

P H O T O G R A P H Y

The most visible insects are fairly easy to spot, the more I watch them through the viewfinder of my camera the more fascinated I become.

In the past I have used mixture of monochrome and colour film when photographing different subjects, whereas today, equipped with a sophisticated mirrorless camera I am concentrating purely on colour.

I get more excited about the 'hunt' than the sharpness of my pictures but of course I like them to be in focus. 'Focus stacking' is technically the best way of achieving the greatest degree of sharpness/depth-of-field which some photographers use to great effect. This can only be applied when photographing still subjects.

Insects vibrant colours certainly make them easier to spot whereas their subtle hues and camouflage are more challenging to capture. Size is another factor. In order to find some of the smaller insects I have to get down on my hands and knees which I becoming more challenging with age!

A lot can be captured with a straightforward macro lens but when it comes to the thousands of much smaller insects such as the male Fairy Fly which measures a mere 0.139mm a microscope is needed which is a whole different ball game.



I would not dream of bringing any of these tiny creatures back home to photograph. Removing them from their natural habitat would cause unnecessary stress.

Neither do I breed any animals for the sake of getting the perfect specimen, my collecting and breeding days are long gone.

Bar a slight tweak here and there I resist the temptation of exaggerating the vibrance or saturation in photoshop. Nature's colours are subtle and plenty rich enough and accurate representation is essential.

Insects are fascinating creatures to photograph, like any subject they need to be approached sensitively and with respect.



Much has been written about these complex and colorful creatures and masses of photographs exist of most of the species, a few more won't do any harm. The more I look at their shapes, form and patterns through the viewfinder of my camera the more interesting the whole subject becomes.

It is fascinating watching the way they interact with each other, attracting mates or in pursuit of their prey or simply feeding. At rest is very often the best time to creep up on them and grab a picture or two. I invariably have to double check exactly what I've photographed when I get home. Gradually I am learning to identify more and more species and about insects in general whilst reminding myself to enter as many of the different species I've seen as possible on **Irecord**.

I always look forward to receiving the quarterly magazines from Butterfly Conservation and the British Dragonfly Society and reading the latest articles from members about different aspects of their conservation work.