

Bird recording equipment setup



My complete bird recording gear setup.

Equipment summary

This is the current equipment setup I am using with my shotgun microphone. The basic idea of components remains the same regardless of specific equipment.

Component	Equipment	Notes
Microphone	Sennheiser ME67, ME66	<i>No longer available. Consider MKE600 or look on eBay</i>
Recorder	MixPre-3 II, Zoom H4N Pro	
Peripherals	K6 Power Module	<i>Optional but saves battery draw on the recorder</i>
	Rycote Shock Mount Grip	
	Rycote Softie Windscreen	<i>The fuzzier the better</i>
	Over-the-ear headphones	<i>Optional with this kind of microphone</i>
	Angled XLR cable	

Microphone

I originally selected this shotgun microphone after reading a guide from Audubon on recording bird songs. They have a fleet of these microphones in use. I like it for its directional sensitivity. It does a good job of filtering out ambient noise but not so much that a pair of headphones are required. The microphone can be powered by phantom draw (taking power from the recorder) or by using a K6 Power Module.

Shotgun microphone



Sennheiser ME67 and K6 power module

Type	Shotgun
Brand	Sennheiser
Model	ME67
Accessory	K6 Power Module

Recorder

Dedicated recorder

Sound Devices MixPre-3 II (a 32-bit float recorder)

This MixPre-3 II recorder by Sound Devices is an amazing piece of technology. Its ability to record in a format called 32-bit float allows you to not have to set gain levels while recording and prevents bird song audio files from clipping if they are unexpectedly loud.



Type	Dedicated recorder
Brand	Sound Devices
Model	MixPre-3 II

Handheld recorder

Zoom H4N Pro



Zoom H4N Pro handheld recorder

Type	Omnidirectional handheld
Brand	Zoom
Model	H4N Pro

Peripherals

Windscreen

This windscreen does a great job of reducing wind noise during recordings. It has a foam core with a faux fur exterior and slips over the shotgun microphone.



Brand	Auray
Model	WSS-2014 Professional Windshield - (14cm)
Wind noise reduction	up to 25dB

Shock mount grip

This shock mount has a pistol grip handle and holds the microphone in a way that eliminates handling noise.



Brand	Rycote
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Model	Rycote Lyre Pistol Grip Shock Mount
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Cables

This angled cable enables the cable to flow a logical direction from the microphone into the shock mount.



Type	XLR M to Angled XLR
Length	1.5'

Headphones

Headphones are used in my setup, but any over-the-ear ones should do. It will help you hear the bird better and ensure you are aiming decently enough.

Links

Below are links to find the products used in this recording setup. These are Amazon and eBay Partner affiliate links that help support my birding hobby at no cost to you.

Component	Equipment
Microphone	Sennheiser ME67 , Sennheiser ME66 (now MKE600)

Recorder	MixPre-3 II, Zoom H4N Pro
Peripherals	K6 Power Module
	Rycote Shock Mount Grip
	Auray Windscreen
	Over-the-ear headphones
	Angled XLR cable

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