

Saturday 30 January 2016

Amateur

NEW NIKON DSLRs

First looks
of the D5
and D500



Photographer

Passionate about photography since 1884

Wild things

Elliott Neep shares the secrets to great wildlife photography



Food

for thought
Techniques for
beautiful **still lifes**
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enough to eat

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COVER PICTURE: GOLIATH BY MICHAEL TOPHAM



How patient are you? I ask this because in this issue we have a first look of the Nikon D500. This is the camera that will replace the D300 of 2007.

The D500 looks like the best DSLR camera with an APS-C sensor yet. But has it come too late, and what happened to the D400?

I also wonder how many of those Nikon D300 owners who have been crying out for a D400 have since jumped ship? It has been a

long wait, and those wanting the latest features could have been tempted away from the Nikon stable. Many may have bought a Nikon D7000-series camera, or even gone full frame with the Nikon D610, and I'm sure a few will have bought Fujifilm X-T1 and Sony Alpha 7 cameras and will now be CSC owners.

However, the Nikon D500 looks like an amazing camera. Turn to pages 10-11 to read Michael Topham's thoughts on it.
Richard Sibley, deputy editor

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ONLINE PICTURE OF THE WEEK



/-/ by EdisO8

Canon EOS 60D, 50-500mm, 1/800sec at f/5.6, ISO 640
This image was uploaded to our Flickr pool by AP reader EdisO8 and is a great example of a different approach to street photography. EdisO8 has chosen a location with strong light that highlights the most important aspects of his subject – the head and face. He has then imported the shot into post-production software and burned out the areas around the head so the

viewer's eye is focused on the features. By converting the image to black & white, the expression and lines of the face are emphasised, giving the whole portrait a more expressionist feel.

EdisO8 has also gone in close to the subject rather than including a lot of unnecessary surrounding area that could detract from what is an engaging and intimate shot.



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Via our online communities Post your pictures into our Flickr group, Facebook page, Twitter feed, or the gallery on our website. See details above.
Transparencies/prints Well-packaged prints or slides (without glass mounts) should be sent by Special Delivery, with a return SAE, to the address on page 23.

COVER PICTURE: MICHAEL TOPHAM; ONLINE PICTURE OF THE WEEK: EDISO8

NEWS ROUND-UP

The week in brief, edited by Chris Cheesman

Peake pics on Flickr

British astronaut Tim Peake has shared photos that he has captured in space using a Nikon D4 DSLR. Peake received guidance on how to use the Nikon D4 before he embarked on his six-month mission on board the International Space Station in December. To view Tim's Flickr photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/timpeake.



Brits in frame

Winners of the 10th Annual Black & White Spider Awards included the UK's Samuel Hicks, who won second place in the professional category, and Steve Gosling, who won nominations in four categories: abstract, architectural (left), nature and still life. The contest pulled in more than 7,500 entries. For more, visit thespiderawards.com/gallery/index.php.

Solar-powered camera

A solar-powered action camera that shoots 16-million-pixel stills and 4K movies is due to go on sale in the UK in March. The Solar X features a 16MP imaging sensor, a seven-element f/2.4 lens and a 6fps burst rate. The charging case is claimed to provide four hours of battery life, on top of the two supplied by the built-in battery. The UK price is unconfirmed, but in the US it costs about €295. Visit www.activeon.com/products/action-cam-4k-solar.



Go wild in 2016

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2016 – which Sir David Attenborough describes as 'the most prestigious event for any wildlife and stills photographer, anywhere' – is open for entries. It costs €30 to enter up to 25 images, but photographers

aged 17 and under can submit up to 10 images for free. The closing date is 25 February. Visit www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/wpy.html.

Photography explosion

There are eight times as many photographers worldwide than there were a decade ago, following an explosion in smartphone usage, claims market analysts Futuresource Consulting. According to a poll of 4,251 people across the US, UK, France, Germany, Canada and Australia, 1.2 trillion images are captured annually.



WEEKEND PROJECT

Sell your old kit

With a raft of tasty camera gear announcements earlier this month at the CES technology show, and the inevitable arrival of more tempting kit this year, you may be thinking about parting with some of your current equipment to help fund a new purchase. When selling your camera kit through auction sites such as eBay, it's important to ensure you get the best price for your kit. Any capital is then maximised, allowing you to plough it back into buying some new equipment. Do your research, and see what price you can expect from similar kit on the second-hand market. Once you've got a rough idea of the value of your kit, set yourself a price you won't go below and stick to it. You are then ready to prepare your items for sale.

