

Rules

- 1) The Northern Ireland Ornithologists' Club invites entries from persons normally resident in Northern Ireland, though not necessarily members of the club.
- 2) There are four categories of entry: - Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced and Junior. Entrants should know into which category they fall (see FAQ 5 for guidance), but the club reserves the right to make the final decision. A judge appointed by the club will decide winning entries and winning portfolios.
- 3) Up to six digital images of wild birds may be submitted by each entrant in the Advanced category and up to three digital images in the Intermediate, Beginner and Junior categories. The images must have been taken by the entrant. Only entries comprising six images in Advanced or three images in Beginner and Intermediate categories will be eligible in the portfolio section. Entries in all categories may include digiscoped images (i.e. images taken through a telescope or binoculars). All digiscoped images received will be considered for the award of the "Digiscope Trophy". Please indicate on the entry form which, if any, of your images are digiscoped.
- 4) All images should be Colour (using sRGB colour space) and provided on a PC compatible disk in jpeg format only. (Note: sRGB is the standard used in most digital cameras. You need not worry about this unless you have changed the colour space of the image in your editing software.) Images will be displayed on a screen 1400 pixels wide by 1050 pixels tall. If the dimensions of your images are much less than this then they will not fill the screen and this is unlikely to do justice to your work. It is recommended that larger images be resized to be not more than 1400 pixels wide and not more than 1050 pixels tall. This will avoid unnecessarily large file sizes and will not reduce the level of detail shown in the displayed image. Each disk should be clearly labelled with the entrant's name.
- 5) Only images of wild birds taken within the last 5 years are eligible. A wild bird is defined as one that is part of the natural fauna of the region where it was photographed. Images of domestic or captive birds are not eligible. No more than one image should have been taken at or near the nest. No more than one image of any species should be submitted and images, or any part thereof, submitted in previous N.I.O.C. shows are not eligible.
- 6) Entrants must be the sole author and owner of the copyright. Entrants indemnify and hold the NIOC and Sponsors harmless from any claims, actions, proceedings, costs and expenses arising as a result of any allegations that the relevant entrant did not own or is not wholly entitled and authorised to allow publication and reproduction of the images.
- 7) Copyright of the images remains with entrants. However, by submitting the images, entrants are deemed to have authorised their non-commercial, non-exclusive use for publicity purposes, by the club or sponsor, such as use in exhibitions and use at low resolution on the Club website. This includes the right to make minor alterations or to crop.
- 8) Digital manipulation of the whole image (e.g. rotation to achieve a level horizon, sharpening or cropping) is permissible. However part manipulation of the image (e.g. the addition of an eye-light, removal of unwanted detail or cloning) is not permitted. Composite images are not eligible.
- 9) Entrants should comply with the Code of Conduct for Photographing Birds which is part of this Entry Form. Particular attention is drawn to paragraph 2.
- 10) Entrants will be responsible for collecting their original disk immediately after the show on 19th. March 2014.
- 11) Whilst reasonable care will be taken to protect entries, the club will not be liable in the event of loss or damage, however caused.
- 12) The entry form should be completed, signed and submitted with the disk. Entries must be with Martin Lamb at 11 Colindale Park, Belfast, BT17 0QE (Tel. 028 9061 8366) by 22nd January 2014.



THE WORK OF NORTHERN IRELAND BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS 2014

Venue:

**The Ulster Museum
Botanic Gardens
Belfast**

Entry Form

**Please do take time to read these rules to be certain that your entry fully complies
Non-compliance may lead to disqualification**

THE WORK OF NORTHERN IRELAND BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS



Entry Form - 2014

First Name:	
Surname:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	

Filename e.g. abc1234.jpg	Species	Location	Date of image	Details of Camera used	Details of Lens/Scope	Method (<i>stalking/ hide etc.</i>)	Tick if <i>digiscoped</i>
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							

Category TICK ONE BOX ONLY		<p>You may enter one category.</p> <p>To be eligible for the Portfolio award in the Advanced category, 6 images must be submitted.</p> <p>To be eligible for the Portfolio award in the Beginner and Intermediate categories, 3 images should be submitted</p> <p>You may submit up to 3 images in the Junior category but there is no Portfolio award. Junior entrants must be 15 or under on 22nd January 2014.</p>
Beginner	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Intermediate	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Junior	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please return this form on or before 22 January 2014, complete with disk

To: Martin Lamb
11 Colindale Park
Dunmurry, BELFAST, BT17 0QE
E-mail martin.lamb3@ntlworld.com Phone: 028 9061 8366

I have read and accept the rules of The Work of Northern Ireland Bird Photographers, particularly Rules 2 and 9 and their associated FAQs. I confirm that that my entry complies:

Signed:

Date:



Code of Conduct for Photographing Birds

- 1) The object is to take photographs of birds without upsetting their normal pattern of behaviour. The well-being of the bird should, at all times, take precedence over photography.
- 2) In Northern Ireland, it is an offence to disturb **all** wild birds at or near the nest, and photographers wishing to undertake nest photography should obtain a licence from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). Photographers should consult NIEA's Code of Wildlife Photography. The code may be viewed and downloaded as a PDF file from www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/licence_to_photograph_wildlife.pdf. Photographers should note that in other jurisdictions similar requirements may apply.
For more information on wildlife licensing policy in Northern Ireland see: www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/pubs/publications/Licensing_Policy.pdf. Queries concerning any of the above should be made to the Wildlife Inspectorate at NIEA who can be contacted at 028 9056 9557
- 3) It should also be noted that disturbance of birds in many Northern Ireland sites may be an offence under the terms of the Environment (NI) Order 2002, if they are Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). Queries about this should be made to the Wildlife Inspectorate at NIEA who can be contacted at 028 9056 9516
- 4) The use of a hide to photograph birds at the nest should only be attempted after experience has been gained of the difficulties involved. N.B. Locating and erecting the hide should be in stages and, if the bird does not return to the nest within a reasonable period, having regard to weather and temperature, the hide should be removed.
- 5) Visits to the nest should be as few and as short a duration as possible. Exposure of the nest, which should not include permanent change, may cause danger from predators and the weather. After each session the nest site should be returned to its original condition. Any cords used to tie back foliage or grass should be removed.
- 6) Nest photographers should be accompanied to the hide by at least one other person and should on no account emerge from the hide except in the immediate presence of another person.
- 7) Nests to be used for photography should be chosen so that the hide will not attract attention which might cause disturbance to the breeding birds.
- 8) The hide should be removed and the nest site concealed immediately after all photography has been completed.
- 9) The use of 300mm lenses, or longer, is recommended for nest photography so that too close an approach to breeding birds is avoided.
- 10) Movement and noise should be kept to a minimum to avoid disturbance.
- 11) Photographers should observe the practice of obtaining permission from the landowners before entering private property.

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) **Do I have to be a member of the NIOC to enter?**
No, anyone who is normally resident in Northern Ireland can enter – member or not.
- 2) **Do the photographs of the bird have to be taken in Northern Ireland?**
Photographers may submit images of any bird species photographed anywhere in the world as long as they are "wild birds" ---see also Rule 5.
- 3) **Does it cost anything to enter the competition?** No, entry is free.
- 4) **Does the species of bird have to be named by the photographer?**
If you are uncertain about the species, we will do our best to identify it for you.
- 5) **How do I select my category? (also see Rule 2)**
The following guidance is provided to help ensure, so far as possible, that all entrants are given a fair chance, through their selection of the category most appropriate to their level of expertise.
The Beginners category is for those relatively new to photography - those who are still feeling their way. It is not intended for accomplished photographers who have gained merit by way of placings in other photographic competitions or club events, even though it may be their first time entering the Work of Northern Ireland Bird Photographers. Similarly photographers who have gained experience in other types of photography, but who are trying bird photography for the first time, can't really be regarded as Beginners. **The Intermediate category** is for those who have gained moderate experience and technical skills. Photographers who have gained much expertise in general photography might wish to consider whether or not this category properly reflects their expertise, or if the Advanced category would be more appropriate. **The Advanced category** is for experienced photographers who possess advanced photographic skills. **The Junior category** is for entrants aged 15 or under on the closing date.
- 6) **For what bird species in Northern Ireland is a licence required to photograph at or near the nest?**
Photographers who wish to photograph nesting wild birds in Northern Ireland should be aware that a licence to permit disturbance at or near the nest for the purpose of bird photography must be obtained from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and that such licence is required for **all** nesting birds. Bird photographers would be well advised to acquaint themselves with the legislation operating in this respect in any country in which they intend to photograph nesting birds.
- 7) **Does the judge know the identity of the entrants?**
No. A letter identifies each entrant during the judging process to maintain anonymity. The judge is solely responsible for his or her decisions and is not influenced in any way by the organisers.
- 8) **Why do you allow only very limited digital manipulation?**
Rule 8 is designed to ensure that the images submitted preserve the essential truth of what the photographer saw at the time the photographs were taken – as with a number of other wildlife photography shows and competitions.
- 9) **I'd like to become a member of the Club. How do I go about it?**
Simply download and complete an Application Form from www.nioc.co.uk, or request a form from Carol Gillespie, Honorary Secretary, 4 Demesne Gate, Saintfield, Co. Down BT24 7BE