

HOW DID WE GET STARTED IN BIRDING?

- Backyard feeders
 - Red-headed woodpeckers
 - Hummingbirds
- Magee Marsh
 - Warblers
- Chase Birds
 - Snowy owl
- Travel
 - Maine
 - Florida
 - Nebraska



WHY BIRDS AND BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY?

- Birds are beautiful and important part of ecosystem
- Birds are amazing
 — migration and behaviors
- Photographing them can take you all over the world
- Always something new, even common trails
- Time spent in nature
- Educational

- It's challenging
 - Birds often don't sit still
 - Changing and difficult light
 - Hiking with equipment, weather
 - Many are small– cropping
- Might photograph something amazing
- Captures a life moment
- Birder first, photographer second

CAMERA EQUIPMENT

- Nikon D500
- Nikon P1000
- Tamron 18-400
- Tamron 150-600
- Teleconverter
- UV Filter
- Tripod
 - Gimbal head
- Binoculars

- Birding Tote
 - Gloves
 - Shoes/Boots
 - Rain gear
 - Hats/Sweatshirts
 - Bug/tick spray
 - Sunscreen





NIKON D500 VS NIKON P1000

- Nikon D500
 - Fast 10 fps
 - Good in low light– ISO up to 51,200
 - 4K Video
 - **20.9MP**
- Nikon P1000
 - Amazing zoom 125x optical zoom
 - **24-3000mm**
 - Need tripod at extreme focal lengths
 - 16MP

- Lenses
 - Tamron 18-400 f4.5-6.3
 - Tamron 150-600mm, f5-6.3
 - Nikon 600mm, f4E
 - **\$12,000**
 - Nikon 800mm, f5.6E
 - **\$16,000**
- Complimentary
 - Low light/flight vs Distance

NIKON D500 AND P1000





Nikon D500. 150mm Nikon P1000. 1078mm

CAMERA SETTINGS

- Shutter Priority/Aperture Priority
- Manual Mode/Program Mode
- Auto ISO
- Auto/Continous focus
- Fast SD Card
 - Lose shots due to buffering
- Settings change depending on bird/activity/camera

- Different advice, preferences, changing equipment
- Resources
 - YouTube videos
 - Lectures & workshops by wildlife photographers
 - Photography websites
 - Podcasts
 - Photography Clubs
- Professional vs Amateur

PHOTO PROCESSING

- Lightroom
 - Most lightly edited
 - Thousands of photos
 - Exposure
 - Cropping
 - Sharpen/Noise Reduction
- Photoshop



Kirtland's Warbler, Magee Marsh 1/1000, 600mm, ISO 640, f6.3





PHOTO PROCESSING

Topaz DeNoise Al





BIRDING TIPS & TRICKS

- Fill the frame with the bird for detail
- Focus on bird's eye
- Set frame release rate as high as possible
- Approach slowly take shot, move closer
- Learn bird behavior
- Keep composition in mind
- Patience, sit in one place and wait
- Find what works for you
- Check settings between photos
- Remember, it can be subjective



