

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH BIRDS FLYING



PHOTZY.COM

The challenge in photographing flying birds is threefold: firstly, filling the frame with the bird so that it doesn't appear as a distant, obscure object; secondly, keeping the bird focused and free of motion blur; and finally, correctly positioning the bird within the frame as it's moving.

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

GEAR UP

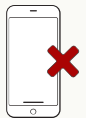
CAMERA



DSLR or mirrorless with Full Frame sensor



DSLR or mirrorless with APS-C sensor

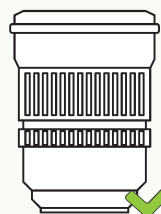


Smartphone camera

Camera considerations:

- Frames per second
- Dual card slots
- Number of focus points
- Weather resistance

LENS



Zoom lens



Prime lens

Zoom lens considerations:

- Focal length range
100 – 400mm ✓
70 – 200mm OK
- Max. aperture of f/5.6 or wider
- Weight and length
- Multicoated front element
- Fast focusing

SET IT UP

File format



ISO setting
ADJUST AS NECESSARY



Metering Mode

Center-weighted ✓

Matrix/Evaluative OK

Spot !

Drive Mode



Shooting Mode

S/Tv ✓

M OK

A/Av ✗

Focus Mode

Continuous ✓

Focus Points



ALL ACTIVATED

Shutter Speed: Min. 1/250th | Recommended: 1/500th+

Image Stabilization: On

Aperture: f/2.8 – f/8

Back Button Focus: Recommended

White Balance: Auto

Focus Tracking: On

Highlight Indicator: On

SHOOT IT



PC: Tobie Schalkwyk



Nikon D600



Nikkor 300mm f/4
+ Teleconverter TC 14 E II



800



f/5.6



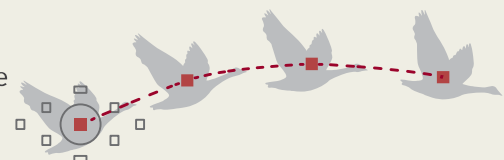
1/2000th



Handheld

PANNING

Panning involves moving the camera at the same rate of speed as the flying bird.



BACK BUTTON FOCUS

Removes focusing from the shutter release button. This feature allows you to compose separately from the focusing step before shooting.

✓ Recommended

OK Acceptable

✗ Not Recommended

! Not unless experienced