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The Nature Photographer's Complete Guide To Professional Field Techniques



Synopsis

From one of America's most gifted photographers comes this field-tested handbook. Stunning color photographs and a well-written text cover everything photographers need to know.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have purchased 5 of the John Shaw photography books over the years and his eye for detail is a lesson we can all follow. I am always picking them up and re-reading parts of them. The important thing you will take away from this book is that it is not a book about taking snapshots, but a book about photography itself. All of the books I have from John Shaw are about nature and landscape photography. He delves into all the details of making a picture from the different gear that can be used to finding the right light and composition for a picture. The 5 books I have were all written in the film era, but the techniques apply to digital as well. Light is light and composition is composition, it does not change. Many of the technologies of the digital era can be applied to techniques learned in this book, even though it was written in 1984. Granted with all the point & shoot cameras and cell phones out now, it's harder to take the time and make a picture as John does. It's a lot easier just to hold the shutter button down and hope for the best. It seems the most important spec now in new cameras is how many frames a second you can shoot. After reading John's books you will take a little more time, use a tripod and compose your pictures in the right light. Thank you John for taking the time to write such great books, so we amateurs can learn how to take pictures the right way.

I just finished this wonderful paperback version of the book (about 8.5 x 11 format) in the hopes that it would provide some more advanced tricks that I can use photographing nature subjects. I was not disappointed! PROS - Because it was published in the 90's, this book was cheaper than a fast food breakfast. Wow! It provided more than a few tricks that this "old dog" could use. This book first ensures that the reader knows the basics of exposure in an interesting and informative manner for even the experienced SLR photographer. Then it moves on to advanced tricks. From homemade stabilizers to shutter/aperture options, macro techniques to blinds and equipment - the author provides solid, field tested tips and techniques on every page. CONS - Even as I enjoyed it cover to cover, I found myself reading a book that predated digital cameras! In-camera light meters (with TTL) and instant feedback of your shots have all but eliminated the need for the careful exposure control that the author outlines - or has it? The fact is that many times nature only gives you one chance and you had better have the camera set correctly - regardless of whether you are using film or digital. I suspect that will never change. Still, the painstaking process needed to achieve correct exposure on film gave me a new appreciation of how digital cameras with reviewable photos has made it much easier these days. Please keep in mind that an understanding of composition, depth of field, lenses, shutter speed and the like have been the same forever and providing that kind of info is the real value of this book. It truly teaches you to take artistic nature photos. And last but certainly not least, I have seen many books and even more websites that profess expertise while displaying the author's lackluster, dismal, uninteresting photographs. This author is the real McCoy. His book is chocked full of beautiful photographs of amazing, difficult and interesting subjects - all related to and addressed by the text in that section. Every photo has an insert explaining how it relates as well as providing exposure settings for every photo. Thumbing through just a few pages in this lavishly illustrated book will leave you no doubt that this man knows how to take nature photos. More to the point, he deftly and shares his style, techniques and tips with you in a very non-technical way. This book is a keeper. Buy it, you won't be sorry!

This is another of John Shaw's excellent books on photography. Liberally illustrated with examples and interspersed with his commentary and notes I found tremendously useful. Shaw covers almost all aspects of photography - from the rule of 16ths, exposure, film, tripods, lenses, closeups, depth of field, composition, backlit photography, etc... Reading this book before you start using that brand new SLR of yours will save you a lot of frustration and trial and error:) A lot of the tips in the book are also equally applicable to people using point-and-shoot cameras also. A very useful feature in this book is that almost all photos have exposure details listed. Some of his other books do not have

these details, which I miss. This book is highly recommended if you are just beginning photography and are looking for a good introductory book.

I purchased this book knowing it is quite dated because I wanted to replace a copy I once had that I loaned to a friend who never returned it to me. I wanted another copy because it has a lot of good information with some beautiful photos and serves as a good resource book for my library.

Still the best introduction to nature photography, even though it's from the film era. The medium has changed but not the basics, and nobody's ever done a better job of covering the essentials than John Shaw. Going through this book might even prompt you to put your digital camera on a shelf and find a Pentax K-1000 or Nikon Fm2n all-manual body with a manual focus lens or two and learn about things like exposure, depth of field (plus hyperfocal scale), and filters. Ain't no better way to get started in photography and ain't no better book than this one for aspiring nature photographers.

Shaw is the gold standard and though this is not written for the digital photographer the wisdom about how when and why to capture your subject matter is in many ways timeless. I bought every book of his that I carried just for his knowledge of the subject matter and for its application including the use of prime focal lenses. Would refer any serious student of nature photography.

This is an old book, but the information is relevant under current technology. Aspects as composition, close up, telephotos and compensation are current doing proper adjustments to DSLR cameras.

Given its publication date the focus is on film photography. However, 70% of it is still relevant for digital photographers. Love his writing style, and passion for nature photography. A wonderful read for anyone interested in nature photography.

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