



Pictus Safaris Trip Report – Chad – March & April 2023

Abstract

Whilst Africa is undeniably full of superb mammal-watching destinations, Chad continues to establish itself as the premier area for savanna wildlife-watching on the continent. Pictus Safaris were delighted to arrange five tours to Chad in 2023, three of which were focussed on wildlife-watching – two covered the diverse habitats of Zakouma NP in the south, the central grasslands of Ouadi-Rime and the deserts of Ennedi in the north, with the remaining tour focussed solely on Zakouma.

Ennedi is about as remote as it gets, offering stunning scenery, as well as world-famous rock paintings. One of the newer additions to African Parks' portfolio, the few visitors that venture this far north generally focus on key sites including the Aloba Arch and several 'gueltas', notably Guelta d'Archei and Guelta di Bachikele. Mammal-watching is tough here, as there is no culture of wildlife guiding and an established reluctance to venture out at night but, with some persistence, there are several species better seen here than anywhere else in Chad. On one of our tours, we were fortunate to have the assistance of a member of the local African Parks team and permission to trap rodents was granted to one of our clients. Those species that were trapped, and therefore not observed in the field, are marked with an asterisk in this report. Ennedi is going from strength to strength as a wildlife destination, and soon will be home to addax for the first time in decades. Visitors should be aware that there is no tourist infrastructure in Ennedi, and basic campsites are the only way to access the park – this is also an expensive area to access, with a drive of 3-4 days or a flight required to get to Fada, the gateway to the reserve.

Ouadi-Rime is the site of a particularly stirring conservation effort led by the Sahara Conservation Fund that has seen the return of both scimitar-horned oryx and addax to this vast area. Dominated by dense grassland to the south, and true desert to the north, our visits focussed on the areas immediately surrounding Oryx Base Camp, where mammal-watching and birdwatching is at its most productive. This is not a park set up to receive tourists, and visitors must be entirely self-sufficient – this is the site of an active conservation and re-introduction project, and so there is no guarantee that visitors will be able to use the local facilities (incl. bathrooms, kitchen, electricity, air-conditioning) or Sahara Conservation Fund's vehicles. There are plans to become more visitor-focussed in future seasons but, for now, the aim of SCF is solely to protect the wildlife of the reserve.

Zakouma is about as good as it gets in Africa today. Under immense pressure from pastoralists and poaching parties led by the Janjaweed in neighbouring Sudan, this park was once in great danger, but has since become the flagship park of African Parks' portfolio. Guests can stay at the ultra-luxury Camp Nomade (although it sounds like this will become donor-only in the near future) or the more modest Tinga Camp. For wildlife-lovers, there is no reason to stay anywhere but Tinga, as this camp offers access to the hugely productive dry-country around Machtour and Antiga, but also to the iconic Rigueik Pan. Historically, guests at Tinga have had restricted access to Rigueik to avoid guests at Nomade having to see other vehicles, but this seems to have been greatly relaxed this season, and we could access Rigueik freely. After a prolonged wet season, the birdwatching this year was as good as it has ever been in Zakouma, and the mammal-watching was also hugely productive. With elections slated in Chad in 2024, and rumours to the Chadian government imposing itself on the running of Zakouma, we will be focussing on a fly-in only itinerary to Zakouma in 2024 – ordinarily, the park is a two-day drive from N'Djamena.



For many Zakouma is best known for its single large herd of elephants, at one point over 550-strong, and this remains a draw for some visitors. This herd is no longer intact, and as the security situation has improved the herd has splintered into much smaller groups. The largest herd during our visits was around 120-strong. As usual, this herd was hanging around in the south of the park along the heavily wooded-banks of the Salamat River, and visitors should always ensure their stay in Zakouma is long enough to afford an exploration of this area, as well as the wetlands of Rigueik and the dry-country of Machtour and Antiga. Visitors should also ensure they dedicate significant time to seeking out the vast flocks (numbering in the millions) of red-billed quelea that are drawn into the park each season. Zakouma is a 'Big Five' park, and more rhino are arriving there this year, but typically one should expect to see, at most, four of the 'Big Five'.

In general, Chad is once again demonstrating itself to be a hugely rewarding destination. It remains a challenging country to access and travel in, with intense heat, extremely limited tourist infrastructure, long driving distances, no culture of wildlife guiding and many layers of bureaucracy. All of this, however, is worth it for those with a keen sense of adventure and a desire to see Africa at its very best.

