

# Photographing Birds



Presented by:



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To: Greater Bridgeport  
Camera Club

*Created for Fall 2020 but Postponed*

# Photographing birds can be a lifelong passion!

I started over 50 years ago with “Pecky” the Parakeet!



# How to get started photographing birds



Equipment and Camera Settings



Photographing in Your Yard



Attracting Birds



Habits and Habitats



Lighting



Background



Composition



Post-Processing



Practice, Patience, and Perseverance



Now what?



## Equipment and Camera Settings



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Now what?

# Equipment

- Camera/cell phone – The best camera is the one you have with you!
- Lens – Yes, bigger might be better but use what you have
- Tripod – Or sturdy surface like a railing, rock or window sill

Try to keep your camera  
and all electronics dry!



# Camera – Cell phone



*Juvenile Female Yellow-rumped Warbler*

- The best camera is the one you have with you!
- This was taken on my cell phone which had been in my pocket.

# Lens and Tripod

Sometimes bigger is better... but use what you have!



# Camera Settings

Larger birds often have slower and soaring flight, but many times are higher up and further away. Longer lenses and fast shutters help here.



*Turkey Vulture*

1/6400s



*Osprey*

1/8000s



© Chane Cullens

*Bald Eagle*

1/6400s



© Rhonda Cullens

*Bald Eagle*

1/8000s

200mm lens on all

# Camera Settings

## Faster Shutter Speeds – Freezes Motion

- Small birds might get closer but are often fast and erratic.
- Need a very fast shutter speed for birds moving a lot or in flight.



1/1000s – f/5.6, ISO 640

# Camera Settings

Slower Shutter Speeds - Ok with birds sitting still or moving slowly



*African Scops Owl*

1/60s – f/5.0, ISO 640



*Juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk*

1/60s – f/8.0, ISO 500

# Camera Settings

“Fast” or “Slow” Speeds are Relative Terms



*Female House Finch*

1/400s – f/8.0, ISO 800

Plenty Fast When Perched

Too Slow for This Fast Flyer!

# Camera Settings

Slow down shutter speed to show motion



*Herring Gull*

1/200s



*Juvenile Tufted Titmouse*

1/640s



*Juvenile Eastern Bluebird*

1/640s

# Aperture (Lens Opening)

## Affects how much depth is in focus

f/2.8 = Shallow depth. Small number, small amount in focus. Lets in more light.

f/22 = Deep depth. Large number, large amount in focus. Lets in less light.



*Song Sparrow*

f/4.0

Shallow Depth of Field:  
Bird is in focus but  
background blurred

Portrait vs.  
Including Habitat

Sweet Spot for  
image sharpness  
is in between



*White-throated Sparrow*

f/14.0

Deep Depth of Field:  
Bird and the background are  
both more in focus

# ISO – Sensitivity of the image sensor to light

Choose lowest possible ISO that still allows a fast enough shutter speed to reduce motion blur.



*Crimson Rosella Parrot*

1/250s, f/5.6, ISO 3200

- Higher ISO: Less light is required so you can use faster shutter speeds, but photo has more noise or grain. Use in darker settings to keep speed up. (May be able to reduce some noise in post-processing.)
- Lower ISO: Produces less noise and graininess, but more light is required. Tradeoffs are slower shutter speeds and/or aperture changes.

# JPEG vs. RAW

RAW provides more opportunities to bring out detail than JPEG files



JPEG



RAW

*Tufted Titmouse*

# Autofocus – Single Area vs. Continuous Tracking



*Female Yellow-rumped Warbler*

## Main Objective: Focus on the eye and keep it sharp!

- Single Area: Not moving or perched, use One-Shot AF for Canon or AF-S for Nikon.
- Continuous Tracking: Moving or in flight, use AI Servo for Canon or AF-C for Nikon. “Sports mode” on some cameras. Tracks motion and predicts where the subject will be, placing the focus at that predicted point.
- Consider using AF-On Button if you are switching back and forth.

# Panning with Birds in Flight – Large & Slow Birds



*Great Egret*

200mm – 1/640s, f/5.6, ISO 500

# Panning with Birds in Flight – Small & Fast Birds



*Eastern Bluebird*

200mm – 1/640s, f/8, ISO 100

# Panning with Birds in Flight

Faster panning needed for faster and/or closer birds.

Background will be more blurred.



*European Starlings*

158mm – 1/250s, f/8, ISO 1000

# High Speed Continuous, or Burst, Mode

- Takes several photos in quick succession by pressing the shutter button or holding it down.
- Increases the odds one turns out when your opportunity of capturing something is short.



