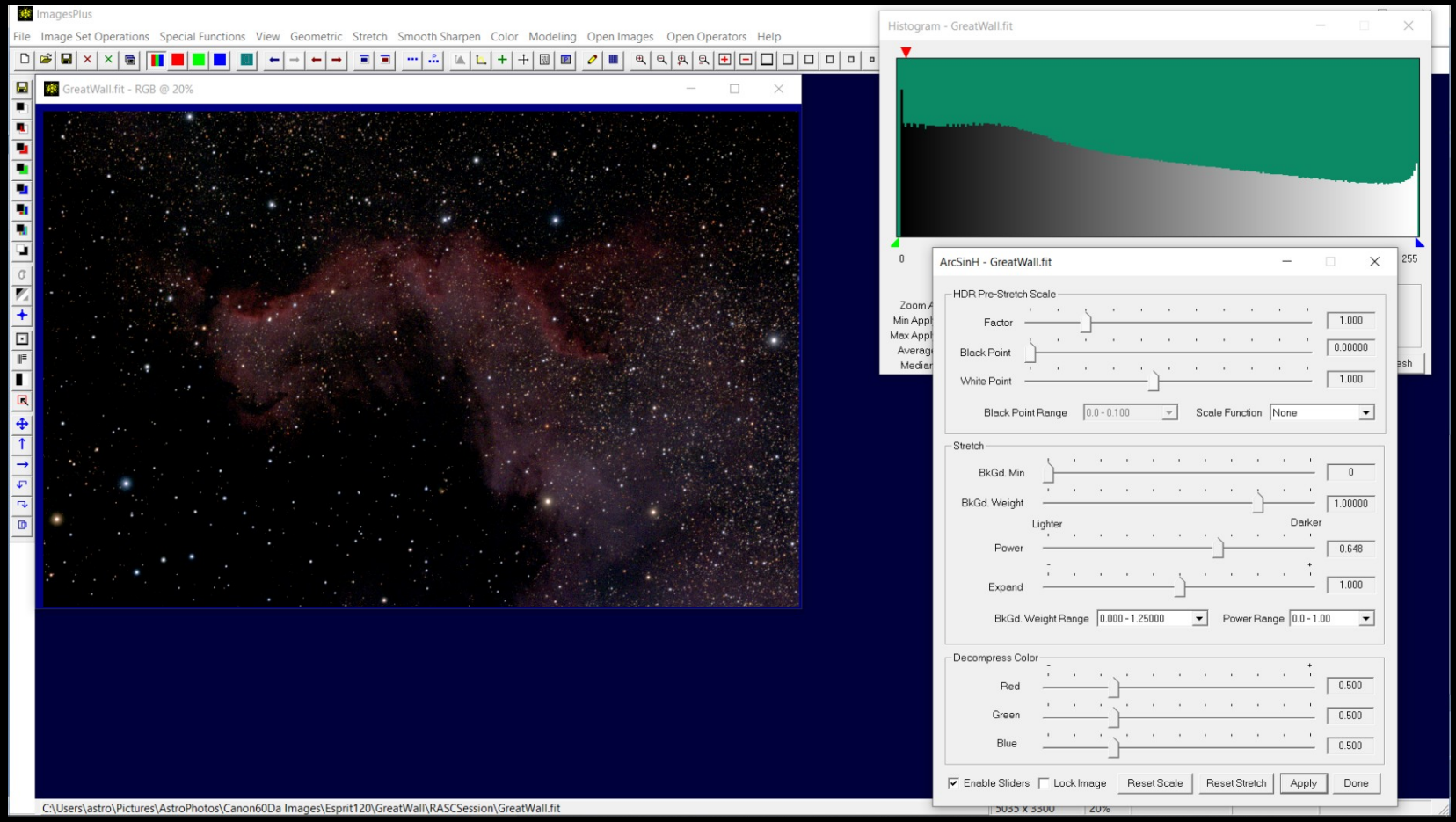
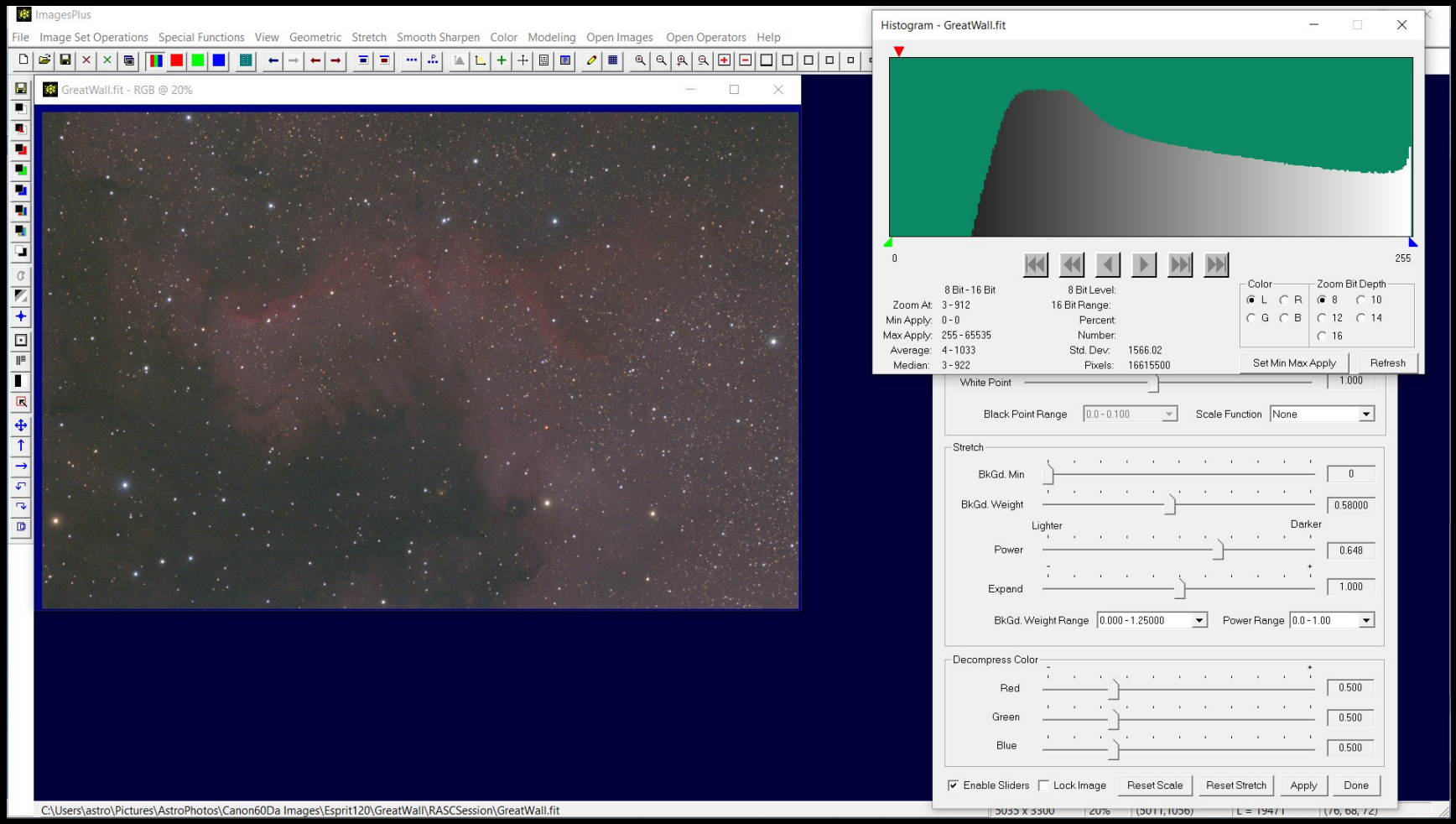
Split Star Processing Workflow

