

Birds bring our world so many benefits: They help control insects and rodents, disperse seeds and pollinate plants.

Getting started

- Avoid disturbing the birds you're photographing.
- Maintain enough distance to allow the bird to behave naturally. If the bird changes its behaviour as you approach it, you are too close.
- Avoid using a flash, especially on nocturnal birds.
- Avoid trampling vegetation to get a photo.
- Capture the colour and shape of the bird.
- Take a photograph of its face.
- Take photographs from different angles.
- Crop any images that have a lot of background to make sure the bird stands out, but be sure to include some of the scenery to help demonstrate its location/habitat.
- Make sure the images you upload are in focus. Blurry birds are difficult (but not impossible) to identify.



Photos (clockwise from top left): western bluebird by Ryan Hetschko; yellow head black bird by Sean Feagan; accipiter gentilis by David Dohnal; osprey by Sean Feagan



Taking photos of birds in flight

- A camera may be more helpful than a smartphone to capture a bird in motion.
- Try to frame the bird in the middle of the viewfinder or screen.
- Follow the bird with your body, trying to keep it in the centre of the shot.
- Use a setting like "sports mode" that is designed to capture a subject in motion.
- Using a continuous shot setting can also help — the camera will take shot after shot once you press the shutter/photo button.