

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). Please indicate on the entry form which, if any, of your images are taken in the six counties of Northern Ireland. The best such image, in the opinion of the judge, from across all categories, will be eligible for the "John Gould Cup".
- 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.
- 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. Images taken at or near the nest are not permitted. 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 paragraphs 1 and 2.
- 10) Entrants will be responsible for collecting their original disk immediately after the show on 21st March 2018.
- 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 24th January 2018.



THE WORK OF NORTHERN IRELAND BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS 2018

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 - 2018

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	Method (<i>fieldcraft/ hide etc.</i>)	<i>Tick if taken in NI</i>
1				Text			
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 24th January 2018.</p>
Beginner	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Intermediate	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Junior	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please sign and return this form on or before 24 January 2018, complete with disk

To: Martin Lamb
11 Colindale Park
Dunmurry, BELFAST, BT17 0QE
E-mail wonibp2018@icloud.com Phone: 028 9061 8366

I have read and accept the rules of The Work of Northern Ireland Bird Photographers, particularly Rules 2 and 5, which **prohibits images taken at or near the nest**. 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. If the bird shows any sign of distress then photography should be abandoned immediately.
- 2) In Northern Ireland, it is an offence to disturb **any** wild bird at or near the nest. Whilst a licence to undertake nest photography is available from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, such photographs are not eligible for the Work of Northern Ireland Bird Photographers Competition. Photographs taken at or near the nest elsewhere in the world are similarly not eligible.
- 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).
- 4) Movement and noise should be kept to a minimum to avoid disturbance.
- 5) 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) **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.
- 7) **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.
- 8) **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
- 9) ***** Have the Rules changed?**
Yes, whilst digiscoped images are still permitted, there is no longer a special trophy for the best digiscoped image. Instead the best of all images taken in Northern Ireland will be eligible for the John Gould Cup. See Rule 3.