

IN THE BAG **ALAN SAUNDERS**



In the bag... THE PROFESSIONAL'S KIT

Essential equipment

When you're capturing wildlife shots, you need kit that's fast, lightweight and durable. Alan Saunders opens his kit bag to show what the pros use



WEBSITE: www.alansaunders-wildlifephotography.co.uk
PHOTOGRAPHIC SPECIALITY: Wildlife

Alan Saunders is an award-winning wildlife photographer who is currently concentrating on wild bird photography, though he has a range of experience shooting various British mammals too. He had four images shortlisted at the 2009 British Wildlife Photography Awards, and has won a FIAP (Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique) Gold medal for the best set of images entered. Alan also does presentations for camera clubs and nature societies, and has had a month-long exhibition at the Mere Sands Nature Reserve.

1

CANON EOS 1DS MKII

£6,000

www.canon.co.uk

"This was Canon's flagship camera for four years. It's very reliable for locking onto birds in flight and the picture quality is second to none. It has a 16.7MP full-frame CMOS sensor and is the absolute pinnacle of DSLR design and performance. If cropping is required, then the large sensor comes in handy, without much loss of quality. This is the only big purchase I have made, and it was worth it."

2

CANON EOS 20D

FROM £235

www.canon.co.uk

"This is my back-up camera. It's a semipro camera, which takes five frames a second and uses an 8MP, C-size sensor. The image quality is very good indeed. I use this camera for close-ups of wildlife, where I want to have a wide-angle shot. I have both the 1Ds Mark II and the 20D hanging around my neck at any given time."

3

CANON 100-400MM F4.5-5.6L IS USM

£1,940

www.canon.co.uk

"This lens is superb. It is very versatile in that if any birds appear close to me, I can slide the lens down to 100mm and then back up to 400mm. It uses a sliding or pumping action to change focal length, which I prefer to the standard way of adjusting it. The image quality on the lens is very good, with clean results."



4

CANON EF-S 17-85MM IS USM F4-5.6 LENS

£600

www.canon.co.uk

"This lens was bought to accompany my EOS 20D. It's great for wide-angle shots of wildlife and landscape shots showing wildlife in their habitat. The image is not the sharpest that Canon does, but it fits the bill for me – it's amazing what Photoshop can do with a soft image these days! It's good for close-ups, too."

5

MANFROTTO 190PRO TRIPOD AND MANFROTTO 141RC THREE-WAY HEAD

£290

www.manfrottodistribution.co.uk

"I rarely use a tripod when taking a photo of birds in flight. But when I do use a tripod, I like this one as it is solid and heavy, and doesn't blow around in strong winds like lighter ones do. It is very sturdy and can take the weight of my 1Ds MkII and lens."

