

Why Do I Need A Large Lens For Wildlife Photography?

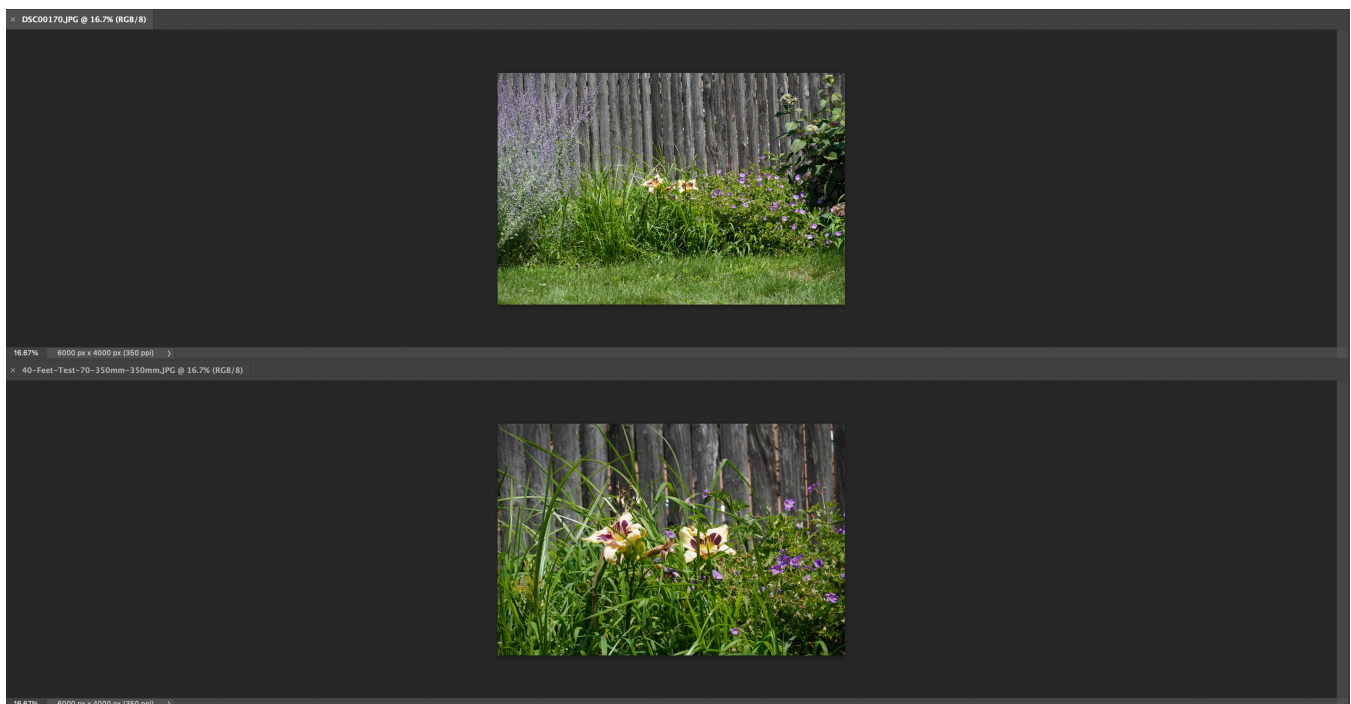
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The follow question is often asked for wildlife photography. “Why do I need a large heavy lens for wildlife. Why not use a smaller lens and crop?”

