

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH BIRDS AT REST



PHOTZY.COM

When photographing birds at rest, you are faced with numerous challenges. You must choose a location where birds will frequent. It's critical to position the sun, or your light source, to the camera side of the bird's location. You must pay special attention to the background - for example, are there any distractions?

Perfect to print A5 size
14cm x 21cm
5.83" x 8.27"

GEAR UP

CAMERA



DSLR or mirrorless with Full Frame sensor



DSLR or mirrorless with APS-C sensor



Smartphone camera
DEPENDENT UPON DISTANCE

Camera considerations:

- ISO sensitivity
- Noise level
- Interchangeable lenses

LENS



Zoom lens considerations:

- Focal length range
150 – 600mm ✓
100 – 400mm ✓
70-200mm OK
- Max. aperture f/5.6 or wider
- Weight and length
- Tripod collar



Prime lens considerations:

- 100-400mm DEPENDENT UPON DISTANCE
- Max. aperture f/4 or wider

SET IT UP

File format



ISO setting

ADJUST AS NECESSARY



Metering Mode

Center-weighted ✓

Spot OK

Matrix/Evaluative OK
NO BACKLIGHTING

Drive Mode



Shooting Mode

S/Tv OK

M ✓

A/Av ✓

Focus Mode

Single Shot ✓

Focus Points



ALL ACTIVATED

Shutter Speed: Min. 1/80th | Recommended: 1/250th+

Image Stabilization: On

White Balance: Auto

Aperture: f/2.8 – f/8

Focus Tracking: On

Back Button Focus: Recommended

Highlight Indicator: On

SHOOT IT



Nikon D600



Tamron 150-600mm G2



800



f/6.3



1/640th



Tripod + Beanbag support



PC: Tobie Schalkwyk

PRO TIP:

An electronic flash set to low power can put a nice catchlight into the dark eyes of a bird - even from a distance.

PRE-FOCUS

On area where birds are coming to rest.

- Mount camera to a tripod
- Compose, then lock focus
- Attach remote shutter release
- Shoot as birds enter or exit your pre-focused area



+



+

MANUAL LOCK FOCUS

EXPOSURE BRACKETING

When you release the shutter, multiple exposures occur. A set of three exposures is recommended:

3..2..1..0..1..2..3+

- Normal
- 1-Stop Overexposed (+1)
- 1-Stop Underexposed (-1)

✓ Recommended

OK Acceptable

✗ Not Recommended

! Not unless experienced

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