*Great Egret*

# High Speed Continuous, or Burst, Mode



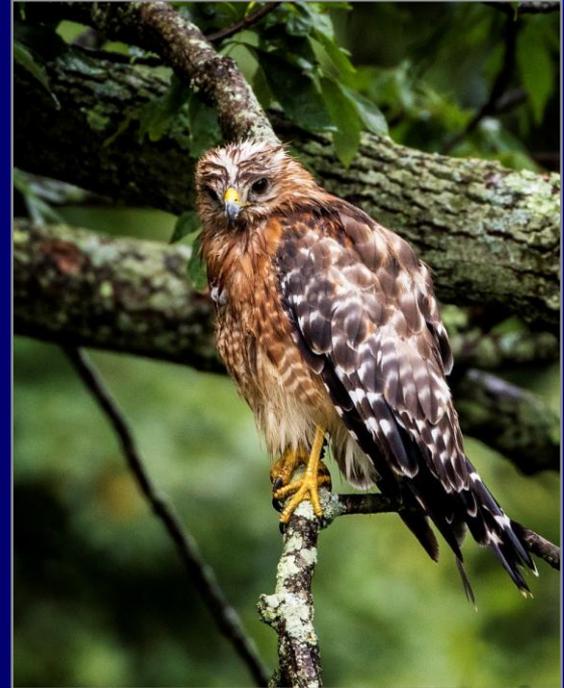
*Great Egret* – The one that turned out  
200mm - 1/400s, f/9, ISO 400

# Tip: A steady camera = sharper photos

- Don't try to take a photo while walking.
- Tuck your elbows in.
- Squeeze rather than press shutter release.
- Use something as a brace to keep your camera still. Lean against a tree or set camera on a rock or ledge.



Motion Blur



Steadier Camera

*Red-shouldered Hawk*



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Now what?

# Your own yard – A great place to start

- Convenience
- Control
- Create



*Juvenile Eastern Bluebird*



# Bird Photography – From inside your home!



Chane's photo setup:  
(Note gear located  
inside and outside.)



*Male and Female Northern Cardinals*  
370mm lens, 1/640s, f/6.3, ISO 800 with flash

*"Lovers. Sharing Food in The Rain." – By Chane Cullens*

# Bird Photography – Out your bedroom window!



Rhonda's easy photo setup:

- Raise "Bird Blinds"
- Open window (screen already removed)
- Take photos



*Male Northern Cardinal Feeding Himself*

300mm lens, 1/400s, f/8, ISO 540

# Use or Create a Nature-like Background

## “Nature” Category in Photo Competitions



*White-throated Sparrow*

\*Not a complete list. For more details see:

Photographic Society of America, <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?nature-nature-definition>

Not allowed:

- No human elements. Nothing that shows evidence of the “hand of man.” This includes cut grass, fences, stone walls, roads.
- No human hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals or mounted animals.

Consider planting or hanging native plants to hide man-made objects.

# “Nature” Photography Competition “Nature” Category

Not allowed:

- Nothing that shows evidence of the “hand of man.”



*Great Horned Owl*



*House Wren*



*American Robin*



*Cooper's Hawk*



*House Sparrow*

# “Nature” Photography

Allowed: “Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.”



*White-throated Sparrow*



*Royal Tern*



*Inca Tern*



*Purple Swamphen*



*Common Loon*

See for more: Photographic Society of America <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?nature-nature-definition>



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Now what?

# How do I attract birds? – Meet their basic needs

- **Food** – Birdseed, suet, etc. Trees/plants for fruits, nuts, seeds, nectar
- **Water** – For drinking & bathing
- **Shelter** – Nest boxes, trees, shrubs, ground cover, nesting materials



*Female Ruby-throated  
Hummingbird*



*American Crow*

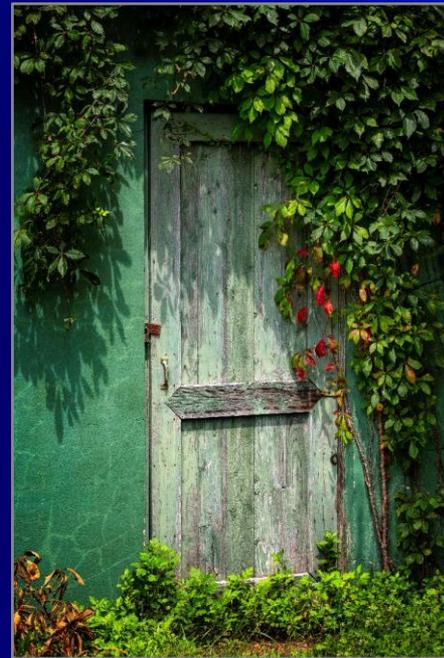


# Plant Trees, Shrubs and Flowers for Birds



## Examples:

- Wild Grape
- Coneflower
- Flowering Dogwood
- Sunflowers
- Virginia Creeper



# If you feed them, they will come!



*Blue Jay*



*Male House Finch*



*Mourning Dove*

## Birdseed served here daily!

# The resources available will attract different birds



*Juvenile Male Scarlet Tanager*



*Male Pileated Woodpecker*



*Eastern Bluebird*

Insects, wood-boring beetle larvae, grubs... Yum! Yum!

