6 ways to capture wildlife Photos

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Spending time in nature the smell of pine forests, the sound of a flowing creek, the way the seasons shift. Where wildness seems to be everywhere. Allowing you spend every waking moment either photographing wildlife or thinking about photographing wildlife. Learning from the wild and experiencing some unbelievable moments: being sung to by a chorus of wolves, spending many sunrises alongside bison or moose and witnessing a bear cub grow up before your eyes.

Wildlife photography is the perfect intersection of science and art, Science shows who has been here before from the muddy tracks along a riverbank. Art dictates how an image is composed in a way that does the animal justice while capturing its wildness in an honest way.

Neither is more important or at odds with one another, but both are needed. the wildlife will always be the biggest motivation and inspiration. The wildness held deep in the secrets told through the howl of a wolf, known only to the wild itself. try to capture in a photography, allowing others a glimpse of the wild in hopes of inspiring them to love nature

Here are six tips to help you become a better wildlife photographer.

1. Envision Your Shot

Before you grab your camera and head out into the field, excited for the wildlife you may soon encounter, take some time to consider what exactly you are setting out to create. Envision the image you wish to capture, fitting into one of two categories. First are the dream images, the ones that make you excited just thinking about them, the ones that send a chill down your spine and cause your heart to nearly skip a beat. If you are a list person, describe your dream images in detail. If you are an artist, sketch what you imagine.

Either way, never forget them. These images are long-term goals and will serve as your motivation for the long days of nothing when you teeter toward burnout.

An image of a brown bear walking head-on through a river with a freshly caught red sockeye salmon. While that may sound impossibly specific, the more specific, the better. Once you have your list of dream images, pick one or two to focus heavily on and put yourself in the best possible place to successfully make the image as you envisioned it.

The second category is the realistic image, the spontaneous goals you decide just before heading out the door, camera in hand. These are less specific and can be as simple as a subject, environment or behavior.

They guide you and significantly increase the chances of walking away satisfied rather than disappointed and empty-handed. These can be something as simple as a species or location.

Don't go into the field without a goal, you will become distracted and overwhelmed, unsure what to focus on. Time is wasted, and end the day feeling unaccomplished. Having short and simple goals for each day in the field helps provide a sense of accomplishment and allows for better time management.

2. Take on the Characteristics of Your Wild Subject

The wildlife you wish to photograph is specially adapted to the environment you'll be in, so emulate them to be successful. It's not as hard as it seems; for moose, wear waders or rubber boots to enable you to move as they move, easily crossing creeks, marshy terrain and muddy riverbanks. For alpine animals like mountain goats, carry trekking poles to maneuver the rocky terrain as easily as they do.

Winter can be an especially challenging time for wildlife photography, with temperatures hovering around zero with deep snow, yet the otters, foxes, wolves, bison and all other wild species that brave the cold could not care less. Taking extra steps in winter to become as insulated as your wild subjects will help you stay outside longer when entering their winter haven.

Warm layers are essential, an insulated outer layer being a must, with an extra bonus if it's water-resistant or waterproof for days with snowfall.

- Heated gloves to keep hands warm while remaining nimble enough to change settings quickly.
- Snowshoes are another great way to emulate winter wildlife like snowshoe hares and lynx, helping to distribute weight and move easily throughout deep snow.
- Camera equipment that can also keep up with the cold, wintery conditions is also important.
- Always remember to bring an extra camera battery in the winter, "the cold drains the charge quickly!

3. Pay Attention to What Your Subject Tells You

Paying attention to body language is extremely important in being successful in wildlife photography, and learning about an animal's behavior will increase your chances of successfully finding and photographing that species.

Learn everything you can about your target species "habitat, diet, breeding seasons, when they're most active, what they sound like then use what you've learned in the field to locate an animal. Once you've found an animal, position yourself in the best position

If you are heading into the Mountains in search of mountain goats amid the steep and rocky terrain. At such a high elevation, snow typically still scatters the landscape, But as the snow melts the alpine meadows change to a vibrant green backdrop behind a goat that had already shed its thick coat for summer. Place yourself for success by observing the animal's behavior and body language.

