

# HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH BIRDS FLYING



PHOTZY.COM

The challenge in photographing flying birds is threefold: firstly, filling the frame with the bird so that it doesn't appear as a distant, obscure object; secondly, keeping the bird focused and free of motion blur; and finally, correctly positioning the bird within the frame as it's moving.

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

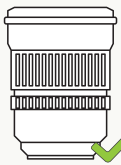


Smartphone camera

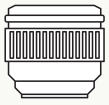
### Camera considerations:

- Frames per second
- Dual card slots
- Number of focus points
- Weather resistance

### LENS



Zoom lens



Prime lens

### Zoom lens considerations:

- Focal length range  
100 – 400mm ✓  
70 – 200mm OK
- Max. aperture of f/5.6 or wider
- Weight and length
- Multicoated front element
- Fast focusing



## SET IT UP

### File format



### ISO setting

ADJUST AS NECESSARY



### Metering Mode

Center-weighted ✓

Matrix/Evaluative OK

Spot !

### Drive Mode



### Shooting Mode

S/Tv ✓

M OK

A/Av X

### Focus Mode

Continuous ✓

### Focus Points



ALL ACTIVATED

**Shutter Speed:** Min. 1/250<sup>th</sup> | Recommended: 1/500<sup>th</sup>+

**Image Stabilization:** On

**Aperture:** f/2.8 – f/8

**Back Button Focus:** Recommended

**White Balance:** Auto

**Focus Tracking:** On

**Highlight Indicator:** On



## SHOOT IT



PC: Tobie Schalkwyk



Nikon D600



Nikkor 300mm f/4  
+ Teleconverter TC 14 E II



800



f/5.6



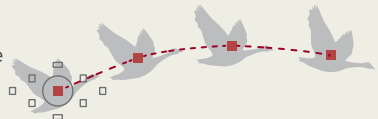
1/2000<sup>th</sup>



Handheld

### PANNING

Panning involves moving the camera at the same rate of speed as the flying bird.



### BACK BUTTON FOCUS

Removes focusing from the shutter release button. This feature allows you to compose separately from the focusing step before shooting.

✓ Recommended

OK Acceptable

X Not Recommended

! Not unless experienced