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## **When to photograph wildlife**

No matter what type of camera you have wildlife is never cooperative

You must be aware of the animal's behaviour for safety reasons as most animals are defensive and protective of the environment they will attack

For maximum photo opportunities you need understand the animals and their actions different time of the day and different season provide better opportunities than others

Typically the best time of day is early morning or late afternoon (evening) you will need calm winds and moderate temperatures.

During the midday hours the animals tend to hide in the shadows as the sun is too hot for them

The best way to capture the animal get in position before sunrise stay quiet and let the animal come to you

Calm water locations provide for some excellent reflections

Protect your equipment from the elements of mist dew and rain

Use a tripod

If you want to shoot animals the best time of day is the golden hours for insects Midday sun is best

The cold blooded animals are always in abundance such as frogs Turtles and other water habitant critters,

## **Fall**

The animals getting their warmer coats to protect them from the winters cold the birds are starting to flock preparing for the long flight ahead. The surrounding foliage will also lead to some fantastic shots.

## **Winter**

Even though there are fewer animals the ones that stay behind provide for some interesting shots as they search for food. Set your white balance appropriately

## **Spring**

Spring is a new look on life The birds are returning and busy building nests

The animals are awakening from their winter nap and are on the prowl for food . The natural vegetation is coming back to life with wild flowers and fruit tree blossoms

## **Summer**

The summer months provide lots of opportunities the young are playing in the sunshine and the adults are actively gathering food

## **In conclusion**

If you are a nature photographer there is never a bad time to photograph the environment all it takes is patience practice experimentation. Abide by the nature's code of ethic take only memories and leave only foot prints, Have fun and stay safe

## **Catching the Animals By Surprise**

Photography has been around for more than a century and our topics will never cease. There is portrait, landscape, wedding, and wildlife photography just to name a few. One of the most rewarding styles of photography centers on wildlife. It may take you several hours before finding the perfect picture and capturing it, but the reward is more than worth the wait.

Wildlife photography is perhaps the most difficult in the profession. You have to have the time, inclination, and of course the camera. Most wildlife shots are captured using a telephoto lens because the animal will not walk near you. Every once in a while you will be able to capture the fox, elk, bear or other animal as it comes through the woods in your path, however most of the time they are yards away and elusive.

Wildlife photography doesn't wait for you to happen a long and snap a photo. You need to immerse yourself in the site you choose with your camera at the ready, and set for the light of the day. Most automatic cameras work great on the pre-set for those who are just learning to take wildlife photographs. Photography has always been about the moment and the best photographers can catch the moment with a speed and agility of the animal they are capturing.

Start with small subjects when you begin your foray into wildlife photography. Practice on your pet. Let them roam naturally and see if you can capture the wild and crazy moments on film without the photograph ending up blurry. All great photographers have studied and practiced. They also use more than one shot. Making sure your camera has a quick shutter speed will help you take more than one shot as you move with the animal. When you have the subject in your site you need to follow it while focusing and then quickly snap as many pictures as you can before they move out of site. This technique is known as panning. Rather than the subject coming to you, you follow the subject.

When you have mastered your pets you can begin to explore the outdoor world of wildlife photography. Some of your subjects will be standing still and this is another practice technique. Be aware of the lighting and placement while trying not to disturb the animal. It is most easy to get a squirrel when they are intent on eating or foraging for food. If you stay silent and walk carefully you can often get pretty close.

If you are choosing a larger subject such as a deer or bear you will want to stay far enough away to get the shot, and not draw attention to yourself. Bears are dangerous creatures, but they can be photographed if you use common sense and don't tread upon their territory. Wildlife photography and thus the photographers have a code of ethics when attaining the perfect shots. You will want to follow these ethics for your safety and the animals.

Wildlife photography is a waiting game for the perfect picture to sprint across your viewfinder. It takes patience and a lot of practice, but the reward of having a family member or friend say, "where did you get that photograph? I have got to have one," will sweeten the deal.

## **Animal camouflage themselves**

Many animals camouflage themselves with the surrounding area.

You need to position yourself in order to get a clear shot at the animal and eliminate most of the surroundings.

Find a neutral background and use a wide aperture for a shallow depth of field leaving the background out of focus.

Try to capture the animal's eyes by choosing an angle so that the sun is behind you and just over your shoulder it will put a twinkle in the animal's eyes

To ensure your subject stands out use a long focal length lens (300mm) and use a aperture setting f/4 or f/5.6, Focus on the animals eyes (head) and leave the background and use a tripod. (if hand holding Use 1/length of lens for shutter speed . ie 300mm lens = 1/300) You may have to increase the film speed to maintain the correct aperture setting.

For a more exciting shot try to capture the animal's reflection in the water.