# Everyone is looking for a free meal!



*Indigo Bunting*



*Eastern Phoebe*



*Eastern Towhee*



*Scarlet Tanager*

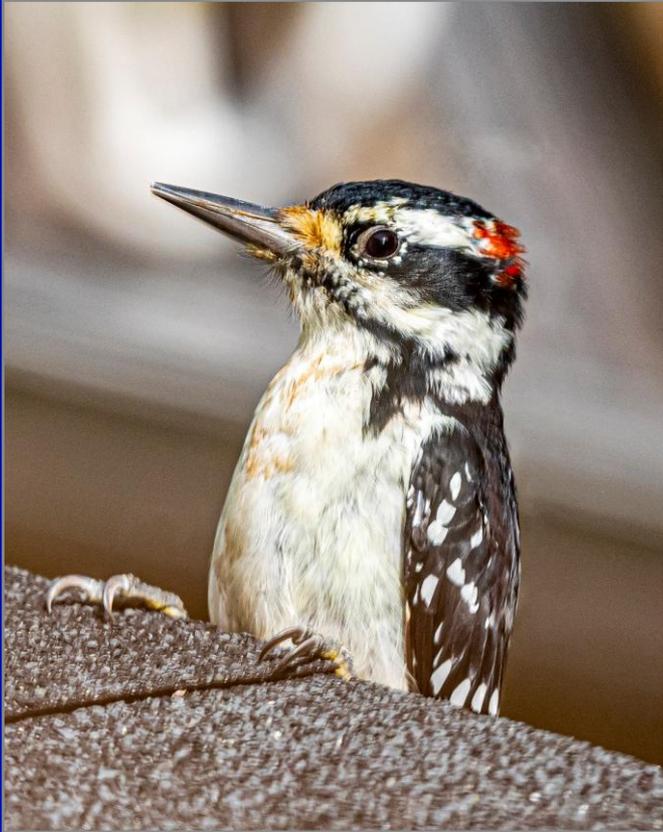
# Encourage Healthy Eating

Photos before and after dessert... (Just kidding!)



*Female Yellow-rumped Warbler*

# A few may want to get close to you...



*Juvenile Hairy Woodpecker*

*And others may  
want to hide...*



*Female Downy Woodpecker*

# Some may raise their families nearby



*Northern Cardinal*



*Juvenile Northern Cardinal*



*Tufted Titmouse*



*Juvenile House Sparrow*



*Chipping Sparrow*



*Juvenile Eastern Bluebird*

# Don't put food by nests!

Other predators may find them and their babies



*Tufted Titmouse*

# Warning: Feeding birds may also attract other animals...



*Black-capped Chickadee*



*No, I didn't eat  
ALL the birdseed!  
Just most of it...*

*Female Eastern Gray Squirrel*

# Squirrels will come, but just photograph them too!



*Eastern Gray Squirrel*

# And all their relatives...



*Eastern Gray Squirrels*

# But seed is cheap, so let them eat!

Costco:  
40-pound bags



# Small birds and animals may attract bigger birds...



*Juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk*

**That hawk wasn't really posing for a photo.  
He was waiting for his dinner hiding under  
the BBQ...**

Squirrel waited for  
the hawk to leave  
and got away!



*Eastern Gray Squirrel*

# Some squirrels aren't as smart, but sometimes get lucky if the hawk isn't hungry...



*Red-shouldered Hawk and Eastern Gray Squirrel*

And others just aren't as lucky...



*Cooper's Hawk and its prey*

# Put food out in the morning. Overnight food sources invite raccoons and bears into your yard too!



*North American Raccoons*



*North American Brown Bear*

I know we have American Black Bears here. I've seen them!

I haven't taken their photo, yet... Thus, the "generic bear photo."





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Now what?

# Identifying Your Birds

Try an online search using a detailed description. Include size, color of head, neck, breast etc. to narrow your search.

Examples: Small yellow bird, yellow/black head (crown), yellow/gray face, yellow/white breast, black on wings, yellow/white bars on wings, black/white eyes...



*Northern Parula*



*Male Hooded Warbler*



*Immature Chestnut-sided Warbler*

# Identifying Your Birds

Capture all angles to get head, breast, wings, tail etc.



*Juvenile Red-shoulder Hawk*

# Resources

## Facebook Group – “What’s this Bird?”

Post where and when photo was taken, and usually someone posts the bird’s identity right away.



*Eastern Wood-Pewee*



*Eastern Phoebe*

# Learn Behaviors



*White-breasted Nuthatch*

Nuthatches are the only birds in North America that walk headfirst down trees.



*Northern Flicker*

Spends a lot of time on the ground eating ants and other insects. They also fly in an up-and-down path and glide between wing flaps.

# Know your birds – [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu)

## What sounds do they make?



**How to Identify Bird Songs**

Bird Academy's latest self-paced course  
jump-starts your birding-by-ear skills

▶ [Learn more](#)

Common Yellowthroat © Linda Petersen

A Common Yellowthroat bird is shown in profile, perched on a thin branch and singing with its beak open. The bird has a bright yellow throat and breast, a black cap, and olive-green wings and back. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.



# Identifying Birds by Their Songs & Calls

## Apps for your phone are available



Free: Listen to pre-recorded calls.



\$4.99: Can record calls, but doesn't always identify the correct bird.



\$3.99: Check Reviews.

Tip: Read reviews before purchasing! They all have pros and cons.  
These are samples only. Not an endorsement.

# What are their habits?

Do they always land on the same branch?



*American Goldfinch*

See if they perch first before going in for the food. If so, try pre-focusing there.



*Black-capped Chickadee*

# Notice which birds perch longer than others They are easier to photograph



*Juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk*



*Male Northern Cardinal, Dark-eyed Junco*

# Active in spring when mating and nesting

And you might get treated to hearing a beautiful song too!



