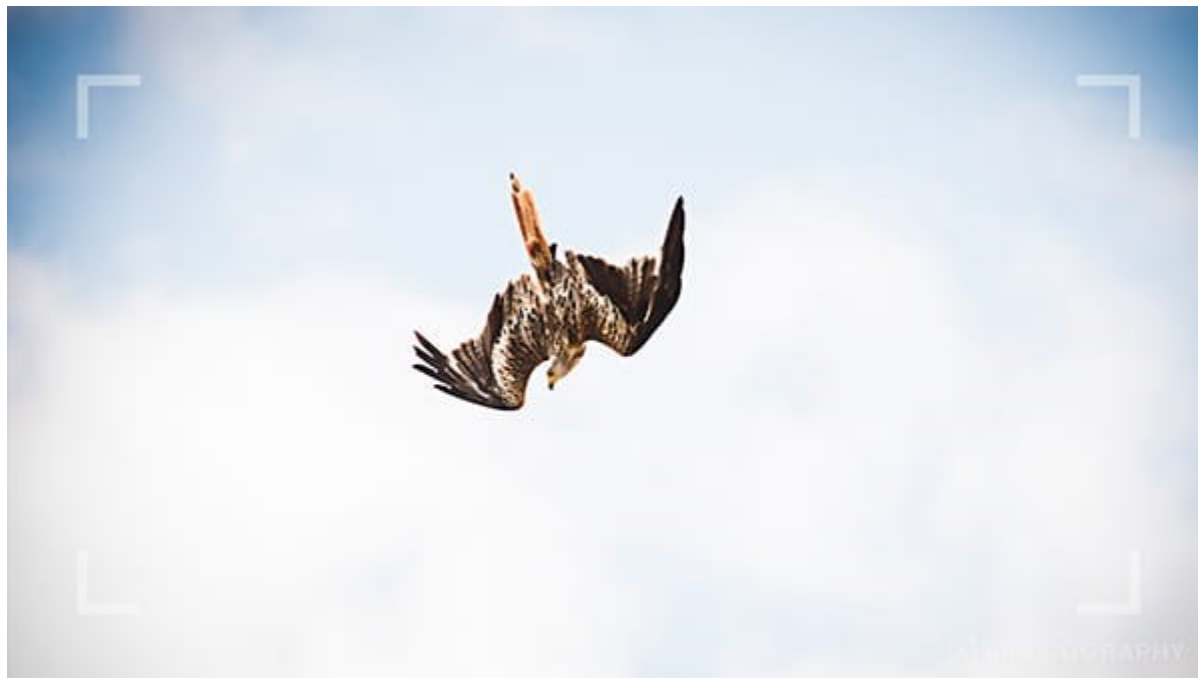
10 Bird Photography Tips

Rachel Sinclair

There are so many passionate bird photographers out there trying their best capture pin sharp avian portraits.

Are you a beginner photographer looking to capture amazing photos of birds? While bird photography may seem challenging, it's easy – once you get the hang of it.

In this article, I'll share everything you need to know for stunning bird pictures. We've created a quick-fire top guide for 10 bird photography tips that you'll need to know so you don't get in a flap!



How Do You Become a Bird Photographer?

You don't need a university degree or years of training to become a bird photographer. All you need is the right training – and we've 10 magnificent free bird photography tips waiting for you.

There's no need to invest thousands into a new camera kit just for bird photography. Though with that said, there are certain lenses and accessories that will make it a little easier to capture the best bird shots.

But for beginner bird photographers there's no need to splash out so quickly. Why don't you start off taking shots with your phone if that's all you've got? There will be limitations, but you can still take good photos with an iPhone.

With these 10 bird photography tips that are coming up you'll be able recognise what will make a wonderful bird photo.

With a good understanding and appreciation for your subject you should be able to capture amazing photos wherever you go. And that's the key – understanding your subject.

How Studying Birds Will Improve Your Photography

While equipment matters in photography, understanding your subject is a skill that will produce better photos expensive camera kit.

You can spend thousands on amazing kit, but if you don't know how birds interact, when they are active and the behavior of breeds you're shooting in the dark.

If you are photographing birds in your garden, then take time to identify the different breeds. Get yourself a bird spotters' book and learn about the unique characteristics and behavior.

This will better inform you when to expect them in your garden. Are the morning or night hunters? Are they aggressive to other birds? What do they like to eat? All these answers will better equip you to take amazing bird photographs.

It doesn't matter if you have a lens as long as your leg if you don't know how and where to find your quarry.