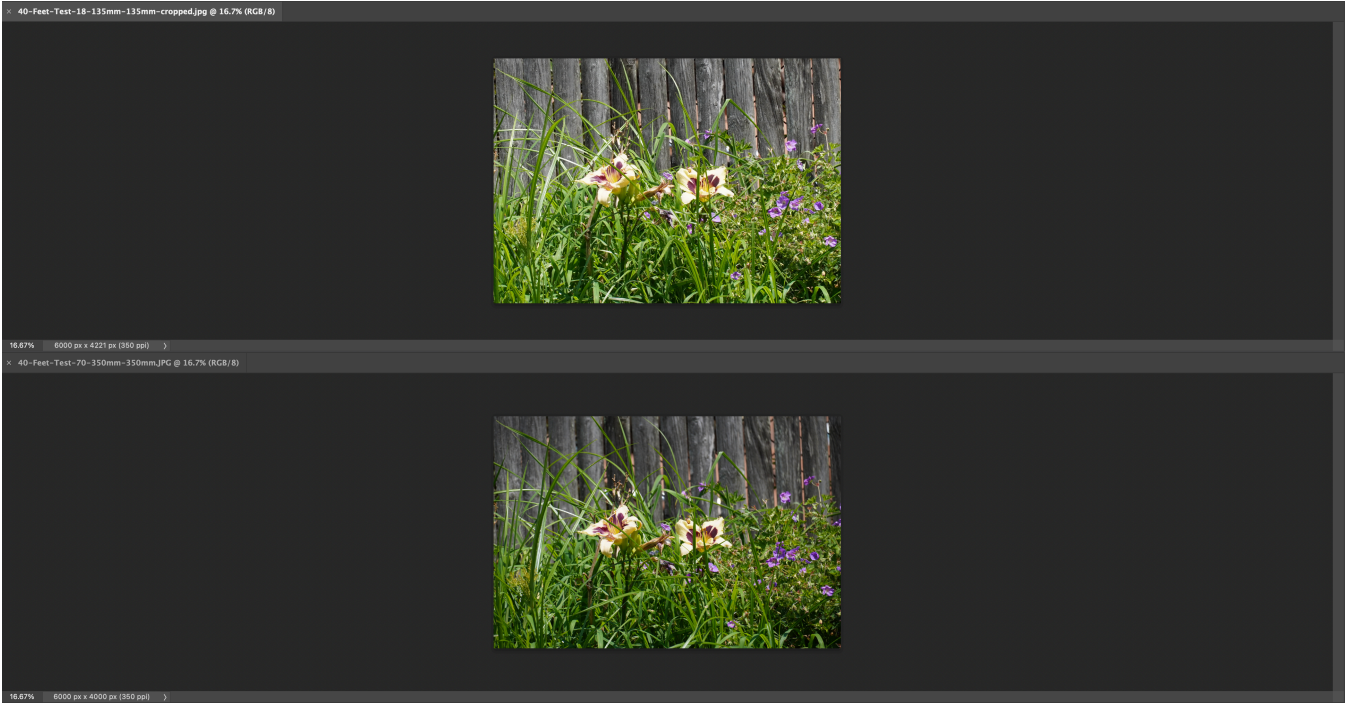
Below are some tests that demonstrate the need for a large lens. Photos from two lens are compared, 18-135 mm (APS-C) and 70-350 mm (APS-C) on a Sony A6600 APS-C camera. The 18-135 mm lens was used at 135 mm. The 70-350 mm lens was used at 350 mm.

To make an adequate comparison and to simulate what wildlife would look like after cropping, the photo at 135 mm was cropped to produce the same image as the photo with the 350 mm lens. By cropping the test starts out with an enlargement for the 135 mm photo. This is what a real life situation would look like if a smaller lens was used and cropped for the subject. The subject is what the photo is intended to reveal and what is being evaluated. The brown leaf in front is the point of focus.

From the photos below, it can be seen that the 18-135 mm lens at 135 mm could not be enlarged more than 100% before distortion appeared. The 70-350 mm lens at 350 mm need to be enlarged to 400% before distortion appeared. There was also a loss of bokeh with the 135 mm photo.



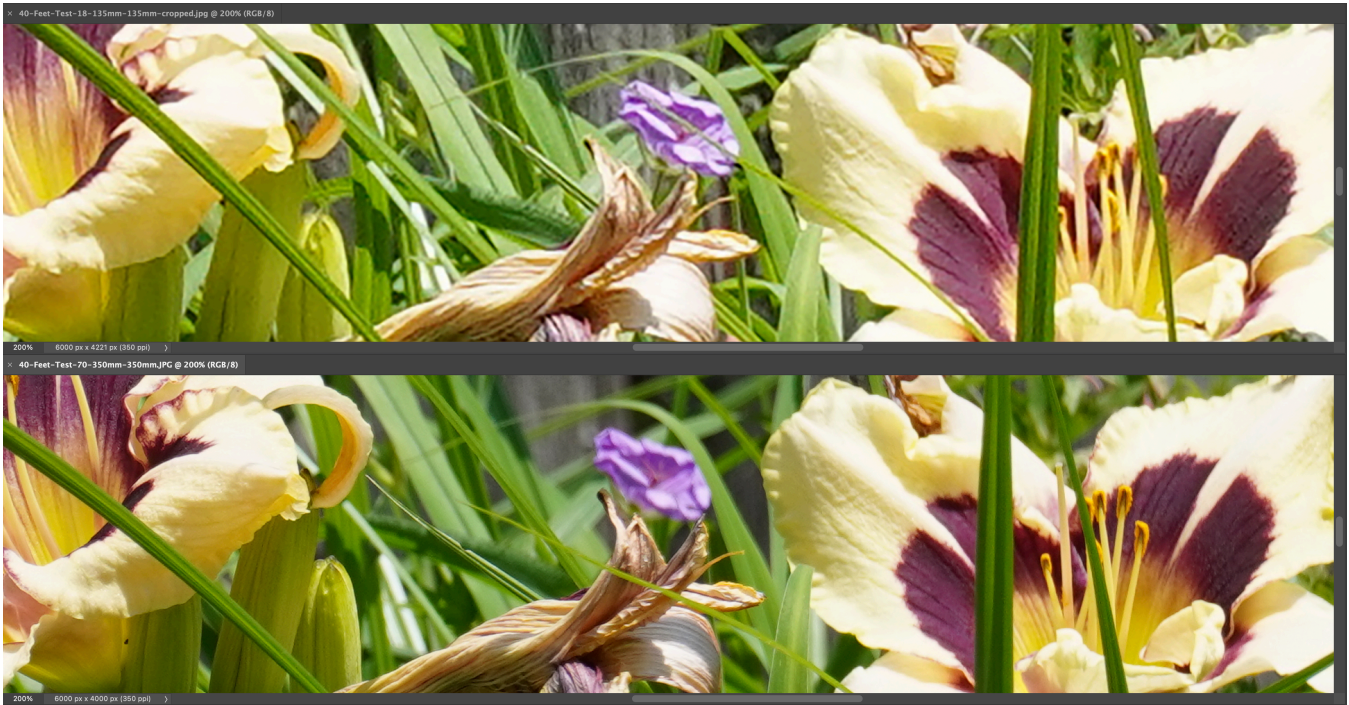
135 mm on top. 350 mm on bottom - 16.7% enlargement



135 mm cropped on top. 350 mm on bottom - 16.7% enlargement



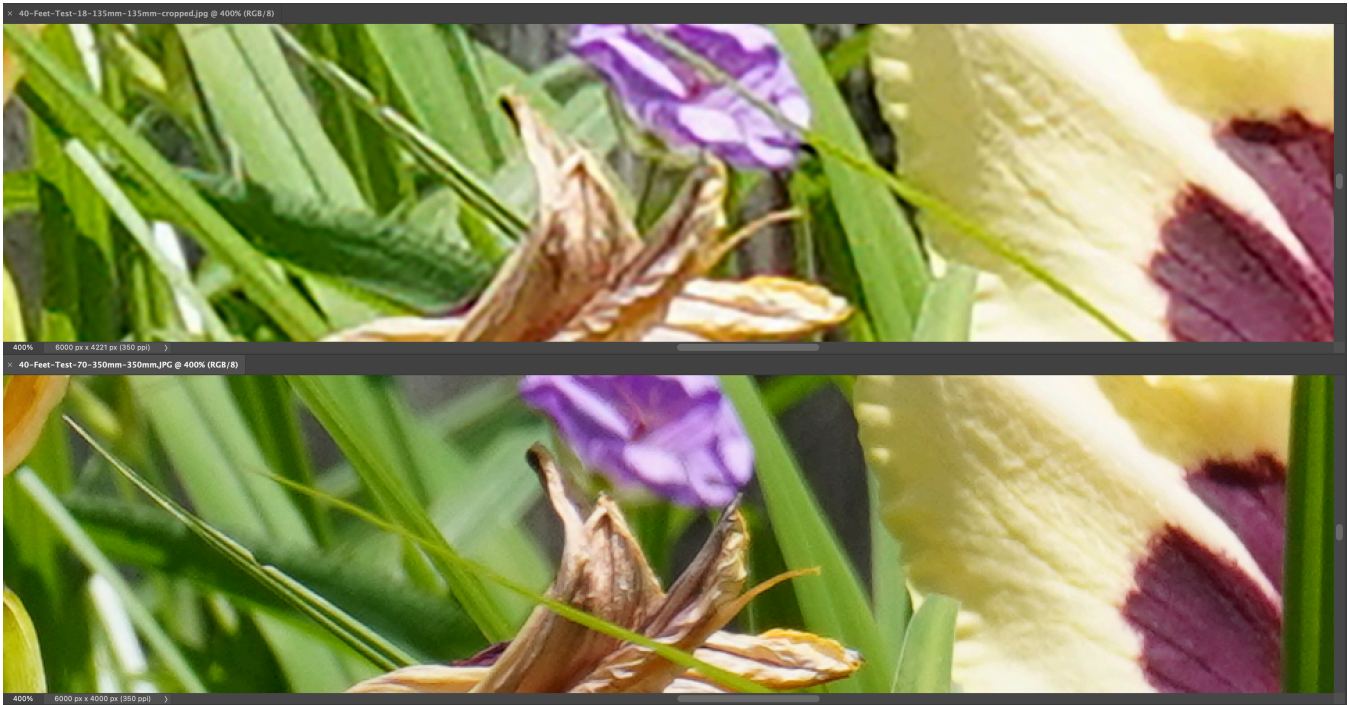
135 mm cropped on top. 350 mm on bottom - 100% enlargement



135 mm cropped on top. 350 mm on bottom - 200% enlargement



135 mm cropped on top. 350 mm on bottom - 300% enlargement



135 mm cropped on top. 350 mm on bottom - 400% enlargement