To capture the animal's personality Get some action shots, this requires a lot of patience as you will need to wait for the animal to react.

### **Tips**

- ☒ Keep animals eyes in focus
- ☒ Separate the animal from its surroundings
- ☒ Use f/4 or f/5.6 aperture
- ☒ Blur the background
- ☒ Use a quiet zig zag approach so you don't startle the animal
- ☒ Wear camouflage clothes
- ☒ Do not wear any type of cologne
- ☒ Cover all shiny objects
- ☒ Know your subject's habits
- ☒ Avoid direct eye contact

### **Equipment**

- ☒ Long telephoto lens
- ☒ Tripod ( or mono pod)
- ☒ A polarizer filter
- ☒ Protection for your camera

## **Best angles for wildlife Photography**

The most challenging factor for photographing animals is that fact animals are afraid of humans

To avoid this it takes patience hide in the bushes or a camouflage shelter and move very slow

It is practically impossible to get the animal in that perfect pose be patience eventually you will get the perfect shot.

Some local sanctuaries and nature reserves will provide for better shots as the animals are more familiar with humans

Focus on the animals eyes get down to their level and eliminate any distracting background.

If you come across a song bird high up in the tree use a long telephoto lens to get as close to the eye level as possible or wait until the bird comes to a lower branch

Photographing an animal from the side or back doesn't have the same effect as eye level shots

For birds in flight show the wing span

In conclusion the best way to photograph wild life is to have patience focus on the eyes get down to their level and use a telephoto lens

## **Insect Photography**

Are you ready to get down and brave the elements?

When photographing insects you need to approach them very slowly and quietly as you don't want to startle them.

You must also have a lot of patience as any movement even the sound of the shutter release will upset them and then you must wait until it settles down.

Get as close as possible (use a telephoto lens to keep your distance). Insects are Fascinating with their bizarre anatomy.

Fill the Frame completely and pay particular attention to what else is in the frame as any element will distract the viewer from the true beauty of the insect..

As you walk along the nature trail look for colour clusters then look very closely you might find some interesting bugs resting on the foliage.

The camera setting

You need the best depth of field by using the smallest aperture your camera will allow (manual Mode only). Get the sharpest focus possible – use a tripod to help steady the camera because of the high magnification any movement is also magnified. Avoid flash as it will either startle or harm the insect.

Focus on their eyes

As with last month's Issue on pet photography you must focus on its eyes but also include its legs and wings..

If all the points are not in focus do not take the picture. Think in terms of portrait photography in order to get your viewers to connect with your Image. Compose the image with the insect's eyes at the same level of yours when any human looks in the animal's eyes they will feel for it regardless of what it is.

Take several photos of the same subject by vary the camera settings.

Exposure and composition

By just taking exposure readings and bracketing the shots may still not be enough because of the close range and the multiple colours of the insect the camera settings get confused.

For example a bee on a yellow flower at normal exposure will be greatly under exposed you need to darken it by 1 1/3 stops.

Every situation is different as the light levels change you need to experiment with many settings to get the perfect shot..



## **Go to where the action is**

If you visit a local park, nature reserve or botanical garden you will find an abundance of wildlife to photograph.

There is a massive learning curve when photographing insects. Make note of all your settings and lighting conditions with practice you will be able to photograph any insect in any location.

## **Pet Photography**

A pet is often considered to be man's best friend but at the sight of a camera pets are like human. Some ham it up while others run and hide.

Pet photography is fun the subject will never criticize your work.

Some pets see photography as a game. A game with no rules. You use all the tricks fast shutter speeds, various back drops, and a wide assortment of toys.

Try to catch them in action or getting them to pose both prove to be challenge to the photographer.

Here are some guidelines established by the professional pet photographer.

To capture the perfect image you need to focus on the eyes. This is a lot more difficult than with humans.

Disable the auto focus feature of your camera. Manually focus on a point between the animals eyes. This is very difficult as no animal will sit still for any length of time.

You need to shoot quickly and take multiple shots (select the best one later).

Pets have a personality of their own. It is best to capture them in their natural environment. You will achieve better result when the animal is calm. To gain the animal's trust prompt them with treats Or a favorite toy.

To gain the action shot observe the animal playing with their toy you will need assistance as you can't control the toy and the camera at the same time.

Try to avoid flash as the flash may startle the animal.

In Conclusion

Pet photography is fun and challenging. Capture the animal in its natural environment Using the appropriate natural light and highlight the special features and details of the animal..

## **Get Close to wildlife**

Years Ago you would need long lenses a secure tripod and a lot of patience to get some wildlife shots. Today with the advancement of digital and the photo editing software you can get some fanatic shots from your own “backyard”.

Wild life photography is very similar to hunting and fishing but instead of a gun and rod you are armed with a camera. You rely on instincts and learn the animal’s signs to evaluate the situation, select the best subject and get the prize winning shot of the animal.