Imagine you've spotted a grizzly bear in an open meadow, foraging along at a steady pace parallel to the road. Instead of stopping where the bear is now, move forward to where the bear is headed. By doing so, you can be prepared with a composition in mind and have more shooting time before the bear has passed. Subtle clues given through body language can also tell you when a bird is about to take flight, where an animal is headed and even the mood of your subject. Continually evaluate and revaluate your subject's body language; if any signs of stress are shown, like continual staring, back up or leave the area.

4. Control What You Can

In wildlife photography, there's usually very little you can control in comparison to other types of photography.

Lighting may be too bright, too dark, too harsh or not at the right angle. The weather may be warmer than anticipated, snowing, windy or any combination Mother Nature can conjure. Maybe only a squirrel has shown itself when you hoped for a grizzly bear. Regardless of the scenario, a few aspects of the creative process can be controlled, and by doing so, help create an effective image.

While wild subjects can't be posed, pay attention to their environment and explore how a change of perspective can improve an image. Start by taking a few steps left or right, then changing directions, all while evaluating the background behind the subject. Often, just a few steps are enough to photograph an animal on a clean background, without any twigs obstructing the subject's face or strange branches looming behind.

Perspective is another key aspect to control, and a change in angle can create an image that better fits the environment and subject. Try to always shoot eye-level at a subject, giving the final image a more intimate feel, even if it entails lying on the ground or balancing on fallen logs. The greatest amount of control comes with editing and post-processing, where there's full creative control. Editing all depends on personal style and preference, try to edit an image to look and feel the way It felt in the moment while still remaining true to reality.

5. Acknowledge Your Subject's Wildness and Keep It That Way

Whenever you spend time in nature with wild subjects, acknowledge their wildness and do everything you can to keep them wild. Even if an animal may appear less wild a wolf with a radio collar, a bear near the road, an elk with an ear tag they are still wild, and nothing within the photographic process should interfere with their ability to live their lives. This is where gear comes in.

For wildlife photography, use at least 300mm telephoto lens or more.

Tele converters are another tool that can be used to extend your reach without moving any closer to wildlife. With a longer focal length, you'll be able to get a tighter image of the animal without physically approaching too close; this keeps your subjects behaving naturally and avoids causing stress.

Additionally, remaining a respectable distance is also key to your own personal safety, especially when photographing large animals like grizzly bears or bison. Familiarize yourself with any regulations regarding the legal minimum distance to remain from wildlife, especially in locations like national parks. Remaining ethical in wildlife photography should be at the forefront of the photographic practice.

Practices such as baiting, using calls or approaching too close to an animal should be avoided for the well-being of your wild subjects. No single image is worth compromising an animal's wildness or safety.

6. Look for Interesting Interactions

Waiting for interesting wildlife behavior or interactions between two or more animals. Photographing these scenarios often results in images that tell a story and depict the interconnectedness of nature. Regardless of what animal you photograph, remain alert for other animals nearby that may provide a unique shot.

Herd animals like elk and bison can provide numerous photographic opportunities of same-species interactions, especially during their rutting seasons, when males become competitive for breeding rights. Similarly, the spring and summer can be a great time to photograph interactions between mother and offspring, revealing impactful moments of meaningful wild relationships. Interactions between different species also can be exciting photographic opportunities, whether it's predator-prey interactions, a peaceful crossing of paths or animals with mutually beneficial relationships.

Wolves and ravens are my favorite species to attempt to photograph together; the two are so expressive and wild in their own ways, but both rely on the other at times to be successful, with wolves following ravens to locate a carcass and ravens picking scraps off wolves' leftovers. Photographing moments like these shows the complexity of nature beyond one specific individual or species, potentially inspiring others to look at nature in a deeper way.

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Bio

My name is David Wright.

I have many years' experience writing procedures on how to test high tech electronic equipment. Re wrote technical manuals so that the average person could understand them.

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