*American Robin*

# Activity Near Nesting and Feeding Sites

Use longer lenses to keep your distance



*Chipping Sparrows*

300mm lens

# Active in fall preparing for winter



*Female Downy Woodpecker*

“The tongue of a woodpecker, often covered with barbs or sticky saliva, can be extended a considerable distance in order to dislodge ants and insect larvae from deep crevices in wood and back. For storage, the tongue is curled around the back of the head between the skull and skin.” – Cornell Lab of Ornithology

# Time of Year

Are they here for the winter or do they migrate?



*Dark-eyed Juncos*



*Cooper's Hawk*



*Male Northern Cardinal*

# Education: Attend a Bird of Prey Event



*Gyrfalcon*



*Red-tailed Hawk*

A great way to learn more about the birds and their habits! And you can practice photographing them up close!

**The closer the birds will get to you the better  
Especially if you don't have a big lens!**



*Snowy Owl*

70mm lens, Flying about 25 feet overhead 1/1000s

# Visit indoor and outdoor exhibits at the Zoo



*Hyacinth Macaw*



*Pelican*



*Flamingo*



*Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill*

# Learn Habits by Observing Wherever You Go



*Sulfur-crested Cockatoo*

Near the Opera House in  
Sydney, Australia



*Pigeon*

Park in Dublin, Ireland



*Canada Geese*

Pond next to our Shopping Mall  
In Danbury, Connecticut

# Research Habitats Before Heading Out

Going to a specific location? Find out what types of birds are usually there.



*Snowy Egrets and Great Egret*

# Research the Bird's Preferred Type of Habitat

Looking for a specific type of bird?



*Great Egret*

Find out what type of habitat they like and where they can be found and when.

# No guarantees, but ask someone



*Roseate Spoonbill*

Ask a Park Ranger or local person where they might be currently.

# Safety First – Know what else is in their habitat

Be aware of your surroundings and watch behind you!



*Great Blue Heron*



*American Alligator*

# Resources

- Review bird websites like [birds.cornell.edu](http://birds.cornell.edu)
- Look for bird events like the Audubon Society hosts
- Ask others on Facebook forums, photography clubs etc.
- Use “Ok Google” or other cellphone apps



*Cormorant*



*Pink-backed Pelican* – Found in Africa, Arabia, India, or, the Ft. Worth Zoo!



*Common Loon*

# Tips: Behaviors a bird often does just before it takes off to fly

May poop to “lighten the load.”  
Especially larger birds.

- Stands very alert
- Turns its head in all directions
- Turns into the wind



*Western Gull*



*American Crow*

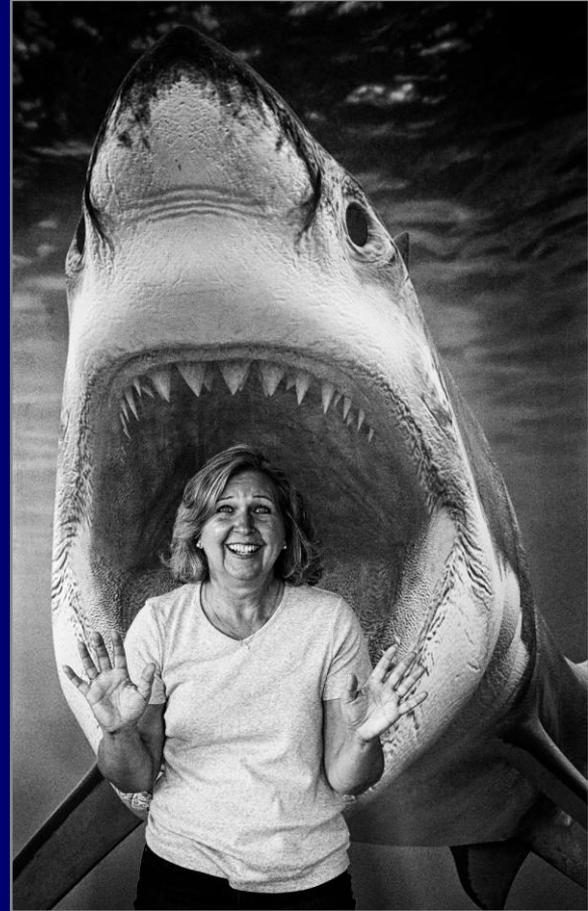
# Tips: Photographing Birds in the Wild

Try to “blend in” with the surroundings

- Wear muted clothing
- Don't wear reflective jewelry
- Turn off your cell phone ringer
- Don't use a shiny tripod
- Turn off beep sounds on camera
- Move slowly
- Stay low for ground/water birds
- Use a “bird blind” if you have one