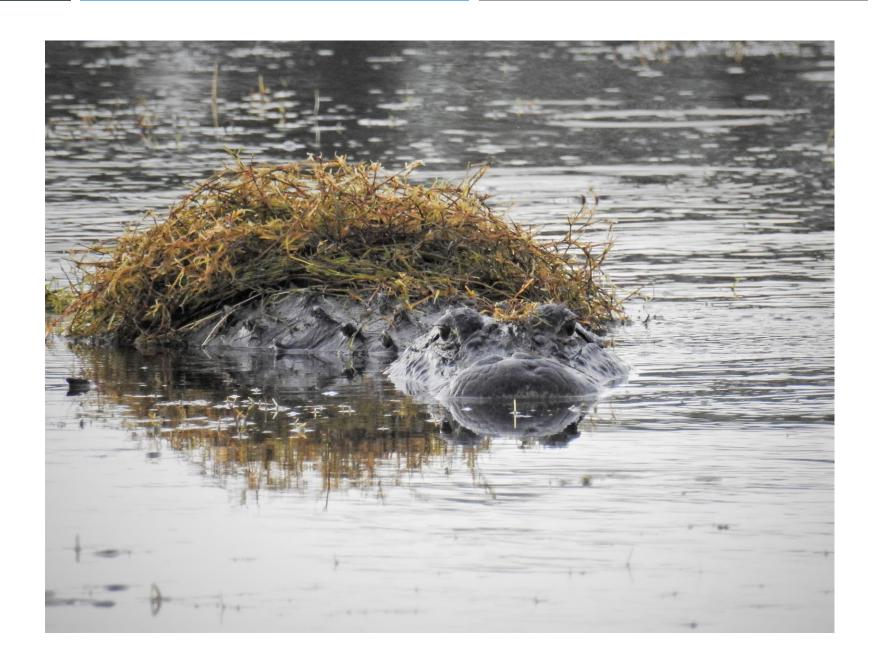
TIP: BIRD BLINDS

- Filling the frame—most common problem
- Try to get bird-level
- Get there before the birds – come to you
- Offer food
- Don't need big lens
- Cars are good blinds



TIP: BEWARE

Other animals use blinds too!



TIP: BIRDS IN FLIGHT

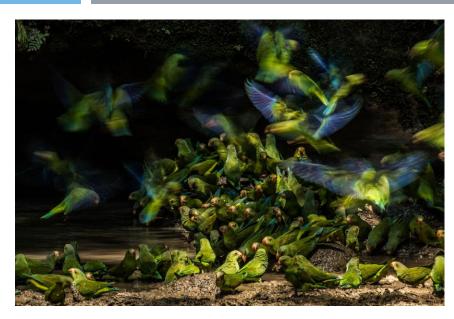
- Shutter speed 2000
- Continuous focus
- Dynamic area AF
- Shoot away from the sun
- Start wide to find bird, track and then zoom in



TRICK: BIRDS IN MOTION

- Shutter speed between
 1/10 & 1/30th
- Shutter priority or manual
- Use panning
- Burst mode
- Experiment with settings
- Keep bird still, background in motion

2018 Audubon Competition winner



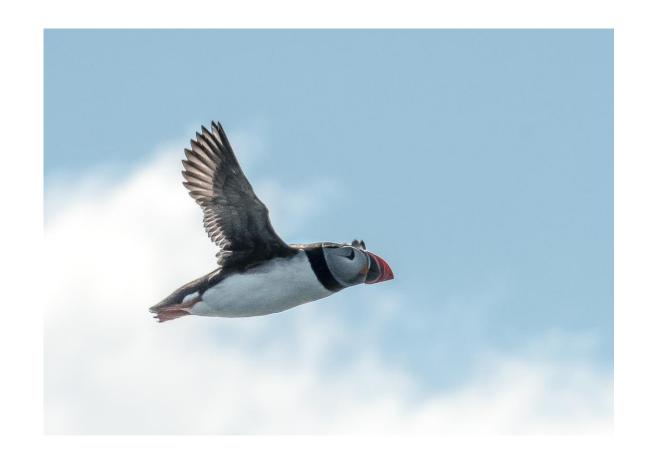


Jess Findlay Photography

500mm, F16 .6 sec, ISO 100

TIP: PERSPECTIVE

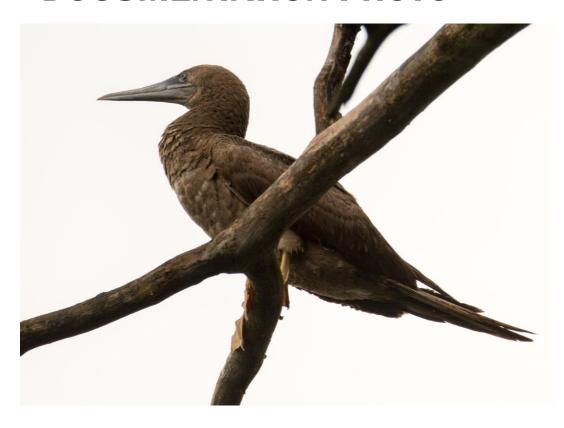
- Unusual bird, what kind of bird is it?
- Not sharp, noisy
- Scholarship to Hog Island, drive to Maine, camp with other birders, boat trip out to Easter Egg Rock



