

# Guided Edit Experience - Assignment 3

## Image Quality

Your assignment for this week is to experiment on Image Quality enhancements (Noise and Image Sizing) and start to figure out when and where they're needed.

For each image do the following:

1. Open the image and edit as you normally would. None of these need a lot of editing and you could do all of what you need in the Basic panel if you wanted.
2. Then ask yourself if the image needs Noise Reduction and rate how bad you think the noise is on a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning noise isn't bad, and 5 meaning it's very bad).
3. If you decided it needed noise reduction, what tools will you use? Is Lightroom good enough, or would you use a third party app if you own one (Topaz or DxO or even ON1). The tool of choice does not matter. They're all good and don't get caught thinking one is remarkably better than the other - they're not. And don't purchase a new tool just to try this. They all have demo's so if you want, give the demo a try.
4. Lastly, assume you'd be sharing these photos to an online web portfolio. Do any of them need any upsizing? If so, how would you do it? Feel free to experiment with exporting an upsized image from Lightroom, and then also use Photoshop's Image Size option if you want or any third party tools you may have. Again, don't purchase anything but if you have them feel free to experiment. That is how you learn if you need to spend money on another app to do these things - not from a YouTube video.

My answers/suggestions are on the next page so don't go there if you haven't completed the 4 steps above yet. You may agree or you may disagree, and that's okay. And there's a comment section on the page where you downloaded this, so feel free to post questions.

**You are about to scroll to the answers... make sure you're ready!**

## Matt's Answers / Suggestions | Image #1 - Little yellow bird

**Noise Problem Rating** - I rate this as a 1 or 2 on a scale of 5. Noise lurks in the shadows and there aren't many dark shadows in this photo. Plus, at the crop level that I would show this photo off on, nobody would be able to zoom in and see the noise that I can.

**Noise Reduction Method** - I would just use Lightroom for this photo. Maybe add a touch of sharpening (set the Amount slider to 90%) after. But again, it's not really necessary. Nobody can zoom in, so why bother?

**Upscale** - Not necessary. At my chosen crop level this photo is still over 5000 pixels wide. It is not necessary to upscale it.

*Note that I was purposefully vague on the size of the screen. You have no idea what size screen people will see this at. But you would know that pretty much the largest screens out there that most people use are 4K or 5K (4000 pixels to 5000 pixels wide).*