At a Glance

Dates	March 1 st – April 10 th , 2023
Number of Clients	16, across three tours
Countries Visited	Chad
Key Target(s)	Libyan striped weasel, pale fox, red-fronted gazelle
Total Mammal Species Recorded	80
Total Bird Species Recorded	293

Itinerary

Day	Destination	Accommodation
March 19 th – March 20 th , 2023	N'Djamena, Chad	Radisson Blu N'Djamena
March 21 st – March 25 th , 2023	Ennedi, Chad	Derde Camp
March 26 th , 2023	Arada, Chad	Camping
March 27 th – March 30 th , 2023	Ouadi-Rime FR, Chad	Oryx Base Camp
March 31 st , 2023	'Aardvark Site', Chad	Camping
April 1 st , 2023	Mangalme, Chad	Camping
April 2 nd , 2023	Abou Deia, Chad	Camping
April 3 rd – April 8 th , 2023	Zakouma NP, Chad	Tinga Camp
April 9 th , 2023	Bokoro, Chad	Camping
April 10 th , 2023	N'Djamena, Chad	Radisson Blu N'Djamena

This tour was operated in reverse for one itinerary, and a further itinerary visited Zakouma only.



Highlights

Zakouma NP, Ouadi-Rime FR & Ennedi NR, Chad

- Multiple sightings of serval, aardvark, caracal, wild cat, striped hyena and pale fox
- Stunning birding in Zakouma, including huge flocks of red-billed quelea
- First country record of crowned eagle, plus great views of standard-winged nightjar
- Leopard, cheetah, lion, buffalo, elephant, Kordofan giraffe and more seen well
- Ennedi produced fennec fox, Rueppell's fox, pale fox, striped hyena and patas monkey
- Ouadi-Rime sightings included Libyan striped weasel, golden nightjar and Nubian bustard
- Wild dama gazelle seen, as well as re-introduced addax and scimitar-horned oryx
- Egyptian plover, pharaoh eagle-owl and Arabian bustard amongst other birding highlights

Report

Ennedi is, of course, an absolutely beautiful area, and offers scenery that is perhaps unrivalled anywhere else in the world. The mammal-watching is not as productive as in other areas of Chad, and what wildlife does persist here is rarely seen. Night drives are limited to just two hours or so, and the local teams are not particularly accustomed to wildlife-guiding. As a result, wildlife-watching (and most especially wildlife photography) can be a frustrating pursuit here.

Nonetheless, short night drives from camp reliably produced **lesser Egyptian jerboa**, **cape hare**, **pale fox** and **fennec fox** for both groups that visited. More unusual nocturnal mammals encountered included **striped hyena**, one of which was seen fairly well, and a pair of **Rueppell's fox**, which were present in lower densities than normal this season. A **desert hedgehog** also made an appearance on one night drive, although was quite keen to escape us. Roadkill encountered here indicated not only the continued presence of an isolated population of Libyan striped weasel, but also zorilla, which should be well out of range here.

By day, the most commonly-encountered mammals are fennec fox and **patas monkey**, and the latter was encountered in large troops on several occasions. In areas with denser vegetation, **striped ground squirrel** were seen regularly, and on the rocks above Guelta di Bachikele we spotted both **rock hyrax** and **olive baboon**.

One client had permission to trap here, and rodents recorded were **lesser Egyptian gerbil**, **Nigerian gerbil**, **pygmy gerbil** and **Tarabul's gerbil**. Two species of bat were identified at the well-known bat caves at Guelta d'Archei, namely **Egyptian mouse-tailed bat** and **Geoffroy's horseshoe bat**.

Other wildlife highlights here included repeated views of pharaoh eagle-owl, as well as records of trumpeter finch and Saharan horned viper. Particularly unusual was a record of Beaudouin's



snake-eagle, which is out of range here, and great views of Barbary falcon. One group recorded sightings of the tiny remaining population of 'desert' crocodiles in Guelta d'Archei.

