

ASSA BIRD PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

In the first half of 2011 the Society will hold its first Bird Photographic Competition. All ASSA members are invited to participate in the Competition by submitting their best bird photographs in digital form. You do not need to be a professional photographer to enter, just know how to use a digital camera and have a good eye for birds. The competition will commence in February and conclude in July 2011. all members are encouraged to enter.

- CATEGORIES:**
1. Any Parrot in the Wild or Captivity (Australian or Foreign)
 2. Any Finch in the Wild or Captivity (Australian or Foreign)
 3. Any Other Bird in the Wild or Captivity (Australian or Foreign)

SECTIONS:

Open
Junior—16 years and under

PRIZES:

Overall
Overall First Prize will be.....TBA

Open
First Prize for each Section will be.....TBA

Junior
First Prize for each Section will be.....TBA
the winning Juniors will then compete with the Open entries for the Overall First Prize.

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CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Photos must have been taken by a financial member of the Society
Photos must have been taken between 1st February 2011 and 1st July 2011

Photos must be submitted in digital format (JPG)

Photo file size should preferably be between 1-2 MB

Photos must be emailed to Dennis Lomman at: dennisem@chariot.net.au

Closing Date 1st July 2011

No more than three (3) photos per category per member will be accepted

Committee members are not eligible to enter

The Society reserves the right to use the submitted photos in any way it wishes
(acknowledgement will however be given to the photographer)

JUDGING: Photos submitted for each Category will be initially short-listed by the Society committee. The winning photograph for each Category and Overall Winner will be chosen by members at the July 2011 General Meeting.

A selection of entries will be shown at the monthly General Meetings prior to The July meeting.

Winning photos will be published in *BIRD KEEPING IN AUSTRALIA*.

ENTRY DETAILS: Email entry must include the following details:

Name:

Address:

Open or Junior (if Junior include age)

Date and Location photo/s taken.

Competition enquiries to Dennis Lomman at (08) 8344 8363 or dennisem@chariot.net.au

WILD BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

The following basic tips which may assist you with your photography have been compiled by Greg Holland and Leon Keasey and are taken from their website *Australian Birdlife Photo Library*.

- Light is the most important element of any photography, the difference between a great photo and an average one is often only the light in which it was captured.
- The best time for bird photography also coincides with when the birds are most active, *ie*: early mornings and late afternoon. The light at these times is softer and more pleasing to the eye. Photographing in the middle of the day is usually only acceptable if it is overcast.
- Opportunity plays a big part in wild bird photography, whether it is being prepared for what ever may happen, or by creating the opportunities that increase your chance of a good shot. Generally we never go out to get a specific shot, we wait to see what opportunities we are given.
- Time is very important, when photographing birds, we rarely use hides and prefer to spend a great deal of time in one area. By doing this, the wildlife eventually accepts that you are not a threat to it, and in some cases their curiosity may even get the better of them, and they pay you an even closer visit than expected.
- Location is another important consideration, there is no point being where the birds aren't. When visiting new areas, keep in mind that a source of fresh water may be a good place to start. Also, places like valleys tend to act as highways for birds. Visiting different habitats will allow you to experience a greater diversity of birdlife, and hence offer greater opportunities.
- Be thoughtful of birds, and other animals, when photographing them, never put their safety at risk. Be aware that you could upset their breeding patterns with inappropriate behaviour. Avoid disturbing nesting birds, and be sure not to unduly stress a bird for the sake of a photo.

The Australian Birdlife Photo Library—www.birdphotos.com.au