

Matt's Guided Edit Experience

Assignment Extra #2

Step 1: Import the photos to Lightroom.

Step 2: Read Part 1 and Part 2 assignments below.

Step 3: Part 1 requires you to edit the photo first. Then you can read my thoughts after.

Step 4: Part 2 requires you to remove distractions and then read my thoughts.

Step 5: You're done. This is not a group project. Just something to get you thinking and doing.

Part 1 - Edit This Photo 3 Ways

I'd like you to try editing this photo (for style) in 3 different ways. It can be anything you want. Different crops, different color treatments, etc... But I'd like to see you edit it 3 different ways and I'd also like to see you actually like all 3 versions you go with - don't just do it to do it.

NOTE: Noise reduction and sharpening have already been done. I'd like you to edit this for style, not technicals.



Part 2 - How Many Distractions Can You Remove

I thought it would be an interesting exercise to see how many distractions I can remove in this photo. Now, we have to set expectations and I hope you always consider what you're photographing and why. Are you out there to make an award winning photo, or to experience nature - and yes, sometimes we hope it can be both. But as I like to suggest... Hope isn't a very good game plan :-)

Anyway, in this example I was in the rainforest in Costa Rica. We weren't in a preserve where the wildlife was set up for us. We were exploring and this is what we found. In those situations I hope you always set your expectations that perfect is rarely going to happen. But I don't think we were there for perfect - we were there to experience nature, capture some great candid photos and maybe... just maybe... we get something really good if subject, background, moment, and light all cooperate at once (which rarely happens).



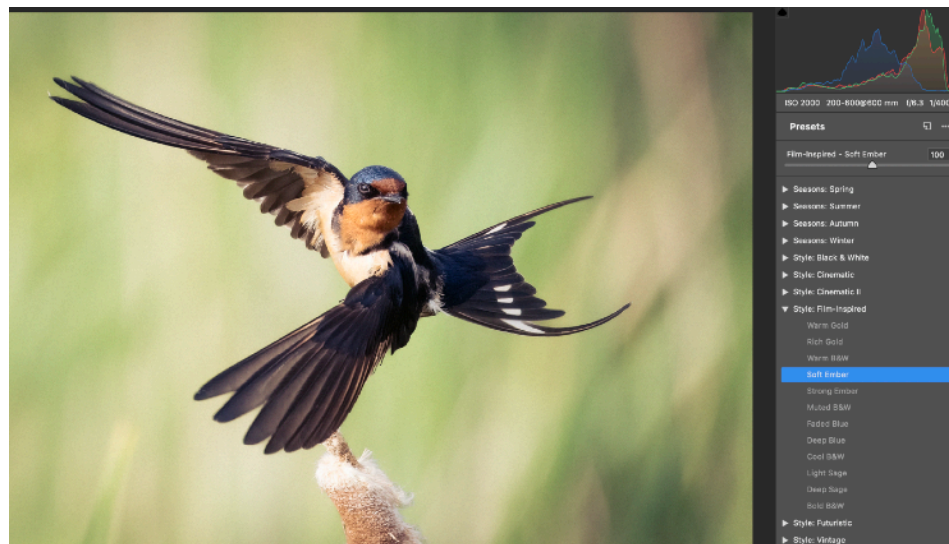
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Part 1 - Editing 3 Different Ways

For me, the crop is the same in all of them. This photo isn't much without a tighter crop. After that, I thought the photo looked pretty good as is and I only made a small shadow adjustment to the original. As you've heard me suggest many times... get something good in front of your camera, in good light and the rest takes care of itself. This is one of those examples.

Next, while I don't often like B&W for nature photos since Mother Nature gives us way too many great colors to take away, I do like how the B&W treatment for this worked out. When the whites and blacks speak for themselves in a photo, it can be really compelling. I used the B&W Profile named B&W 02 and did a background mask to make it brighter.

Lastly, in the Presets section there is a category called "Style - Film Inspired" and I thought the Soft Ember gave it a nice warm, muted feel.



Part 2 - Distraction Removal

I was pretty surprised how much I was able to remove using the Remove section in Lightroom Classic (Use Generative AI was checked). All of those little eraser icons are places where I painted. Some I had to paint over again later in the process, but the Remove section continues to surprise me at how good it's gotten. **(End of assignment #2)**