In Ouadi-Rime, the main draw naturally has to be the remarkable conservation work that has been led here in recent years by the Sahara Conservation Fund. This has seen the return of both **scimitar-horned oryx** and **addax** to the reserve, although admittedly the addax remain slightly south of their traditional range – both species are easy to see here. Furthermore, SCF have returned ostrich to the reserve, although African Parks have withdrawn their support at least temporarily for this programme, and SCF have relocated **dama gazelle** into captivity in the reserve from the Chadian border with Niger. This ultra-rare species also remains wild in the reserve, and a typical visit should reveal them without too much difficulty. Other diurnal species seen here include **Dorcas gazelle**, for which Ouadi-Rime is a stronghold, and striped ground squirrel. Driving the denser areas of the park is likely to reveal the presence of **wild cat**, **caracal** (seen twice here during our visits) and **African wolf**.

Night drives are hugely productive in Ouadi-Rime, with a particularly high density of pale fox, wild cat and African wolf. **Crested porcupine**, **savanna hare** and **honey badger** are seen commonly here, and one group recorded desert hedgehog, **aardvark** and **Libyan striped weasel**. Rodent seen in the field were lesser Egyptian jerboa, **Heuglin's striped grass mouse**, **pleasant gerbil** and pygmy gerbil. In addition, Nigerian gerbil were trapped here, with permission, along with several other species that were also encountered in the field.

The birding highlights are quite remarkable in Ouadi-Rime, and it is a reliable site for both Nubian and Arabian bustards. Golden nightjar was seen by one group, and Sudan golden sparrow was easily seen around base camp. Vultures and kites were abundant, and their nests are monitored routinely by SCF. The owl diversity was particularly impressive, with pharaoh eagle owl, barn owl, African scops owl and northern white-faced owl all seen.

Zakouma remains an iconic destination and all naturalists should visit this wonderful park at least once. The dry-country around Tinga Camp is hugely productive, offering the chance to spy unusual species, but also allowing access to wetland areas around Rigueik that have the highest density of ungulates. By day, the area around Tinga reliably produced **savanna elephant**, olive baboon, **tantalus monkey**, Patas monkey, lion, **banded mongoose**, **side-striped jackal**, **common warthog**, **African buffalo**, **bushbuck**, **Buffon's kob**, **roan antelope**, **Defassa waterbuck** and **northern giraffe**. In Rigueik, many of these species were found in even higher densities, but we also recorded an abundance of **tiang**, **Lelwel hartebeest** and **Bohor reedbuck**. More unusual species encountered included **cheetah**, **marsh mongoose** and **Egyptian mongoose**, with more remote areas of the park producing **Gambian sun squirrel**, **common slender mongoose**, **greater kudu** and **oribi**.

By night the park comes alive, and night drives here (as they are across the Sahel) are far more productive than drives in much of Eastern and Southern Africa. Typical night drives produced



multiple sightings of **common genet**, **rusty-spotted genet**, **African civet**, **northern lesser galago**, **common duiker** and **lion**. In a stay of six nights or more, you are very likely indeed to encounter wild cat, pale fox, honey badger, crested porcupine, **white-tailed mongoose**, savanna hare, **serval** and **spotted hyena**. Serval are extremely common here, and it is typical to see anywhere from 10-30 in a week's stay. Rarer nocturnal wildlife encountered in the park included aardvark, caracal, **leopard**, **red-flanked duiker** and striped hyena.

There was a high level of variability in the number of rodent species by our groups this season. Our last visitors saw only **Congo gerbil**, striped ground squirrel, Gambian sun squirrel and crested porcupine. Other groups also encountered **African grass rat**, **Guinea multimammate mouse** and Heuglin's striped grass mouse. **Savanna shrew** was also seen. Several species of bat were recorded, including **yellow-winged bat**, **hairy slit-faced bat**, **large-eared slit-faced bat**, **Egyptian free-tailed bat**, **Ansorge's free-tailed bat**, **Egyptian slit-faced bat**, **common bentwing** and **Midas mops bat**.

The birding in Zakouma has been said to be 'better than the Okavango', and it is hard to disagree. After a particularly bruising and prolonged wet season, this year was better than most, with incredible densities of species including marabou, great white egret, little egret, African fish-eagle, knob-billed duck, spur-winged goose, black-crowned crane, great white pelican and yellow-billed stork. Local specials included great views of standard-winged nightjar and black-breasted barbet.