1 Give your camera or lens a thorough once-over, making sure everything's working as it should and noting any marks or scuffs. It's best to be as honest as possible for a clean transaction and to avoid any conflict with the buyer.

2 Make sure you photograph your kit well – poorly shot images aren't going to attract buyers. Show all angles and any issues, as well as the packaging supplied and any accessories that will be bundled with it.

BIG picture

Legendary musician David Bowie dies at the age of 69

There are very few musical artists who can claim to have remained 'relevant' right up until the time of their death, but with such a varied career, David Bowie, who died earlier this month, was a figure who was constantly ahead of the curve. His last album, *Black Star*, was released just days before his death from cancer, and was almost universally praised. Here we see a shot from one of Bowie's many forays into acting. *The Man Who Fell to Earth* (1976), directed by Nicolas Roeg, tells the tale of an alien visiting earth in an attempt to find water for his dying planet. It was a role perfectly suited to Bowie's otherworldly persona and is now viewed as a cult classic. But, of course, he will always be remembered for his music. Time to dust off those old records.

Words & numbers

I would drown in objects if I didn't have the ability to photograph them

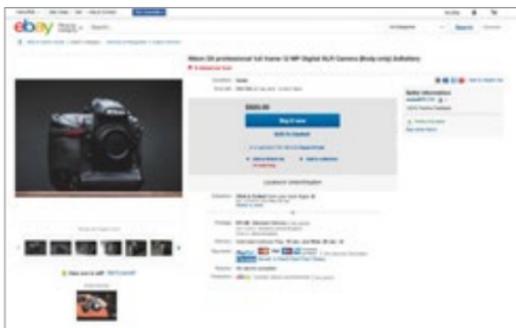
Martin Parr
Documentary photographer
born 1952

88%
of 18-24 year olds regularly take photos with their smartphones



3 Buyers like to see a used camera's shutter count as it's a good marker of how heavily it can be used. There are various websites that will give you a count once you upload the latest JPEG to their site.

4 When you list your item, set a realistic shipping cost and insure the item for the purchase price as you don't want to be out of pocket if it goes missing. For high-value items, make sure you request a signature on delivery.





The X70 – Fujifilm's smallest and lightest APS-C X-series camera

Fuji reveals new X70 and updates X-E2

X-series 'super-telephoto' zoom



The new XF 100-400mm on a Fuji X-T1

FUJIFILM is set to launch its first 'super-telephoto' zoom for the X-series. Due out in February, priced £1,399, the XF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6 R LM OIS WR is designed to deliver the 35mm equivalent of a 152-609mm lens. The 21-element-in-14-groups lens boasts five ED lenses and a Super ED lens to help cut chromatic aberration. Weighing just under 1.4kg, the lens is built to deliver image stabilisation equivalent to 5 stops and resist water, dust and temperatures down to -10°C. The lens features 13 water and dust-resistant seals. Fuji has added a fluorine coating to the front lens element to help repel water and dirt. A kit that includes a 1.4x teleconverter will cost £1,499.

FUJIFILM has unveiled its smallest and lightest X-series camera with an APS-C-sized imaging sensor.

Borrowing many features from the X100T, the X70 sports an 18.5mm f/2.8 Fujinon (28mm equivalent) lens following calls from some photographers for a small, light camera capable of wideangle shots.

Aimed largely at street photographers, the X70 boasts a 16.3-million-pixel, X-Trans CMOS II imaging sensor and an EXR Processor II.

Due on sale in February in black and silver options, the £549 X70 is the first X-series camera to sport a touchscreen capable of rotating 180°.

The 3in screen carries a resolution of 1.04 million dots and the focusing ring on the lens doubles as a control ring to help the user access controls quickly. The camera weighs around 340g (which is 100g lighter than the X100T) and measures 112.5x64.4x44.4mm.

Meanwhile, Fujifilm has targeted professional photographers and enthusiasts by unveiling the X-E2S, a new 16.3MP APS-C-sized rangefinder-style compact system camera.

Due out in February,

The X-E2S will cost £549, body only

priced £549 (body only), new features include an improved grip shape to help users quickly change settings while holding the camera.

