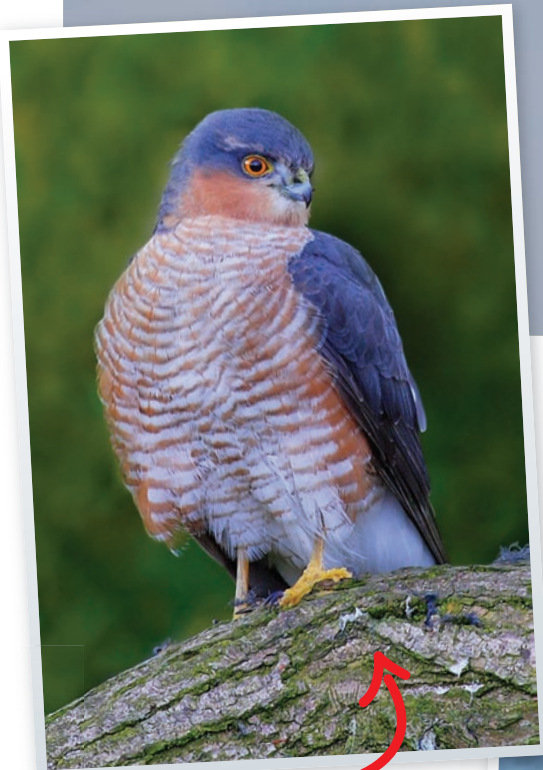


HOW ALAN USES HIS KIT

WILD RED KITE IN FLIGHT

Taken using a Canon EOS-1Ds Mark II with Canon 100-400mm f4.5-5.6L IS USM lens at f8, 1/640sec, ISO 100



MALE SPARROWHAWK

"The sparrowhawk, especially this male one, is another example of a beautiful bird of prey. It was taken on a large branch, upon where it eats its prey. I used my Canon 1Ds Mark II and my Canon 100-400mm f4.5-5.6L IS USM lens, but I also used my Manfrotto tripod for stability, as the bird stays quite still. I needed the tripod as this was taken at 7.30am in a wooded area, hence the slow shutter speed"

Shot details: Canon EOS-1Ds Mark II with Canon 100-400mm f4.5-5.6L IS USM lens at f5.6, 1/60sec, ISO 200

GREY SEAL - DONNA NOOK

"I went to Donna Nook on the east coast to photograph the arrival of the grey seals. They come ashore every year, to have their pups and mate before they head off back out to sea again in late December. I wanted a shot of a grey seal in the water, with the sun bringing out the colours and the colour of the sea lapping up against the seal"

Shot details: Canon EOS 20D DSLR with Canon 100-400mm f4.5-5.6L IS USM lens at f5.6, 1/500sec, ISO 100



Image analysis

- 1** "The high quality of my Canon EOS-1Ds Mark II and my Canon 100-400mm f4.5-5.6L IS USM lens enables me to take high-quality handheld photographs of birds in flight, such as this Wild Red Kite. It is weighty, but manageable for handheld photography. The bird really stands out."
- 2** "The light is great, enabling the high-quality feather detail to be retained. What makes this shot for me is exactly that – the sharpness captured and all the detail in the feathers. To capture all this detail for a bird-in-flight shot was very pleasing."
- 3** "The most important thing for any wildlife shot is to capture the eyes in sharp detail. I think I managed that here, as the bird was looking to its right. I captured the profile of the bird's beak and its intense stare."
- 4** "I usually use my 1Ds Mark II and 100-400mm Canon lens whenever I can, as the DSLR has a 16.7MP full-frame sensor. This enabled me to capture this beautiful bird in full frame, displaying what I think is the essence of flight. The tail feathers spread, the wingspan, beak and yellow talons make for a formidable sight."