TYPES OF BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS

- Documentation
 - Record of seeing bird or ID
 - Event or Travel
- Capture behavior
 - Activities of daily life
 - Building nests
 - Caring for young
 - Eating
 - Defending territory

- Creative & Artistic
 - Silhouettes
 - Black & White
 - Birds in flight
 - Sunrise & Sunset
 - Bokeh



Brown booby. Nimisila Reservoir 1/500, 450mm, ISO 100, f7.1



Painted bunting. Florida 1/2000, 320mm, f5.6, ISO 3200



Sandhill crane migration, Nebraska 2020



Great horned owl taking over Bald eagle nest. Florida 2019 600mm, 1/1000, f/11, ISO 800



Little blue heron, Florida 2019 1/1000, 320mm, ISO 1100, f5.6



Florida scrub jay. Florida 2020 1/1000, 600mm, ISO160, f6.3



Short-eared owl. Killdeer Plains 1/640, 600mm, ISO 12800, f8



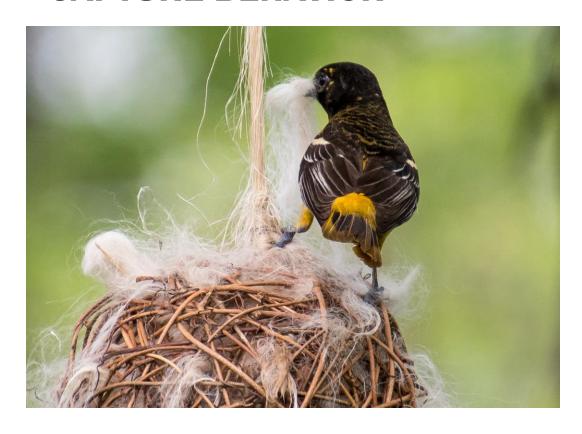
Sandhill crane. Florida 1/200, 98mm, ISO 400, f5



Building a nest. CVNP, Great blue heron 1/2000, 460mm, ISO 560, f6.3



Protecting a nest. Sandy Ridge 1/1000, 350mm, ISO 800, f6



Building a nest. Young Baltimore oriole 1/800, 400mm, ISO 640, f6.3



Eating. Great blue heron, Florida 1/1000, 600mm, ISO 120, f6.3



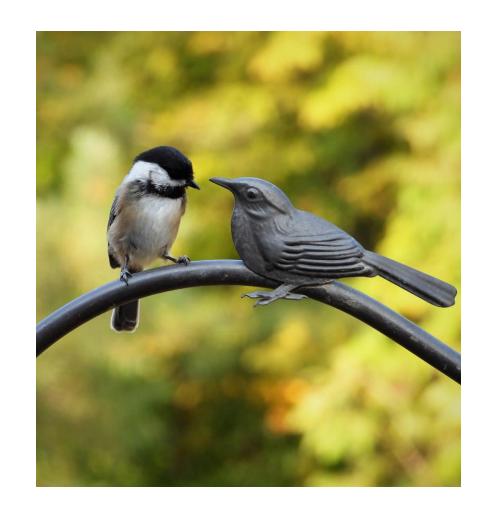
Eating in flight. Tern, Florida 1/1000, 240mm, ISO 100, f7.1



Goslings cuddling. Sandy Ridge Reservation 1/2000, 280mm, ISO 1600, f5.6



Glossy ibis argument. Florida 2019 1/1000, 600mm, ISO 800, f11



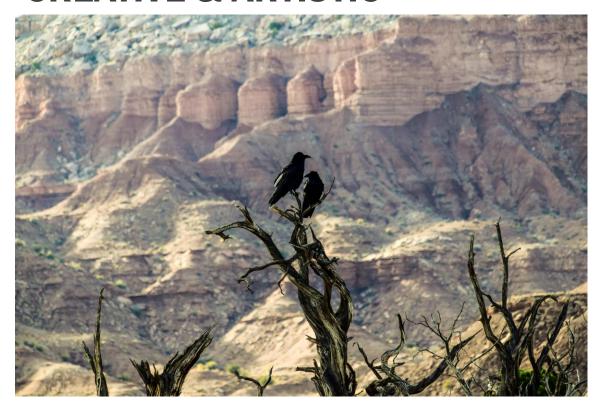
Black-capped Chickadee and friend. 1/250, 66mm, ISO 280, f5



