**RULES FOR THE RAFOS ART AND CRAFT COMPETITION**

**GENERAL RULES**

1. The Royal Air Force Ornithological Society (RAFOS) Art and Craft Competition is organized, managed and judged by the RAFOS Committee. The competition is held annually in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and is open to all members of RAFOS.

2. The Committee will choose the winners during the pre-AGM meeting. Any Committee Member who enters the competition will be debarred from judging any category that they have entered. No prize will be awarded if there is only one entry in a category, but here the Committee may use its discretion. If entries in any particular category fall below the required standard the Committee reserves the right not to award a prize. The decisions of the judges will be final.

**ENTRY RULES**

3. The Art and Craft Competition will comprise a single prize for the best item of original art or craft work, which may be presented in any medium excluding photographic or digital formats, on a subject of an ornithological nature. All submissions must be the work of the member entering them and must have been produced in the period since the date of the previous AGM. Up to **2** entries will be accepted from any member. For reasons of practicality, entries must be of a size and weight that allows judging and display at the AGM venue. The onus is on the member submitting entries to make suitable arrangements for their collection or return. All entries are sent at the entrant’s risk and the Committee regrets that it cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage howsoever caused.

**RULES FOR THE RAFOS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION (AND THIS APPLIES TO THE ATTENDING MEMBERSHIP WHO WILL BE JUDGES…PLEASE READ!)**

**GENERAL RULES**

1. The Royal Air Force Ornithological Society (RAFOS) Digital Photography Competition is organized and managed by the RAFOS Committee. The competition is held annually in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and is open to all members of RAFOS. Judging of the entries will be by the Membership and eligible Committee members.
2. The entries will be judged during the pre-AGM meeting via a slide show. Any Committee Member who enters the competition will be debarred from judging any category that they have entered. No prize will be awarded if there is only one entry in a category, but here the Committee may use its discretion. If entries in any particular category fall below the required standard the Committee reserves the right not to award a prize. The decisions of the Committee will be final.
3. Only images of live wild birds in their natural habitat are eligible for entry. Legal requirements of the country where the photograph was taken must be complied with to ensure the protection of the subject species. A copy of the appropriate licence (to photograph a Schedule 1 bird at its nest in England for example[[1]](#footnote-1)) must accompany the photograph, where appropriate.
4. The categories to be judged for prizes will remain (and be known as the ‘Standard’ 3 categories):
	1. Best UK Image.
	2. Best Overseas Image.
	3. Best Entry by a Novice.
5. New Categories are as follows but will ­not attract a RAFOS prize (and be known as the ‘New’ categories):
	1. Best Overall Image – Viewer’s Choice.
	2. Best Image Portfolio.
	3. Best Video Clip.
6. Prizes will be awarded for the winner of each ‘Standard’ category. A competitor may enter a maximum of two images in each standard category and the category/categories entered must be specified for each image, as any single photograph *may* be entered for more than one category. The portfolio is an exception, where 3 images are to be submitted per entry specifically for this category, and each contributor can submit 2 sets of images (2 different species) ie a total of 6 images for the portfolio category. Stills from Video clips are not permitted and if Video clips are submitted, they are to be of different species to those submitted in the portfolio category.
7. All submissions must have been taken by the member entering them and must have been produced in the period since the date of the previous AGM. Images that have previously been entered into a RAFOS competition are ineligible for entry again. All submissions must be received by the Digital Image Co-Ordinator no later than 1 week before the AGM, to allow for appropriate preparation of the images for judging and display. For 2024, this means all entries must be received **BEFORE 09 Mar 24**. The winners will be announced during the AGM.
8. Image Presentation Requirements. Entries in any category (excluding video) are to be in an image format ideally JPG, TIFF or PNG. The image will be resized electronically for the slideshow presentation – no other changes will be made by the DIC. The image will be presented as received, so submitters can choose to add an electronic boarder or not. Judging will only be on the quality and artistic merit of the content. Standard enhancement only is permitted by the entrant - cropping and any standard processing, such as adjustment to contrast, colour correction and sharpening, in line with the production of a quality print is allowable, but removal / addition of image artifacts (such as the removal of objects or obscuring parts of the subject) is not permitted. The original digital image is to be available for inspection if required. The decision of the Committee will be final with regard to whether a digitally presented image meets the required entry standard.
9. The entrant must be the sole author and copyright owner of each image. Copyright will remain with the member, but a condition of entry is that the member accepts that the Committee reserves the right of reproduction and exhibition in all Society media, of any entries, without payment or fee.
10. Any costs incurred in entering the competition, including the return of electronic media will be borne by the entrant. All entries are sent at the entrant’s risk (confirmation of receipt via email should be requested if not received in an appropriate time) and the Committee regrets that it cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage howsoever caused.

