**2023 Tampa Audubon Photography Contest**

**Official Contest Rules**

**Sponsor**

Tampa Audubon Society (TAS), an affiliated chapter of the National Audubon Society and Audubon Florida.

**Event**

The Tampa Audubon Society is pleased to announce the 2023 Tampa Audubon Photography Contest! This photo contest supports the TAS mission, which is to conserve and restore our ecosystems, focusing on birds, wildlife, and their habitats, through education, advocacy, and community involvement.

**Eligibility**

* Anyone is welcome to enter, including kids!
* **All submitted photos must have been taken in Florida in 2023**. Enter JPGs and JPEGs only. Multiple entries welcome.

**Categories**

* **Birds**: Photos should be of birds in their natural habitat, for instance in a park or on the beach.
* **Plants for Birds:** Photos of birds interacting with plants (flowers, bushes, trees, grasses).
* **General Nature and Wildlife Photographs**. Landscapes, seascapes, plants, Florida wildlife, insects, etc.
* Captive birds and domestic animals are not eligible.
* The same photograph cannot be entered into multiple categories.

**Important Dates**

**November 15 – December 31, 2023**: Contest is open for submissions.

**January 1 – 15, 2024**: Judging.

**February 1, 2024:** Winners announced at the TAS monthly meeting. Winners will also be contacted via email.

**Eligible Photographs**

To be eligible to win a prize in the Birds and Plants for Birds categories, all submitted photographs must depict birdlife (i.e., contain at least one bird or bird part) and accurately reflect the subject matter as it appeared in the viewfinder (a “Photograph”).

Normal processing of the original file is acceptable. That includes:

* Cropping
* minor adjustments to color, 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

Photographs that have been digitally or otherwise altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified. That includes:

* HDR frame stacking
* 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
* Photo entries should not have any superimposed text, watermarks, or other features that identify the photographer. Judging will be done anonymously.
* Changes in color so significant that the processed colors are widely different from the original colors.
* Changes in density, contrast, color and/or saturation levels and dodging and burning that significantly alter content by obscuring or eliminating information in the picture.
* Images created by AI without the use of a camera.

You may be required to provide TAS with original image files (RAW, jpg, etc.) in the timeframe provided upon request (generally within 7 days). Contest administrators will determine whether changes to an image are significant enough to disqualify an entry. Failure to provide original files may result in the disqualification of the photograph at TAS’s sole discretion. The decision by TAS to disqualify any submission is final.

**Ethical Bird Photography**

Photos must have been taken in accordance with Ethical Nature Photography Standards promoted by TAS. Read the standards here (<https://20c23a29-7e35-48ca-bf33-5bf3eb8facd5.filesusr.com/ugd/2b8d7f_094e37ef9d8e4abd862409981d6f6a85.pdf>).

A photograph that appears to TAS to violate these standards is not eligible for submission and, if submitted, will be disqualified at TAS’s sole discretion.

**How to Enter**

* Upload your photos here: [insert link]
* A $35 per person entry fee covers 2 photo submissions and a one year membership to Tampa Audubon Society.
* Current TAS members may enter the contest for a $10 fee to submit a maximum of 2 photos.
* Subsequent entries are $5 each. No limit.

**Judging**

* Judging will be performed by current TAS members. Photographs will be evaluated on the following criteria:
	+ Technical Quality (33%)
	+ Originality (33%)
	+ Artistic Merit (34%).
	+ In the event of a tie for any prize, the photograph with the highest Artistic Merit score will be the winner of that prize.

**Prizes**

* **Best in Show: $200**
* **Each Category:**
	+ **First place: $100**
	+ **Second place: $50**
	+ **Third place: $25**
	+ **Honorable Mention Awards**

**Additional**

* Entry into this Contest constitutes your acceptance of these Official Rules.
* By entering the contest, you represent and warrant that you are the sole and exclusive author and owner of the photograph and all rights therein.
* By entering, you agree that any photos you submit can be used by TAS for marketing and educational purposes.
* By submitting your photos to TAS, you are granting TAS a royalty-free license to reproduce, distribute, publicly display and publicly perform the photographs you submitted and the right to use your name, city & state & camera settings for photos submitted in promotion and other publicity.
* Each submission must be the original work of entrant and must not infringe the copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity or other rights of any person or entity. By submitting an entry for this contest, you grant TAS all right, title and interest in the submitted entry which includes the right to publish your photo and any other information provided worldwide in all print and electronic media (now or hereafter existing) without time limitation, and the right to include your name and hometown (e.g., city and state) in connection therewith. TAS reserves the right to crop, edit, modify, translate, reproduce and distribute the submitted material in any medium and in any manner as it deems appropriate. TAS may contact you via phone or email regarding your submission.
* If you have any questions, please contact photocontest@tampaaudubon.org.