Sunset silhouette. White egret, Howard's Marsh 1/1000, 460mm, ISO 800, f8



Swainson's thrush. Magee Marsh 1/1000, 460mm, ISO 1600, f6.3



Common ravens. 1/200, 240mm, ISO 400, f10



Bird leaves B&W. Ottawa Wildlife Refuge 1/1500, 240 mm, ISO 400, f6.7



White ibis, Orlando Wetlands Park, Florida 2020 1/1000, 170mm, ISO 200, f5.6



Red-breasted nuthatch, Home 1/125, 252 mm, ISO 400, f5.6



Tufted titmouse. 1/160, 167 mm, ISO 400, f5.6



Great blue heron, Selective color. 1/1000, 360mm, ISO 200, f6



American kestrel. 1/320, 270mm, ISO 125, f5.6



Ospreys. 1/1000, 450mm, ISO 2000, f6

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY ETHICS

- Priority is the safety of the bird
- Use telephoto lens or blinds
- If you caused the bird to fly, you were too close
- Never use flash on nocturnal birds





1/1000, 360mm, ISO 1800, f22

- Don't use live bait to attract raptors
 - Cruel and can change animal behavior
- Respect property rights and other photographers
- Birds are protected by Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Identify birds photographed in captivity

CHRONICLE TELEGRAM COLUMN "BIRDING"

- Started in March 2020
- Photographs bring the story to life
- Share love of birds and nature
 - Promote education & conservation
 - Promote local events & happenings
- Chance to share photos in newspaper
- **Every other Friday in the Outdoors** Section

OUTDOORS





Right, Sandhills communicate by performing their impressive dance

Far right, the red cap on the head of the Sandhill Crane is actually a bald spot





The magic of the Sandhills

ach March, over half a mil-lion Sandhill Cranes, about 80 percent of the world population, stop in Kearney, Neh along the Platte River as part of their migration from the southern United States and Mexico to the northern United States and Canada. The congregation of these large and beautiful birds in such a small area is regarded as one of the great spectacles of bird migration.

Known as the Nebraska flyway, the river is a bottleneck of increase their energy reserves before continuing their migration. The shallow river provides protection from predators who make their presence known if they try to enter the water. They arrive in March and stay until early April before heading out to their nesting destination

Witnessing half a million cranes along the river has been called by many a spiritual experience. The sound of the cranes or the river is deafening, as loud as any sporting event you will ever

Each sunrise the cranes leave the river for the Nebraska fields scouring up all the corn that was left behind from the previous year's crop. Then each sunset the huge flocks descend into the river where they stand in



ROB SWINDELL

less than a foot of water or on the small river islands for the evening Drive along I-80 in Nebraska during these times and you will witness a seemingly endless number of large flocks flying above.

Large grey birds, they are about 3 feet tall with a wing span of 6 feet. The distinguishing red cap on their heads is actually a hald spot. During their nesting season, either as camouflage or part of a mating ritual, they will use natural brushes to paint their feathers with iron rich mud or stained water, turning nearly

Sandhill Cranes are known for their exquisite dances, and they are the only bird that dances year-round. Vibrantly jumping and spinning, throwing things in the air, bowing, bill touching and ground stabbing, they use dance to communicate. The longer a couple is together, the more synchronized their dance becomes

They mate for life and can live

wild. The cranes lay two eggs but curious. He stayed here through too often only one chick survives. as the older chick will try to kill the younger one. Older and more experienced crane parents learn to separate them to enable the survival of both chicks. Once hatched, the chicks only have eight weeks to grow and get ready to migrate south.