Outside of the key areas visited by this tour, our groups camped. At these sites, and others we travelled through, several other species were recorded. **Black rat** were seen in Abeche, and our campsites between N'Djamena and Zakouma also produced **Johan's spiny mouse**. A campsite used just east of Ouadi-Rime produced great views of aardvark, and also **pouched gerbil**. The Chari River in front of the Radisson Blu in N'Djamena has a resident pod of **common hippopotamus**.

Mammal List – 80 species

Species	Scientific Name	Location(s)*
<i>Carnivora – 23 species</i>		
Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	ZNP
Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	ZNP
African Wolf	<i>Canis lupaster</i>	OROA
Caracal	<i>Caracal caracal</i>	OROA, ZNP
African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	ZNP
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	ZNP
African Wildcat	<i>Felis lybica</i>	OROA, ZNP
Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	AS, ZNP
Rusty-Spotted Genet	<i>Genetta maculata</i>	ZNP
Egyptian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>	ZNP



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Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	ZNP
Striped Hyaena	<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>	E, ZNP
White-Tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	ZNP
Libyan Striped Weasel	<i>Ictonyx libycus</i>	OROA
Serval	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>	ZNP
Side-Striped Jackal	<i>Lupelella adusta</i>	ZNP
Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	OROA, ZNP
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	ZNP
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	ZNP
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	ZNP
Pale Fox	<i>Vulpes pallida</i>	E, OROA, ZNP
Rueppell's Fox	<i>Vulpes rueppelli</i>	E
Fennec Fox	<i>Vulpes zerda</i>	E
Cetartiodactyla – 20 species		
Addax	<i>Addax nasomaculatus</i>	OROA
(Lelwel) Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	ZNP
Red-Flanked Duiker	<i>Cephalophus rufilatus</i>	ZNP
Tiang	<i>Damascus lunatus</i>	ZNP
Red-Fronted Gazelle	<i>Eudorcas rufifrons</i>	ZNP
Dorcas Gazelle	<i>Gazella dorcas</i>	OROA
Northern Giraffe	<i>Giraffe camelopardalis</i>	ZNP
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	NDJ
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	ZNP
(Defassa) Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	ZNP
(Buffon's) Kob	<i>Kobus kob</i>	ZNP
Dama Gazelle	<i>Nanger dama</i>	OROA
Scimitar-Horned Oryx	<i>Oryx dammah</i>	OROA
Oribi	<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>	ZNP
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	ZNP
Bohor Reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>	ZNP
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	ZNP
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	ZNP
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	ZNP
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	ZNP
Chiroptera – 10 species		
Anson's Free-Tailed Bat	<i>Chaerephon ansoni</i>	ZNP
Yellow-Winged Bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>	ZNP
Common Bent-Wing Bat	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	ZNP
Midas Mops Bat	<i>Mops midas</i>	ZNP
Hairy Slit-Faced Bat	<i>Nycteris hispida</i>	ZNP
Large-Eared Slit-Faced Bat	<i>Nycteris macrotis</i>	ZNP
Egyptian Slit-Faced Bat	<i>Nycteris Slit-Faced Bat</i>	ZNP
Geoffroy's Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus clivosus</i>	E
Egyptian Mouse-Tailed Bat	<i>Rhinopoma cystops</i>	E
Egyptian Free-Tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida aegyptiaca</i>	ZNP
Eulipotyphla – 2 species		
Savanna Shrew	<i>Crocidura fulvastra</i>	ZNP
Desert Hedgehog	<i>Paraechinus aethiopicus</i>	E
Hyracoidea – 1 species		
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	E
Lagomorpha – 2 species		
Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	E



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African Savanna Hare	<i>Lepus victoriae</i>	OROA, ZNP
Primates – 4 species		
Tantalus Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus tantalus</i>	ZNP
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>	E, ZNP
Northern Lesser Galago	<i>Galago senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	E, ZNP
Proboscidea – 1 species		
African Savanna Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	ZNP
Rodentia – 16 species		
Johan's Spiny Mouse	<i>Acomys johannis</i>	B
African Grass Rat	<i>Arvicanthis niloticus</i>	ZNP
Pouched Gerbil	<i>Desmodilliscus braueri</i>	OROA, AS
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Euxerus erythropus</i>	E
Pleasant Gerbil	<i>Gerbillus amoenus</i>	OROA
Lesser Egyptian Gerbil**	<i>Gerbillus gerbillus</i>	E
Pygmy Gerbil	<i>Gerbillus henleyi</i>	E, OROA
Nigerian Gerbil**	<i>Gerbillus nigeriae</i>	E, OROA
Tarabul's Gerbil	<i>Gerbillus tarabuli</i>	E
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>	ZNP
Crested Porcupine	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	OROA
Lesser Egyptian Jerboa	<i>Jaculus jaculus</i>	E
Heuglin's Striped Grass Mouse	<i>Lemniscomys zebra</i>	OROA
Guinea Multimammate Mouse	<i>Mastomys erythroleucus</i>	ZNP
Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	A
Congo Gerbil	<i>Taterillus congicus</i>	ZNP
Tubulidentata – 1 species		
Aardvark	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>	OROA, AS, ZNP

