

Shutter Speed Guide for Birds in Flight

Your quick reference for choosing the right shutter speed, every time.

Shutter Speed	Use Case	Effect	Best For
1/15s to 1/60s	Artistic blur	Wings and motion blurred	Hérons, cranes
1/250s to 1/800s	Capture wing motion	Sharp body, blurred wings	Gulls, crows, hawks
1/1600s to 1/3200s	General-purpose sharpness	Freezes most movement	Ducks, pigeons, shorebirds (waders)
1/4000s to 1/8000s	Extreme action freezing	Freezes even the fastest motion	Swallows, martins, hummingbirds

Luck = Skill + Opportunity

1/15s



Canon R5 II, RF 100-500mm, f/6.3, 1/15s, ISO 320 - Great Crested Tern, Victoria, Australia

The trick to artistic blur: give the eye one sharp anchor point, here, the head, and let everything else move. The **skill** was finding the shutter speed and light that created the effect I wanted. The **opportunity** was a colony of 200+ birds in constant motion, giving me chance after chance to refine it until everything came together.

Want the whole method? Get The Bird in Flight System: avianaction.com/go/system-guide