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Capture elegant portraits using lighting effects, from butterfly to Rembrandt

PRO SKILLS FOR BIRDS IN MOTION

Let your bird photography soar with our professional advice, from vital equipment to shooting handheld



NIKON D7200 PUT ON TEST

Is this new Nikon the perfect addition to your kit bag?



HIGH-SPEED SHOOTING

Discover how to take fun images that truly stand out

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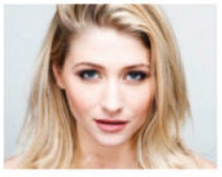

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Birds in flight

Discover how to take your best ever images of our feathered friends

For most nature enthusiasts, capturing birds on the wing is the ultimate and most celebrated photographic challenge. The successful birder requires a certain level of technical know-how, plenty of patience and perseverance, and more often than not, the right kit in the bag. Add to this the specialist wildlife knowledge needed to find subjects, and it's a wonder there are so many breathtaking shots circulating both the online birding communities and professional portfolios alike.

That being said, getting to know your subject's behaviour and habitats inside out is the key to ensuring stunning results. In this feature we'll discover how you can work with infrared triggers to freeze moments of flight, as well as how you can get sharp handheld results even when the light levels drop. We also speak to a pro about why they love the genre so much, and their top tips to becoming a master.

Finding the right subjects is sometimes half the battle, and although it's easy to think that the latest lenses will guarantee you the best results, you need to become a better naturalist to truly succeed. You could even entice the birds into your garden where you'll have more control. Whether you're an avid bird-watcher, or it's simply something you'd like to get into, let yourself become inspired over the next few pages. Before you know it, you'll be shooting your most spectacular flight images yet.

Left

Green violetear

Moments like this may be fleeting, but are the reason the genre is so thrilling. With knowledge, capturing birds in flight can be utterly spectacular

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