

 **2021 BIRDSNZ Photographic Competition**

You’re crazy about birds and photography; combine your passions by entering the **2021 BIRDSNZ CONFERENCE Photography Awards**. A chance for you to share that special shot (and maybe win a prize). The winning entries will be published in the Birds New Zealand Magazine and on the BIRDSNZ website. There are four categories:

* **Best Portrait** An image that best captures the character of the subject bird and its distinctive features. An image that includes lots of detail, captured in a classic pose or showing the bird’s features.
* **Birds in the Landscape** This category focuses on photos that best demonstrate the relationship between a bird and its habitat. It’s important that there is a recognisable bird in your photo but it’s the place they live that we want you to feature in your photo.
* **Bird Behaviour** We’re looking for images that best depict a behaviour of a bird. This might be the feeding method of a blue duck, the courtship of the kotuku, or a singing blackbird.
* **Urban Birds** In an increasingly urban world, many birds are forced to live on the doorsteps of humans. Images should show birds alongside man-made objects, buildings, and other urban settings.

**CONTEST RULES**

* o Only open to Conference participants
* o Two photos per category, per entrant
* o The photo must have been taken after 30 June 2018
	+ - 1. o Photos must have taken in NZ, including the sub-Antarctic, Chatham, and Kermadec Islands
* o Photos that have been digitally or otherwise altered beyond standard optimization (cropping, minor adjustments to colour, white balance, tone, lighting levels and curves, shadows and highlights, saturation, contrast, sharpness, moderate dodging and burning, removal of dust spots and moderate reduction of image noise) will be disqualified. These changes include:
* HDR stacking and/or stitched panoramas
* images that have been manipulated by the addition, removal, or alteration (painting over, cloning, or blurring) of anything in the original subject and scene that were photographed
* borders, signatures or watermarks
* changes in colour so significant that the processed colours are widely different from the original.
* changes in density, contrast, colour and/or saturation levels and dodging and burning that significantly alter content by obscuring or eliminating information in the picture
* AI and machine-learning-based software used for upscaling, sharpening and significant noise reduction

**HOW TO ENTER**

➢Print your photo – maximum size 11x14 (27.94x35.56cm)

➢Print a label with the title of the photo, date taken, and location (don’t include your own details)

➢Bring it with you to Conference, together with a supply of ‘blu-tack’ or similar

➢On arrival at the Conference venue, you will be allocated numbered labels (to ensure anonymity) and directed where to display your photo and label.

**JUDGING**

Each category will be subject to ‘People’s Choice’. Conference attendees will vote (one vote per person per category). Towards the end of the Conference the administrators will sort through the votes to establish the winners of each category.

**PRIZES**

Only first prizes will be awarded. $50 per category plus a year’s free BirdsNZ membership if the winner is a ‘student member’ of BirdsNZ.