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**Subject:Australian Bird Photographer of the Year is now open**

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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [View web version](https://birdlifeaustralia.cmail19.com/t/r-e-jyukjdjl-ultdjjdkhl-r/) | | |  | | --- | | https://m.qnetau.com/rc/program/resources/blocked.gif | | | |  | | --- | | Canberra  The 2018 Australian Bird Photographer of the Year award is now open, and as a friend group of BirdLife Photography, we are excited to invite you to enter and to spread the news amongst your members and friends. We can't wait to see how you encapsulate our dazzling and unique avian life.  Thank you to our sponsors [Leica, Tourism NT Birding trails and Lake Cowal Foundation](https://birdlifeaustralia.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jyukjdjl-ultdjjdkhl-j/), we have generous cash prizes up for grabs across seven categories, including[Bird Portrait, Bird Behaviour, Human Impact, Birds in the Landscape, Fine Art, Youth, and a special theme—Black-Cockatoos.](https://birdlifeaustralia.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jyukjdjl-ultdjjdkhl-t/)  Our aim is to not just showcase some of Australia's best nature and bird photographers, but also to highlight the need to [improve conservation outcomes for Australia's bird species, encourage wider interest in all Australian bird](https://birdlifeaustralia.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jyukjdjl-ultdjjdkhl-i/)s and showcase the beauty of our exceptional wildlife.  For more info on our rules, how to enter, FAQs and more, check out our website at, [Australian Bird Photographer of the year](https://birdlifeaustralia.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jyukjdjl-ultdjjdkhl-d/).  Best of luck from all of us here at BirdLife Photography  Cheers  Graham Cam  BirdLife Photography President. | | | |  | | --- | | https://m.qnetau.com/rc/program/resources/blocked.gif | | | |  | | --- | | Hot tips from one of our favorite photographers and a judge for the award - Georgina Steytler  The best advice that I have read on photo competitions was to "put yourself in the position of the judges." It's time to pack away all your prejudices, delete your pet favourites and bring to the desk a heady dose of objectivity. It isn't easy and yes, there will always be an element of subjectivity that can't be predicted, but there are some basic steps that will help you along the way.  **First things first**—read the rules. Reread them until you can recite them in your sleep. Is there a time limit? What are the image size requirements? Is there any geographical limitation? Does my photo really match the theme?  **Secondly,**is the image sharp? A great composition may get you through the first round of judging, but if the judges have to make a choice between two good images, the sharp image will (almost) always win.  **Thirdly,** have I calibrated my monitor? I recently judged a nature photo competition and many good photos were let down by bad lighting. If your monitor is over bright, your images may appear underexposed on a different monitor. If in doubt, err on the bright side.  **Fourthly**, ask yourself: "How does my photo stand out?" You may have a tack-sharp photo of a Red-capped Robin on a pretty branch with a perfectly clear background. You like it, but ask yourself how many times have you seen such a photo? Do a Google search and check out the 'images' page. What makes your Red-capped Robin so special? Is it an interesting composition? Does it have, for instance, a yellow petal in its beak? A dragonfly tap-dancing on its head? Does the image tell a story? Assume the judges will see a hundred images of Red-capped Robins (or other pretty birds on branches). What sets my photo apart from the other 99?  Browse through the previous winners of similar competitions. Get a feel for what kinds of images are selected. Do the images inspire you and if so, why?  **Fifthly,** get a second opinion. Send your images to a few different people (and not just other bird photographers). Ask them to select which images they like the best and which they like the least. You will find that while opinions vary, there will be some commonalities. If an image turns up at the bottom of everyone's list, delete it. Correspondingly, if an image consistently appears at the top—mark it down as a definite. Seek sound criticism and take it on the chin.  **Now it's time for the final test**. Leave your images for a few days. Then, on a quiet evening, arrange your 'potentials' into a slideshow. Turn off all the lights. Grab a pen and some paper. Click play. You be the judge. | | | |