**Basically:  
Don't scare the birds away!**





Equipment and Camera Settings



Photographing in Your Yard



Attracting Birds



Habits and Habitats



Lighting



Background



Composition



Post-Processing

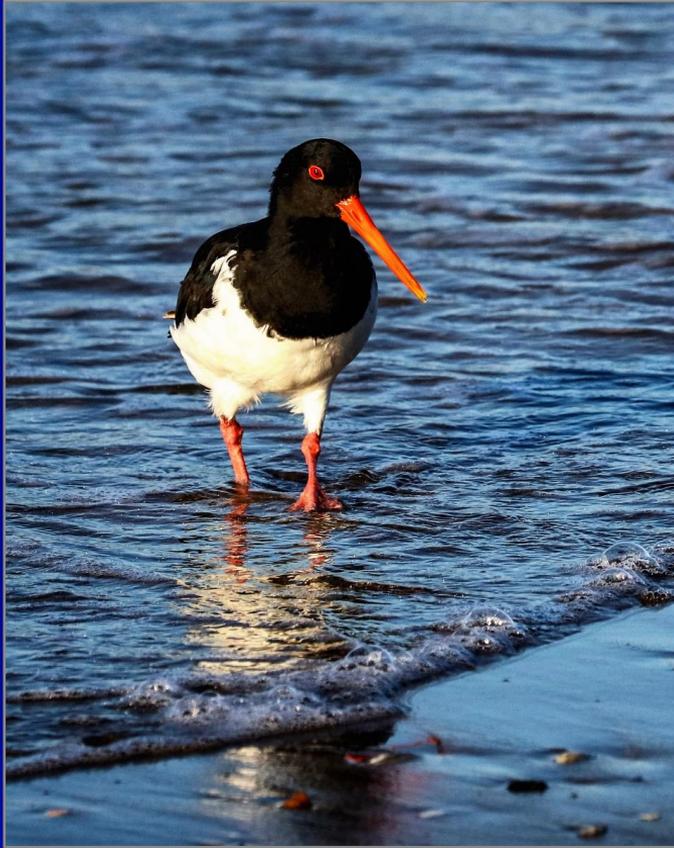


Practice, Patience, and Perseverance



Now what?

# Golden Hours: Morning or late in the day



*Oystercatcher*

- The best light is found just after sunrise and just before sunset when the light is warmer and more subdued.
- It will bring out the color and texture in the birds' plumage.

# Direct Sun, Shade, Partly Cloudy or Bright Overcast



*Blue Jay*

Direct Sun



*Great Horned Owl*

Shade



Partly  
Cloudy

*Male House Finch*

Bright  
Overcast



*Blue Jay*

# Location of Light Source

Where does the sun fall between you and the bird?



*Male House Finch*

Sun is behind the camera slightly to the left and is higher in the sky.

Sun is directly behind the camera and lower in the sky.

\*Note the location of the shadows the birds are casting and that both have a catch light in their eye.



*Great Egret*

# Sun at Your Back vs. Backlighting



*Sulfur-crested Cockatoos*



*Dark-eyed Junco*

# Backlighting for Silhouettes



Original Lighting



*ibis*

Changed in Post-processing

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
|    | Equipment and Camera Settings        |
|   | Photographing in Your Yard           |
|   | Attracting Birds                     |
|   | Habits and Habitats                  |
|   | Lighting                             |
|   | Background                           |
|   | Composition                          |
|   | Post-Processing                      |
|   | Practice, Patience, and Perseverance |
|  | Now what?                            |

# Does the background help tell the story?



*Juvenile Little Blue Heron*



*Great Blue Heron*

Backgrounds show the herons are wading birds who walk through shallow water looking for food.

# If the background doesn't help tell the story, keep it simple and non-distracting



*Great Blue Heron*



*Great Egret*

Backgrounds show some of the surroundings  
and habitat, but doesn't distract from the birds.

# Background should compliment the bird

## It should not draw attention away

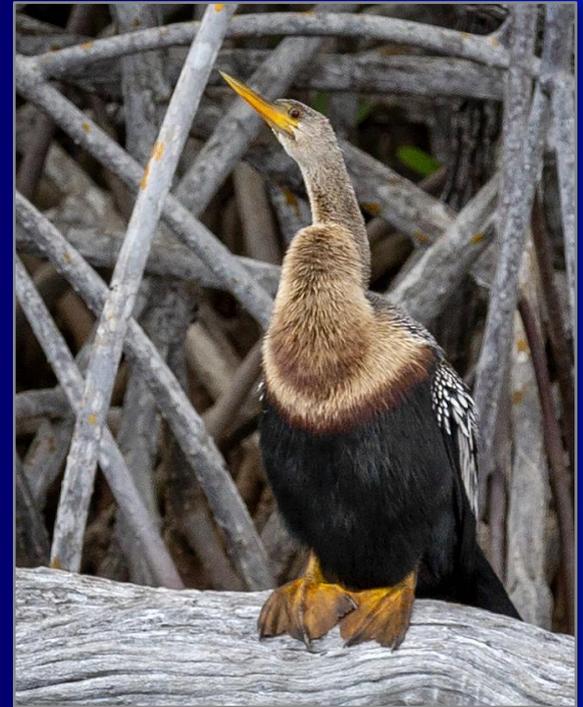


*Female House Finch*

Background is subtle  
and keeps the focus  
on the bird.

vs.

Background  
is busy and  
distracting.



*Female Anhinga*

# Blending in with the background



*Pacific Black Duck*



*Masked Lapwing*



*Tricolored Heron*

Camouflage is better for the bird than for the photo.

**Work the scene – Keep clicking**  
**Don't give up too soon**



*Tricolored Heron*

**Same bird 11 seconds later with a different background**

# Separation of background

If background is further away, it is easier to blur.



