



Bird Photography Workshop – Full Course Schedule

1. Technical skills and camera handling

- Understanding camera settings: Learning about aperture, shutter speed, ISO, and how they affect the image, especially for capturing fast-moving subjects like birds.
- Autofocus techniques: Mastering the camera's autofocus system is crucial for bird photography, ensuring sharp images of birds in various scenarios, including in-flight shots.
- Composition: Principles like the rule of thirds, emphasizing the subject, simplifying the composition, using negative space, and choosing appropriate backgrounds to create visually appealing images.
- Exposure and Metering: Understanding how to achieve correct exposure in different lighting conditions particularly when dealing with varying light on birds and their environments.
- Lens selection and usage: Learning about different types of lenses (telephoto, zoom) and teleconverters, and their applications in bird photography to capture distant subjects and achieving desired effects like bokeh, the quality of the blur in the out-of-focus areas of an image, particularly the background.
- Shooting in RAW: Understanding the benefits of shooting in RAW format for greater flexibility in post-processing.

2. Understanding bird behavior and ecology

- Bird Identification: Learning about different bird species, their habitats, and behaviors is fundamental for locating and photographing them effectively.
- Bird behavior and habits: Understanding daily routines, nesting habits, feeding patterns, flight patterns, and pre-flight cues allows photographers to anticipate and capture natural and compelling moments.
- Recognizing stress signals: Learning to identify signs of stress in birds, like agitated movements or altered behavior, is crucial for minimizing disturbance and ensuring the well-being of the subjects.
- Ethics and conservation: Emphasizing responsible and ethical practices in bird photography, such as maintaining distance, avoiding baiting, not disturbing nests, and respecting habitats, is paramount.

3. Practical application and fieldwork

- Hands-on experience in the field is invaluable, allowing students to apply learned techniques, observe bird behavior firsthand, and practice shooting in various environments.
- Using blinds and concealment: Learning techniques for getting closer to birds without disturbing them, such as using blinds or camouflage.
- Scouting locations: Identifying and scouting promising locations for bird photography, including urban areas and nesting sites.
- Time of day and light: Understanding the best time of day for shooting, considering factors like bird activity and optimal lighting to significantly impact image quality.

4. Post-processing and portfolio development

- Editing techniques: Learning how to enhance images in post-production, including cropping, adjusting exposure, color balance, sharpening, and noise reduction, is crucial for creating polished and impactful photographs.
- Software and tools: Familiarity with editing software like Lightroom and Photoshop, including specific tools and workflows for bird photography.

Portfolio development: Understanding how to select, edit, and present a portfolio that showcases the photographer's best work, including a variety of images and demonstrating technical skills, is essential for professional development.