There is now an auto mode on/off switch, as well as a 'more intuitive' user interface, and seven function buttons on the top and back of the camera body can be customised to the user's needs. The electronic shutter is capable of exposure up to 1/32,000sec, says Fuji.

Improvements to the AF system include the addition of zone and wide/tracking options that deploy a 77-point AF area to help when shooting moving subjects.

Eye-detection AF is included in the X-E2S. The camera will also be available as a £749 kit with an 18-55mm lens.

A free firmware update will be available for the X-E2, which will be phased out.

The announcements coincided with the unveiling of Fuji's new X-series X-Pro2 flagship earlier this month (see News, AP 23 January).



Zeiss enters mobile market

ZEISS used the CES technology show to showcase three lenses for mobile phones. Zeiss has joined forces with mobile phone accessory brand ExoLens to develop the first three lenses in a new range: a wideangle, a telephoto and a macro.

Due for launch in the second quarter of 2016, the lenses will initially only be compatible with the Apple iPhone 6/6s and iPhone 6 Plus/6s Plus, via customised mounting brackets. However, further compatible devices are planned.

'The impact of an image is decisively influenced by the lens and its technical properties,' said Dr Winfried Scherle, executive vice-president of Carl Zeiss AG.

'The collaboration with ExoLens gives us the opportunity to tap into new target groups and provide ambitious mobile phone photographers with high-quality tools to support their creativity.'

For details, visit www.exolens.com.



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UK wins Hasselblad Master honours

A UK photographer is among ten winners of the Hasselblad Masters Awards 2016, beating thousands of images along the way.

John Paul Evans, who triumphed in the wedding category, bagged a new Hasselblad camera along with 'Master' status following a public vote and judging by photographers and imaging experts.

'The Masters Awards have always been the ultimate showcase to capture talent that flourishes across the globe,' said Perry Oosting, CEO of Hasselblad, which this year celebrates its 75th anniversary.

'Our 2016 Masters has again demonstrated the outstanding skills out there across the entire spectrum of photo disciplines.'

Each of the winners now faces a fresh challenge: to create a unique set of images on the theme 'inspire' for the latest edition of the Hasselblad Masters commemorative book.



John Paul Evans' winning image in the wedding category

Product photographer Jonathan Beer, one of the judges, said: 'Picking my favourites from the 2016 finalists was immensely tough.'

'Some categories had obvious stand-out entries, but others were much closer to call.'

'Exciting creativity, backed up with technical excellence, was what I was looking for.'

Beer added: 'The Hasselblad Masters has always been one of the most prestigious competitions in the industry.'

'The winners can take pride in, and benefit from, the coveted title Hasselblad Master for the rest of their careers.'

'I cannot wait to see what the winners create for the 2016 Masters Book.'

Samsung cameras a no-show

SAMSUNG has fanned the flames of speculation that it has pulled the plug on its global camera business by failing to showcase any cameras at the recent CES technology show.

Speculation has been rife since the firm revealed plans before Christmas to pull out of the camera and camcorder markets in the UK and Germany.

After searching for the elusive cameras on the Samsung stand at the Las Vegas Convention Center, AP deputy technical editor Michael Topham said: 'I asked three members of staff on the stand whether there were any Samsung cameras on display, to which they all replied there were not.'

He added: 'I walked the stand myself and couldn't see any.'

Samsung declined to comment on the



It is 12 months since the South Korean giant announced an NX camera, the NX500

matter when AP sought a response from a representative in the UK.

In November, Samsung said it planned to phase out sales and marketing of digital cameras and camcorders in the UK due to a fall in demand.

The news followed reports that Samsung planned to discontinue the NX1 in Europe.

Get up & go

The most interesting things to see, to do and to shoot. By Tom Smallwood



EAST YORKSHIRE

RSPB seabird photography workshops

From March to August RSPB Bempton Cliffs is home to more than 200,000 seabirds, so if you're in the area why not try the regular bird photography taster workshops led by photographer Steve Race. Key species include puffins, gannets, kittiwakes, fulmars, guillemots, razorbills, herring gulls and shags.