**STANDARD CATEGORY RULES**

1. **Best UK Image**. Entries for the Best UK Image category must have been taken in the UK including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man but not including any UK Overseas Territory.
2. **Best Overseas Image**. Entries for the Best Overseas Image category must have been taken in any territory other than those in paragraph 9 above.
3. **Best Entry by a Novice**. A novice is defined as an individual who has not won any RAFOS photographic competition previously.

**NEW CATEGORY RULES**

1. **Best Overall Image (Viewer’s choice)**. This is the image that attracted the most votes, regardless of category (does not have to be from the ‘standard’ categories). Entrants do not submit entries to this category.
2. **Best Portfolio Image**. 3 images of the same species that demonstrates a range of poses or activities, showcasing the subject’s beauty and elegance (or lack thereof). These images will be presented on the same slide (all 3 images on view at the same time).
3. **Best Worst Image**. Just for fun, photos that were very close to being good – bird leaving frame, diving underwater etc – must have a portion of the subject in view in the image, but apart from that…
4. **Best Video Clip**. Venturing into very new ground, the video clip is to be no longer than 30 seconds long. It must have no narration or voice, if video is to be entered, the natural sounds are to be the only audio present. (There is a risk the audio may not be heard in the presentation while we consider this as a routine entry.)

**Judging of Images**

1. All attending membership will be presented with a ‘voting slip’ on arrival to the AGM, pre lunch. The images will be shown on a loop from the projector with an identifying letter/number in the top right corner of the image. The voting slip will have a line for :
	1. Best Novice Image
	2. Best UK Image
	3. Best Overseas Image
	4. Best Image Overall
	5. Best Portfolio
	6. Best Worst Image
	7. Best Video Clip
2. Each line will have a column for ‘Best’, ‘2nd’ and ‘3rd’. Please write your choice for each of the 7 categories using the identifying code.
3. When completed, please pass to the DIC who will maintain a scoresheet for presentation to the committee prior to the AGM. Each ‘best’ image will be scored 3 points, 2nd place, 2 points and 3rd a single point. The Image with the highest score for each category will be determined by the winner.
4. Competition entrants are to vote on all categories, but are **not** to vote for their own entries.

**Submission of Entries**

1. Entrants should send their images to the Digital Image Co-ordinator, Scott Drinkel for inclusion by 09 Mar 24. These can be received by email (scott.drinkel@gmail.com) or on electronic media such as SD cards, DVD, CD or USB through mail (at entrants risk and cost) to 23 Horsa Close, Wellington Gate, Grove, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 0GD.
2. Each **image** is to be titled in the following format:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Photographer | Location | Category |
|  |  |  |  |

eg Lark-crested\_Scott Drinkel\_Akrotiri\_Overseas

1. Any enquiries about the competition should be addressed to the Digital Image Co-ordinator in the first instance, if a suitable response is not received, please raise with RAFOS Secretary.

22 Jan 24

1. A list of Schedule 1 Birds can be found at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/forprofessionals/policy/wildbirdslaw/birdsandlaw/wca/schedules.aspx>. The requirement for a license in England (there are separate rules for other countries including Scotland and Wales) can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bird-licences#kill-take-or-disturb-birds.aspx> . [↑](#footnote-ref-1)