

7 Tips *for* Butterfly Photography

© 2021 ~ Jeff Parker / ExploreinFocus.com

1) Get out early.

We've all seen those beautiful shots of dew-dappled butterflies. To get those you need to be out at first light. Finding roosting butterflies can prove tough since their wings are often closed. Go slow & look closely & carefully. The other bonus of early-morning butterfly photography is, as cold-blooded creatures, your subjects won't flit away as fast as when temps rise. [See Tip #2]

2) Can you reposition?

It's a cool early morning & you find a butterfly but, unfortunately, it's roosting on a boring perch and/or a drab setting. No problem! When temps make it too cold for butterflies to fly try gently coaxing them to crawl onto a stick or your finger so you can place them in a more photo-worthy spot (e.g. a flower or in a position where you can shoot through [See Tip #6]). **Please do not pick them up ~ it is very easy to damage their wings!**

3) Get parallel to the wings.

Getting close-ups of super small subjects severely limits your depth-of-field (DOF). Position yourself parallel to the wings so they'll be on the same plane of focus. That assures sharpness from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other.

4) Backlight to beautify.

Butterflies are beautiful when backlit. Since their wings are semi-translucent, light will pass through & infuse them with a gorgeous glow.

5) Shoot in high speed continuous.

Once the air warms up, butterflies will begin zipping about—and quickly! Shoot in burst mode. That makes it more likely you'll get a shot of the butterfly with its wings fully spread. And take lots of shots because with butterfly photography you will have lots of misses!

6) Shoot through.

To add a dreamy quality & a nice wash of color, move or squat in so that you'll have flowers or foliage between you & the butterfly.

7) Get that eye sharp.

Butterfly photography is no different from any other kind of wildlife photography in that you always want to shoot for a sharp eye. When you get parallel to the wings (See Tip #3) the eye should automatically be sharp. If you shoot at an angle or head-on focus on the eye. Stop down to increase depth-of-field if needed.

* * * * *

Award-winning naturalist photographer, Jeff Parker, leads friendly & informative photo tours & workshops focused on the flora & fauna of North, Central, & South America & also parts of Europe.

Call (512) 378-3355 ~ or ~

Click www.ExploreinFocus.com

