

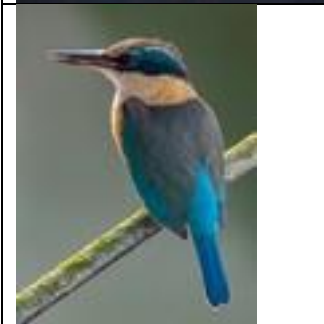

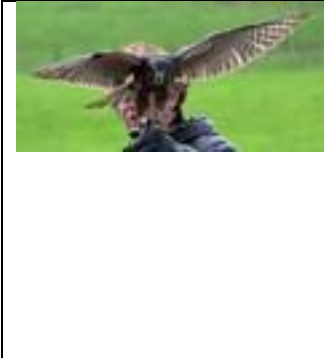





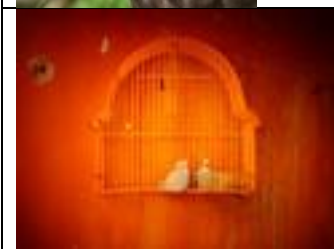






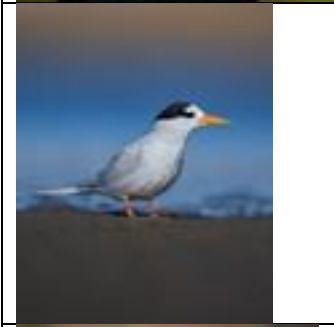

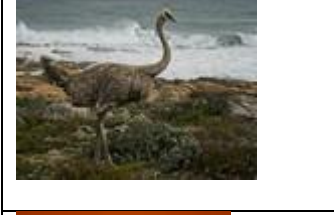










21.16 Birds - July

	<p>In to Land - Intermediate - A dynamic action shot that tells me something of the story of the nesting efforts of the beautiful birds. I like the softness at the wing tips to convey movement, but the rest of the image isn't sharp where it needs to be.</p> <p>Achieving focus while tracking a bird in flight is always very challenging! Looking at the Exif data for this image, can I suggest that you set your ISO to 400 or even 800 (as high as you dare so you don't introduce too much noise; you know what your camera can do) to allow your shutter speed to be increased. I try to use shutter speeds of 1000 to 1250/sec to freeze the action and get a sharp eye. A little lift of the mid tones to brighten the bird only gives the image an overall lift too.</p> <p>Accepted</p>
	<p>Lunch Time – Intermediate - A lovely image with nice light to highlight the bird with its lunch. The soft diffused background doesn't compete to be seen, but rather presents this NZ Dotterel in fantastic detail to the viewer.</p> <p>Honours</p>
	<p>Sacred Kingfisher – Salon - Sharp with beautiful colours and feather detail fading out to a soft background. Just a little bit of blown out highlight on the breast and beak. Would have been even better if the perch was a natural one.</p> <p>Highly Commended</p>
	<p>Silvereye – Salon - It's so entertaining watching these little birds. I like the way this bird is looking at the camera.</p> <p>The point of focus is slightly off the eye and is mainly at the beak.</p> <p>There is a spot at the bottom left of the image, once I saw this I couldn't "unsee it". Remember to check the edges of your image before you finish editing.</p> <p>Accepted</p>
	<p>Ready for Take-off – Intermediate - A story of the falconer and her falcon, a difficult background with the bird over the top of the falconer's head. I find I am looking past the bird trying to figure out the face in the background.</p> <p>I do like the spread of the wings as we get to see the detail and colour of the feathers. Overall, the image seems quite grainy. Have you tried playing with the noise reduction slider in the Details panel of Camera Raw? (Camera Raw can also be accessed from photoshop via the filters menu.) Just a little bit helps to smooth away some of the noise that can appear when higher ISO settings are used. Also, selective lightening of the bird gives the image more pop.</p> <p>Merit</p>
	<p>Preening in the Sun – Intermediate - I can imagine the water has been flying as this pukeko bathed. I like the way the feather detail and colour is revealed by the birds posture as it spreads its wings to dry off in the sun. The camera has focused on the wing where the blue on black feathers starts, which means that the eye is slightly unsharp. There was good light here, when you have good light, think about increasing your F-stop for greater depth of field and try using a spot focus point on the eye.</p> <p>Merit</p>