Before heading off into the wild practice at your local parks where the animals are more familiar with human behaviour and less likely to attack you. Once you get familiar with animal behaviour you can venture into the wild and exotic locations. Wild life photography can be intriguing

The best way to get your work published is to perfect your technique, sharp clear images that are well composed. The more you know about your subject the better the shot.

To get close to the wildlife you will need at least a 300mm lenses possibly a 600mm

Get as close as possible to eliminate the atmospheric conditions such as pollen, haze and precipitation

Tips on shooting wildlife

Be Patient- it takes time to gain the animal’s trust

Control you excitement – stay calm and cool – slowly approach your subject and don’t make any loud noises.

Approach you subject in directly step back or sideways for every three steps forwards, pretend to be interested in something else.

Avoid prolonged eye contact

If with a group move like a herd of animals and don’t spread out.

Never get an animal trapped or cornered it will become panic stricken and you might get hurt

Hide behind large objects

Wear dull coloured clothing that doesn’t attract attention

Don’t wear perfumes or cologne

Understand the potential dangers of the animal. Frighten, Parents protecting their young, injured or poisonous creatures.

Never put the animal in danger.

As with human every animal has its own personality.

## In Conclusion

Wildlife photography can be very challenging but if done correctly you can have a lot of fun with it and get some excellent shots

## Going Wild

You have dreams of going on an animal safari photo shoot but your pocket book says no!

Why not Visit your local zoo?

Bring the family along everyone will enjoy the animals..

Just recently I visited the Toronto Zoo as it is close to home and I spent the whole day Photographing wild animals at a reasonable price

You will need a good zoom lens to get the animals close up and eliminate the fences from the foreground.

The best conditions exist when the sky is overcast as it produces a soft even light. The clouds serve as a light diffuser with no harsh shadows,

The whole secret to getting Great pictures at the zoo is to be creative by looking around for the best angle.

Frame your subject and eliminate most of the manmade objects.

Every animal has its own personality Zoom in and capture its facial expressions to convey its story.

Focus on the eyes.

When shooting through Glass hold your camera as close to the glass as possible , use a polarizing filter to eliminate the glare and adjust your settings to compensate for light loss.

When done right you will have some excellent Pictures of the animals in their natural settings.

You will have a fun day at the Zoo and some great pictures to boot.

## Equipment for wildlife Photography

Photography is a form of artwork every person views it differently. What is aspiring to one may not appeal to someone else

Regardless of the final acceptance you need the proper to capture the perfect photo

(Sorry smart phone cameras do not work)

Most animals are shy and afraid of humans the best way is to maintain a safe distant know] the animals behaviour be patience Focus on a pre-determined area and let the animal come to you

You will have no control of the light or the animals actions you need know how to use the available light technology and have patience

Keep your equipment that you carry down to a minimum as the more you carry it will slow you down a possible prevent you from getting the perfect shot

For a meadow full of wild flowers and insects use a macro lens to focus on the finer details of the environment.

On your journey through the natural areas it is best to carry your equipment in a strong reliable backpack with easy access leaving your hand free to help guide you through the area.

You will need to protect your equipment from the elements a strong sandwich bag over your camera and a large garbage bag over your clothing will work perfectly

If shooting wild animal's safety is the first concern use a long lens. And you need to keep your distance.

The longer the lens the more evident of camera shake. Refer to your camera manual to learn how to set up camera shake ,another helpful solution is set the shutter speed to 1/the lens length ie 300mm lens equals a shutter speed of 1/300

Wild life portraiture is done best when the animal fills the whole frame with a clean background and foreground. By using a wide angle lens you will provide a different perspective and shoe the animal in it natural environment

The draw back with wide angle lens is that you are closer to the animal therefore

You must know the animal's behaviour for safety reasons

Tele convertors are a great way to extend your lens range but the main drawback

Is the loss light causing the sharpness of the image to be affected?

## **In conclusion**

Wildlife photography can provide for some interesting shots

If you have the right equipment Take all the safety precautions You will get

Some awarding shots

## **LEGAL NOTICE**

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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.

Set up numerous training programs to train junior techs.

My documenting skills are excellent paying attention to details satisfying the toughest ISO auditors.

I have enhanced my writing skills by successfully completing a course in Writing for Children's literature.

Completed course from AWAI in Copy writing service, B2B copy writing, SEO management, Email marketing and web design

This has helped me write how to articles and Information Books that you will find on my website Discount E Books <http://www.discount-ebook-s.com/>

I have had a Camera in my Hand since 1965 gone pro in 1999

Took the course from ICS in Photography

I am now at a point in life I would like to share my knowledge with the world and the best way I know how is by Print either electronically or Hard copy paper.

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