

# Wildlife Photography

Suggestions from Tom Getz

## I. Equipment

### Camera Recommendations

- High resolution camera
- Convenient exposure compensation
- RAW capable
- Minimum turn-on, focus and exposure meter times
- Center-weighted focus capable
- Multiple exposure capable (6 frames/sec)
- High ISO without noise
- Weather resistant

### Lens Recommendations

- 100-200mm minimum, 100-400mm for small birds and distant animals, 100mm macro
- AI servo capable
- Fast focus
- Weather resistant
- Light weight
- Lens hood
- Quiet shutter

### Monopod

Gun-type ballhead

### Large cards

(8Gb or 16Gb)

## II. Advanced Study and Planning

- Learn habits of animal
- Learn environment of animal
- Learn “approachability” of animal

- Time of day
- Season

### III. Camera Settings

- High ISO except in bright light
- Center-weighted focus for small birds
- Plus 1 to 2 EV's for dark bird on white sky (flying raptor)
- Minus 1 to 2 EV's for white bird with dark background (gull on lava rocks)
- Minimum 1/1000 sec for moving animal
- Presets
- Wide depth of field if animal partially hidden by tree branches, grass, etc

### IV. Composition

- Leave space in front of animal that is moving or facing one direction
- Leave space for post-process re-composing
- Focus on animals eyes
- Look for animal activity and then multiple shots
- Background out-of-focus, if possible
- Environment important

### V. Field Conditions

- Waterproof plastic bags
- Minimal lens and card changes
- Minimal review and no deletion in field
- Multiple shots as animal is approached