

## **BirdWatching**

### **GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS**

*Revised 13 March 2017*

*BirdWatching* (formerly *Birder's World*) is a bimonthly magazine for people with a broad interest in wild birds and birdwatching. Our readers are intellectually curious and well educated. They own many field guides and other books about birds, and they read widely. To satisfy them, we strive to publish photos that enhance their enjoyment of the hobby, that make them better birders, and that make them say, "Wow!" This document contains answers to the following questions:

- How can I get my pictures published with *BirdWatching*?
- Do you accept photos of captive birds?
- Field ethics
- What formats do you accept?
- Submitting digital photographs: Dos and don'ts
- Liability
- How much do you pay for photographs?

#### **How can I get my pictures published with *BirdWatching*?**

There are three ways you can have your photographs published with *BirdWatching*:

##### **1. Online photo galleries**

<http://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/photos-and-community/photo-galleries/>

A popular photo-sharing area on our website. Participants post, view, and comment on photos of birds. We occasionally choose from photos posted in the online galleries for use in the magazine. Registration is required to post photos and to comment. There is no payment for photos posted in our online galleries. Instructions for posting photos in the galleries can be found on our website.

##### **2. Your View**

A popular four- to six-page section in every issue of the magazine featuring stories and snapshots of birds encountered by readers in their backyard and beyond. Contributors receive a complimentary copy of the issue in which their story or photo appears. There is no

payment for text or photos published in Your View. Instructions for participating in Your View can be found on our website.

### **3. Solicited photos**

Photographs of birds and other subjects that appear on the cover and interior pages of the magazine. Well in advance of publication, we contact photo agencies and individual photographers who possess large, active stock files for images we would like to consider. From the photos they provide, we select the images that ultimately run in the magazine. Payment is made upon signing a contractual agreement for one-time use of the photo. We do not pay research or holding fees for such photo submissions. We are not responsible for unsolicited photographs. We no longer solicit photos via a want-list.

### **Do you accept photos of captive birds?**

In general, no. Our intent is to publish only photographs that show birds in the wild in their natural habitat. We will consider images of birds in captivity or controlled situations, such as in a zoo, wildlife center, or rehabilitation facility, but only rarely.

### **Field ethics**

We expect photographers to follow the North American Nature Photography Association's Principles of Ethical Field Practices and the American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics.

North American Nature Photography Association's Principles of Ethical Field Practices

<http://www.nanpa.org/wp-content/uploads/NANPA-Ethical-Practices.pdf>

American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics

<http://listing.aba.org/ethics/>

We further expect photographers to disclose fully if their images show captive birds or were obtained in controlled situations.

### **What formats do you accept?**

TIFF or high-quality JPG files. See "Submitting digital photographs: Dos and don'ts" (below). Except in rare instances, we do not accept prints or transparencies.

## **Submitting digital photographs: Dos and don'ts**

DO photograph subjects in RAW format or using the highest-quality JPG setting. Save your selected images as TIFF files before sending them to us.

DO NOT digitally retouch your images to alter reality. Do not remove distracting elements such as foreground branches or clean up cluttered backgrounds. Do not add to the foreground or background. We are assuming that your digital image reflects what your camera recorded at the moment you made the picture.

DO keep digital processing to a minimum. Acceptable adjustments include color balance, contrast, dust spotting, and sharpening. But please, do so lightly.

DO NOT crop your image. Shoot loose, not tight. Do not fill the frame with the bird. Give us lots of room to crop your images. It's sad but true: we reject many outstanding photos -- especially when we are picking cover pictures -- because they are composed too tight.

DO send RGB files: We will convert to CMYK using our own color profiles designed for the best magazine reproduction.

DO include a digital caption in the File Info portion of Photoshop. Include the name of the photographer and the name of the bird species and other pertinent information, such as location, flora (if known), and time of month. Information such as this may be the deciding factor whether your image is chosen for publication.

DO send a cover letter.

## **Liability**

*Solicited photos:* *BirdWatching* is not responsible for unsolicited photos of any format. We accept no liability for transparencies and prints that we do not request. We accept responsibility for transparencies and prints that we request only while they are in our possession, but we have absolutely no control over any photos after they have been received by the post office or courier. Consequently, our liability during return shipment must be limited. Your best protection is to send high-quality dupes or professionally

digitized images. We will return transparencies and prints that we request at our expense by courier, usually UPS. Be sure to include your street address; couriers cannot deliver to P.O. box numbers. If you do not have a physical street address, returns will be via priority mail, United States Postal Service.

*Unsolicited photos:* *BirdWatching* is not responsible for unsolicited photos of any format, and we will not return unsolicited photos unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed envelope of adequate size on which appropriate return postage or a courier's shipping label is provided. Unsolicited photos that are not returned will not be filed for future consideration.

### **How much do you pay for photographs?**

Our payment schedule is \$250 for a cover, \$200 for a full two-page spread, \$120 for a full page plus, \$100 for a full page, \$80 for less than a full page, \$50 for a one-column photo based on a three-column page, and \$50 for a cover inset. Payment is made upon signing a contractual agreement for one-time use of the photo. There is no payment or contract for photos used in Your View or for photos that have been loaned for courtesy use. We do not print URLs in our photo credits.

Questions?

If you have a question about submitting photos, please email Senior Editor Matt Mendenhall at [mmendenhall@birdwatchingdaily.com](mailto:mmendenhall@birdwatchingdaily.com).

These guidelines are stored on our website. Look here:

Submission guidelines

<http://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/the-magazine/submission-guidelines/>

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