	<p>Robin – Salon - An excellent capture of an inquisitive little guy going about his daily work. Sharp eye and great detail of the birds’ feather texture complimented by the soft background and the soft light of the bush. Well done.</p> <p>Honours</p>
	<p>Takahe – Salon - I really like how the colours and textures of the feathers are being shown off by the takahe in this image. These birds feel almost prehistoric. Unfortunately, the head and eye of the birds are not sharp. I’m not sure if this was caused by the bird moving or the point of focus? Perhaps an increase in shutter speed to give yourself a better opportunity to freeze movement?</p> <p>Accepted</p>
	<p>Piwakawaka – Salon - The bird sits nicely in the frame. But the feather detail on the head appears soft, perhaps due to the bird moving?</p> <p>The image overall appears to be a bit dull on my screen. A selective lift in the mid tone on the bird only, pops the bird out of the background.</p> <p>Accepted</p>
	<p>Kaka – Salon - You have captured some great colour and feather detail. To me, these birds always seem to be smiling and looking to make mischief. The crop feels a little tight.</p> <p>Highly Commended.</p>
	<p>Blue Budgies – Intermediate - I like the bright two-tone nature of the image and at first feel uplifted by the warmth of colour. Followed quickly by a feeling of sadness at the sight of birds in a cage. The vignetting adds to the focus on the cage.</p> <p>Merit</p>
	<p>Perched – Intermediate - Nice side light in this image leading to lovely colours and detail. A nice portrait of a sea gull in its natural environment.</p> <p>Merit</p>
	<p>Parrot – Intermediate - What wonderfully bright colours! A very high contrast image that would benefit from a little evening out of the lights and darks. Remember that your eye goes to the lightest areas of an image. In this case to the upper right and out.</p> <p>Accepted</p>
	<p>Heron – Intermediate - I wonder what critter has caught the eye of this heron? Looking at the detail in the image I can see that the point of focus is on the grass just behind the back of the heron leaving the bird slightly out of focus. For birds, try to use the single point focus with the continuous auto focus tracking mode. That way you tell the camera where you want the focus to be. While this method is far from perfect, especially for fast moving birds, I find it the best option to use.</p> <p>Accepted</p>

	<p>Australian Kookaburra – Salon - At first glance, lovely portrait, however the highlights are completely blown and show as white patches on both of the bird’s heads and neck. The camera does not handle the tonal range of dark to light as well as our eye. Turning on the highlight alert function on your camera can help to bring your attention to this issue when you review your images. Also, exposure compensation can help with this problem.</p> <p>Not Accepted</p>
	<p>Mates Together – Salon - Good capture of the characteristic “welcome home honey” routine that is beautifully played out by gannets. A little lift in the mid tones pops the birds out from the background and allows greater appreciation of the wonderful colours and detail of these birds.</p> <p>Merit</p>
	<p>Tui – Intermediate - You have captured beautiful colour and texture on the Tui in this image. Sharp detail. Well done.</p> <p>Honours</p>
	<p>NZ Fairy Tern – Intermediate - I like the low-down perspective of this image. You have captured a catch light in the eye which defines the eye as separate from the black head stripe in these particular birds. Sharp detail. Gentle side light. No background distractions. Well done.</p> <p>Honours</p>
	<p>Proud Plumage – Novice - You have sharp detail showing off the colours of the feathers and eye. I especially like the detail of the head crest feathers. The bright light has caused a little over exposure to the skin on the head, try using some downward exposure compensation to even this out. Also, take care with the background in your images, the brickwork is a little distracting.</p> <p>Merit</p>
	<p>Ostrich by the Sea – Intermediate - An interesting place to find an ostrich. Good detail in the image, however, the image as presented is dull and flat on my screen. Try using curves and masks to help lighten selected parts of the image. Bring out the colours of the flowers and rocks I think that greatly improves the image.</p> <p>Accepted</p>
	<p>Rest for the Night – Intermediate - A different take on the Bird(s) subject. Makes me think about how small yet robust birds are living in all kinds of environments. How wonderful to be able to fly to the top of a hill and watch the sun go down.</p> <p>Merit</p>

	<p>A Pair With Flair – Intermediate - A good title, however, this image appears to me to be neither sharp nor particularly abstract. A title alone cannot carry an image. Not Accepted</p>
	<p>Cape Kidnappers Gannet – Salon - Nice portrait. Could do with selective lightening to the shadow areas of the bird. This brings more detail out in the bird's feathers and head, in particular the blue eye and yellow head. Merit</p>
	<p>Who's That – Salon - Clean and crisp colours with a nice reflection too. Merit</p>
	<p>Love Birds – Salon - Nice symmetry between the birds, good timing on your capture. Good detail right down to those amazing feet covering the egg. Highly Commended</p>
	<p>Keeping Egg Safe – Salon - Good exposure revealing great detail in the bird's feathers and those feet. For me, the image feels a little too tightly cropped. Merit</p>
	<p>Tui – Novice - Good timing to capture a pose so full of character. The camera appears to have focused on the branch, leaving the bird itself a little out of focus. If you can set your camera to select a single focus point then use that to focus on the bird's eye, you get to tell the camera what to focus on. Accepted</p>
	<p>Hello Mum – Intermediate - Nice capture of the interaction between the parent and chick. Try to time the shutter release with the tilt of the adult's head that reveals the eye of the adult bird to create an even stronger composition of connection. Often the highspeed burst camera setting can help to capture these moments. Accepted</p>