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The regent bowerbird (Sericulus chrysocephalus) lives in Queensland and New South Wales rainforests. Lamington National Park is a particularly good place to see this species, especially the strikingly coloured male.

Regent bowerbird

Lamington National Park in south east Queensland, where I have been photographing nature for 10 years, is a good place to get close to wildlife such as this beautiful male regent bowerbird. I have gained valuable photographic experience in that time. This experience, mixed with many hours of patience, made it possible for me to capture this stunning bird in flight.

This particular regent bowerbird flew around at great speed during this photo shoot. This alone made it very difficult for me to focus on him. However, as he flew back and forth, I noticed a distinct pattern in his flight path and was able to work out the approximate area where he would have his wings completely open. Then it was a matter of manually focusing my lens in the vicinity of that area and waiting for him to fly past.

It turned out to be quite a difficult shoot, due to the speed and changes he made to his 'flight path' at the very last moment. At last he extended his wings fully at the exact

spot on which I had my lens focused and I was able to take a number of high-speed photos, with this one being the 'best of the bunch'.

This photo took many, many hours to achieve with lots of 'throwaways' in the process, but the experience itself was invaluable. During the Trekabout photography workshops I conduct in south east Queensland with professional photographer Mark Rayner, I often tell participants that getting that special photo isn't the sole purpose of photography. If you enjoy the process and the experience, it is already worth the effort you make. Achieving that 'special' photo is a bonus and having that photo published or winning a place in a competition is simply icing on the cake.

Happy photography!

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