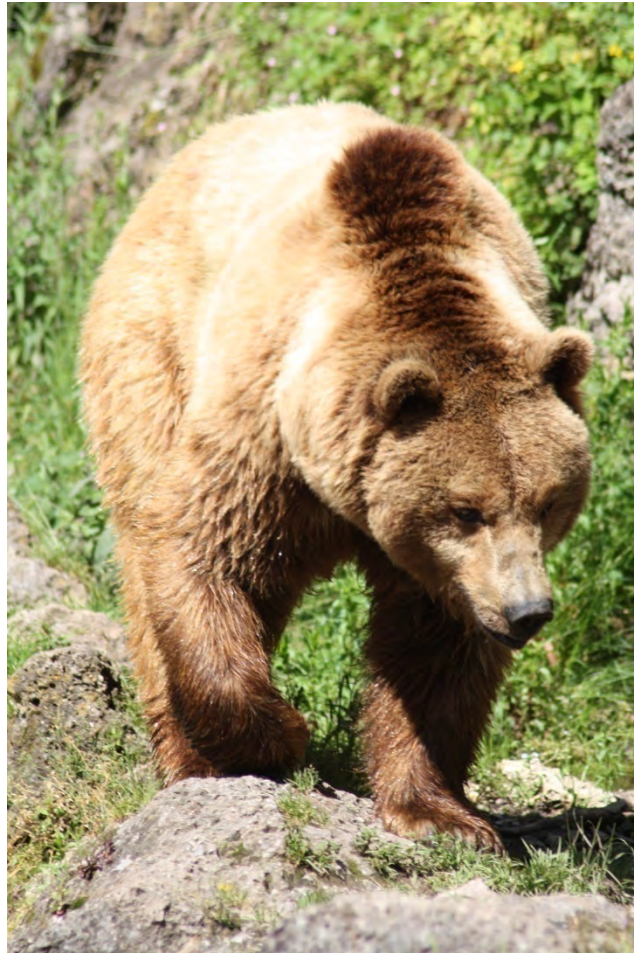


Wildlife photography



Introduction

- Good afternoon I hope you are all well, for those who don't know me I'm Ian Brown.
- The presentation today is about photographing animals both in the wild and domesticated “not cats and dogs” but sheep, cattle, horses and the like. Not forgetting Zoo's, farms and game parks etc.

- I have had an interest in wildlife since childhood. What got in the way I hear you ask? Work, Girlfriend, Marriage, House purchase, DIY doing the house's up, Children (3).
- In 2004 I was able to purchased my first camera a Canon 350 D with a EFS 18-55 standard lens and a Tamron AF 70-300 tele lens.
- In 2008 I purchased a Sigma DG 150-500 tele lens in America some £200 cheaper than the U.K

Experience

**Inexperienced Robin Aquadrome
2004**



**With a little bit more experience
Robin Aquadrome 2019**



Preparation

- Before going out and taking pictures it is a good idea to know the subject you will be photographing. Research is a lot easier these days with the internet, we used to use libraries remember them?. I Mainly learned in the field both as a youngster and more recently by getting into the field more often, also by watching TV documentaries, a good one was a series of programs by “Johnny Kingdom” sadly no longer with us. (available in DVD form at Amazon).

- To become as good as he was can take many years none the less it is important to learn the basic craft of moving slowly and quietly.
- Things to study are:- where they inhabit, their song, what their habits are even their flight patterns are useful.
- The senses used are Sound, Sight, even smell such as where a fox has marked his territory for motion activated cameras
- The only sense you will not use is touch as you probably will never get that close.

