

Are Your Photos *SHARP*?

— by Brian Loflin

What do you mean by sharp photos? Sharp photos are rendered with high fidelity. The resolution is high. The subject is strong. And, all else is subordinate to the subject.

Lets really look at a photographic image that is sharp.

The cropped head of the Crested caracara is sharp. There is nothing in the background that distracts from the bird. But let's really look in greater detail.

In this view we can determine the image is in fine focus, the tiny pin feathers, and indeed, the eye lashes are in

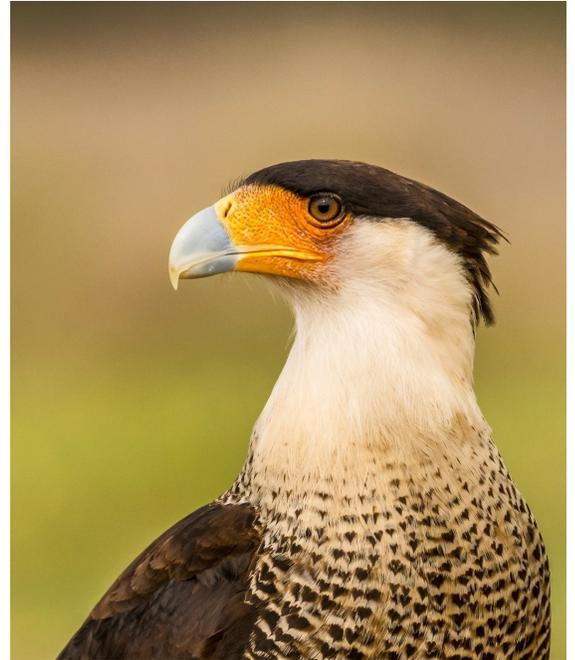


great detail. The

tiny details are rendered with great fidelity. These are hallmarks of a sharp image. But, what affects image sharpness?

First, and this is a dollar driven condition, lens optical quality. Today you really get what you pay for. Digital camera sensors are so good they will really show the flaws of a poor lens.

Focus is a significant factor, and there are two types of focus, First Lens focus. Have you really adjusted the focus correctly. Some lenses when autofocus are just not there. So, tweak the focus ring to bring out the best. Secondly, depth of field focus is another factor. If



insufficient depth of field is not available, the image may not be truly sharp. If you increase the aperture to increase depth of field, the shutter speed may not overcome camera and subject motion. So camera and subject motion must be arrested. The best ways is with a high shutter speed, a tripod or with flash.

The top right photo was made at 1/200 second and demonstrates motion in the image details. The image below was made at 1/1600 second and the blurriness is removed.



The last sharp criteria has to do with lighting. Images that contain a little lighting contrast look sharper than those which are flat. And if stray light is entering the lens, it will create flare that is a super sharpness killer. Therefore, you should always use your lens hood to block stray ambient light.

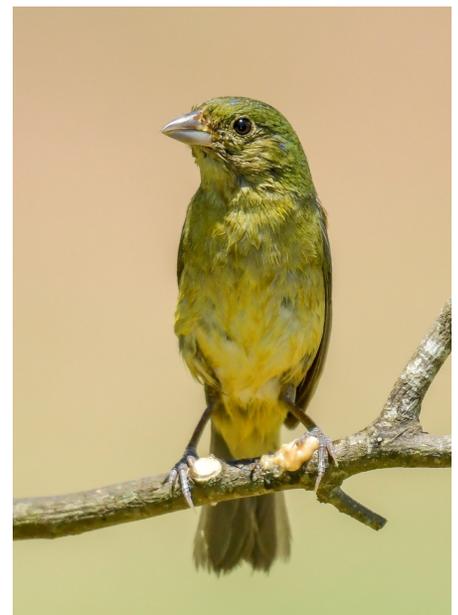


Another detriment is cheap glass filters. The filter surfaces may not be as high quality as your lens elements and will degrade the image forming light upon entering your lens.

And lastly, the reproduction resolution will affect apparent sharpness. Compare the two images below. The left is reproduced at 72 ppi, and the right is at 300 ppi. There is a noticeable difference.



So mind you camera settings well and consider the factors affecting image sharpness, and you will be successful most of the time.



Workshop in Cuba

– by John Terwilliger

Due to unforeseen circumstances last month, the meeting had to end early so John, who was our guest speaker, will complete his discussion about the workshop he attended in Cuba under the direction of Peter Turnley.



Photos by John Terwilliger in Cuba

Cuba

Officially the **Republic of Cuba** is an island country in the Caribbean. It comprises the eponymous main island as well as 4,195 islands, islets, and cays. Situated at the convergence of the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and Atlantic Ocean, Cuba is located east of the Yucatán Peninsula, south of both Florida and the Bahamas, west of Hispaniola, and north of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Havana is the largest city and capital. Cuba is the third-most populous country in the Caribbean after Haiti and Dominican Republic, with about 10 million inhabitants. It is the largest country in the Caribbean by area. Culturally, Cuba is considered part of Latin America.



Assignment Topics for 2026

January 2026

An Iconic Austin Mural – Must include the architecture that supports the painting. Color.

March 2026

A shadow of Itself – A photograph of a shadow. Must include at least a portion of the object making the shadow. Color or monochrome.

May 2026

Lunar Eclipse – A total lunar eclipse of March 2-3, 2026. Color.

July 2026

Texas Wildflowers – Any flower, grouping, or landscape. Must be wild. Color only.

September 2026

Fireworks Display – Color.

November 2026

Tabletop Still Life – Any subject. Composition and lighting are critical. Color.



To the complaint, 'There are no people in these photographs,' I respond, There are always two people: the photographer and the viewer.

- Ansel Adams -

Austin Shutterbug Club

Northwest Recreation Center

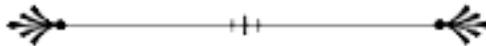
Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Brian Loflin at 7:00 pm. Brian introduced member John Terwilliger, who gave a detailed and informative presentation regarding his attendance at a Peter Ternley photography workshop in Cuba. Ternley is a world renown photographer who has been all over the world and in particular, to third world countries and countries torn by war, famine, political upheaval, and other tragic circumstances. John discussed the logistics of planning and making the trip, details of their daily activities, and interesting stories told to him by Ternley. He also showed many of the photos he took including the 15 that made their way into his final portfolio. He advised the club about the web site 1X.com where, with an annual subscription, photos can be submitted for critique. There was not time to show the video of the CBS Saturday Morning show regarding Peter Ternley, but we can look it up to view it.

After the presentation, Brian made announcements. There will be a workshop on *Water Drop Photography* on Saturday, February 28, at the Little Creek Branch Library from 10 am till noon. There will be a Macro workshop at a future date to be announced later. The March evaluation and critique subject is "Photos of a shadow. The photos Must include at least a portion of the object making the shadow. Color or monochrome". At the April meeting, member Mike Stys will bring and talk about his new high-tech telescope for Astro photography.

Adjournment time was approximately 8:40 pm.

Jill McLain
Secretary



Visitors welcome!



NEXT MEETING DATE!

Thursday, March 5, 2026

7:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center

2913 Northland Dr, Austin, TX 78757

We are on Facebook!