Various dates in March and April, www.steverace.com

KICKSTARTER



Alexander von Wiedenbeck

Help fund a photography book of von Wiedenbeck's haunting images of children living in rubbish dumps and graveyards in the Philippines. 'Despite these appalling and scarcely imaginable circumstances, these children were so warm and open,' he explains. bit.ly/hopekickstarter

BIRMINGHAM



Photography Show

Organise a visit to the UK's largest photography show, which includes lots of manufacturer and retail stands. There is also a programme of seminars and speakers, including Michael Freeman, Charlie Waite and former AP editor Damien Demolder.

From 19-22 March, www.photographyshow.com

LONDON



Alec Soth: Gathered Leaves

The Magnum member's first major exhibition in the UK features four of his projects from the past ten years, including 'Songbook', a group of large-scale photos first compiled in unbound publications based on a road trip across seven American states.

Until 28 March, www.science.museum.org.uk/alecsoth

INTERNATIONAL



APOTY

Entries to this astronomy photography competition are being accepted from 29 February. The nine categories include Skyscapes, Aurorae, People and Space, Our Sun and Our Moon. There is also a Young Astronomy Photographer of the Year category for those under 16. Five images per entry.

Until 14 April, www.rmg.co.uk/astrophoto

For the latest news visit www.amateurphotographer.co.uk



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Not a quiet year for Nikon

Michael Topham caught up with Nikon's **Dirk Jesper** to discuss the camera maker's future strategy, and finds out why 2015 'wasn't a quiet year' for **Nikon** in the imaging market

DURING our recent visit to the CES technology show, *Amateur Photographer* had an opportunity to interview Dirk Jesper, product manager for professional products and product planning at Nikon Europe. During our discussion, AP asked a series of questions, aiming to find out more about the Nikon D500 and Nikon D5 and the company's strategy in today's imaging market.

Last year was extremely quiet from Nikon, with only a couple of new DSLR announcements. Can you explain why? I can assure you 2015 wasn't a quiet year for us because, as you can see from our recent announcements, we were quite busy preparing new products. If you want to start with new line-ups and new technology, it takes a lot of time to bring something to the market, and the D500 and D5 are proof of that.

Can Nikon be clear about who it expects will use the D500, especially given it has quite a high price tag? The concept of the D500 from the beginning was to have a compact, agile and professional system. It's our DX-format flagship and it shares so much technology with the D5. For example, it has the very same autofocus system and the target audience comes automatically – we're looking at high-grade enthusiasts and professionals who, let's say, need to work with limited equipment and require something that's compact, yet need the performance of a professional camera. It's ideal for wildlife photographers who want to take advantage of the crop factor.

Why has CompactFlash been omitted from the Nikon D500 in favour of XQD? Well, that's a simple question because it's all about

performance. The CF cards that were part of the professional photography world for so long have actually reached the end of what's possible. You won't see CF cards becoming faster, whereas XQD is a format that is future-proof. The current generations of XQD cards available are several times faster than CF. Looking into the frame rates, the D500 can shoot at 10fps, whereas the D5 can shoot up to 14fps. This generates a lot of data that needs to get onto the card, and 4K video comes with huge file sizes. You need to handle that and you don't want to be slowed down because your card is lagging behind when it comes to transferring data. It's also important to get the data from the card onto your computer and into your workflow system quickly. XQD can be up to five times faster [than CF], depending on the card.

What does Nikon envisage the ultra-high ISOs on the D5 might be used for? The high ISO that extends

beyond three million [on the Nikon D5] is not the main focus. The main focus is ISO 6,400–12,800 and up to ISO 51,200, and you'll get much better results there. This is the field that most sports photographers and journalists have to work in, and they often have to work in poor light conditions indoors and at events. You want to have images that are as clean as possible, so that's the focus. The fact that we can go up to three-million ISO is a side effect. It might be interesting for the military, police or surveillance use, but you can't expect the same clean image quality.

Why have we waited so long for a successor to the D300S? Did the tsunami in 2011 prevent Nikon launching a D400? No, absolutely not. The tsunami was a terrible catastrophe. It had an impact on our production, of course, but the development of cameras happens somewhere else. It hit our production sites in the Sendai district and, as you may remember, we had some delivery problems in certain segments after that, but we have fully recovered and it never had a negative impact on our development.

There are a few areas of the market that Nikon has yet to exploit – a large-sensor mirrorless camera and a large-sensor pocket compact are prime examples. Rival manufacturers are producing these types of cameras, which begs the question, when will Nikon do the same? We are always considering and looking into what the market

needs and, trust me, we will follow that closely. Of course, I can't say anything about future product launches, but if we think the time is there to launch something in that field, we will do it.