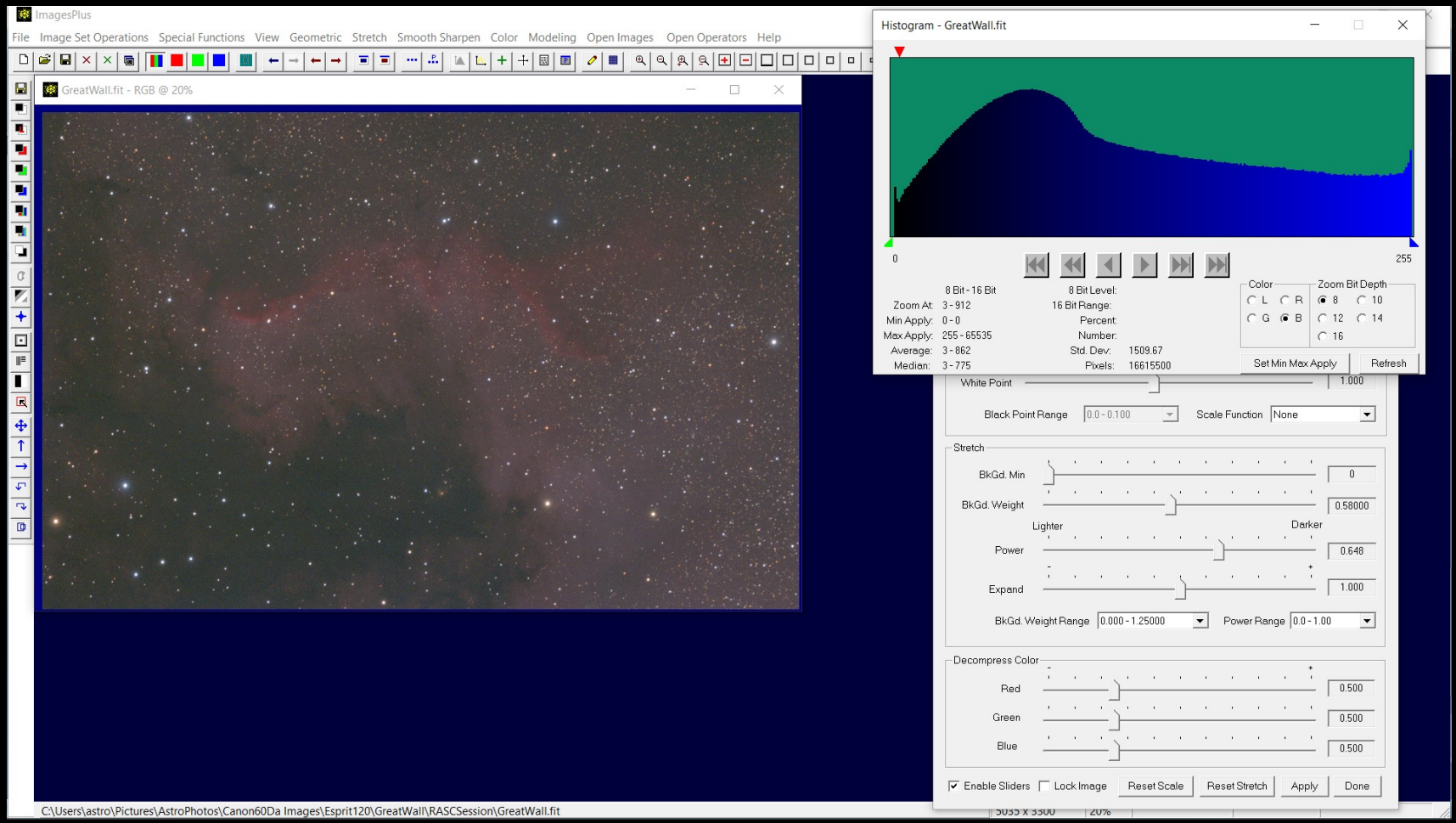
Always let the histogram be your guide



Don’t just check luminance

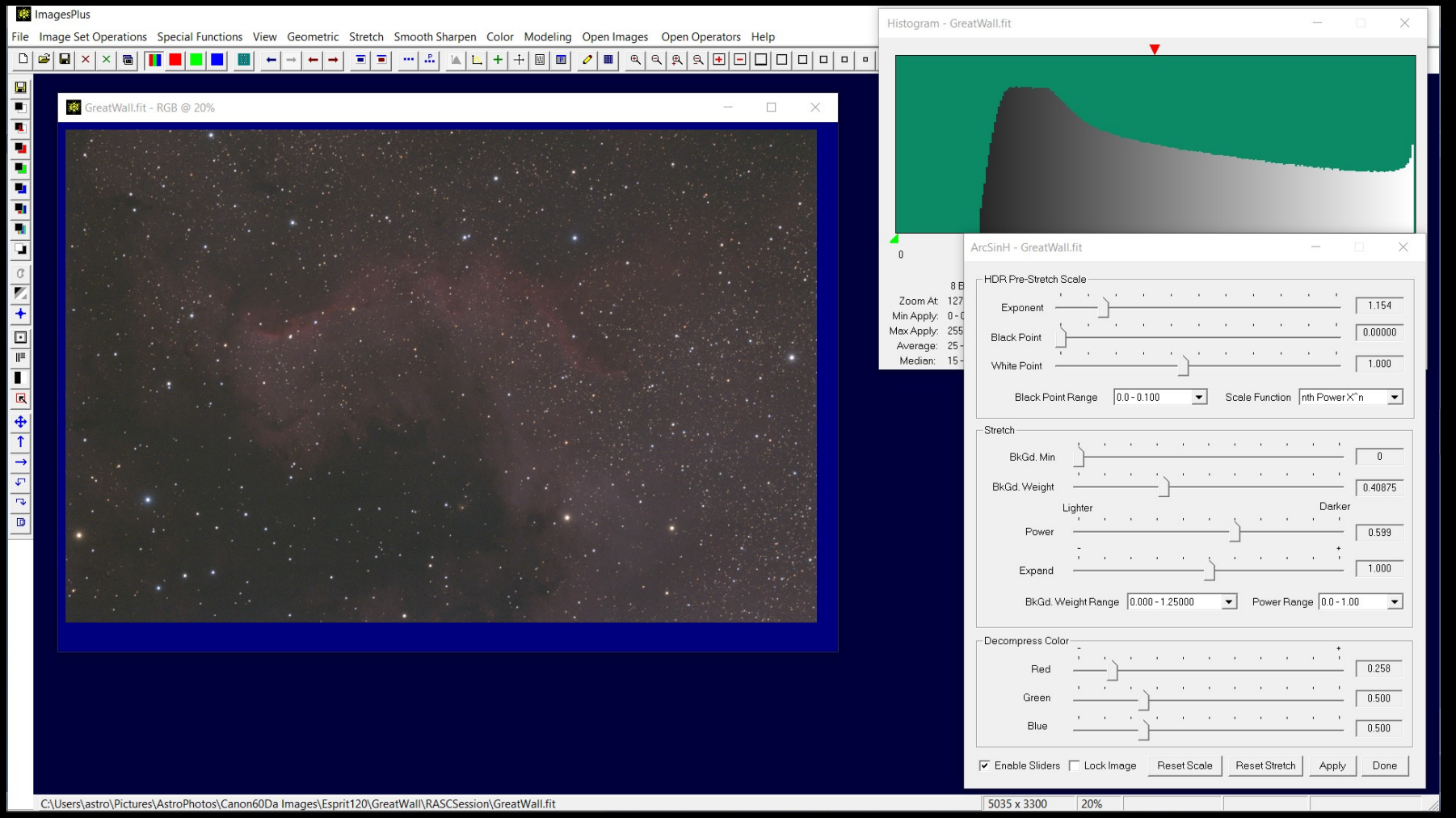