*NDJ – N'Djamena, E – Ennedi, OROA – Ouadi-Rime, AS – 'Aardvark Site', ZNP – Zakouma NP, B – Bokoro, A - Abeche

**trapped only

Bird List – 293 species

Species	Scientific Name	Location(s)*
Accipitriformes – 33 species		
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	ZNP
Ovambo Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>	AS
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	ZNP, B
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>	ZNP
Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>	OROA, AS, ZNP, A
Scissor-Tailed Kite	<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	OROA
Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>	E, ZNP
Western Banded Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>	ZNP
Brown Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	ZNP, B
Short-Toed Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	E, OROA
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Black-Winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
White-Backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	ZNP



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Rueppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>	OROA, ZNP
African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	ZNP
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>	ZNP
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>	ZNP, B
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	ZNP
Long-Crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	ZNP
Dark-Chanting Goshawk	<i>Merlierax metabates</i>	ZNP, B
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Yellow-Billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	ZNP
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necosyrtes monachus</i>	ZNP
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	E, B
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	ZNP
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	ZNP
Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	ZNP
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	ZNP, B
Lappet-Faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	OROA, ZNP, B
White-Headed Vulture	<i>Trionoceps occipitalis</i>	ZNP
Anseriformes – 5 species		
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	NDJ, ZNP
White-Faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Spur-Winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	ZNP
African Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	ZNP
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	ZNP
Apodiformes – 4 species		
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	ZNP, B
White-Rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	ZNP
African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	ZNP
Bucerotiformes – 6 species		
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>	ZNP, B
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>	E, ZNP, B, A
Green Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	ZNP, B
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>	ZNP
Red-Billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	E, ZNP, B
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Caprimulgiformes – 4 species		
Long-Tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>	ZNP
Golden Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus eximius</i>	OROA
Plain Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus inornatus</i>	ZNP
Standard-Winged Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus longipennis</i>	ZNP
Charadriiformes – 25 species		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	NDJ, ZNP
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	ZNP
Spotted Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	ZNP
Senegal Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	ZNP
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	ZNP
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	ZNP
White-Winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	ZNP
Grey-Headed Gull	<i>Chroiocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	NDJ



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Cream-Coloured Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	A
Gull-Billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	NDJ
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincole</i>	ZNP
Black-Winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus Himantopus</i>	ZNP
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	ZNP
Egyptian Plover	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	ZNP
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	ZNP
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	ZNP
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>	OROA
Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	ZNP
Spur-Winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Black-Headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>	NDJ, ZNP, A
Ciconiiformes – 6 species		
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	NDJ, ZNP
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	ZNP
African Woollyneck	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>	ZNP
Saddlebill	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Marabou	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Yellow-Billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Coliiformes – 1 species		
Blue-Naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Columbiformes – 10 species		
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, AS, ZNP, B, A
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	E
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	E, OROA, AS, ZNP, B, A
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	E, OROA, AS, ZNP, B, A
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	ZNP
African Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>	E, OROA, B, A
Red-Eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	ZNP, B
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>	ZNP, B
Black-Billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>	ZNP, B
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>	ZNP
Coraciiformes – 13 species		
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>	OROA, ZNP, B, A
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>	ZNP
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>	ZNP
Grey-Headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>	ZNP
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	ZNP
White-Throated Bee-Eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	ZNP
European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	ZNP
Red-Throated Bee-Eater	<i>Merops bulocki</i>	ZNP
Northern Carmine Bee-Eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>	ZNP
Blue-Cheeked Bee-Eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>	ZNP
Little Bee-Eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	NDJ, ZNP
African Green Bee-Eater	<i>Merops viridissimus</i>	OROA, ZNP, B, A
Cuculiformes – 2 species		
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	ZNP



