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Front Cover: Black Faced sheep brave the cold weather as the sun tries to breakthrough heavy snow clouds on February 23, 2005, near Lesmahagow, Scotland.

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These thirteen images of the moon were taken in Illinois about 10-15 miles east of the Mississippi River. Careful planning is needed two to three days in advance to anticipate clear skies. We had to drive 4-5 hours to get on the other side of the weather front to ensure clear skies throughout the 3 to 4 hour event. Photographs were taken from 11 PM on April 12 until 4:30 AM the next morning.

Multiple sets of exposures needed to account for the changes in the light and still maintain the detail and demonstrate the shadowing. During the event, 8 to 12 images were taken every 5 minutes, potentially 144 images an hour for roughly 4 hours which would equate to over 700 images in total.

In order to create the final image about 1 out of every 50-60 images was chosen. The entire event starts about 45 minutes before the cast shadow is seen and also 45 minutes after the cast shadow has disappeared. 756 raw images were taken at 18.1 Megabytes each. This generates 13.68 Gigabytes of data. These images took 5 days to sort through and select for final processing. Approximately from start to finish processing took 7 days, including one day to take the images, 5 days to sort, and a final day to create the canvas, align the images, and make final image adjustments for lighting.

To take images, a super-telephoto lens was used which has a physical range of 300 to 800 mm and a fixed f-stop of 5.6. Fixed f-stop means that the camera settings at 300mm would be the same at 800mm. This allows for retention of the image without the loss of detail (light) during various stages. It comes at a high price, but the final result is well worth the investment. If the lens had a floating f-stop, then when the camera "zoomed" in it would be harder for the camera to capture the image. The shutter would be open longer to capture the light. The additional length in time would have caused the image(s) to blur.



Moving from left to right, the first three images are about the same light intensity, these are where the moon moves into the penumbral part of the earth's shadow. The earth shadow exists in two portions. They are the penumbral, which is a partial shadow, and the umbral, which is the direct shadow. In the 4<sup>th</sup> image the moon is almost completely covered but the area that still is reflecting light actually brightens, which is a property called lensing. The light that is available gets concentrated to a small area that gives us this instant of brightening.

The next image of the progression is when the moon moves from the penumbral part to the umbral part or the center part of earth's shadow. Light is being bent around the earth's atmosphere. Because it is indirect and refracted by the atmosphere we now get the yellowish orange.

The next and central image, the Blood Moon, is when 100% of the lunar surface is completely in the umbral shadow of the earth.

The right part is the reverse of the previous. The yellow orange is on the opposite side as well as the lensing effect has an opposite curvature as the moon now exits the earth's shadow rather than enters it.

A six foot wide image of this moon phase progression by Jon Aros is on display at the Challenger Learning Center at Purdue Calumet.

Jon Aros is an astro-photographer and resides in Valparaiso, Indiana. Those interested in a print of this photo may contact Jon at [arosobs@yahoo.com](mailto:arosobs@yahoo.com), or by calling him directly at 219-629-9945. When emailing, please use the subject line "2014 Total Lunar Eclipse."