

RULES FOR NATURAL HISTORY COMPETITION 2024 - 2025

1 NAMING OF IMAGES

Images should be titled with the common name of the species - not a 'cute' name. It is not necessary to use the scientific name.

Eg. If the subject is a robin preening you could call it "Robin preening" but not 'bird with red chest fluffing it's wings'.

2 WHAT IS ALLOWED - GENERAL INFORMATION

Images entered as nature or wildlife must use the photographers own work to depict all branches of natural history (except for anthropology and archaeology).

All subjects must be free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects Marine subjects and botanical subjects (eg wild flowers and plants), including fungi and algae taken in the wild are suitable. Subjects must be free and uncultivated.

Images can have landscape, geological formations and weather phenomena as the main subject matter, though care must be taken (especially with landscape images) to show the natural history element which is the reason for the image.

Images from hides are allowed (unless the animal or bird is in a controlled environment)

Scientific bands, scientific tags and radio collars on wild birds are permissible.

Focus stacking is allowed - see below.

2 WHAT IS NOT ALLOWED - GENERAL INFORMATION

Any subject which is in a controlled environment such as a zoo or aquarium or any enclosure where the subject is totally dependent on man for food.

Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals or mounted specimens.

All images or parts of images must be the photographers own original work.

We like to think that we can trust our members to follow the rules of the competition. However, the committee reserve the right to see the RAW file if there is a doubt about the veracity of an image.

This may lead to an image being withdrawn or in serious cases, further action may be taken.

3 EDITING AND MANIPULATION RULES

Images must show a true representation of the subject, therefore manipulation which significantly alters the truth of the image is not allowed.

Processing of the image by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise reduction, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening is allowed.

Cloning of image defects and minor distractions, including overlapping elements are permitted when these do not distort the truth of the photograph.

4 IN CASE OF DOUBT:

Please ask a committee member if you are unsure what is allowed or not.

5 FIELD CRAFT AND ANIMAL WELFARE

The welfare of the subject must come before the photography and any action taken by the photographer or third party that puts welfare of the subject at risk is unacceptable.

In the UK, certain flora and fauna species are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This act contains strict laws which prohibit handling or disturbance of certain species and with respect to birds, restricts activities around and near sensitive nesting sites. Some species can be photographed but some will require a license to do so.

It's not just birds - so please go online and check, cause no disturbance and make sure you are not breaking any laws. This RSPB link is useful:

<https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/b/rspb-england/posts/nesting-birds-and-the-law>