Some Thoughts
on
Bird Photograph

Objectives

- Shares Lessons Learned
- Camera/Lens Settings
- Successful Approaches
- Equipment Suggestions

Overview

- Photo Elements
- Special Situations
- Flight
- Using Flash
- Equipment
- Favourite Places

Photographic Elements

- Artistic
- Technical
- Experience

Artistic

- Subject Matter
- Composition
- Light:

  Quality

  Direction

Composition

- Shoot Loose
- Crop

AIRBAG

Essential Equipment

Hejnar PHOTO
Manfrotto

501HDV
Lock
Lock
BALANCE
SYSTEM

Light Quality

- Overcast or Rainy Days
- Early Morning or Evening

Technical

- Exposure
- Sharpness:

  Focus – Depth of Field

  Camera Shake

  Movement
- Getting/Keeping Subject in Frame

Exposure

- Easy: Little Tonal Range
- Hard: Extreme Tonal Range

  May Be most difficult Issue

  No Second Chance

Default Settings: Easy

- Manual – 1/1600 and f8
- Auto ISO
- Continuous Autofocus
- 51-Point Dynamic Area
- Image Stabilization Off

Default Settings: Difficult

- Manual – 1/1600 and f8
- Manual ISO - Spot Meter Off Subject
- White: Expose to Avoid Blown Highlights
- Dark: Expose to Show Detail
- Black And White: Avoid Blown Highlights
- Continuous Autofocus
- 51-Point Dynamic Area
- Image Stabilization Off

Focus – Depth of Field

- Default – f 8
- Near – Shut Down
- Far – Open Up
- Aim At Shoulder

Special Situations

- Feeding
- Aggression
- Multiple Birds
- Reflections
- Bathing

Feeding

Aggression

Multiple Birds

- Patience
- Depth of Field
- Luck

Reflections

- Move Focus Point Up
- Still Water
- No Debris
- Careful With Exposure

Bathing

- Caution With Focus

Flight Photography

- Exacting Branch of Photography
- Challenges Photographer: Practice
- Stretches Equipment Capabilities
- Camera:

  High Frame Rate

  Large Buffer – High Speed Card
- Lens: Fast Focusing

M/A
M
FULL
∞-3m
BKT
AF-M

Approaches

- Luck
- Pre-Focusing
- Capture – Track - Photograph
- Anticipation

Pre-Focusing

- Focus On Site
- Set Focus to Manual
- Direction of Wind and Light
- Fire As Bird Approaches

Capture – Track - Shoot

- Capture Bird At Distance
- Track and Shoot
- Focusing Capability
- Framing Rate
- Buffer Size – Card Speed

Anticipation

- Habits
- Signals

Fill Flash: TTL

- Background Exposure: Manual
  - Matrix Metering
  - Aperture f8 - ISO and
  - Shutter Speed >>1 Stop Under
- Subject Exposure: TTL
  - Spot Metering

501HDV

Equipment Summary

- Sturdiest Tripod You Are Willing To Carry
- A Stable Chair
- Video Fluid Head: Manfrotto 501HD
- Longest Lens You Can Afford: 300mm f4 a Good Starting Point: Test Focusing Speed
- Lenses Don’t Change the Way Cameras Do
- Teleconverters Useful : 1.4 Little Degeneration of the Photograph
- Camera: Start With What You Have

Experience

- Observe
- Anticipate Action
- Recognize Habits

Final Thoughts

- Persistence and Patience
- Practice
- Re-Visit Good Locations
- Work Situations Over