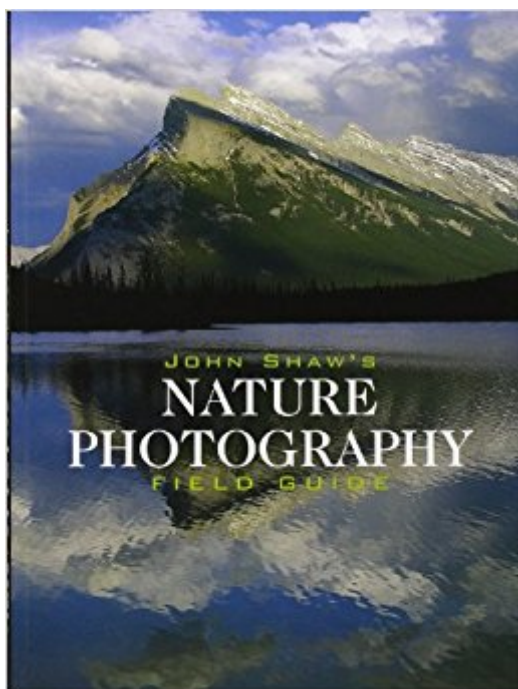


The book was found

John Shaw's Nature Photography Field Guide



Synopsis

An updated bestseller, this book of extraordinarily beautiful photographs of nature contains state-of-the-art instruction on how any photographer can aim for equally impressive results every time a camera is focused on the great outdoors. Even highly skilled photographers are often baffled by the problems facing them when they work outdoors. But with this exceptional field guide in hand, every photographer—beginner, serious amateur, semi-pro, and pro—can conquer the problems encountered in the field. Using his own exceptional work as examples, the author discusses each type of nature subject and how to approach photographing it. Specific advice and information cover selection of equipment and lenses; how to compose a shot; how to get close ups; and other tips covering a range of techniques to enrich various types of nature photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Shaw is the author of many enduring bestsellers, including six previous Amphoto books. His photographs are frequently featured in National Wildlife, Outdoor Photographer, Natural History, Sierra, and Audubon magazines, as well as in calendars, books, and advertisements. He lives in Colorado Springs.

This was a Christmas gift for my adult nephew. He recently got a nice camera and has been taking great pictures in local parks. He loved the book.

This text was published in 2000 and is based on film techniques. While much of what is written remains true of all photography, digital or film, there is too much emphasis on theory and not enough on practice. The subtitle "Field Guide" is a misnomer. This text is divided into six chapters with just one referring to "Working in the Field." (See Bryan Peterson for examples of true field guides.) If you are new to photography and wish to learn its principles and techniques through a densely written text book illustrated with photos of flora and fauna, this is probably a fair choice. For a naturalist and wanna-be-photographer, this text falls short of its promise as a "field guide."

Like all of John Shaw's books (yes, I've read them all), this one is a winner. I have been an amateur photographer for 40 years and have long since learned the basics of exposure and composition. However, my approach, until reading Shaw's books, was quite haphazard. Shaw and I both use Nikons and have much of the same equipment. Of course, he has about a million times more talent than I do. In any case, I wasn't getting anywhere near the sharpness that he was until I heeded his most important piece of advice. Buy a good tripod and head and use it for every shot. Since taking his advice, I can now print to the next larger size for almost every shot that I take. I prefer to continue shooting film which makes Shaw's books perfect for me. However, most of what Shaw writes applies equally to digital capture. Regardless of the media, the basics of good exposure and composition still apply. If you need information specifically about digital photography, there are plenty of other books available. I would recommend Shaw's "ebook" which is a "field guide" to Photoshop. I don't know if it's available on , but it should still be available on Shaw's own website. For anyone serious about their photography and looking to improve it, Shaw's books are a "must read". Much of the material in this book can be found in his others, although each has enough unique material to make it worth the price. I'd suggest not buying all of them. In addition to this book, I'd recommend "Focus on Nature", in which Shaw explains his thinking and equipment choice for each photo in the book.

John Shaw's mastery is evident although the book is a little dated.

Quick summary: excellent - buy it. For more detail, read on. Possibly the best book about photography I've ever read. It doesn't just describe nature photography, but also goes into many technical details about how to obtain the picture *you* want to obtain. Many of these details are fundamental to all types of photography (exposure, lighting, etc.), so there is something to be gained

for everyone. However, as the title of the book clearly indicates, the bulk of the text is dedicated to photographing in outside lighting - it *is* nature after all - so you might want to consider another book if your primary interest is indoor studio photography. In terms of experience level, I think anyone from an amateur photographer just starting out to the seasoned pro will find useful tips and anecdotes in this text. I've been using an SLR camera for many years but I'm amazed at how many things I've learned from this book. One small drawback is that the author only uses Nikon cameras and hence most of the equipment related advice is for Nikon branded equipment. He does occasionally mention Canon equivalents, although the charts and comparisons of sizes, weights, etc. are only for Nikon. Still, I use a Canon camera and found this to be only a very minor annoyance. The book has so many excellent photographs (185) in it that it would be worth buying for the pictures alone. However, as long as you're buying a book of pictures, why not throw in an excellently written text describing in great detail how the pictures were taken and how to obtain similar results yourself? It also has all sorts of interesting mini chapters - one is even included on how to take aerial photographs and includes advice on the types of planes and pilots to rent! A section I think I'll find especially handy lists some of the author's favorite shooting locations and what you can find there by month of the year (mainly in the United States). The book was published fairly recently (2000), but still deals exclusively with film (mostly slide). So those of us using the newer digital SLR's will want to skim past the sections on choosing a film type, push processing your film, etc. However, it's kind of fun to read over these sections and realize how much easier things are now with digital. No more waiting through a whole roll of film to change your ISO, much faster ISO speeds with good results (I frequently use 1600 for macro work with no problem), no need to *buy* film or process, etc. After you've read the book, go out and buy yourself a Canon EOS 20D or equivalent and you'll see what I mean. ;-) The only time I wished the book discussed digital is with regard to the number of stops film can accurately reproduce (about 5). It would have been nice to see the equivalent information for digital, and some sections on digital exposure tips and tricks - but I suppose this is for the next version of the book. Highly recommended.

Pretty. And mildly useful.

I've got a half dozen photography books on the shelves, and it wasn't until I read this one that things began to fall into place. Shaw's discussion of exposure in particular was enlightening. So many authors simply burp up an aperture and shutter speed, toss in the obligatory depth-of-field and moving subject discussion, and leave the aspiring photographer flapping in the breeze. Shaw's

common sense approach and excellent teaching skills get you in tune with the scene and what your meter is telling you in a way that will make sense. The sections on composition and equipment are excellent too. One drawback is that the book is from the era of film, so there is a lot of material devoted to that topic. But, I'd say there's a lot to learn throughout, and the film portions are not necessarily a waste of time for a fully digital photographer - because it will drive home the point that you're still placing an image on some form of a media, whether it be film or a chip (or printer, monitor, slide), and while different media all produce different results, there are many more things in common than there are different.

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