10



Bird Photography Tips

1. What's the Best Lens for Bird Photography?

Don't get too close to the bird with your camera. They may decide to attack or flee, if they see you or the camera as a threat. Instead use a zoom lens to keep your distance. Long lenses allow you to sit back and still get close shots.

Zoom lenses between 200-500mm will cover enough ground to get you close shots as well as zooming back for moments of action.

2. Get the Right Bird Camera Kit

Invest in a fast Mirrorless or DSLR camera and one or more telephoto lenses. We would recommend a camera that can handle at least 1/2000th shutter speed and the ability to shoot 9fps (frames per second) or more in burst mode.

Given the speed that birds move and how erratic that motion can be you need camera that reacts as fast as you.

DSLR or Mirrorless cameras for bird photography need IBIS (in-built image stabilization) to help minimise camera shake when shooting at pace. Having a great autofocus tracking system is vital too to keep up with the bird's motion.

While this may seem like a larger financial investment it can just be something to remember for the future for when you want to upgrade.

3. Remember the Reciprocal Rule

If you are shooting bird photography handheld keep in mind the reciprocal rule. The rule states that you will need to select a shutter speed that is equal to or a higher value than your lenses focal length.

For example, shooting at 300mm then shutter speed needs to be 1/300th or faster, and 1/500th for lens around 500mm. This will help minimize blur, caused by camera shake in the image.

You'll need to take into consideration your camera's crop factor too. If you're shooting on an APS-C sensor camera then multiply your focal length by the crop factor to get the effective focal length and then adjust your shutter speed accordingly.



4. Them Beady Eyes!

If the bird is watching your movements, stop. Wait for them to be distracted before you take another step. It's a game of cat and mouse really. Bird photography requires a large amount of time, as a lot of it is spent standing still without your camera in front of your face.

Proceed slowly and watch the bird as you raise the camera to your face. Ideally, have the camera settings you think you need already dialled in before you take the shot.

This means you can start shooting as soon as the bird is settled.



5. Choose Aperture Mode, not Shutter

If you are a beginner bird photographer, try to get out of auto mode. Instead, choose to shoot in Aperture Priority and not Shutter Priority mode when photographing birds outdoors. If you are shooting at high shutter speeds, most likely the aperture will be always set to wide open which will always lose some detail in the final image, due to the decreasing focus area.

Worst of all, if the lighting conditions change quickly, the image might come out underexposed – and you might miss the opportunity.

Ideally, shoot in manually mode once you are comfortable with your camera. This will give you full control and quickly react to how the bird appears in the photo.



6. When to Photograph Birds

The best time to photograph birds is either during the early morning or late afternoon. Early morning is typically the best for bird photography, because birds are actively looking for food for themselves and their youngsters.

This is different in larger birds of prey though. Typically, owls hunt later in the evening when it's easier for them to fly undetected by their prey. It depends on what type of bird you are photographing. Therefore, doing your research really helps.

7. What to Wear for Bird Photography?

Aim to wear muted and dark clothes when going outdoor to photograph birds. Try and blend into the environment – throw on a bit of camouflage – if you've got it. Bright clothes are a NO! It will instantly make you stand out to a bird.

You can purchase small bird hides from Amazon that you can pop up in your back garden to disguise yourself. These may seem silly but so many professional bird photographers use them to blend into the scene.

8. Turn Off Camera Audio Beeps

If your camera has an AF (auto focus) beep assist (when the camera locks on focus it makes a little noise to signal to the user) then turn it off.

The noise of the shutter will spook the bird so best to take a few shots at distance and more as you close in. Some mirrorless cameras feature a silent mode or leaf shutter which is quiet when firing – perfect!



9. Where to Focus on Birds

Always focus on the nearest (to the camera) eye of the bird.

It is acceptable to have a blurred tail or other parts of the bird, but at least one eye always needs to be sharp. For birds in flight, focus on the bird's head or chest.

Use a small spot focus mode for bird photography. Move the camera so the focus spot is on the bird's eye, half press down the shutter to lock focus, recompose the shot and shoot immediately.

If the bird moves forwards or backwards after you've locked focus, you'll need to release the shutter button and refocus.

10. Use Camera Burst Mode

Shoot lots of images, using burst or continuous mode to help you to freeze moments of take-off or shaking water off wings. These actions are fast moving, don't miss the opportunity.

A camera with an FPS (frames per second) burst mode of 9FPS and faster is really good for bird photography. You may be able to shoot more FPS in JPG format rather than RAW. But the RAW format will carry more data when it comes to editing your photos.



