

## BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Our competitions lately have included many wonderful photos of birds and their eggs and chicks, especially with Spring now behind us. I am sure that you are all very careful not to adversely affect the birds that you photograph, but you may not be aware that some of your actions may jeopardize successful breeding events.

For example, your proximity to a nest may cause the adult birds to stay away from the nest for prolonged periods, which not only stresses the adult birds but can also destroy the viability of the eggs or chicks because of overheating or excessive cooling. Sometimes adults will even abandon a nest completely if disturbances last too long or happen too often. And just approaching a nest and leaving footprints in the sand can alert predators like ravens and foxes to the location of the nest (and a free feed)!

So if you are taking bird photos, take them quickly as possible from as far away as possible with as little disturbance to the birds as possible. Bird photographers should have the same philosophy as doctors - do no harm! If there is a risk to the birds of the viability of the nest, don't take the photo at all. What is more important - your photo, or the survival of a species?

I am sure that you will all do the right thing!

Regards,  
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