What's Nikon's future in the CSC market? Is it a priority? Priority is a strong word because you can't have just one priority any more – that is no longer possible. The imaging market is diversifying more and more. I mean, recently we launched the KeyMission 360 camera, which also reflects that – it's a brand-new concept. So you have to find the balance, because the needs of our customers have become more diversified. There is the compact side on one hand, and then there is performance on the other. One of the reasons why mobile phones are so popular is that they are convenient – it's easy to use them to take pictures, and easy to share them. Everyone acknowledges the image quality isn't that great, but we try to close the gap between Instagram and sharing with SnapBridge.

Before Christmas, there was much speculation in the press that Nikon had bought Samsung's NX camera business. Are you able to give us a reaction to the many media reports about this? As you learn from the media, and also from official feedback, that was a hoax. There was never really anybody talking about it.

What's Nikon's strategy for 2016 and 2017?

Our strategy for the future is clear and simple: bring out the best imaging products that you can imagine. Nikon is also spreading out to other fields of business, but that is more medical and industry-related business, as you may have seen from my messaging earlier this year. But for imaging, we are a leader in that market, and we want to stay there.



Nikon's Dirk Jesper (far left) and AP's Michael Topham



Durable
Built with rugged magnesium-alloy and carbon-fibre materials, the D500 is dust and water resistant.

4K video
The D500 is Nikon's first DX-format DSLR to offer 4K UHD video recording at up to 30 frames per second. There's a 4K UHD time-lapse function to experiment with too.

Nikon D500

Nikon has finally announced the long-awaited successor to the D300S. **Michael Topham** gets his hands on the **D500** - Nikon's most advanced DX-format DSLR to date

offers dioptre adjustment from -2.0 to +1.0m.

As well as appealing to advanced stills photographers, Nikon has targeted videographers and those who'd like to record high-quality movies by equipping the D500 with 4K UHD video. The D500 can record 4K UHD (3,840x2,160) footage at 30p/25p/24p, with the option to also record 1,080/60p. Unlike the Nikon D5, which can only record a maximum of three minutes' 4K footage, the D500 can record for up to 29 minutes and 59 seconds.

The D500 also allows users to generate 4K UHD time-lapse movies within the camera - a first for any Nikon DSLR. Both a headphone and a 3.5mm mic port feature at the side of the body, and users will find the movie-record button is conveniently located next to the on/off switch.

Elsewhere, the D500 introduces a new type of connectivity that Nikon has named SnapBridge. The idea of this technology is to offer a better link between the camera and mobile devices, and requires users to install a SnapBridge app that will be made available as a free download. As explained in our interview with Nikon's Dirk Jesper (see page 9), one of the major benefits of SnapBridge is that it

At a glance

- 20.9-million-pixel, DX-format CMOS sensor
- ISO 100-51,200 (expandable to ISO 50-1,640,000)
- Expeed 5 image processor
- 153-point autofocus system
- 10fps continuous shooting
- 4K UHD movie recording
- SnapBridge support
- Price £1,729 (body only)

Key features

The D500 features an all-new 20.9-million-pixel, CMOS, DX-format chip that has no optical low-pass filter. This is teamed up alongside Nikon's latest Expeed 5 image-processing engine that allows the D500 to shoot continuously at a blistering 10fps, with a 79-shot buffer when shooting 14-bit uncompressed raw files. Whereas the D300S has a rather conservative ISO range by today's standards, the D500 improves in this area by delivering a standard ISO sensitivity of 100-51,200 that's expandable to 50-1,640,000.

Claimed by Nikon to be its 'best enthusiast DSLR offering', the D500 supports this statement with a truly impressive autofocus system. It inherits the Multi-CAM 20K autofocus module from the Nikon D5, meaning it has the same configuration of 153 AF points that cover an extremely wide area of the frame. Out of the 153 AF points on offer, 99 of these are of the cross type. It's not only the number of points that

impresses, either. The advanced autofocus system enables the D500 to focus down to an impressive -4EV with the central point, and down to -3EV with all other points.

Another feature that ties in with the new autofocus system is the D500's 3.2m, 2,359,000-dot touchscreen. This allows users to reposition the focus point across the frame by simply tapping the screen, and there's the option to enable a touch-shutter function for those who'd like to fire the shutter by tapping the rear display.

Although the pre-production samples we used didn't allow us to navigate the menu using the touchscreen, I discovered that image comments can be made in this way. The screen is the tilting type as opposed to being fully articulated, with buttons lining the left of the body in a similar fashion to that of the Nikon D7200.

Directly above the screen is the D500's optical viewfinder that provides 100% coverage of the frame. The viewfinder has an impressive 1x magnification and

LAUNCHED at the same time that Nikon announced its new flagship D5 FX-format DSLR, the D500 has a similar relationship to the D5 that the Nikon D300 once had to the Nikon D3. The D500 sits above the D7200 in Nikon's DX-format line-up and is designed to offer the best of both worlds, offering advanced enthusiasts and professionals the benefits of the DX-format, such as smaller form factor and crop factor, while offering advanced pro features from the Nikon D5. Without further ado let's take a closer look at the D500 in much more detail.



Dual slots

The D500 has a dual card slot design and accepts SD and XQD cards. XQD cards offer faster read/write speeds to keep up with the D500's impressive 10fps burst.

uses the power of Bluetooth technology to ensure you're always connected to the D500. Nikon has made sure users still have the opportunity to transfer large-size files using Wi-Fi, and SnapBridge is one of the many new features we're looking forward to testing and finding out how well it works when our review sample arrives.

So what else is new? An MB-D17 vertical grip will be made available for those who'd like to increase shooting stamina, and the camera will accept Nikon's EN-EL15 rechargeable Li-ion batteries. One slightly controversial idea is the arrangement of an XQD slot alongside an SD card slot. Nikon has opted for this ahead of twin SD card slots or a

single slot for SD media and a single slot for CompactFlash.

According to Nikon, CompactFlash has reached the end of what's possible in terms of speed, and XQD is a more future-proof solution in the long term. Those looking at the D500 with great interest will want to bear in mind that adding a few XQD cards to your basket could see the price escalate. The D500 will hit the shops in March, costing £1,729 (body only) or £2,479 with the AF-S 16-80mm f/2.8-4G VR ED.

'One of the major benefits of SnapBridge is that it uses the power of Bluetooth to ensure you're always connected'



Nikon showcased the shell of the D500's body behind glass at the official launch

First impressions



Right: AP's Michael Topham tries out the new D500 at the CES technology show in Las Vegas

THE ARRIVAL of the D500 has caught many by surprise, especially those who thought the next DX-format DSLR from Nikon might be the replacement for the entry-level D3300. With a good amount of time to get hands on and explore it, I can report that the top-plate is neatly laid out and has more of an advanced, professional feel than Nikon's other DX-format DSLRs. By repositioning the mode button to the left of the body, Nikon has created space for a dedicated ISO button directly behind the on/off switch. A large top-plate LCD panel features just like it did on the D300/D300S, although there's no built-in pop-up flash. To tie in with the launch of the D500 and D5, Nikon has also announced a new flagship SB-5000 Speedlight, which combines the power of the SB-910 in a smaller, more compact package.

Like the Nikon D5, the D500's autofocus system is one of the most impressive features. I found there was simply no hesitation or delay at acquiring focus in what can only best be described as unfavourable lighting conditions. The fact that the D500 features such an advanced autofocus system means serious enthusiasts looking to progress from an entry-level model or, say, the D7200, now have the same focusing precision available to them as professionals using Nikon's FX-format full-frame flagship DSLR - the D5. I was impressed by the touchscreen's responsiveness to light touches when I experimented moving the AF point, and its 170° viewing angle makes it particularly good for shooting overhead.

Although the level of weather sealing and robustness isn't expected to be quite in the same league as the Nikon D5, the D500 serves as a tempting choice for Nikon users searching for a more advanced DX-format DSLR without jumping up to full frame. I can see the Nikon D500 being an extremely popular DX-format DSLR with serious enthusiasts, and it's also likely to fall into the hands of some working pros who'd like to use a smaller and lighter model. The Nikon D500's crop factor (1.5x) and longer video-recording possibilities are other reasons for professionals to take a closer look.

It has been a long time coming, but it's fantastic to see that the successor to the popular D300/D300S is finally here. It doesn't look or feel like it'll disappoint.