



Tara Photography Competition Details

Overview:

This is a photography competition that is also a citizen science project – we want to source as many different photographs of tara (white-fronted terns) with prey in their beaks as possible! This will help us determine what prey are important at different times during the season – when they are courting and when they are feeding chicks. We’d like to develop a long-term project looking at change over different seasons – but that’s dependent on you.

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Ethical bird photography

By paying the entry fee or being a member of Birds NZ, you agree to abide by the ethical code of conduct for photographing birds. This is especially important when working around breeding colonies. Any disturbance to nesting birds puts them at risk of breeding failure, either by egg abandonment or chick predation by other species. If the judges suspect disturbance of nesting birds has occurred, your entries will be ineligible for any awards. The BirdsNZ ethical code of conduct for photographing birds can be found here: [Code-of-Conduct-for-Photography-of-Birds-Guidelines.pdf \(birdsnz.org.nz\)](#). Reading this is a condition of entry.

Best practice guidelines for photographing terns are here:

1. Your first concern always, after your own safety, is that of the birds. You are working near a breeding colony, and it is your responsibility to ensure your presence does not impact their breeding success.
2. Maintain sufficient distance from the colony so that birds are not startled by your movements – if birds are taking flight in response to your presence, you are too close. If birds are dive-bombing you, you are much too close – retreat immediately. A telephoto lens is required for the quality of photographs required for this competition; it also enables you to keep a safe distance from the birds.
3. Maintain a low profile where it is safe and possible to do so. Obscuring your silhouette with rocks/vegetation reduces your impact on the birds. Sit or lie down if possible.
4. If you have approached slow and low, do the same when you leave – do not stand up and walk away suddenly.

Competition Details

Categories

1. There are two main Categories for the competition entries: General and Portfolio
2. General is for single images – **Best Overall** and **Most Unique Prey item** will be drawn from this category
3. **Portfolio** is for a series of images, and attendant data, from a single tern colony over the duration of the breeding season.

Competition Terms

1. A one-off entry fee of \$25 NZD is required for entry UNLESS the entrant is a current member of Birds NZ, in which case the fee is waived. Entry fees will be directly used to fund further research on the population and diet of Tara / White-fronted terns in Aotearoa New Zealand. Judges and their immediate family are excluded from entry to the competition.
2. Submit your entries before 10 February 2023.
3. For the purposes of the study, only images taken this season (1 August 2022-10 February 2023) are eligible for entry into the competition.
4. To enter please fill in and submit the Entry Form, and we will send you instructions as to how to upload your images.

5. In reply, we will acknowledge your entry, provide you with an **Entry identifier** (see 10 below) and a **unique Dropbox link** for you to upload your images to.
6. Entry fees for non-BirdsNZ members to be paid to the Northern NZ Seabird Trust. Email to tara@nzseabirds.com for account details. Please include your full name and email in the reference details when making your payment online.
7. Entries must be in JPEG format, with NO watermarks/signatures or borders.
8. There is no limit on entries to the General category, however we ask that you DO NOT submit multiple images of the same bird (shot in sequence) with the same prey item, as this will bias the data.
9. You may enter one (1) submission to the Portfolio Category.
10. Filenames should be formatted: Your **Entryidentifier_Speciesname_Date**. Please do not add you name as we want the judging to be blind.
11. You will receive a confirmation email that your images have been uploaded to Dropbox – if you do not, please get in contact tara@nzseabirds.com
12. The Northern New Zealand Seabird Trust takes no responsibility for entries submitted incorrectly and thus not received for judging. Entries that are submitted without paying the attendant fee or confirmation of BirdsNZ membership will not be considered for judging.

Image guidelines

Examples of the image quality required for this competition are below. They key is identifiable prey items – images must be of sufficient quality and resolution that our ID experts can determine what species the birds are eating.