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Falconiformes – 8 species		
Fox Kestrel	<i>Falco alopex</i>	B
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>	ZNP
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	E, OROA, ZNP, B
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>	E
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	B
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	E
Red-Necked Falcon	<i>Falco ruficollis</i>	ZNP
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinninculus</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Galliformes – 4 species		
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	OROA
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	E, ZNP, A
Clapperton's Francolin	<i>Pternistis clappertoni</i>	ZNP, A
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>	B, A
Gruiformes – 1 species		
Black-Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	ZNP, B
Musophagiformes – 1 species		
Western Grey Plantain-Eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>	ZNP
Otidiformes – 3 species		
Arabian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis arabs</i>	OROA
Black-Bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>	ZNP
Nubian Bustard	<i>Neotis nuba</i>	OROA
Passeriformes – 121 species		
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	NDJ
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Agricola pallidus</i>	A
Greater Hoopoe-Lark	<i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>	OROA, A
Cut-Throat Finch	<i>Amandina fasciata</i>	OROA, ZNP
Bar-Tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>	A
Desert Lark	<i>Ammomanes deserti</i>	E
Sennar Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus punctifrons</i>	A
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	OROA
Red-Throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	ZNP
Fulvous Babbler	<i>Argya fulva</i>	E, OROA, A
Grey-Headed Batis	<i>Batis orientalis</i>	B
White-Billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>	NDJ, OROA, AS, A
Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>	E
Yellow-Billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	ZNP
Greater Short-Toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	OROA
Grey-Backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Red-Shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>	ZNP
Rufous-Tailed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Black Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas podobe</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, AS, B, A
Scarlet-Chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Sulphur-Breasted Bush-Shrike	<i>Chlorophoenus sulfureopectus</i>	ZNP
Violet-Backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	ZNP
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	ZNP
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>	OROA
Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>	ZNP
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	ZNP
Red-Pate Cisticola	<i>Cisticola ruficeps</i>	NDJ, B
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Fan-Tailed Raven	<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>	E, B



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Brown-Necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	E, OROA, AS, B, A
Snowy-Crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	B
White-Rumped Seedeater	<i>Crithagra leucopygia</i>	E, OROA, AS, A
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>	E, A
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	NDJ, E, AS
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	E, OROA, ZNP
Rueppell's Warbler	<i>Curruca rueppelli</i>	E
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	ZNP
Fork-Tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	ZNP
Glossy-Backed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus divaricatus</i>	ZNP
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>	ZNP
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>	ZNP, B
Gosling's Bunting	<i>Emberiza goslingi</i>	B
House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>	E
Dunn's Lark	<i>Eremalauda dunnii</i>	OROA
Green-backed Eremomela	<i>Eremomela canescens</i>	ZNP
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>	AS
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>	ZNP
African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>	OROA
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>	B
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	OROA, AS, A
Sahel Bush-Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris dentata</i>	ZNP
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	ZNP
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	ZNP
Ethiopian Swallow	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>	OROA, ZNP
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	B
Red-Billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Long-Tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>	ZNP, B
Greater Blue-Eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	ZNP, B
Lesser Blue-Eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>	ZNP
Chestnut-Bellied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis pulcher</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, AS, B, A
Purple Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>	ZNP
Black-Headed Gonolek	<i>Laniarius erythrogaster</i>	ZNP
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	E, OROA
Grey-Backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>	ZNP
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	ZNP, B
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	ZNP
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>	A
Horsfield's Bush Lark	<i>Mirafrja javanica</i>	OROA, AS
Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	OROA
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	ZNP
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	ZNP
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	E, ZNP
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	ZNP
Northern Anteater Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla aethiopsis</i>	ZNP
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>	ZNP
White-Fronted Black Chat	<i>Oenanthe albifrons</i>	AS, A
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	E



Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabelline</i>	OROA
White-Crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	E
Eastern Black-Eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	OROA, AS, A
Blackstart	<i>Oenanthe melanura</i>	E
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Brown-Tailed Rock Chat	<i>Oenanthe scotocerca</i>	B
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Northern Grey-Headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	ZNP, B
Sudan Golden Sparrow	<i>Passer luteus</i>	E, OROA, AS, A, B
Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>	E
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	ZNP, B
Buff-Bellied Warbler	<i>Pyllolais pulchella</i>	ZNP
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>	AS
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Chestnut-Crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>	B
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>	ZNP
Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>	ZNP
River Prinia	<i>Prinia fluviatilis</i>	NDJ
Tawny-Flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	ZNP
White-Crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>	ZNP
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	B
Pale Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i>	E
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Green-Winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>	OROA, ZNP
Red-Billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	NDJ, E, OROA, ZNP, AS, B, A
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullate</i>	NDJ, AS, A
Cricket Warbler	<i>Spiloptila clamans</i>	E, OROA, AS, A
Speckle-Fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>	OROA, ZNP, B
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>	ZNP
Black-Crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>	ZNP, B
African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	ZNP
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>	ZNP
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	ZNP
Red-Cheeked Cordon-Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus benegalus</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>	ZNP
Pin-Tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	ZNP
Sahel Paradise-Whydah	<i>Vidua orientalis</i>	OROA, ZNP, B
Northern Yellow White-Eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	ZNP
<i>Pelecaniiformes – 19 species</i>		
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>	ZNP
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	ZNP
Black-Headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	ZNP
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	ZNP
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	ZNP
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Green-Backed Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	ZNP
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	ZNP



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Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	ZNP
Black-Crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	ZNP
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	ZNP
Pink-Backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	ZNP
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	ZNP
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	ZNP
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	NDJ, ZNP
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	NDJ, ZNP
Piciformes – 10 species		
Fine-Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>	ZNP
Brown-Backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos obsoletus</i>	ZNP
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>	ZNP
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>	ZNP
White-Headed Barbet	<i>Lybius leucocephalus</i>	ZNP
Black-Breasted Barbet	<i>Lybius rolleti</i>	ZNP, B
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>	ZNP, B
Grey Woodpecker	<i>Mesopicos goertae</i>	ZNP
Yellow-Fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	ZNP
Yellow-Breasted Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus margaritatus</i>	OROA, A
Psittaciiformes – 2 species		
Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>	ZNP, B
Rose-Ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula kramieri</i>	ZNP, B
Pterocliiformes – 2 species		
Chestnut-Bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>	B
Four-Banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>	ZNP
Strigiformes – 9 species		
Short-Eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	OROA
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	E
Pharaoh Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	E, OROA
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>	ZNP
Pearl-Spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	ZNP
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa lactea</i>	ZNP
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	OROA, ZNP
Northern White-Faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>	OROA
Common Barn-Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	OROA, B
Struthioniformes – 1 species		
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	E, OROA, ZNP
Suliformes – 3 species		
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	ZNP
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	NDJ, ZNP
White-Breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	NDJ

*NDJ – N'Djamena, E – Ennedi, OROA – Ouadi-Rime, AS – 'Aardvark Site', ZNP – Zakouma NP, B – Bokoro, A – Abeche

Reptile List – 7 species

Species	Scientific Name	Location(s)*
Crocodylia – 1 species		
West African Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus suchus</i>	E, ZNP
Squamata – 6 species		



Common Agama	<i>Agama agama</i>	NDJ
Desert Horned Viper	<i>Cerastes cerastes</i>	E
House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus angulatus</i>	ZNP
Central African Rock Python	<i>Python sebae</i>	ZNP
Common Skink	<i>Scincus scincus</i>	ZNP
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	ZNP

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Misses

In Ennedi, it remains possible to see **aoudad**, although sightings are rare. They remain abundant in remote parts of the Massif, and recent surveys have recorded hundreds in isolated gullies that can only be accessed by abseiling into them. **Sand cat** are present in Ennedi, and the northern reaches of Ouadi-Rime, but sightings are extremely uncommon.

Very few large mammals were missed by both groups in Ouadi-Rime. **Zorilla** do occur here, but seem to be being seen less commonly, and it was strange to miss striped hyena, although this species was seen well elsewhere.

Across our three groups, almost no large mammals were missed in Zakouma. **Ground pangolin** are seen here irregularly, and none of our groups were rewarded with a sighting. **African wild dog** very occasionally make their way through the park, but they have not been seen in many years.

Contact Details

Pictus Safaris can be contacted by email at contact@pictus-safaris.com or via our website at www.pictus-safaris.com. We are a tour operator specialising in small-group and private departures across Africa, and will be offering a small-group departure to Chad’s wonderful Zakouma National Park in March 2024.