

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH BIRDS IN WATER



PHOTZY.COM

When photographing birds that are in the water, you'll need to ask yourself the following questions: Does the background compliment the bird or distract from the bird? Are the water reflections creating a mood or merely creating excessive contrast and distraction from your subject?

Perfect to print A5 size
14cm x 21cm
5.83" x 8.27"

GEAR UP

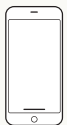
CAMERA



DSLR or mirrorless with Full Frame sensor



DSLR or mirrorless with APS-C sensor

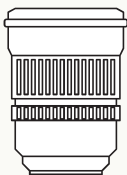


Smartphone camera
DEPENDING UPON DISTANCE

Camera considerations:

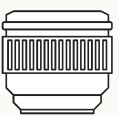
- Interchangeable lenses
- Low noise
- Size & weight

LENS



Zoom lens considerations:

- Focal length range
150 – 600mm ✓
100 – 400mm ✓
70-200mm OK
- Max. aperture f/5.6 or wider
- Weight and length
- Tripod collar



Prime lens considerations:

- 100-400mm DEPENDING UPON DISTANCE
- Max. aperture f/4 or wider

SET IT UP

File format



ISO setting
ADJUST AS NECESSARY



Metering Mode

Spot ✓

Center-weighted OK

Matrix/evaluative ✗

Drive Mode



Shooting Mode

S/Tv ✓

M OK

A/Av OK

Focus Mode

Single Shot ✓

Focus Points All activated

Manual OK LOW LIGHT / WITH FOREGROUND OBSTRUCTIONS

Shutter Speed: Min. 1/180th | Recommended: 1/250th

Image Stabilization: On

White Balance: Auto

Aperture: f/2.8 – f/11

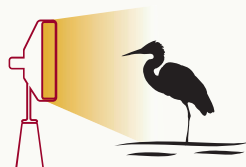
Focus Tracking: On

Back Button Focus: Recommended

Highlight Indicator: On

SHOOT IT

Use side lighting



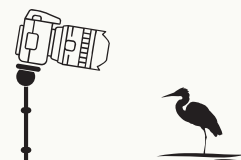
Side lighting provides detail on the bird while separating it from the background

Polarizing filter

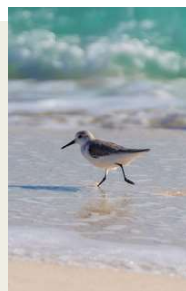


This filter can reduce exposure by 2 stops. You'll need enough light to keep an adequate shutter speed; otherwise, increase ISO.

Monopod



A bird in the water rarely sits still. A monopod offers more flexibility in smooth movements with telephoto lenses.



PRO TIP:

An electronic flash can put a nice catchlight into the dark eyes of a bird - even from a distance. If the bird is close, use caution so a shadow is not created on the background by the flash.

✓ Recommended

OK Acceptable

✗ Not Recommended

! Not unless experienced