

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH BIRDS NESTING



PHOTZY.COM

Birds captured in the nest are some of the most prized photos in the bird photography community. This particular type of bird photography requires birding knowledge, excellent photography skills, and most of all, patience.

Remember: Never disturb a bird's nest or get too close!

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

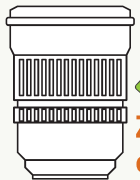


OK Smartphone camera
DEPENDING UPON DISTANCE

Camera considerations:

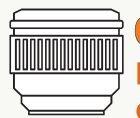
- ISO sensitivity
- Interchangeable lenses

LENS



Zoom lens considerations:

- Focal length range
 - 150 – 600mm ✓
 - 100 – 400mm ✓
 - 70 – 200mm OK
- Maximum aperture f/5.6 +
- Weight and length
- Tripod collar



OK Prime lens considerations:

- Focal length range
 - 100-400mm DEPENDING UPON DISTANCE
- Maximum aperture f/5.6 +

SET IT UP

File format



ISO setting



ADJUST AS NECESSARY

Metering Mode

Center-weighted ✓

Matrix/Evaluative ✗

Spot OK

Drive Mode



OK IF QUIET



Shooting Mode

S/Tv ✓

M!

A/Av OK

Focus Mode

Single Shot ✓

Focus Points



SMALL CENTRAL CLUSTER

White Balance



IF SHOOTING DURING THE GOLDEN HOUR

Shutter Speed: Min. 1/150th | Recommended: 1/250th+

Image Stabilization: On UNLESS ON A TRIPOD

Focus Tracking: On

Aperture: f/2.8 – f/11

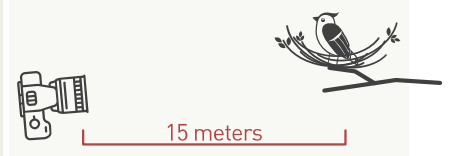
Highlight Indicator: On

SHOOT IT

PRO TECHNIQUE 1: Tracking

If you see birds gathering food and flying away, track them. They will eventually lead you near the nest.

It's best to stay at least 15 meters away from a nest. If they are carrying nest-building material, you can become alert to a nest location to return to.



PRO TECHNIQUE 2: Research

A bird's life and the life of its chick are dependent upon remaining hidden. By doing research, you can save time and develop a professional sixth-sense regarding where a species will build a nest.



PRO TECHNIQUE 3:

Off-Camera Electronic Flash

An electronic flash may alert predators. If you must use a flash, rotate the flash head so that it isn't pointing directly at the nest but feathering light in that direction. **Using an off-camera flash is preferable as you can place it further away from the nest than your camera.**



✓ Recommended

OK Acceptable

✗ Not Recommended

! Not unless experienced

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