*Eurasian Eagle-owl*  
200mm f/6.3



*Harris's hawk*  
175mm f/5.0

# Selection of background

Even a blurred lawn will work



*Rose-breasted Grosbeak*

# Choose a background color for bird to stand out



*Gouldian Finch*



*Red-shouldered Hawk*



*Barn Owl*

# Background too Boring?



If not using the photo for a nature competition, consider adding clouds in post-processing!



*Great-tailed Grackle*

# Lens Choice and Distance for Blurred Backgrounds

Larger lenses and even greater distant increases the blur further



*Black-capped Chickadee*  
300mm f/5.6



*Chipping Sparrow*  
400mm f/5.6

# Trim branches to be minimal



*Male House Finch*

Break branches by hand or with no cuts showing.  
Caution: Even a “broken” branch can be seen as a distraction.



*Black-capped Chickadee*

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
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|   | Post-Processing                      |
|   | Practice, Patience, and Perseverance |
|  | Now what?                            |

# A Clear Subject



*Great Blue Heron*



*White Ibis*

The bird should be the clear subject and focus of the photograph.

# Rule of Thirds

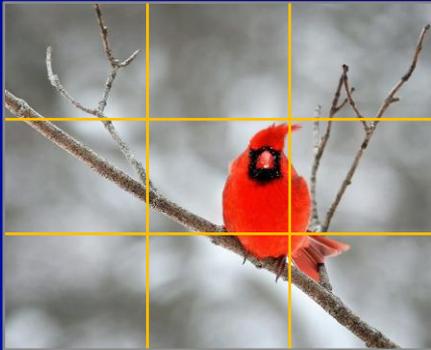
Divide the photo into 9 parts with an imaginary tic tac toe grid



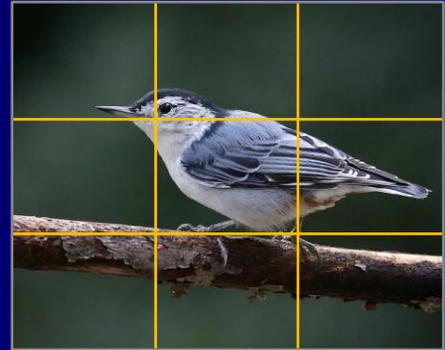
Put points of interest on lines or intersections.



The eye is a point of interest.



*Male Northern Cardinal*



*White-breasted Nuthatch*

# Show Birds in Action When Possible



*Osprey*

# Show Action When Possible



*Purple Gallinule (Formerly called Common Moorhen)*

# “Birds On A Stick”



*European Starlings*



*Black-capped Chickadee*

# Get on their level



*Tufted Titmouse*



*Southern White-faced Owl*



*Northern Cardinal*



*Purple Swamphen*



*Magpie Lark*



*Falcon*



*Galah*

# Give “Breathing Space”

Get in close, but leave some room around the bird.

More room should be left on the side the bird is heading toward.



*White-throated Sparrow*

# Fill the Frame

Make the subject a significant portion of the photo



300mm Lens

*Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird*



Move in close or use a bigger lens if possible. Or, crop in post-processing.

# Eliminate Distractions

Remove items or change position



*Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird*

Remove garbage, camera bags, excess branches etc. or reposition so they aren't in the photo.

Or, if not for "Nature," remove in post-processing.



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Practice, Patience, and Perseverance



Now what?

# Eliminate distractions with Post-Processing



Original Photo



Crop with Adjustments



Crop even tighter



*Female House Finch*

Remove elements with editing

# Don't crop too tight

## Leave some space to move into



*Sulfur-crested Cockatoo*

You left room when you took the photo - don't spoil it in post-processing!

# Reducing Background Noise



*Male Purple Finch (Eastern)*

Background with Noise



After Noise Reduction

**Tip in Photoshop:  
(No masking required)**

- Select: Subject
- Select: Inverse  
(To get Background)
- Filter: Camera Raw Filter
- Detail: Noise Reduction  
Slider (Move right as  
needed)

Noise is removed from  
background only, not bird.

# Desaturate the Background

Select Subject, Inverse, Camera Raw Filter, Color Mixer (Move the Aquas and Blues sliders to the left)



*Chipping Sparrow*  
400mm f/5.6

# Content Aware Fill and Clone Stamping

Get rid of unwanted items, including birdseed, etc.



Birdseed on log

*Male Northern Cardinal*



Birdseed removed

# Sharpening

Bring back details and colors without over-sharpening



*Male House Finch*

**Realistic**



*Female Northern Cardinal*

**Over-sharpened**

# Get creative!



Original Photo



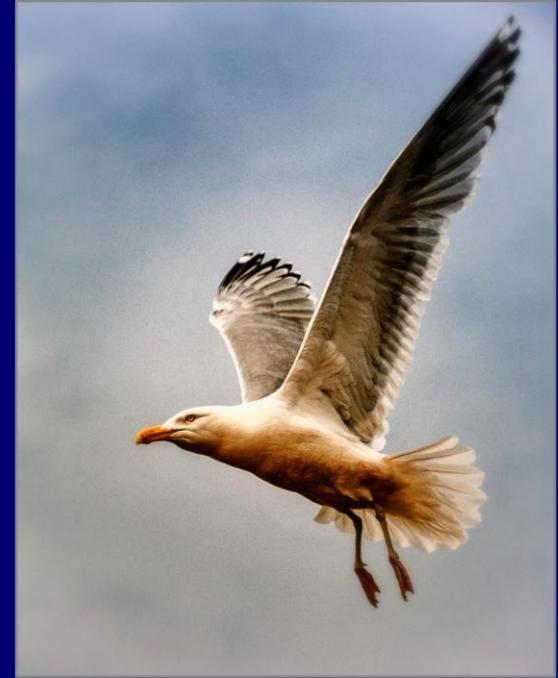
Drybrush Effect & Bricks Added

*Herring Gull*

# Painterly Artwork



*Herring Gulls*



Google Photo Editing Plug-in: Nik Color Efex Pro used here  
Topaz also does a great job

