

Let's Go Outside!

Deanne Endrizzi: Enjoying Birds Through Digiscoping

I have been a bird watcher since about sixth grade, but it was most recent, within the last five years, that I found the technique of digiscoping birds to be a rewarding hobby. Digiscoping is the process of taking photos with a digital camera through a spotting scope.

It was quite by accident that I found my two pieces of equipment that were compatible. I discovered that my Sony Cybershot camera lens fit into the eyepiece of my Kowa spotting scope. It wasn't a perfect match, but it was workable.

Digiscoping birds is fun and rewarding, but there are some challenges. First you need to find the moving

Right: Endrizzi on an Eagle nest removal job near Duluth Minnesota. USFWS photo by Valerie Rose Redmond. Center: MINOX DCM Digiscoping System. Below: Scarlet Tanager digiscoped in Endrizzi's backyard in Burnsville, Minn. Photo by Endrizzi.



bird you wish to photograph in the spotting scope. Second you have to focus the scope on the bird and third, adjust the camera for sharp focus. You need to coordinate all three of these things hoping that the bird doesn't move. Believe me, it is an undertaking, but a gratifying one when you get good results.

I found it difficult to align my camera and the spotting scope to hold it steady, so I created a home-made adapter. The adapter consists of a section of a toilet paper roll and masking tape. This allowed the camera and the scope to come together snugly to make the three-fold approach work more smoothly.

The results were spectacular! It still carry my binoculars with me to locate the birds before I attempt to photograph them. Photographing birds is an

Continued on next page.

Let's Go Outside!

Deanne Endrizzi: Enjoying Birds Through Digiscoping

enjoyable hobby because you have to take the time to watch the birds longer than you would on a normal bird hike.

I have since purchased a single-lens reflex camera package, but the photos that I have taken with the SLR camera don't hold a candle to my digiscoped photos. I haven't completely given up on digiscoping.

Try it yourself; it is a fun thing to do to get outside!

--Deanne Endrizzi
Migratory Birds



Above: Eastern Bluebird digiscoped outside the visitor center at Minnesota Valley NWR Center; American White Pelican digiscoped at Black Dog Lake, Minnesota Valley NWR. Below: Common Loon digiscoped at my place in Longville, Minn. Photos by Deanne Endrizzi.