Check each colour channel

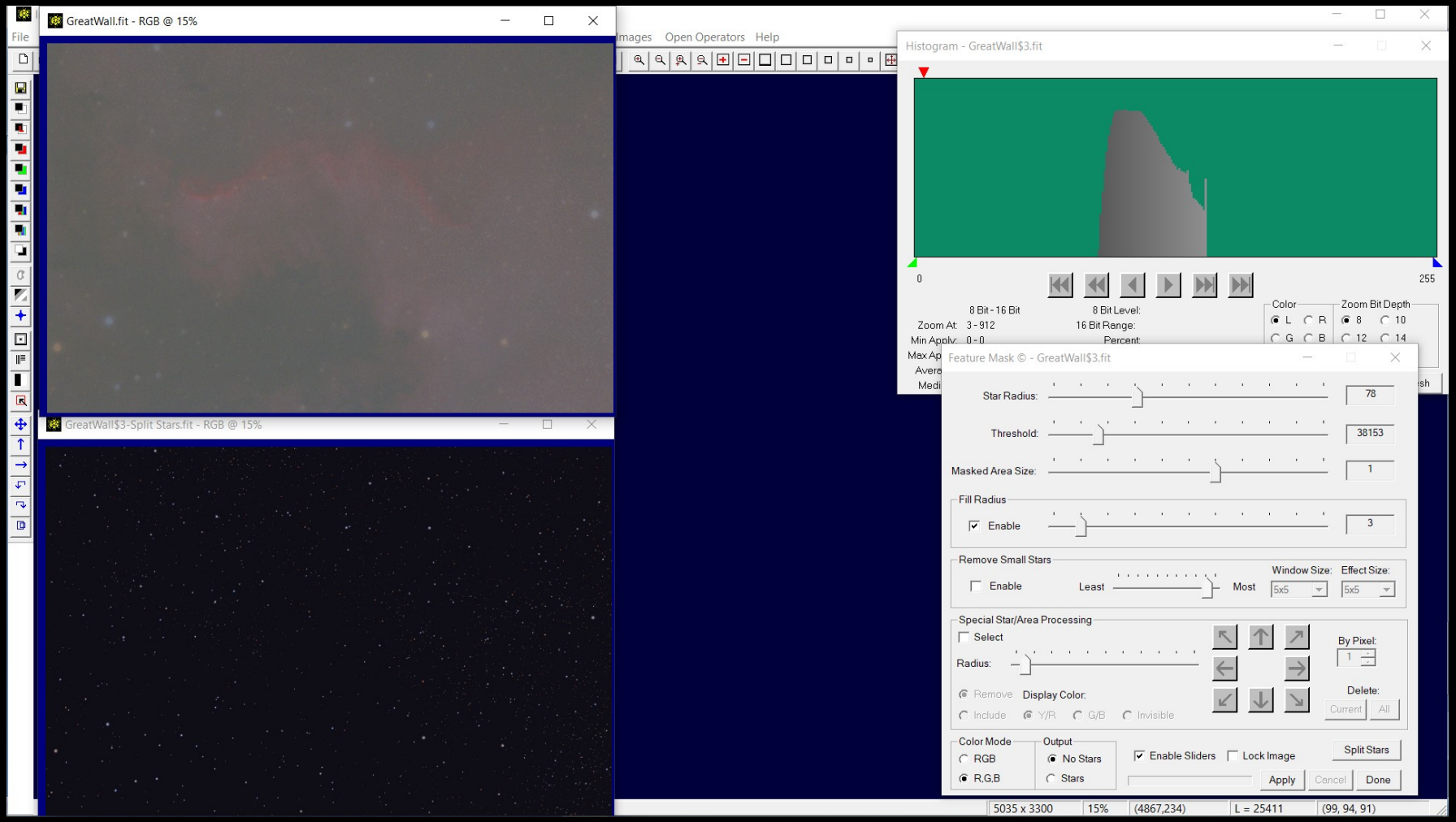


Stretching makes noise more visible

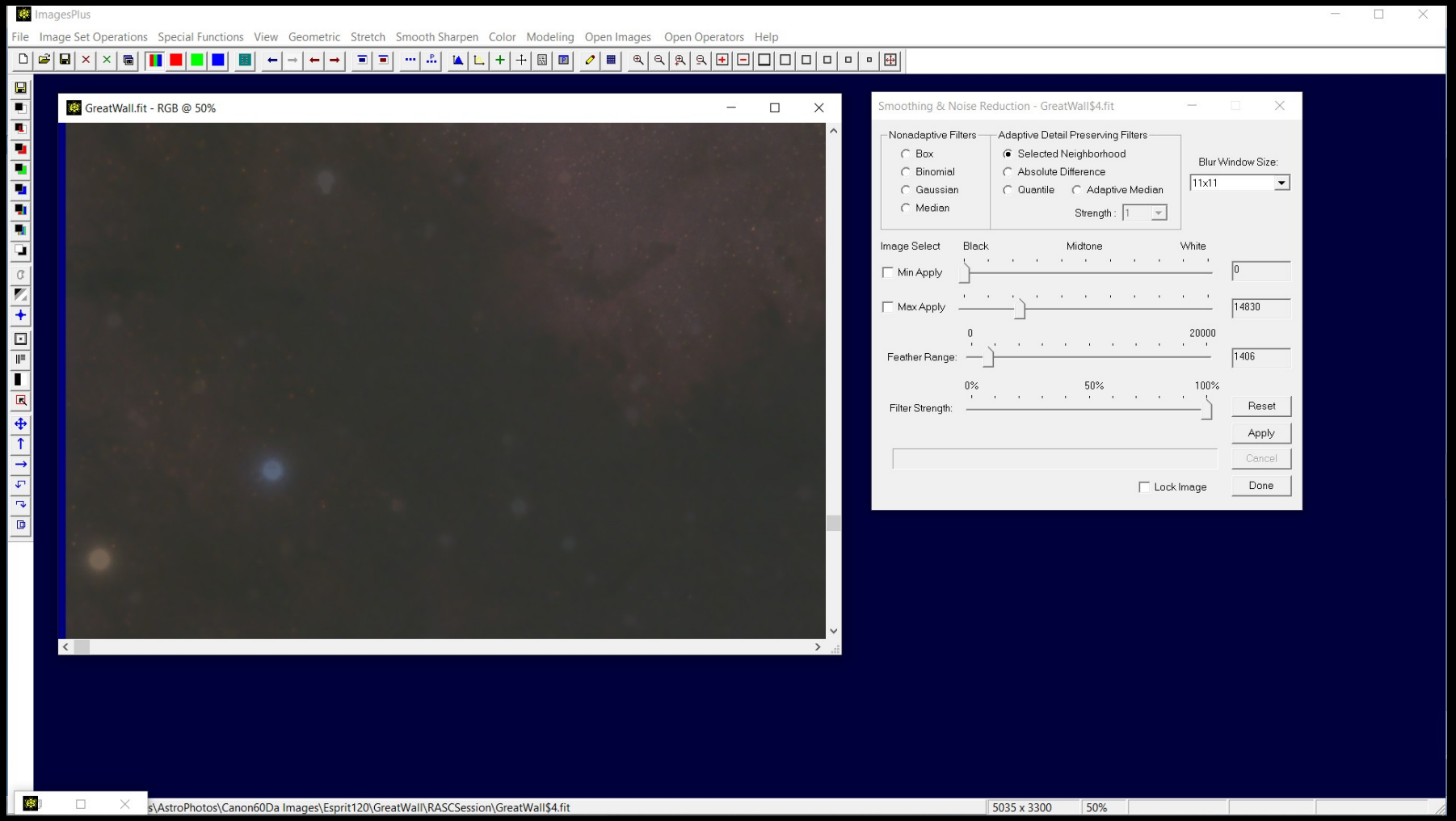
