



Monthly Newsletter of the Wodonga Albury Camera Club

Reg # A 0013634

email: secretary@waccfoto.com

PO Box 46 Wodonga Victoria

Web: www.waccfoto.com

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Costa Rica – Macaws, Hummingbirds and more ...

Neville Bartlett has just returned from a two-week photographic workshop in Costa Rica. Organised by Glenn Bartley, an acclaimed bird photographer (see: www.glennbartley.com), the group was made up of eight participants with two instructors and a local driver/guide. The first stop was in a lowland jungle area that featured many birds and frogs. Photographing the poison dart frogs was a delight particularly because the species concerned were not especially poisonous but were certainly very colourful. A side trip to a farm to photograph Macaws was a delight because the wild Macaws were attracted to a farm where they were fed peanuts and associated with some partly tame birds that had been treated for injuries before being released. On command, and induced by the prospect of peanuts, these birds would fly between each side of a paddock and we were stationed in between ready to take shots of the Macaws in flight. There were many poor out-of-focus shots but thankfully many successful ones.



Diary Dates

Monday 9th May 2016

@ Boomerang Hotel

7:30pm General Meeting
Judging – Nature
Entries due – My
Favorite Place

Thursday 26th May 2016

7:00pm Committee Meeting @
Tim O'Keeffe's residence

Saturday 4th – Sunday 5th June

VAPS Annual Convention
Weekend & Victorian Interclub
Photographic Exhibition @
Commercial Club Albury

Wednesday 8th June 2016

@ Boomerang Hotel

7:30pm General Meeting
Judging – Image of the
Year
Entries due – Open

The group then moved to higher altitude where it was much cooler and two afternoons were spent photographing Resplendent Quetzals as they approached their nest of two young nearly ready to fledge. These magnificent birds were revered by the ancient Aztecs and Maya and it is not hard to see why (see overleaf for photo).

Hummingbirds abound in Costa Rica and the species vary greatly depending on altitude. They love to hover at bird feeders loaded with a sugary drink but it is quite a challenge to photograph them at their best when the brilliant colours are flashed. A type of studio was set-up with four flash units placed around a feeder and when hummingbirds came in to drink they were photographed using the flashes. The extremely short burst of flash is perfect for catching these fast moving birds in flight and many very successful shots were captured. At every place that was visited, there were bird feeders in place and many colourful and interesting birds were observed and photographed. Neville will show some of these photographs at this month's meeting.



Photograph of a Resplendent Quetzal.

Article and photographs courtesy of Neville Bartlett

HELPFUL TIPS

Photographing Birds

- 1 Go telephoto** - If you're just starting out, you'll be able to get by with just a kit lens and your DSLR, but a telephoto zoom lens with a 300mm, or even 400mm, setting is a great asset for really striking wildlife shots
- 2 Three legs better** - Another piece of kit that will make a big difference to bird portraits is using a tripod with a ball head, so you can quickly change angles and positions as needed.
- 3. The early bird catches the worm** – The best time for photography is either the early morning or late afternoon, when birds are actively looking for food.



Future Club Competitions:

June

Judging: Image of the year presentations
 Entries Due: Open

July

Judging: My Favorite Place
 Entries Due: TBA

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