1. By submitting photos you guarantee that you are the sole author and hold copyright of the submitted images. You indemnify the Northern New Zealand Seabird Trust against any claims arising from third parties that the image(s) infringe intellectual or property rights if published by the Northern New Zealand Seabird Trust or competition partners.
2. Image manipulation -basic image corrections (cropping, exposure, sharpening) globally and locally within the image are acceptable.
3. Nothing may be added or removed from images (e.g. using the clone stamp or heal tools) except sensor/dust spots - “photoshopping” in interesting prey items is not useful data!
4. Raw files will be requested for shortlisted images

Examples:



Portfolio guidelines

1. We would like to receive portfolios of photographs of birds carrying identifiable prey items through the different breeding stages for a single colony (e.g., pre-nesting roosting, displaying by pairs, incubation, chick rearing, second nesting attempts, post-breeding roosting).
2. These photographs must be supported at each stage with colony counts.
3. Evidence of disturbance or predation, including those that cause the abandonment of a colony, should be included.
4. We will provide instructions and a data sheet template to guide participants and to standardise essential data entry.
5. While open to all types of entries, the onus will be to tell a story, in pictures primarily, but supplemented by counts through the different stages and requiring some text and even sketch maps, which paint a picture of the life of a colony.

Image Use Terms

1. Photographers always retain copyright to their images.
2. By entering, you are giving the Northern New Zealand Seabird Trust a non-exclusive, non-commercial license to reproduce (in digital format) the images in association with the competition and publish the winning photographs on relevant social media/web channels with competition partners (including but not limited to Nikon New Zealand, Birds New Zealand). Winning photographs may also be published in the BirdsNZ magazine. Prints of the awarded winners in each category will be exhibited at Birds NZ Conference 2023. In all cases the photographer's name and preferred credit line will be included alongside the photographs.
3. Images will be kept on file by the Northern New Zealand Seabird Trust for analysis of dietary data, complete with metadata and photographers' details.
4. Any further use/reproduction of images and appropriate remuneration will be discussed with the photographers directly, including but not limited to publication in scientific papers and/or reports, use in social media to publicize results of said analyses, use in conference or other presentations about the project and results.

Judging

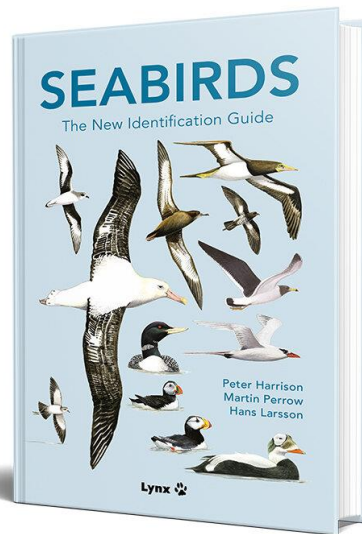
The judges for this competition are:

Edin Whitehead – seabird biologist and conservation photographer

Tony Whitehead – award-winning nature photographer

Neil Fitzgerald – ornithologist and wildlife photographer

1. Images will be saved and presented to the judges without the photographers' names visible, to ensure blind judging of images.
2. The judges reserve the right to disqualify images where they suspect unethical photography practice.
3. The judges' decisions are final.
4. Most unique prey item will be selected by one of our species ID specialists.



Prizes

1. Prizes are non-transferrable and may not be exchanged for cash
2. First Prize for the Best Overall Image – pair of **Nikon Monarch 7 8X42 binoculars**. Runner up prize – Peter Harrison's **Seabird identification guide**.
3. Prize for Most Unique Prey Item – Peter Harrison's **Seabird identification guide**.
4. Prize for Portfolio Award – pair of **Nikon Monarch 7 8X42 binoculars** and **\$200**. Runner up for Portfolio award – Peter Harrison's **Seabird identification guide**.
5. All finalists, including highly commended images, will be printed by **Photo & Video International**, and exhibited at the Birds NZ 2023 Conference. Prints will then be sent to their photographers.