Leave the background bright



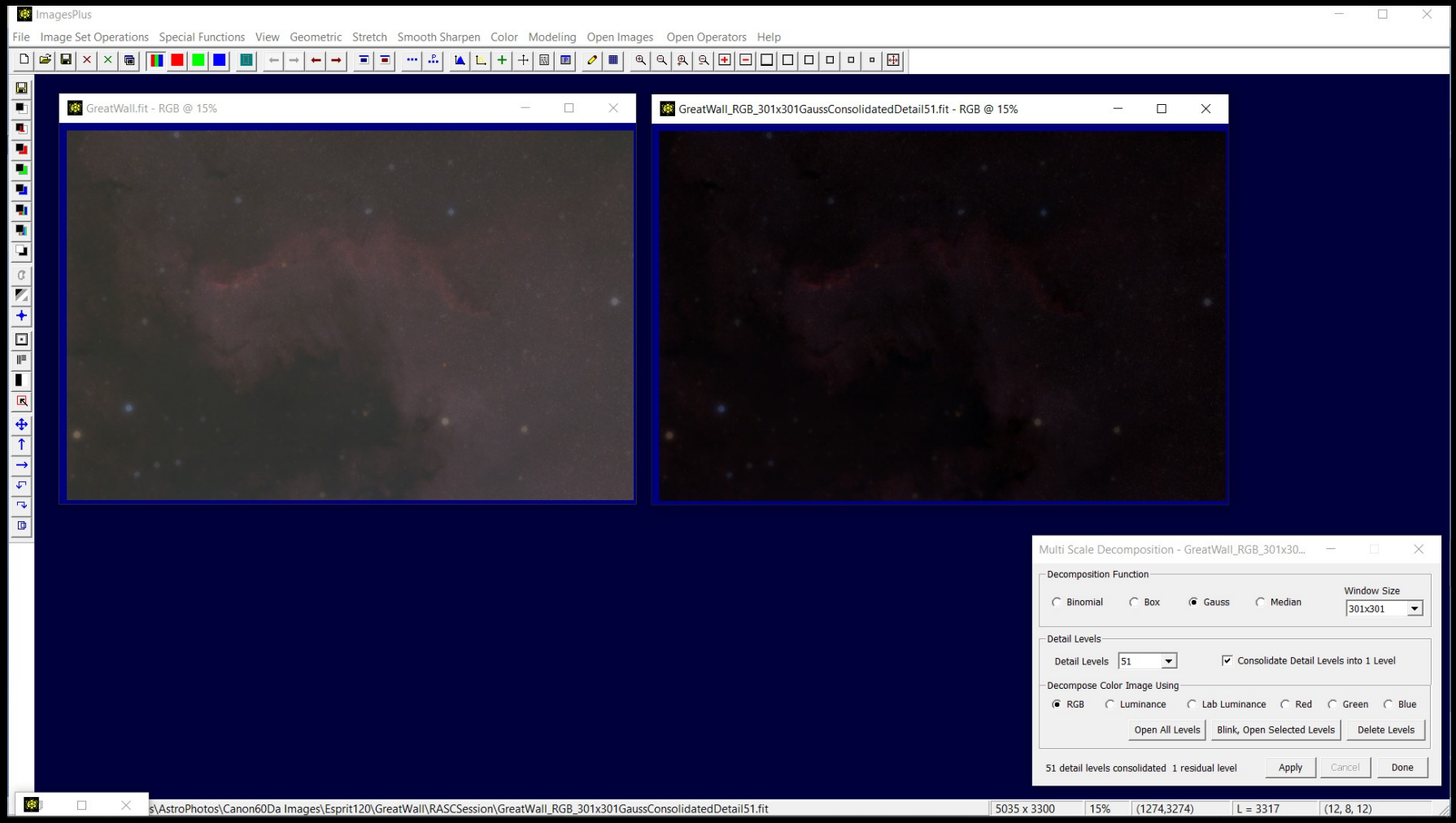
Use the feature mask tool to split the stars out to another image



