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PHOTO COMPETITION | 2023

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 aerobic feats.

The photo competition is organized by the Swiss Ornithological Institute Sempach with the support of our main partner Canon (Switzerland) AG, the category partners OM Digital Solutions GmbH and Sony Europe B.V. as well as other partners.

We also extend our warmest thanks to all our other partners who support the competition by sponsoring the prizes.



vogelwarte.ch

Photo Competition 2023 of the Swiss Ornithological Institute in Sempach

Organiser

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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 2023. 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 2023.

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.

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

1st to 31st May 2023: Online submission of **preview images** at: <http://photo.vogelwarte.ch>

14th July 2023: Request for **RAW files** or **original JPG files** (only preselected images)

15th August 2023: Submission deadline for **RAW files** or **original JPG files** (only preselected images)

October 2023: 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
- Flurin Leugger, Nature photographer and environmental scientist
- Christine Sersch, SAP consultant and board member of Naturfotografen Schweiz
- Martin Wieser, Segment Development Manager DACH, Canon Deutschland GmbH
- Nicolas Blanc, board member of the Association suisse des photographes et cinéastes naturalistes

Prizes

Overall winner, main partner: Canon (Switzerland) AG

Canon EOS R5 and RF 100–500mm F4.5–7.1 L IS USM worth CHF 7048.– (Sponsor: Canon (Switzerland) AG)

Category «General», category partner: OM Digital Solutions GmbH

1st Prize OM 1 and Zuiko Digital ED 100–400mm F 5.0–6.3 IS worth CHF 3798.– (Sponsor: OM Digital Solutions GmbH)

2nd Prize Memory card Angelbird AVpro SD Card 256 GB, V60 UHS-II (double pack) worth CHF 489.– (Sponsor: Light&Byte AG)
Shopping voucher P&M PHOTO MEDIA Luzern worth CHF 200.– (Sponsor: P&M PHOTO MEDIA)

3rd Prize Binoculars Celestron TrailSeeker ED 10x32 worth CHF 549.– (Sponsor: Celestron)
Shopping voucher Foto Video Zumstein worth CHF 100.– (Sponsor: Foto Video Zumstein)

Category «Emotion», category partner: Canon (Switzerland) AG

- 1st Prize Canon EOS R7, RF 100–400mm F5.6–8 IS USM and Canon 10x20 IS binoculars worth CHF 2657.– (Sponsor: Canon (Switzerland) AG)
2nd Prize Memory card Angelbird AVpro SD Card 256 GB, V60 UHS-II (double pack) worth CHF 489.– (Sponsor: Light&Byte AG)
Shopping voucher P&M PHOTO MEDIA Luzern worth CHF 200.– (Sponsor: P&M PHOTO MEDIA)
3rd Prize Telescope Celestron Trailseeker 80 mm worth CHF 499.– (Sponsor: Celestron)
Shopping voucher Foto Video Zumstein worth CHF 100.– (Sponsor: Foto Video Zumstein)

Category «Action», category partner: Sony Europe B.V.

- 1st Prize Sony A7 IV with FE 200–600mm F5.6–6.3 G OSS worth CHF 5350.– (Sponsor: Sony Europe B.V.)
2nd Prize Memory card Angelbird AVpro SD Card 256 GB, V60 UHS-II (double pack) worth CHF 489.– (Sponsor: Light&Byte AG)
Shopping voucher P&M PHOTO MEDIA Luzern worth CHF 200.– (Sponsor: P&M PHOTO MEDIA)
3rd Prize Photo backpack Lowepro ProTactic BP 450 AW Green Line worth CHF 329.– (Sponsor: Lowepro)
Shopping voucher Foto Video Zumstein worth CHF 100.– (Sponsor: Foto Video Zumstein)

Prizes as of March 2023. 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 2023 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.
- 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 protection 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) 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 Provisions

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 passed the preselection stage may be disclosed to Canon (Switzerland) AG and to the category sponsors.

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.

Main partner and category partner:



Category partners:

 

Partners:

    

Media partners:

     