

BIRDING 101

Basics

- Eyes must be in focus
- Set focus, center point
- turn on highlight alert
- 1/1000 to freeze, 1/500 to blurr wings
- ISO lowest possible 100-200
- Use the histogram

Basics

- Have subject fill at least 50 of frame
- Odd number of subjects are best
- Make sure there is separation between subjects
- Use the rule of thirds
- Try not to shoot down on subject.
- Catch the subject doing something

Equipment

- A good camera with a fast exposure rate 6fps or better
- Lens: size does matter, the longer the better
- 200 mm is about the minimum for wild birds.
- A sturdy tripod
- Heavy ball head or gimbel head for large lens.
- Better beamer flash attachment
- Turn off image stabilizer if using a tripod
- Back Button Focus
- Noise Elimination

Equipment

- Teleconverter 1.4 (400 mm becomed 560 mm)
- Remote trigger to minimize camera shake
- Hoodman
- Bean bags for shooting from inside of vehicles
- Rain covers, cleaning cloths
- Extra batteries.

Extras

- Bird books Sibleys, National Geographic
- Phone apps. ibird ultimate.
- “Outdoor Photographer” magazine
- Facebook, (birding california)

Practice at Home

- Bird feeders, seed or nectar
- Water: bird bath, fountain
- Perches natural or DIY.
- Neutral background,

Locations for Birds

- Review Newsletter's Shots and Spots
- Merced National Wildlife Refuge
- Moss Landing
- Moonglow Dairy
- Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge
- Lake El Estero
- Point Lobos State Natural Reserve



Shot at Moonglow Dairy



Shot at Don Edwards



Humming bird – shot in backyard



Shot in backyard fountain



Owlet



Perigrine Falcon