

Annual WildBird Photo Contests

For more than 20 years, WildBird has hosted a photography competition that continually draws incredible images of beautiful birds and provides an array of great prizes for the deserving photographers. The photo contest opens in February when subscribers receive WildBird's March/April issue and see the current categories.

With five categories and two entries allowed per category, photographers have 10 chances to win prizes. In total, WildBird's photo contest awards 16 prizes: a grand prize plus a first-, second- and third-place prize for each category.

The photo contest's rules, prizes and entry form appear in WildBird's May/June issue, too, and the deadline for entries generally falls in mid-May. The rules and entry form do not appear online, only in the magazine.

When the judges look at each entry, they consider four primary factors, with the first — focus — being the foremost consideration. The bird's bill and eyes have to appear in tack-sharp focus. Blurriness results in disqualification. The judges also look at action, composition and lighting, but focus remains the most challenging aspect for most participants.

We've gathered the 16 winning images from the five previous photo contests. Click on each year to see its slideshow of gorgeous bird photos.

Within each slideshow, you can click on i (Info) to remove the caption from view or click on the brackets to revert to full-screen mode. The right arrow will activate the slideshow, or you can roll your mouse over the thumbnails and click on the desired images.

WildBird thanks the generous sponsors providing prizes for this year's photo contest. You'll find them in the March/April issue; check it out, and send your entries before the mid-May deadline!

See contest winners:

[2011](#) [2010](#) [2009](#) [2008](#) [2007](#) [2006](#)