Bird Photography Tips: Final Words

Now that you've finished this article, you're well on your way to capturing beautiful bird photography. Focus your time and energy on learning all the core principles outlined above.

Prove to yourself that you have the passion to go out and photograph birds every day (or as often as you can).

Remember that proper techniques will always outperform equipment. Make every attempt to create amazing photographs of the common birds. And enjoy yourself! That is the secret to success.

End of Year Comp

Are you going to be an entrant in the End of the Year Competition? Up to Six [6] of your best photos submitted this year that have not been changed after submission can be entered, they may be colour and/or Black & White.

They need to be sent by email attachment [Not inline] to Toby @

daptocc@bigpond.com

By the 17th of November at the latest.

WEBSITE of the MONTH



Ruggard RC-P18™ Rain Cover for DSLR with Lens up to 18™ (Pack of 2)

Condition: Brand New

Quantity: Limited quantity available / 98 sold

Price: **US \$11.14**
Approximately AU \$17.51

Buy It Now

Add to cart

Add to Watchlist



[View here](#)



This one's trending. 98 have already sold.

Postage: US \$20.87 (approx. AU \$32.79) eBay International Shipping ⓘ . [See details](#)

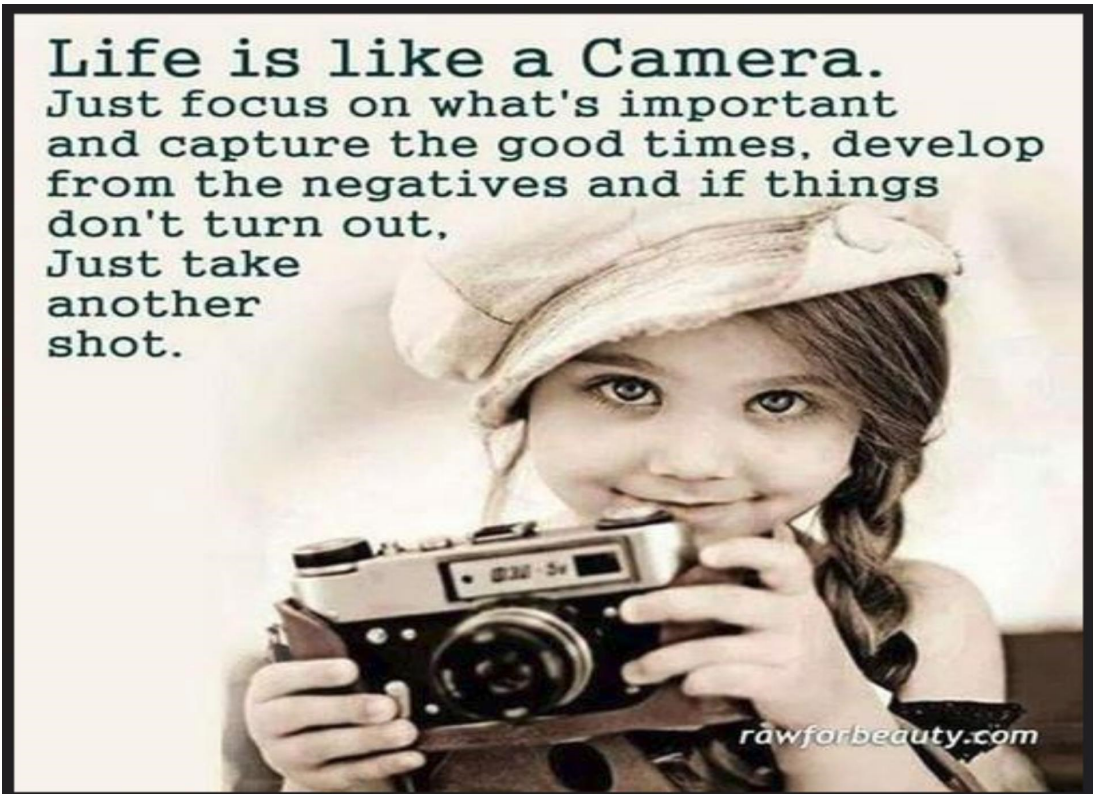
Located in: New York, New York, United States

This item may be subject to duties and taxes upon delivery

We are on the web !!

www.daptocameraclub.org.au

Life is like a Camera.
Just focus on what's important
and capture the good times, develop
from the negatives and if things
don't turn out,
Just take
another
shot.



For Info or Contact - Jeffery.gale.0@gmail.com