# Convert to Monochrome for Dramatic Effect



Monochrome Conversion

*Great Egret*



Original Photo

# Creating a Composite

## Starting Elements



*Barking Owl*

Original Photo



Background Photo



Branch Photo

# Creating a Composite

## Giving the bird a more “Natural Setting”



*Barking Owl*

Original Photo



Composite Photo



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Now what?

# Practice in your backyard Then go explore the world!



*Female Downy Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, Female House Finch, Male House Sparrow, Male House Finch*

# Make a stop at the Zoo

## They have many exotic birds to practice on!



*Green Aracari*



*Red-billed Leiothrix*



*Great Blue Turaco*



*Toucan*

# At the Zoo

Think about doing a whole photo shoot on one bird!



*Laughing Kookaburra*

# Consider slower “friendly” birds as the next step Ducks, swans, and geese fit the “bill”!



*Female Mallard Duck*



*Black Swan*



*Canada goose*

**Gulls are also friendly and slower in flight**  
That makes them easier to photograph



*Western Gull & Heermann's Gull*

**Find a place with plenty of birds**

**A good feeding ground will probably be nearby**

**Or bring food  
with you!**



*Heermann's Gulls*

**Or, bring your own food with you!**



*Heermann's Gull*

**Select a good location and time of day**  
**Watch for good lighting and a good background**



Enjoy the surroundings  
while you're there!

*Western Gull*

# Be patient!

Wait for the birds, the light, and the background to come together

Or, find a place where  
backgrounds are always  
beautiful and birds wait in  
trees to be photographed!

(Photo taken in the Dominican Republic)



*Blue-and-yellow Macaw*

# Persevere!

## Don't give up! Keep taking those photographs!



*Sulfur-crested Cockatoos*

## No matter how many times you get knocked down!



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Now what?

# Now what?

Seek out, capture and share the beauty around us!



*Juvenile Eastern Bluebird*



*Great Horned Owl*



*Senegal Parrot*

# Seek Out and Capture: Be on the lookout wherever you go!



*Greater Rhea*



*Eurasian Eagle-owl*



*Wild Turkey*

Wildlife Safari Park, Oregon

Phoenix Zoo, Arizona

Our backyard, Connecticut

# Share your photos with others!

## Facebook Posts



*Juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk*

Birds of the Eastern United States

Shared on my Facebook Page

# Daily Inspirational Posts



American Goldfinch



Wild Turkey



Black-capped chickadee



Red-tailed Hawk



Canada Goose



Mourning Dove

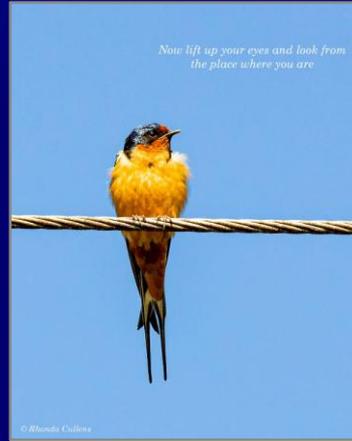


Male House Finch

# Daily Inspirational Posts



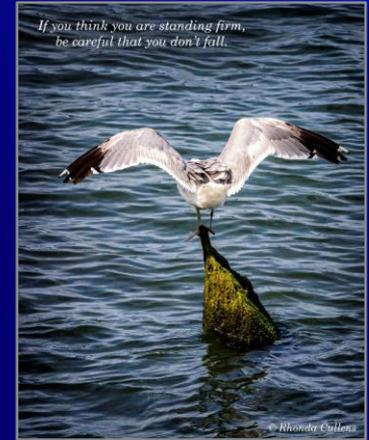
*Pileated Woodpecker*



*Barn Swallow*



*Kestrel*



*Western Gull*



*Saffron Finch*



*Tawny Frogmouth*



*Long-tailed Finch*

# Exhibit in the community - “Pictures and Passages”



Walnut Hill Community Church - [www.CCullens.com/WHCC](http://www.CCullens.com/WHCC)

# Exhibit - "Capturing Newtown and Our World"



Newtown Municipal Center - [www.CCullens.com/Newtown](http://www.CCullens.com/Newtown)

# “Flagpole Photographers Newtown & Beyond Exhibit”



Newtown Municipal Center - [www.FlagpolePhotographers.com](http://www.FlagpolePhotographers.com)

# Contribute to Local Newspapers

MARCH 14, 2019 **COUNTRY LIFE** REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN 3E