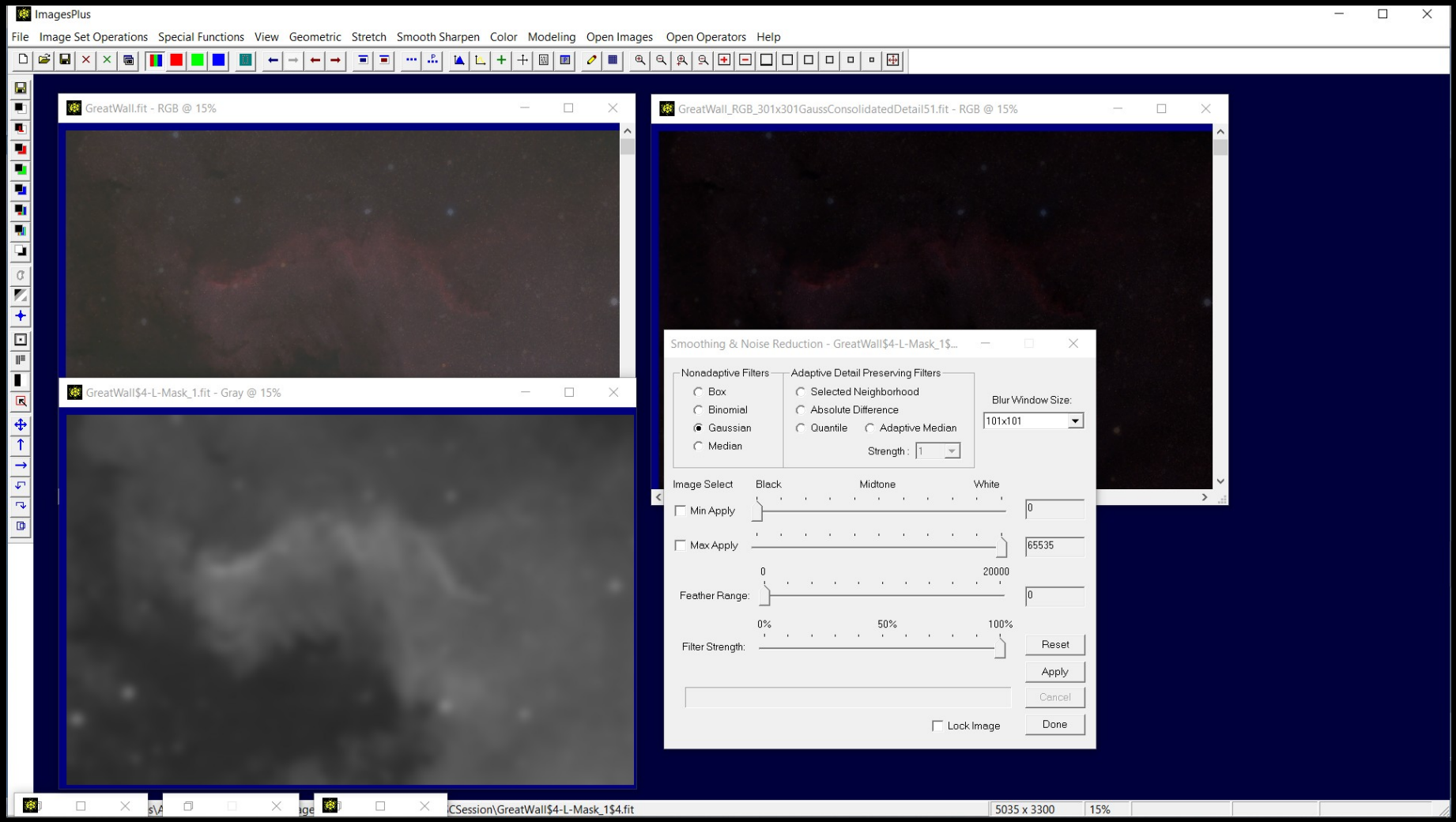
Noise reduction applied to the nebula layer in multiple passes



