

How to reach ≥ 400 mm for photographing birds

Phil Witt

1. Buy a big, fast lens (e.g., 600mm, 500mm, or (Canon only) 400 mm DO (\$\$\$, weight))

500



600



Approx. \$11k - \$13k



Approx. \$6k

400 DO

500



\$8,400

2. Buy a zoom going to 400 (Nikon: 80-400 f/4-5.6; Canon: 100-400 f/4-5.6)

-Drawbacks: if zoomed to 400 mm, will be f/8 lens with 1.4 TC – so no autofocus on most bodies



\$1500



\$2700

3. Buy 400 f/5.6 (Canon only)

-Drawbacks: no IS, with 1.4 TC → f/8 lens



\$1,200

4. Buy a 300 f/4 (Nikon or Canon) and add a 1.4 TC
-Drawback: Older IS system (Canon)
-No IS (Nikon)



\$1,350



\$1,100

5. 70-200 f/2.8 with 2.0 TC (Nikon or Canon)
-Drawback: slower autofocus with 2.0 TC



\$2,500



\$2,500

6. Recent option – Sigma 150-500 mm



\$1,000