

Good nature photographs are good photographs...

All of the basics regarding good composition, proper exposure, etc. apply!

Wildlife Photography

- As for all portraits... the eyes need to be in sharp focus.
- Consider “fill flash” (set your flash 1-2 stops below ambient) to get catch lights in the subject’s eyes.
- Don’t forget “fill flash” for back-lit subjects (often birds)
- Having the camera at the same level as the animal’s face makes for strong images... get low or get high!
- Portraits are good but action shots are better... tell a story!
- Learn something about your subject... the more you know about a critter’s behavior the better you can anticipate their actions.
- Don’t stress your subject by getting too close or staying too long.
- Fill the frame with the subject... get close... use a long lens... use a macro lens... use extension tubes... don’t be afraid to crop.
- Many animals are most active in the early morning and the late evening... plan on rising early and staying until the sun goes down... take a nap in the middle of the day!

Landscape Photography

- Use a tripod and a small aperture to ensure sharpness throughout the image.
- Use a graduated neutral density filter to “hold back” the sky.
- Use a polarizing filter to reduce reflections and increase saturation.
- Keep those horizons straight!
- Try an unusual perspective... get low or get high!
- Get close (or use a telephoto lens) and shoot the “intimate landscape”.
- Think about turning the camera ninety degrees and shooting in the portrait orientation.
- The “Magic” hours (around sunrise and sunset) give the best light for many landscapes (especially expansive vistas) but “intimate landscapes” (especially in shaded woodlands) can be shot most anytime.
- Scout out locations during mid-day and return during the “magic” hours to get the shot.
- Use your “patience filter” and wait for the right conditions (light, clouds, etc.) before tripping the shutter.