



© Thomas Hinsche

PHOTO COMPETITION | 2019

Fascinating Bird Photography

We at the Swiss Ornithological Institute in Sempach hope to inspire public interest in birds and raise awareness for their protection. Widespread understanding and appreciation of our native birdlife are key factors to the success of our efforts. The more people care about birds and enjoy watching them, the better our chances of implementing effective conservation measures for threatened species.

Stunning photographs perfectly convey the fascination that birds evoke in us: images that display the striking colours of a bird's plumage, introduce us to a wide range of behaviours, showcase the many shapes and sizes of birds from the Swan to the tiny Firecrest, and allow us to witness their aerobatic feats.

Canon Switzerland supports the competition with technical know-how and the donation of the attractive main prizes. We are also deeply indebted to all our other partners who have supported the competition by donating prizes.



vogelwarte.ch

Photo Competition 2019 of the Swiss Ornithological Institute in Sempach

Organiser

The photo competition is held by the Swiss Ornithological Institute in Sempach with the support of Canon Switzerland and other sponsors.

Goal

The goal of the competition is to showcase the beauty and fascination of our native birdlife and encourage involvement in nature and bird conservation by means of unique images.

Procedure

Participants can submit **in each category a maximum of 10 photos** online in a preview format during the month of May 2019. In June, the expert panel will make a preselection and request the selected images in RAW format or as the original JPG files. Based on this shortlist, the panel will choose the overall winner as well as three winning images per category in September 2019.

Categories

Category 1 «General»

This category is open to bird photos of all kinds.

Category 2 «Emotion»

Photos that highlight the beauty of birds. Photos that evoke emotions through a focus on mood.

Category 3 «Action»

Photos that display impressive bird behaviour or that show birds in motion.

Category 4 «Youth»

Photographers aged 18 or under on 31 May 2019 can choose whether they wish to participate in the category «Youth» or in the three main categories.

Image File Requirements

- **Preview images:** At least 1400 pixels on the longest side
- **High-resolution images:** The chosen section of the original file must be at least 4000 pixels on the longest side, or 3000 pixels for square images. This is without recalculating the data.
- **Image processing:** Image processing is allowed in accordance with the conditions of entry.

Dates

1 to 31 May 2019: Online submission of **preview images** at: <http://photo.vogelwarte.ch>

1 July 2019: Request for **RAW files** or **original JPG** files (only preselected images)

15 August 2019: Submission deadline for **RAW files** or **original JPG** files (only preselected images)

September 2019: Notification of the winners

Intellectual Property Rights

The author must hold the copyright of the submitted images. By entering the competition, participants confirm that they are the sole author of the images and that no rights of third parties are involved.

Expert Panel

- Marcel Burkhardt, ornithologist and project manager, Swiss Ornithological Institute in Sempach
- Andi Hofstetter, project leader nature conservation and nature photographer
- Anna-Barbara Utelli, adult educator and biologist, board member of Naturfotografen Schweiz
- Martin Wieser, Segment Development Manager DACH, Canon Deutschland GmbH
- Stéphane Mettaz, board member of Association suisse des photographes et cinéastes naturalistes

Prizes

Overall winner

Canon EOS 5D MIV worth CHF 3618.– (Sponsor: Canon (Switzerland) AG)

Online voucher for CEWE photo products worth CHF 100.– (Sponsor: CEWE)

Category «General»

- 1st Prize Canon EF 100–400mm f/4.5–5.6L IS II USM worth CHF 2458.– (Sponsor: Canon (Switzerland) AG)
Online voucher for CEWE photo products worth CHF 100.– (Sponsor: CEWE)
- 2nd Prize Memory card Angelbird AVpro SD Card 64 GB, V90 UHS-II, 2-Pack worth CHF 229.– (Sponsor: Light&Byte AG)
Online voucher for CEWE photo products worth CHF 50.– (Sponsor: CEWE)
- 3rd Prize Shopping voucher Foto Video Zumstein worth CHF 100.– (Sponsor: Foto Video Zumstein)

Category «Emotion»

- 1st Prize Canon EF 24–70mm f/2.8L II USM worth CHF 2088.– (Sponsor: Canon (Switzerland) AG)
Online voucher for CEWE photo products worth CHF 100.– (Sponsor: CEWE)
- 2nd Prize Memory card Angelbird AVpro SD Card 64 GB, V90 UHS-II, 2-Pack worth CHF 229.– (Sponsor: Light&Byte AG)
Online voucher for CEWE photo products worth CHF 50.– (Sponsor: CEWE)
- 3rd Prize Shopping voucher Foto Video Zumstein worth CHF 100.– (Sponsor: Foto Video Zumstein)

Category «Action»

- 1st Prize Canon EF 70–200mm f/2.8L IS III USM worth CHF 2378.– (Sponsor: Canon (Switzerland) AG)
Online voucher for CEWE photo products worth CHF 100.– (Sponsor: CEWE)
- 2nd Prize Memory card Angelbird AVpro SD Card 64 GB, V90 UHS-II, 2-Pack worth CHF 229.– (Sponsor: Light&Byte AG)
Online voucher for CEWE photo products worth CHF 50.– (Sponsor: CEWE)
- 3rd Prize Shopping voucher Foto Video Zumstein worth CHF 100.– (Sponsor: Foto Video Zumstein)

