

# HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH BIRDS UP CLOSE



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The biggest challenge to new bird photographers is getting close enough to see the details of the bird. No one wants the bird in their photograph to appear as a spot in the distance. A longer focal length lens - either a telephoto prime or a telephoto zoom lens - is your best choice. Outside of that, stealth - along with the use of camouflage or a blind - is your next step toward pro bird photography.

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

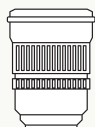


Smartphone camera

### Camera considerations:

- Interchangeable lenses
- Low noise
- Size & weight

### LENS



Zoom lens considerations:

- Focal length range
  - 150 - 600mm ✓
  - 100 - 400mm ✓
  - 70 - 200mm OK
- Maximum aperture f/6.3 +
- Weight and length
- Tripod collar



Prime lens considerations:

- Focal length range
  - 100-600mm DEPENDING UPON DISTANCE
- Maximum aperture f/6.3 +

## SET IT UP

File format



ISO setting



ADJUST AS NECESSARY

Metering Mode

Center-weighted ✓

Matrix/Evaluative OK

Spot OK

Drive Mode



Shooting Mode

S/Tv ✓

M OK

A/Av OK

KEEP AN EYE ON THE SHUTTER SPEED FOR CAMERA SHAKE

Focus Mode

Single Shot ✓

Focus Points



SMALL CENTRAL CLUSTER

Shutter Speed: Min. 1/250<sup>th</sup> | Recommended: 1/500<sup>th</sup>

Image Stabilization: On UNLESS ON A TRIPOD

White Balance: Auto

Aperture: f/5.6 - f/16

Focus Tracking: On

Back Button Focus: Recommended

Highlight Indicator: On

## SHOOT IT

### PRO TECHNIQUE 1: Back Button Release

Most modern cameras can separate the autofocus function from the shutter release. This feature allows you to focus on the eyes while composing, before releasing the camera shutter.

### PRO TECHNIQUE 2: Proper camera holding

When starting with telephoto lenses, you will experience blurry pictures due to camera shake.

- Use a tripod or a monopod
- Use a lens collar if possible
- Make sure the shutter speed equals the lens focal length (e.g. for 500mm lens, use shutter speed 1/500<sup>th</sup> or faster).
- Release the camera shutter button with a slow, methodical movement - don't jam the shutter release button.

### PRO TECHNIQUE 3: Starter lens, teleconverter, and blind

Long telephoto lenses are expensive. You can start with a zoom lens, such as a 70-200mm, add a teleconverter, and finally a portable blind. Upgrade when you're ready.

**Remember:** Teleconverters need lots of light, and you should purchase the best one that you can afford (check reviews and ratings).

✓ Recommended

OK Acceptable

✗ Not Recommended

! Not unless experienced



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## What is Your #1 Photography Killer?

Take this 30 second quiz to find out the #1 thing holding your photography back.

[Take quiz →](#)



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More on the next page





# Hey there!

Let's get real for a minute... Learning photography can be super challenging! But we're here to help you every step of the way!

Here are 3 of our most useful (*and FREE!*) photography resources—

1. Take this [30 Second Quiz](#) to find the #1 thing holding your photography back.
2. Join our free [Weekly Photography Challenge](#) group to spark your creativity and share your work.
3. Access our [Free Photography eBook Library](#), with 250+ downloadable (.pdf) tutorials on Photo Fundamentals, Post-Processing, Composition, Low-light, and much more!

**Always remember:** Momentum is the key to exploring and developing your creative talents...

So get out there and take some more pictures!



## We're so glad you're here!

Photzy.com is an online photography school with over 200,000 students from 180 countries.

Founded in 2012, our focus has always been simple, practical tips and tutorials, for beginners. No matter where your current skill level is, we'd like to help you explore your unique creative side, through photography.

*"At Photzy, we believe EVERYONE is creative, and that photography is the best way to explore and share your creative side with the world."*

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