THE AUSTIN SHUTTERBUG

Austin Shutterbug Club Newsletter Austin, TX September 2023

Which is Better - Lightroom or Photoshop

Invariably, when I teach a class, the question always comes up. Which is better, Lightroom or Photoshop? Or, often which one should I use?

Without being ambiguous, the answer is mixed. Adobe, the parent of both platforms, has produced a pair of excellent programs for digital photographers. Some professional photographers use only Lightroom, some only Photoshop. And many photographers actually use both platforms. And there is a good reason for doing so,

While it is true there is a distinct difference in capabilities and features in each of the two programs, they are designed quite well to work together. I will list differences in just a bit. But let's look at the bigger picture first.

Adobe Lightroom

Lightroom is designed from the ground up by photographers for photographers. At the beginning, Adobe gave a group of the world's best image makers a blank slate and asked what they would want and need in a photographic software platform. What came back was the first issue of Lightroom and it has grown tremendously from there.

Lightroom is a ***non-destructive***, image-based editing platform. That means changes to images are made through modifications of the image metadata or Exif files and not the pixels. That means changes are forever changeable or reversible.

Lightroom is also a ***database of stored images***, not simply a file browser. This provides excellent Digital Asset Management. (DAM). That is the outstanding feature of Lightroom. That means Lightroom knows where each image is stored in your computer system and becomes an excellent organizational and retrieval system. Images can be labeled, or tagged with meaningful keywords, organized in meaningful sets without duplicating files, and can retrieve images based upon these parameters, even years later. Lightroom remembers your camera data, lens data and if GPS enabled, your camera's location.

Lightroom also has a robust editing or processing platform that is capable of managing JPG, TIFF and RAW file formats equally. It has features for retouching, dodging and burning, and masking. And all this is reversible.

Adobe Photoshop

Photoshop was first developed for graphic artists for use in preparing images and artwork for the printing press. Photographers learned there were many features that provided capabilities to improve digital photographic images, so they quickly adopted the platform as their choice editing software. Because of that, Photoshop has greatly evolved into the most powerful programs around. It has become the industry standard. And, yes there are competitors, but not with the reputation of Adobe Photoshop.

Photoshop is a ***destructive***, pixel-based editing software. Changes are made to the pixels themselves and therefore, not reversible. There are some workarounds that delay the pixel destruction, but not permanently.

Photoshop can exit JPG and TIFF file formats and with the companion Adobe Camera Raw software, RAW files as well. It too, has features for retouching, dodging and burning, and masking.

A significant difference is that Photoshop can manage layers, enabling compositing of multiple images, and specialized color or tone value effects. Photoshop and TIFF files can be saved with layers intact, enabling modifications at a later date. And Photoshop can manage typography, introducing the written word or graphic symbology into the photographic image.

Better Together

Can you use one and not the other? Yes, and many well-known photographers do so. But there is an advantage to using both. First, they are delivered together for a single price, along with Bridge and Camera Raw with the basic subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud for photographers.

The beauty of the joint use is the database data management system, coupled with the non-destructive editing advantages of Lightroom. When finished complex editing or compositing in Photoshop, the image may be returned with ease into Photoshop enabling all the advantages there and easily returned to Lightroom to be again returned to the database.

My answer in a nutshell: use them both together. This is my best recommendation, especially to newer photographers who are just entering into post-production.

A brief outline of differences between the programs follows.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Photoshop's strengths

- **Pixel-level editing**– images created or opened in Photoshop are comprised of pixels, which are the small physical points in a raster image and are the smallest addressable elements in a photo. The software allows for editing even at this tiny level, meaning limitless manipulation is possible. Raster and vector images can be created from scratch.

- **Layers** – Photoshop allows for multiple layers to be stored within a master file, meaning that you can keep different images or edits on separate layers, and then hide, modify or enhance any of those layers independently.

- **Actions** – an extremely useful feature, actions allow manipulation steps to be chained together and recorded, letting you recreate an entire editing process with a click of the mouse.

- **Compositing and blending**– because of the ability to layer components within an image, it is possible to blend those layers together in unique ways. Masking allows you to protect specific parts of the photo from any adjustments being made down to the pixel level, simply by painting out the area you'd like to keep.

- **Huge toolbox** – each progressive release of Photoshop seems to bring more and more useful tools into the mix. From content-aware filling, reducing camera shake effects, photo filters, and automatic panoramic image stitching, there is a tool for almost every task a photographer would need. AI (artificial Intelligence) now incorporated into may tools that enhances usefulness.

- **Typography**– the ability to incorporate the written word into digital images.

- **Workarounds** are possible to delay the destructive process.

Photoshop's weaknesses

- **Steeper learning curve** – with great power comes… a steep learning curve. Although you have a massive array of tools at your disposal, mastering them is something that takes time and practice.

- **No built-in RAW editing** – unlike Lightroom's native ability to manipulate RAW files directly from your camera, Photoshop relies on its companion program ACR (Adobe Camera RAW) or something similar in order to import and modify these files.

- **No image management** – Photoshop is built from the ground up to be a powerful image creation and editing tool. Although there are batch import and export tools available to make some aspects of the process easier, there isn't a fully recognized, built-in management or workflow system for photographers.

- **Destructive editing**– due to pixel-level editing process.

Lightroom's strengths

- **Non-destructive editing**– because of metadata-level editing capability.

- **Built-in RAW editing** – no plugin required! Lightroom natively accepts RAW files straight from your camera and allows all of the editing you'd expect from within the software.

- **Image management and workflow centric** – Lightroom was born from the desire to give photographers something better to manage their photo libraries with. The entire program is based on creating a solid, consistent workflow that will help you make the most of the post-processing phase.

- **Simple and easy to use** – since Lightroom doesn't have the huge toolbox found in Photoshop, there is MUCH less to learn. Everything from the tools available, to the interface itself, is simple, intuitive, and easy to manipulate.

- **Presets** – a photographer's dream; imagine having the ability to string together exposure levels, contrast, and toning, and then save those to a handy file. Then imagine you can have unlimited variances of these and apply them to any photo with a click of the mouse. Welcome to Lightroom's presets! Photographers around the world share these online as well, giving you limitless potential options for your photo's look and feel.

Lightroom's weaknesses

- **No advanced editing tools** – because Lightroom wasn't intended as a full-on raster editor, most of the editing functions Photoshop users take for granted are not present here. With the exception of a few basic tools, you'll want to use Photoshop in situations where heavy image editing and detailed retouching is necessary.

- **No layer management** – the powerful layer system in Photoshop is non-existent as well. Effects and modifications can be stacked on an image, but there is no real separation of image segments or any ability to use blending modes.

- **Photos only** – again, Lightroom is intended as a workflow system for photographers, meaning you'll only be able to import existing photos and modify them; there are no raster or vector image creation tools to be found here as there are in Photoshop.

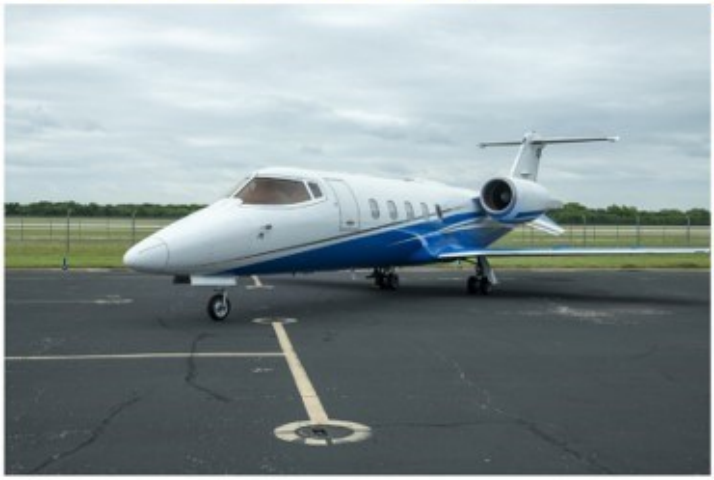
Article by Brian Loflin –

Photoshop and Lightroom Workshop

September 16, 2023

To learn the first basics of Adobe post processing, join the second ASC photoshop workshop 10:00 AM till 12:00 PM on Saturday, September 16 at the **Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock Dr**. Bring a laptop with Lightroom, Photoshop, or Elements installed as well as a few of your images. We will start from scratch, proceed slowly, and provide information for everyone. You are also welcome to come even if you don't want to bring a computer, but just to see what happens.

Learn how to turn this,



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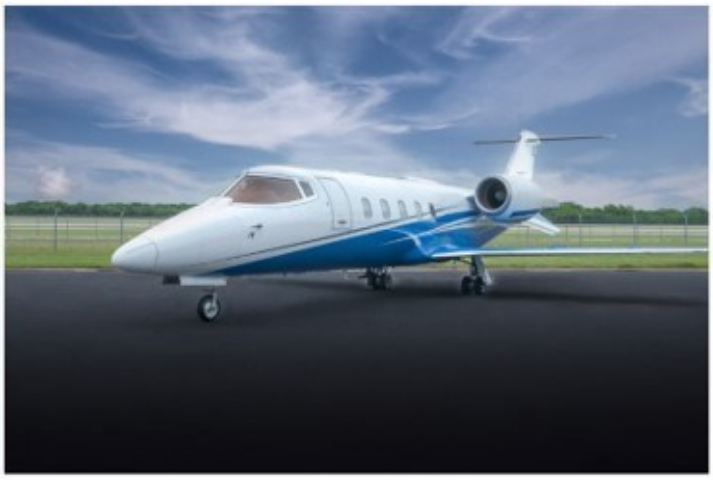
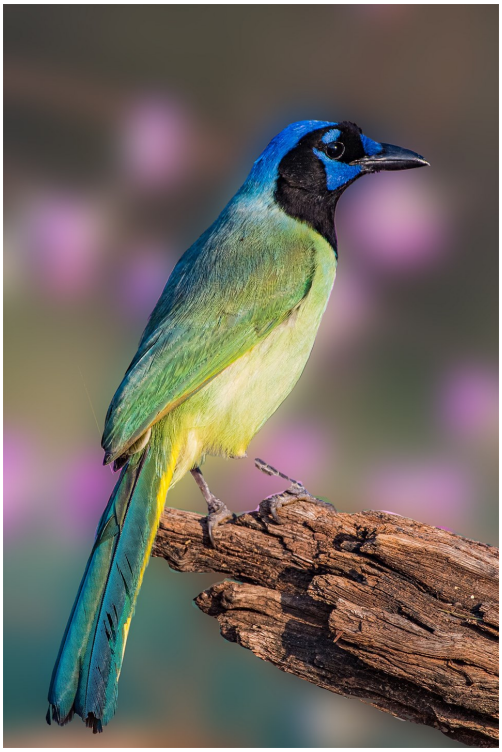


Finding the Perfect “Camera” for Wildlife

Modern digital cameras have multiple benefits for wildlife photographers. And there is a plethora to select from. The undisputed type is a single lens camera that focuses, composes, and meters the exposure through the lens. The ability to interchange a variety of lenses is of ultimate importance. That provides the ability to change the optic dependent upon need from ultra closeups or macro, to long telephoto lenses for distant wildlife.

Types



There are two basic types to select from: the Digital Single Lens Reflex or DSLR, or the Mirrorless Single Lens camera. Both types make exceptional images. Most manufacturers like Nikon, Canon, Sony, Pentax, and Fuji make both types and in several price points. Let’s look at the features of each type.

Digital Single Lens Reflex Camera or DSLR

This camera type derives its name because it has one lens to do everything. Viewing, composition, focusing and metering the exposure through the lens is accomplished with the use of a mirror that reflects the image to the eye through a prism that projects the image into the viewfinder. During the actual exposure, the mirror folds up out of the image path to the photosensitive sensor.

The camera accommodates the changing of lenses to suit the task at hand. Many different lenses are available.

This type of camera has been around for about seventy years, with refinements made by every manufacturer each year.

Digital Mirrorless Single Lens Camera

Unlike the DSLR, this camera has no mirror in the image path, hence the name. Instead, the image is focused on the sensor which, in turn, provides an image to a small electronic monitor within the eyepiece. Therefore, most of the camera’s operation is electronic, rather than mechanical.

This concept has advantages for the nature photographer as the electronic shutter can capture images at a greater frame rate than its mechanical cousin.

Which Type is Better?

There are many features of every camera make and model that are too numerous to mention. While every modern digital camera can make excellent images, there are some features that may make a difference to the buyer and their needs.

Full-Frame vs. Crop Sensor

A full-frame camera has a sensor size that closely compares in physical dimensions with the standard 35mm fill frame. That is about 24 x 36 mm. A crop sensor is physically sized slightly smaller (about 18 x 24 mm) than the full-frame sensor. That provides approximately 50 percent more capture area behind the lens. That means that with any given lens, the area of capture, or field of view, is reduced from that of a full-frame sensor. That is not a deficiency by any means, it simply means that to capture the same area of landscape, one simply must step back. There is no change in image magnification unless the lens or attachments are changed.

The noticeable difference is that new crop sensor cameras may be less expensive.

Image Resolution

The ability of a lens and sensor to resolve small details is of great importance in comparing cameras. Taking the lens and it quality from the equation, leaves the resolution of the sensor. This is measured in two ways, the number of photo sensitive pixels of the sensor and the pixel size.

Cameras and their sensors are measured in MegaPixels, or how many are on the sensor. Pixel size is just that- the physical size of each pixel. As a general rule, more megapixel sensors may produce images with greater resolution. However, some crop sensors may have more pixels per square millimeter, providing greater resolution.

Pixel size affects resolution in signal to noise ratio, image detail. and dynamic range. Generally speaking, larger pixels provide improvement in each of these three categories.

Frame Rate

Because mirrorless cameras may have no mechanical shutter, they are able to capture images at a greatly increased frame rate. Modern DSLRs can operate with fresh batteries at a frame rate of 10-15 frames per second. Mirrorless cameras may operate at 200 frames per second. This is a major advantage to the wildlife photographer capturing images of subjects in motion.

Battery Power

Battery technology has improved dramatically in the recent past providing longer operating life, fewer issues with charging “memory”, and cost.

Needless to say, a fully electronic camera may draw more power during use than mechanical cameras, therefore shorter battery life. The competitive tradeoff between cameras has to be measured in other characteristics.

Lenses

Because DSLRs have been around much longer, the variety of available lenses ai freat. Mirrorless camera manufacturers are rapidly catching up. Additionally, adapters are available for mounting older lenses on new mirrorless camera bodies.

One characteristic of newer mirrorless lenses is that with many manufacturers, the maximum diameter of the class is increased providing the ability to manufacture a lens with a much grater maximum aperture. It is not within the realm of possibility to make lenses with apertures of F1.1 or greater.

Bottom Line

The answer for most photographers comes to cost. Mirrorless cameras are a new breed and may be more expensive in comparison. There are more lenses and accessories available to DSLR owners.

However, the trend is definitely shifting to mirrorless. Some favorite DSLRs are no longer manufactured. But the used market is huge.

If I were to make a recommendation, it would be this: If you have a large investment in DSLR cameras, lenses and accessories and it performs to your needs, stay with the DSLR and make your investment in newer, and better glass.

If, however, you are young in photography and your investment is nil or small, then the idea of a mirrorless system is probably a good idea. Start with a more inexpensive body and make your largest investment in the best glass you can afford.

Article by Brian Loflin –

Changes to Shutterbug Club Evaluations

Effective July 2023, visible changes have been made.

The objective for evaluations has always been to provide a forum for education about producing good photographic images. For a very long time the process was presented within the meetings. At one time because of a large number of images presented and the time limitations at the Rec Center, the process was moved off site. This was deemed a mistake in judgment.

Therefore, the entire process will again happen during the actual club meeting every other month.

The images will be collected via email to bkloflin@austin.rr.com. They will be distributed to a panel of three or four evaluators who will review the images prior to the meeting. At the meeting the images will be projected, and comments made by the panel with additional comments and/or questions from the audience. Since this may be a bit lengthy, no other activities are planned for evaluation nights.

Additionally, the requirement for assignment images to be made within the current year **HAS BEEN ELIMINATED**.

It is felt this change will again bring the educational value of the process back to the image maker and to the club as a whole.

Visitors welcome!

NEXT MEETING DATE!

Thursday, September 7, 2023

7:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center

2913 Northland Dr, Austin, TX 78757

We are on Facebook!

Austin Shutterbug Club
Northwest Recreation Center

Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Brian Loflin at 7:03 pm. Guest Jack DeValt was introduced, and Brian summarized club activities for him. Brian gave a detailed presentation on light and how it is used and managed in photography. The discussion covered information on hard and soft light, how each is achieved, and where each might be most useful; high dynamic range; positioning of light sources; shadows and penumbras; and other important lighting factors photographers need to consider.

The photo assignment subject for September is 'monochrome'.

Workshops are scheduled for:

August 12, 10 am -12 pm at North Village Branch Library, 2505 Steck Ave.
on the topic of Innovations in Photoshop; and

September 16, 10 am - 12 pm at Yarborough Branch Library 2200 Hancock Dr.
on the topic of Photoshop Basics

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Volunteers needed for the following categories:

- **Newsletter editor** - Produce a monthly newsletter.
- **Programs, field trips, and workshops**. Someone to help coordinate these events.

If you feel lead to volunteer in one of these capacities, please email Barbara Hunley at austinshutterbug@gmail.com

I wish that all of nature's magnificence, the emotion of the land, the living energy of place could be photographed.

Annie Leibovitz -

Austin Shutterbug Club Activities

NOTE: Monthly meetings are held at Austin's **Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Dr., Austin, TX 78757. (NWRC)**

SEPTEMBER

Meeting: Thursday, September 7, 2023
Evaluation: **"Monochrome Image"**
Workshop: **Camera Basics and Post-Processing Basics**- Saturday, September 16, 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM, Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock Dr.

OCTOBER

Meeting: Thursday, October 5, 2023,
Program: TBD
Workshop: **Bring your Grandkids for "Family Photos Workshop**" Saturday, October 7, 9:00AM- 12:00 PM, Northwest District Park, 7000 Ardath St.

NOVEMBER

Meeting: Thursday, November 2, 2023,
Evaluation: **"Action Shots of People"**
Special Presentation: Eclipse Photos from Members.

DECEMBER

Meeting: Thursday, December 7, 2023,
Holiday Dinner Party TBD

Assignment Categories for 2023

November 2

Action Shots of People –

An image of one or more people in action. The image may or may not demonstrate motion blur. May be color or monochrome.

January 4, 2024

Image enhanced by significant Post-Processing* –

The image must be based on an actual photograph which has been artistically altered through the use of computer post-processing. These methods may include HDR, Compositing, Sky replacement, Color replacement, Photo-stitching, Photo-stacking, and innumerable other methods. Original and final Processed photos should be submitted for review and discussion of techniques. May be color or monochrome.