Category «Youth»

- 1st Prize Canon EOS 77D EF-S 18–55mm f/3.5–5.6 IS STM worth CHF 1109.– (Sponsor: Canon (Switzerland) AG)
Online voucher for CEWE photo products worth CHF 100.– (Sponsor: CEWE)
- 2nd Prize binocular Admiral Milan 8×42 worth CHF 269.– (Sponsor: heiniger ag)
Online voucher for CEWE photo products worth CHF 50.– (Sponsor: CEWE)
- 3rd Prize SanDisk Extreme Portable SSD 250GB worth CHF 149.– (Sponsor: digitalstore GmbH)

Prizes as of January 2019. We reserve the right to substitute models and prizes

Contact

- Please send any enquiries by email to: photo@vogelwarte.ch. Participants will also be contacted via this address. Participants are responsible for ensuring that the address is not blocked by security barriers or spam filters.
- We are unable to receive queries by telephone.

Conditions of Entry

Participation

Participants can enter the competition via <http://photo.vogelwarte.ch>. Pictures must be submitted online using a personal account.

The Ornithological Institute's 2019 photo competition is open to European residents. Amateur enthusiasts will have the chance to compete with professional photographers. Employees of the Swiss Ornithological Institute in Sempach, Canon Switzerland and other sponsors are excluded from the competition.

Entries

- We only accept images from digital cameras.
- Photos must be submitted online via <http://photo.vogelwarte.ch>.
- Entrants can upload a maximum of 10 photos per category. Photographers aged 18 or under on 31 May 2019 can choose whether they wish to enter in the «Youth» category or the three main categories.
- Each image may be entered only once in any vogelwarte contest.
- The original image may be cropped. The resulting image file must be at least 4000 pixels on the longest side, or at least 3000 pixels if it is a square image. This is without recalculating the data.
- Minimum size for **preview images**: at least 1400 pixels on the longest side
- The aspect ratio may not deviate from the usual 3:2, 4:3, 1:1 or 16:9 formats.
- File format for preview images: Files must be submitted as JPEGs, saved at the highest quality setting and Adobe RGB or sRGB colour space.
- Photos of birds in captivity (pets, farm animals, zoo animals) are not permitted.
- Images must feature species that occur as wild birds in Switzerland. The list of species at <http://photo.vogelwarte.ch> is final.
- Participants pledge to adhere to any applicable conservation laws for the respective areas and the animals living in them. **The pro-**

tection of birds and their habitats has absolute priority. Special care must be taken not to disturb breeding or feeding birds. The directions given on the fact sheet «Responsible Bird Photography» are part of the conditions of entry. Photos taken with obvious disregard of these rules will be disqualified. The Swiss Ornithological Institute reserves the right to exclude fallible photographers from the competition.

- The IPTC data (in Adobe Photoshop: File – File Information) must contain the full contact details of the photographer.
- The files must be marked with a category number (K1, K2, K3 or K4) and labelled as follows:
categorynumber_lastname_firstname_species_country in which the picture was taken
Example: K1_Smith_John_Housesparrow_Switzerland
- For proof of authenticity, we request the processed data in full resolution as well as the unprocessed original files of all images preselected by the expert panel. For these images, we also request a short paragraph detailing the shooting conditions.
- If the requested data is not provided on time, the photo in question will be disqualified.

Image Processing

- Adjustments of tonal value, contrast, sharpness, colour temperature, white balance and colour balance as well as removal of image noise and dust spotting are permitted as long as they do not alter the overall message of the image.
- Black and white conversion is permitted.
- Adding and removing elements from the picture and the use of colour filters or artistic filters is not permitted.
- HDR photography, panoramic photos, focus stacking, multiple exposure and photomontage are not permitted.

Intellectual Property Rights and Rights of Use

The photographer must hold the intellectual property rights of the submitted images. By entering the competition, participants confirm that they are the sole author of the images and that there is no third-party copyright infringement. Participants are liable for any damages incurred through copyright infringement or the failure to obtain rights of use.

The award-winning images and the images of the preselection may be used free of charge by the Swiss Ornithological Institute in Sempach for any activity related to the Institute's photo competitions. In particular, these rights include the publication of the photos on the Internet, in print publications, exhibitions, media coverage of the competition as well as promotional activities. The Swiss Ornithological Institute may transfer these rights of use to third parties.

Final Provision

Photos that do not meet the conditions of entry will be excluded. In case of doubt, the expert panel will make the final decision.

The contact information of the photographers whose pictures past the preselection stage may be passed to Canon (Switzerland) AG.

By entering the competition, participants acknowledge the conditions of entry without the possibility of recourse to legal action. Decisions made by the expert panel are incontestable. There will be no correspondence regarding the competition.

With the kind support of:



Media partners:

