

How to Get the Shot

Revealing the secrets behind
unforgettable photography

Blog #123: Leap



There is a phrase in photography called the “decisive moment”. It’s the point where the subject makes a key move or takes a defining action.

I caught one of these at Flamingo Gardens in Florida. Touring there with my sister, we were enjoying the many birds there when I looked up to see a giant Egret sitting on a pole overhead. I pointed it out and as I raised my camera to take its photo, it took an enormous leap into the sun.

I could see that the sun shown down through its feathers, with its body creating a shadow surrounded by brilliant feathers.

A moment later it was up and out of sight.



Watching for the moment before the “great leap” reminded me of the many times in our lives when we are about to take an action—knowing we will eventually take that great leap — but just waiting until we have the conviction to go for it!

TAKEAWAYS

1. Have your camera with you and ready to shoot.
2. Sometimes you don't have the luxury of time to compose the shot or make adjustments. Use these opportunities to go with the moment. Have the camera set on auto focus and start shooting.
3. Take multiple shots. Sometime you might catch a better shot in the second or third attempt. Having a series of photo can also create a story, like the three photos above.