

GET COOLER WILDLIFE SHOTS

It's not hard to take a properly exposed, well-composed wildlife photo. To make yours stand out, try some of these alternate techniques.

- Rather than freezing the motion of an animal on the run, **pop a neutral-density filter on your lens.** Since this lets you set a slower shutter speed, you can capture some sweet motion blur.
- **Spotmeter highlights for creative exposure.** Evaluative metering (a.k.a. multi-segment) gives you an accurate representation of an evenly lit daytime scene. But if you meter and expose for the highlights, you'll get a near-silhouetted, almost monochrome image.
- With the sun at a low angle behind your subject, **spotmeter and expose for shadow areas to create a halo.**

Adapted from *Digital Wildlife Photography* by Chris Weston (Photographers' Institute Press, 2008; \$25)

WILDLIFE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

You can take impressive wildlife photos wherever you live. Here's how to attract fauna.

- Avoid keeping a perfectly manicured green lawn. Instead, **plant native plants and shrubs.** Or try sunflowers—they're photogenic and provide food for birds and animals, too.
- Songbirds love seeds, so **keep those birdfeeders full.** Winter can be even more rewarding, since food is more difficult for them to find.
- **Place your feeders in line with a uniformly color background** for pleasingly out-of-focus areas in your images.
- **Create a landing pad** by placing dead tree limbs by feeders. This will give birds a natural place to stop, and no one will guess that you just stepped out of your back door to get the shot.

Adapted from *The Kodak Most Basic Book of Digital Nature Photography* by Russell Graves (Lark Books, 2008; \$15)

—Adapted by Kathleen Davis