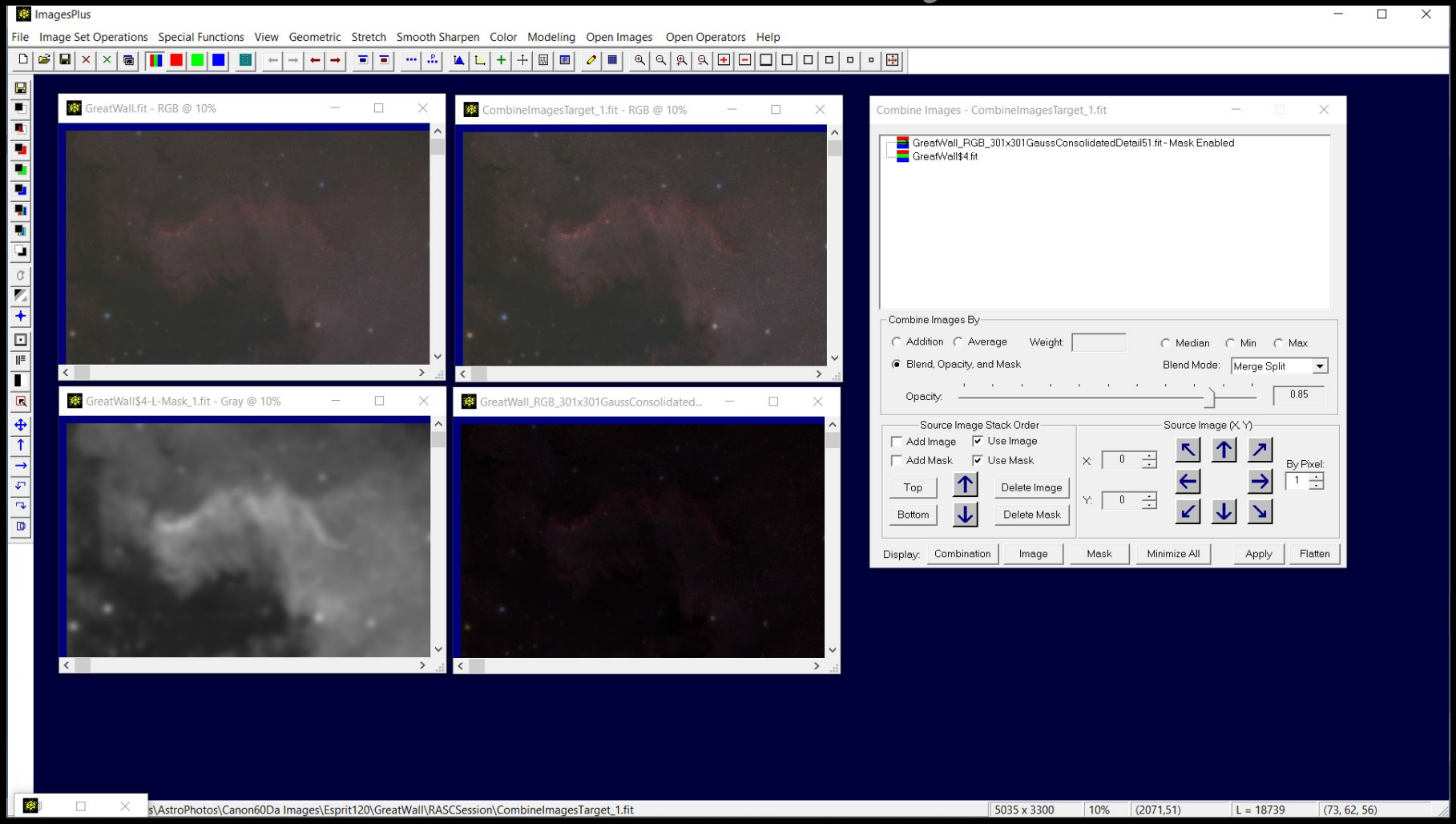
Multi-scale decomposition to emphasize the nebula



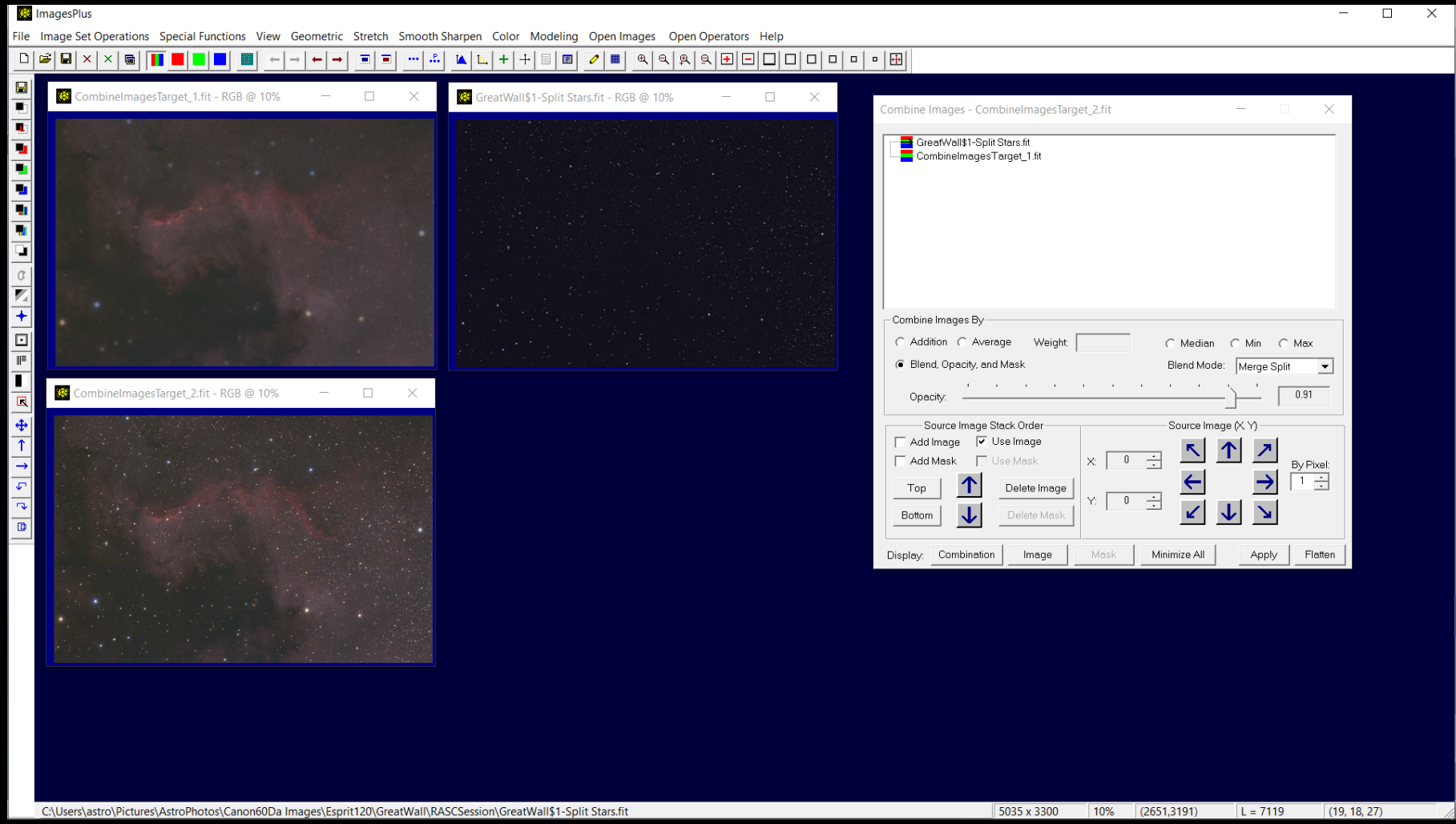
Make a mask from the original nebula layer and blur it



