

Total time:  
2-4 hours



Difficulty Level: Normal

#### Skill Points:

- Composition with limited POV (point of view)
- Patience & learning bird behavior
- Creating sharp photos with a moving subject

# GETTING STARTED IN BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY



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Bird photography is fun and personally rewarding. Equipment can be a factor in your quest for great bird photographs.

However, some of that can be overcome with a little knowledge on bird behavior, as well as putting in some effort doing research.

**KEY LESSON:** Distance can be an obstacle. A super telephoto lens resolves that problem. You can invest in a 200mm lens, and couple it with a less expensive teleconverter for good results. Learn the birds in your area and set up feeders near a window inside your home. Try to find an area that receives good light in the morning and/or in the evening.

## EQUIPMENT

### - Camera

DSLR, mirrorless, or compact camera

### - Any lens + lens hood

Min. moderate telephoto: 200mm

### - Tripod

Necessary with super telephoto lenses

### - Flash (optional as a fill light)



### TIPS!

These settings can vary widely. This is a starting point.

Shooting Mode	S/Tv	Metering mode	Center-weighted
Shutter Speed	1/1000th or faster	Focus mode	Continuous
Aperture	at least f/5.6	Format	RAW + JPG
Drive Mode	high speed burst	White balance	AWB (AUTO)
ISO	800 and adjust as needed to facilitate shutter speed		
Focus Points	Center grouping		

## SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



A



B



C



D



E



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

### 1- Study the sample photographs:

- A-** Without a telephoto lens you will not capture the intricacies of the bird's feathers & face. Use a 200mm lens or longer. Consider using a teleconverter.
- B-** A 200mm lens with a 2x teleconverter creates a dramatic closeup and eliminates unnecessary background.
- C-** Once you're able to capture a close shot, look for interesting plumage, lighting, and shape.
- D-** Midday light is generally not flattering for bird photography. Try to shoot early or late in the day. Look for a background that color contrasts with the bird for better separation.
- E-** Try to set up your feeders in a position that will place the bird looking toward the camera or perpendicular to the camera- not away from the camera.

### 2- Assign a shooting location: Many park reserves have established blinds for photographers- check your area. Or, begin at the zoo. Use the zoo setting to get used to the long telephoto lens. At the same time, research and set up your bird feeding area outside your home.

### 3- Begin by practicing on capturing the bird sharply in focus and with the face visible. Study the sample photos.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Is the image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Can you see the bird's feathers & colors?
- Did you compose using the bird's shape, and/or background contrast?

READY! SET! GO! ACTION CARDS - GENRE: BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY



**SWEET!**

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↓



# 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. Download these [3 Free Photography Cheat Sheets](#) to help you understand the basics.
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!**

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