**callin'** **COUNTRY GARDENS**

## Sweetness makes for fierce winged warriors

**W**e think of the tiny hummingbirds that dart through our yards as helpless creatures that need protection from the rest of the world. In fact, ounce-for-ounce, they are one of the fiercest fighters on the face of the earth. Hummingbirds are so aggressive that Aztecs believed that a warrior cut down in battle was reincarnated as one of these diminutive creatures. Hummingbirds consume one-and-a-half to three times their own body weight daily, so it is natural that they defend their sources for nectar. In places where there is more than enough nectar for all, there aren't many hummingbird battles, but in places where there aren't, fights break out on a regular basis. If you decide to feed hummingbirds and use more than one feeder, The Audubon Society recommends placing them out of sight of one another. The Society also has a recipe for hummingbird nectar. Combine four parts water to one part white sugar, boil for one or two minutes, stirring to dissolve all the sugar, then let cool. Do not use red dye, instead, use a feeder with red at the feeding openings. It's a good idea to hang feeders in the shade so the nectar doesn't turn rancid as quickly as it will if the sun is on it. You can also place banana peels and fruit that has over ripened beneath or close to feeders so fruit flies and gnats, which are food for hummingbirds, will feed there and attract the birds.



Although hummingbird fights usually result in one of the birds just flying off, hummingbirds can use their sharp, long bills to impale their opponents. Hummingbirds have such a Napoleon complex that there is a witnessed account of a hummingbird attacking a golden eagle that was in the tiny bird's territory.

—Lois Barber

**CONTRIBUTED**

Authors and poets, Claddagh, and try on Saturday also get a chance rney cheese, and Space is limited, ls, registration: 12.

**IS**

ed at its 2007 ay opening as "a new musical The play fo

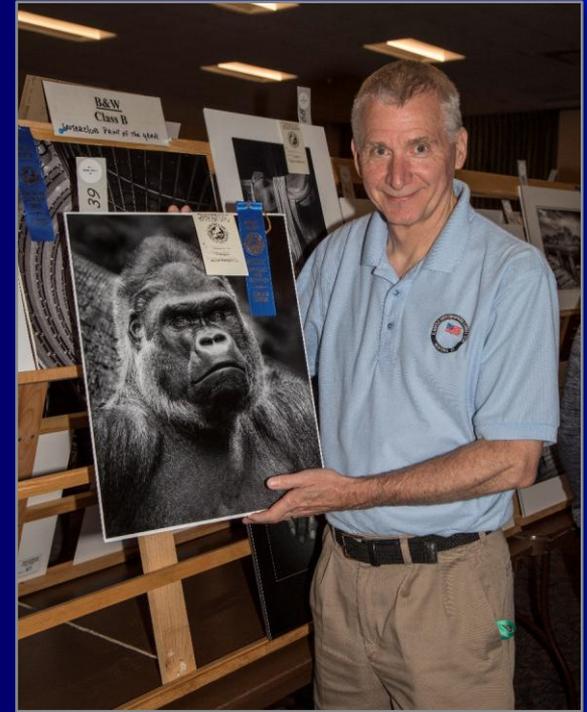
*Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird*

# Local Camera Club Competitions



[www.FlagpolePhotographers.com](http://www.FlagpolePhotographers.com)

# NECCC Print Competition



[www.NECCCPhotoConference.org](http://www.NECCCPhotoConference.org)

# NECCC Digital Competition



2019 Best Landscape Digital Pictorial Image for *“Sedona Reflections”*

[www.NECCPhotoConference.org](http://www.NECCPhotoConference.org)

# *Thank you!*

Presented by:

Rhonda Cullens, *MNEC, VP NECCC*



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MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR NOW  
AND JOIN US AT THE

**75TH ANNIVERSARY**

OF THE NECCC PHOTOGRAPHY CONFERENCE

[www.NECCCPhotoConference.org](http://www.NECCCPhotoConference.org)

JULY 16-18, 2021



- \* LOTS of active learning! more than just pretty photos
- \* We have a plethora of photography programs and MORE
- \* Bring your camera for hands-on workshops & photo ops!
- \* Photo-ops: A plethora of subjects to photograph: female and character models, animals, raptors, flowers, food, still life, props -- photo-ops galore!
- \* Trade Show -- Vendors! Plus Camera & Lens loaning!
- \* Interact with presenters and fellow photographers
- \* Image critiques and portfolio reviews
- \* Print and Digital competitions
- \* Fun weekend of Immersion into Photography!

# “Nature” Photography

What qualifies as “Nature” for photo competitions?

Depicts all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology.

Not allowed:

- No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping.
- No manipulations that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- No human elements. Nothing that shows evidence of the hand of man. This includes cut grass.
- No human hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals or mounted animals.
- No stitched or infrared images.

Adapted from: Photographic Society of America  
<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?nature-nature-definition>

# “Nature” Photography

## Allowed:

- Enhancing the presentation of the photo without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene.
- These enhancements include HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning.
- Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, noise, and film scratches.

All enhancements must appear natural.

Adapted from: Photographic Society of America  
<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?nature-nature-definition>

# Reducing Background Noise



*Female Yellow-rumped Warbler*

Original Photo



After Noise Reduction

**Tip in Photoshop:  
(No masking required)**

- Select: Subject
- Select: Inverse  
(To get Background)
- Filter: Camera Raw Filter
- Noise Reduction Slider:  
(Move right as needed)

Noise is removed from background only, not bird.