Flight pattern



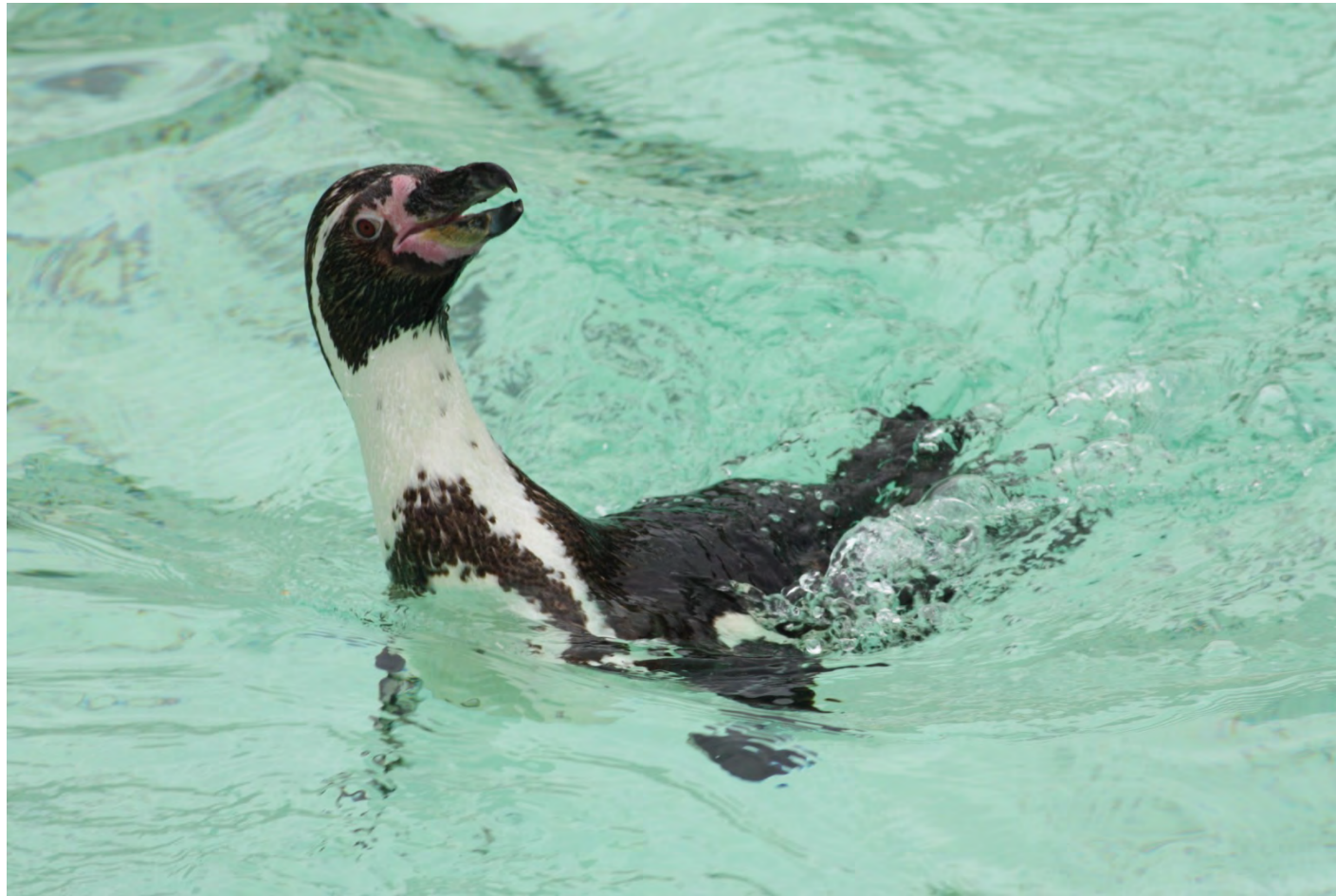
Habitat



Flight pattern and landing area



Waiting and watching usually a pattern
emerges



Equipment Preparation

- Before going make sure that all your equipment is ready. Very similar to Johns presentation on Events.
- Batteries charged, monopod taken, clean the lenses and the like. Check the weather. Etc.
- You have to be mobile as walking and stalking could be needed, there are a lots of rucksack type camera cases, which are very light and suitable for all makes of camera's and lenses.
- I do not always take all of my equipment. I quite often leave the 18-55 or the wide angle lenses and wet weather clothing
- If you can, go online to see what has been seen recently in the area you are going to i.e. Wetland centre at Barnes, Aquadrome Rickmansworth Hertfordshire wild life trust etc.

- Clothing is important don't forget "there is no such thing as bad weather only bad clothing".
- Wear dark clothing if possible, if taking pictures in the wild it might be necessary to wear some sort of camouflage. I have a cape which I find easier to put on quickly, especially if it starts to rain as it covers every thing.
- I mainly take pictures of birds so I am in a hide of some sort so just dark clothing is good.

- **Now I am preparing myself for a big gasp!**

Explanation

- **I use auto focus !**
- I did try to set the camera manually but as animals and birds do not stay in one place for very long or run or fly from A-B in a straight line they use 360 degrees for their safety against predators. I therefore use auto focus and rapid shots, it means I have to edit quite a lot as many of the pictures are not of the right quality, 1 in 25 is not unusual for a reasonable picture.

Animals do not stay in one place for long especially some species



Enhancement's

- A useful tool for me is a method of enhancing the picture. Either a purchased one or a freebie , I use Elements 10 and Faststone (Thanks Len and John for introducing me to Faststone)
- Mainly cropping and enlarging but may use a little picture quality, colour, brightness, contrast etc.

Using enhancement software

Before



After



Using enhancement software

Before



After



Using enhancement software

Before



After



Location Types

Some of the types of locations I use are:-

- Open spaces
- Nature reserves
- Wetland centre
- Zoo's
- Wildlife parks
- Farms

Examples to follow

Open spaces (Ruislip Common)



Zoo's (Colchester Zoo)



Farm's (Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park)



Nature reserves (Aquadrome)



Wildlife Park (Hawk Conservancy Alton)



- Are there any questions.
- But Please not about Brexit?

Finally

- Finally please don't be put off by all the years of research, using auto focus, but just get out in the wild and take pictures.
- I as you can probably tell enjoy the whole process, and learn something every time I go out with the camera.
- Learning “is that not what life is about?”

Happy Snapping