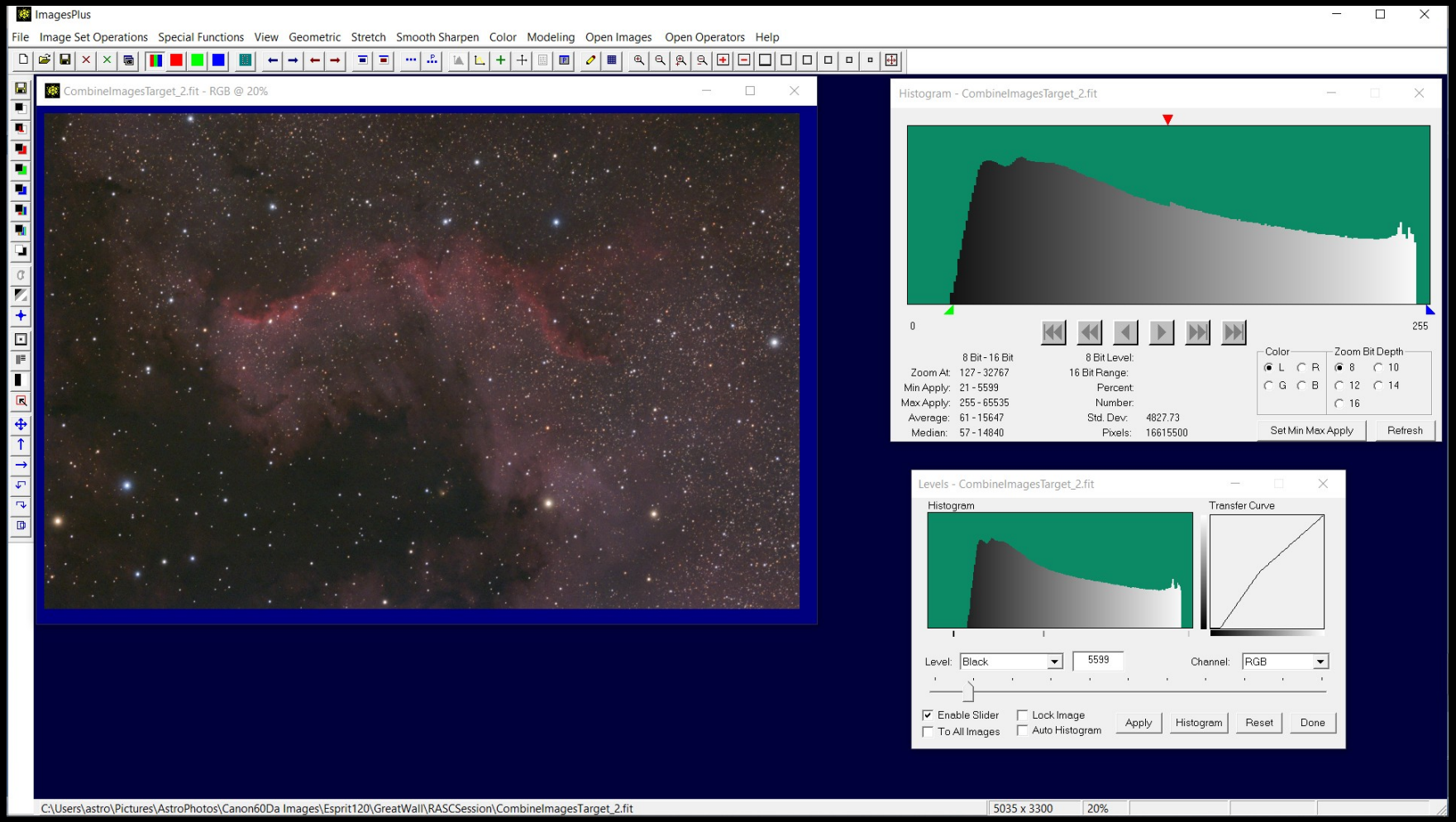
Use masked merge split blend to combine the nebula layers



