

5 TIPS

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

There are so many passionate bird photographers out there trying their best capture pin sharp avian portraits. We've created a guide of the **top 5 tips** that you'll need to know so you don't get in a flap!



TIP 1

Don't get too close to the bird with the camera as they may decide to attack it if they see it as a threat.

Instead use a zoom lens to keep your distance.

TIP 2

Invest in a fast Mirrorless or DSLR camera and one or more telephoto lenses.

We would recommend a camera that can handle at least 1/2000th of a second shutter speed with 6 to 9 fps (frames per second).



TIP 3

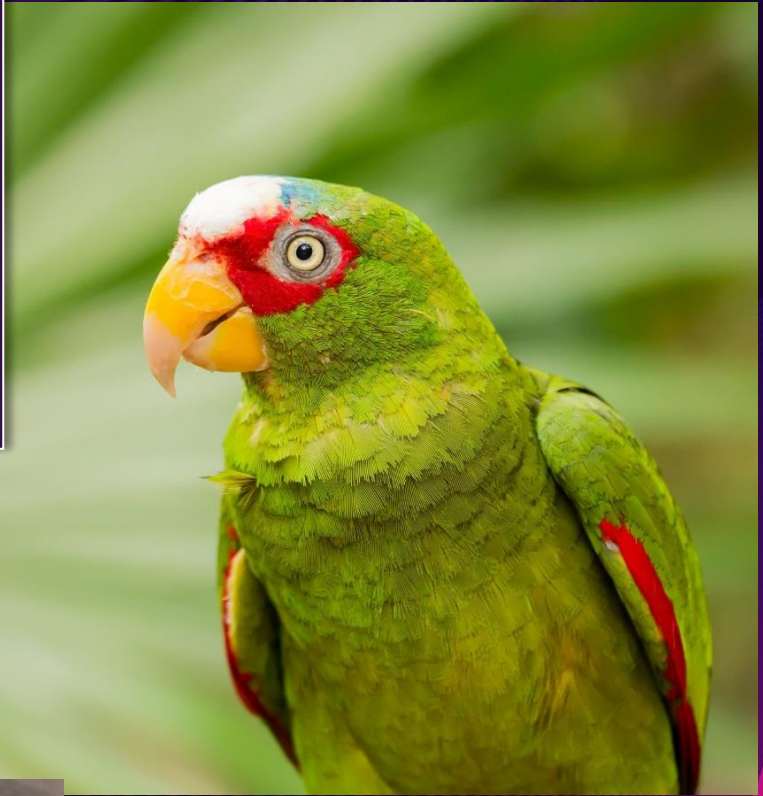
If you are shooting handheld, you will need to select a shutter speed that is equal to or a higher value than your lenses focal length, i.e. shooting at 300mm then shutter speed needs to be 1/300th or faster, and 1/500th for lens around 500mm. This will help avoid motion blur in the image.

TIP 4

Choose Aperture Priority and not Shutter Priority, when photographing birds outdoors.

If you are shooting at high shutter speeds, most likely the aperture will be always set to wide open which will always lose some detail in the final image, due the decreasing focus area.

Worst of all, if the lighting conditions change quickly, the image might come out underexposed – and you might miss the opportunity.



TIP 5

Always focus on the nearest (to the camera) eye of the bird.

It is acceptable to have a blurred tail or other parts of the bird, but at least one eye always needs to be sharp.

For birds in flight, focus on the bird's head or chest.

Shoot lots of images, using burst or continuous mode to help you to freeze moments of take-off or shaking water off wings. These actions are fast moving, don't miss the opportunity.

WANT MORE?

If you want to find out more about how to take amazing portraits, then visit [iPhotography](#) and join our incredible wildlife course. We've got in-depth modules covering the camera settings, composition and inspiration for taking great pet and animal photos and more.

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