Crane parents will stay with their young for an entire year and teach them how to find food and eat. They will also teach imagine, it's unforgettably adorable to watch a young bird learn how to dance.

go to Nebraska to see a Sandhill Crane At the Sandy Ridge Reser vation in North Ridgeville, there is a crane couple that has been nesting since 2000. They likely don't migrate far - leaving each December and returning in early March, Sadly, it seems the female is infertile. Each year, and now with her second mate, she lays eggs and rests upon them-with out success. It's heartbreaking to observe her fruitless effort each

And then there's Kevin. He is one of a few visiting cranes over to local birders who visit the reservation, Kevin is an adorable out the winter, hanging out with Canada Geese. He acts like a "Florida" bird, which is a popu lation of Sandhill Cranes that are too friendly with people, often hanging out in backvards in Flor ida. They are the result of breeding efforts in which the cranes became imprinted on people

Whether you take the pilgrimage to the Platte River in Nebraska or look for them at Sandy Ridge Reservation, Sandhill Cranes are an amazing spe-

Sightings

Several Harlequin ducks have been in the area this winter/ spring. The stunning duck is normally found in western Canada and Alaska, in Greenland, and along the Atlantic coast. A Great Cormorant recently

Wendy Park in Cleveland. The cormorant is scarcely found along the New England coast

The Black River Audubon monthly programs are cancelled until further notice due to the coronavirus.

Contact Rob Swindell

CT BIRDING COLUMN

OUTDOORS

A second life for the great birds of prey

The treaten piller of the vierg jags from the clotted shoulder. The wing trails like a banner in definer. No more to use the sky forever but will live with familie.

Will shortes use irons to make there is paine without failure. He studies under the each bush and waits. The laten level of salvations at right he remembers developed and these than a dream, the dances rate it.

the dignity he finds in nature.
Today, there is hope for injured suprovs,
thanks to the efforts of whilite rehabilitation
centers and phases like the flaging Center of
the Lurain County Metro Per is.
Through the Ohio



captivity
Opening in 1996, the Raptor Center provides professional care and management for rappines who common treatm in the wild. The birds become education reliable program unbeasacions for the local community; Docardo ar the Corlisis Reservation, up to eight rapin's aroun display in the public, Visitors can get an up-close book of hardes, volunes, falcone and only. The control has a bottom in huma rapies and for specific to



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can from being deposited normally — whosh results in wester feethers that me susceptible to recarning our, and decreased instruction. It since neutrin is of wisually heuraful hunds. The newest residence is ny oung bears and armed turns. She came to the facility this went to ma a net "Risting Just those The Chronicle-Telegram on chipata BIRDING SINCE THE STATE OF THE SINCE THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE SINCE THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE SINCE SINCE



The Chronicle-Telegram







Picking a favorite bird? Well, don't try to wing it

Friday, October 9, 2020 C5

here I tell aconomic about my interest in horse, a common question is, "Want is tractice held." It is an appropriate question, like a sixing about someone horse to amore that of oral fris a question I horse long considered but have a surjectively difficult time crying to answer.

The fair, first rain around 10/10 species of





The Chronicle-Yelegram

OUTDOORS



Strength in numbers

Once endangered, Ohio's bald eagles have come back strong

ROB SWINDELL

naturalists for guidance as how to protect the eagles — fencing off the area and relocating the playground. Their lives, from the building of the nest in 2014 to the annual hatching of the eggs, have capti-vated eagle loves from around the

so that in 1940 Congress protected them under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Although DDT was finally barned in 1972, the eagles were still listed on the

(known as DDT), which was used as a pesticle starting in the 1940s to fight insect-born human diseases and as insect control in livestock production. Unfortunately, DDT poisoned eagles and affected their ability to lay eggs with strong shells. Other pressures on the hald eagle

707 total

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Friday, May 8, 2020 C5

The beautiful, melodious warblers

OUTDOORS

Now is the time to catch sight of them in Lorain County

The first proposed spell, as single-section term.

It is to begin to increase.

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MORE THAN JUST THE BIRDS

- Birding includes everything you might see while birding
 - Other animals & insects
 - Trees & plants
 - Landscapes & water
 - History and culture
 - Travel







MORE THAN JUST THE BIRDS







PHOTO VIDEO: HOG ISLAND, MAINE

- Put photos in a video
- Use photographs to tell a story
- Add music
- Memorialize trips & vacations
- Easy to share on YouTube