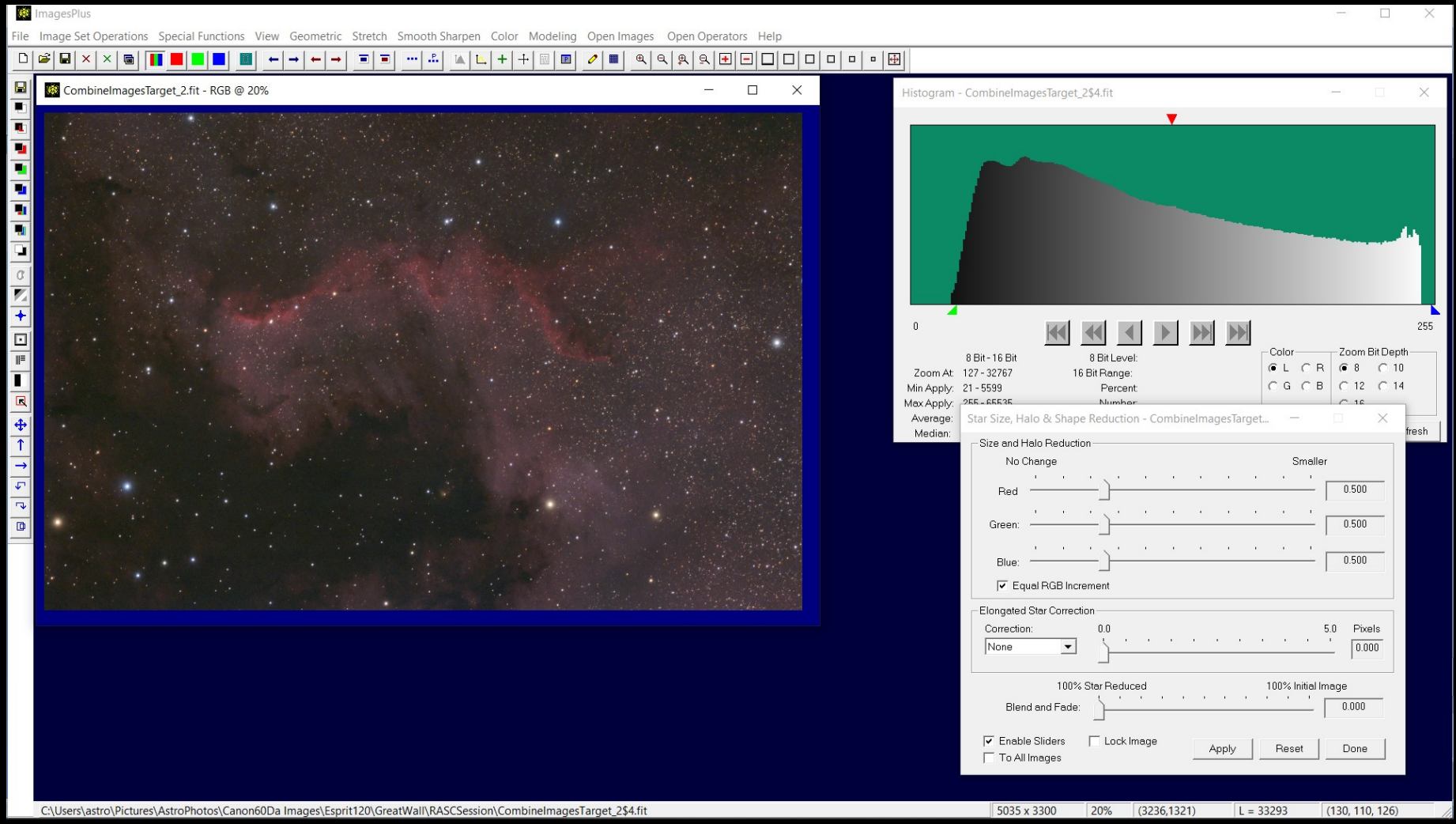
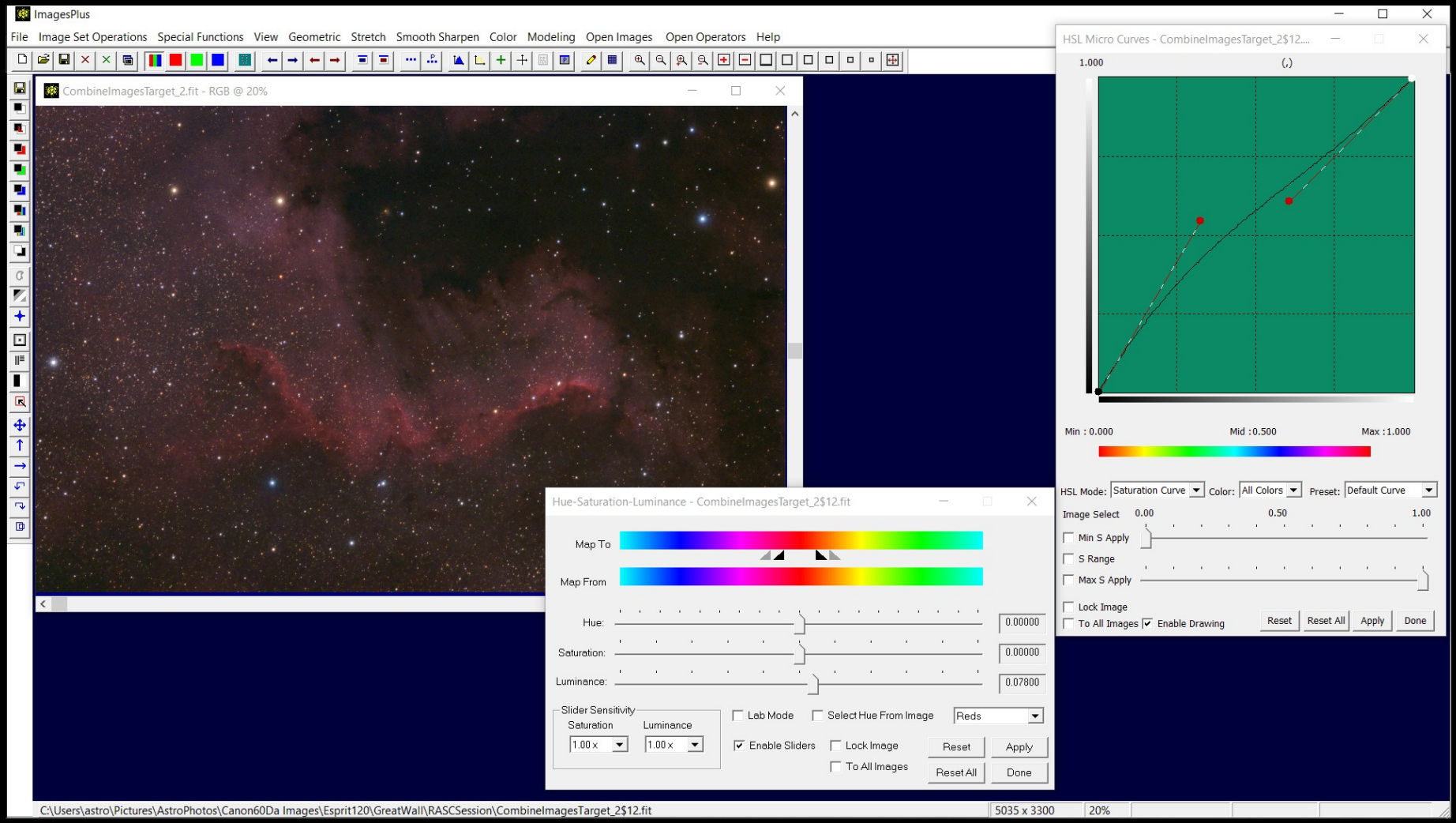
Use merge split blend again to recombine the stars



Use levels to set black, white and midpoints



Slight star reduction



Final colour tweaks