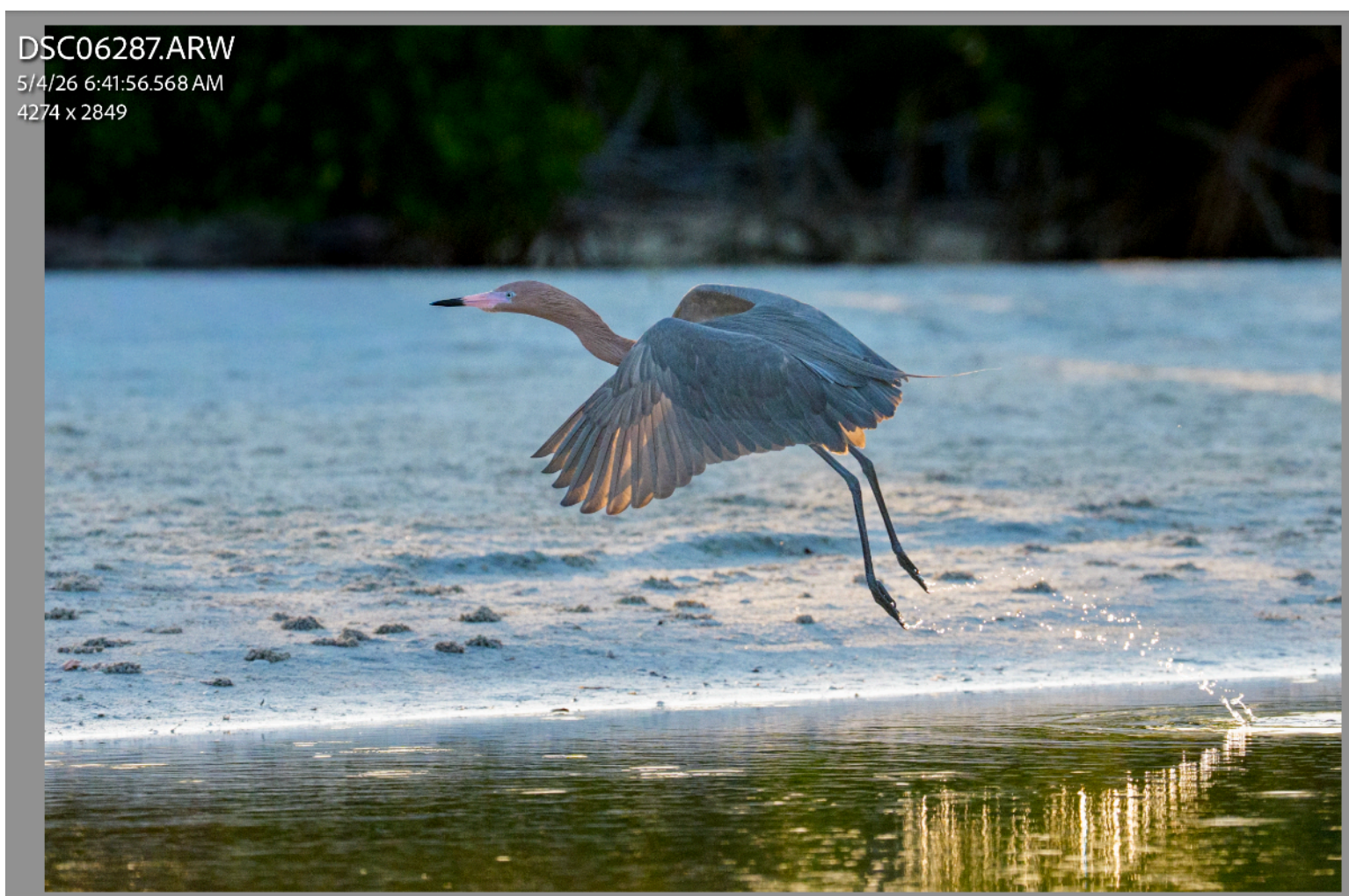
## Matt's Answers / Suggestions | Image #2 - Reddish Egret Taking Off

**Noise Problem Rating** - I rate this as a 3 on a scale of 5. Noise lurks in the shadows and this one is pretty dark. Even though the ISO level is 1600 compared to the yellow bird which was 2000, this noise appears worse. Remember, all noise is not created equal and you can't make a blanket statement on how bad noise will be for any given ISO - this photo is a good example of that.

**Noise Reduction Method** - I don't consider this photo to be amazing. It's nice, but not amazing. So that means I'd take the quick easy way out and use Lightroom for my noise reduction. If I thought this was an amazing shot, I may consider using Topaz or DxO for it if I really liked it. But for me personally, why spend the extra time? It's not worth it.

**Upscale** - Not necessary. At my chosen crop level this photo is over 4000 pixels wide. Which will still show off on any computer screen just fine. If I cropped it further and it started to be in the 3000 pixel range, I may upsize it to 5000 pixels for online portfolio sharing so that it would fill the larger screens.

*Note that I was purposefully vague on the size of the screen. You have no idea what size screen your viewers will see this at. But you would know that pretty much the largest screens out there that most people use are 4K or 5K (4000 pixels to 5000 pixels wide).*





## Matt's Answers / Suggestions | Image #3 - Little bird on beach

**Noise Problem Rating** - I rate this as a 1 on a scale of 5. No noise reduction would be needed for this one. I did nudge the Amount slider in the Detail/Sharpening section to 90 though. Since it's a tight crop, a little sharpening can help.

**Noise Reduction Method** - N/A

**Upscale** - I would upscale this to 5000 pixels on the wide end. At my chosen crop level this photo is about 2900 pixels wide. It would be more than enough for any social media app and YouTube, or anything else. But if I put this in my online portfolio, and some one had a large 4K or 5K screen, it would have to stretch. Probably not noticeable at all, but it can't hurt.

The upscaling method I would use would be to go to File > Export in Lightroom and just set the size to 5000 pixels wide. No need for a plug-in here.

