









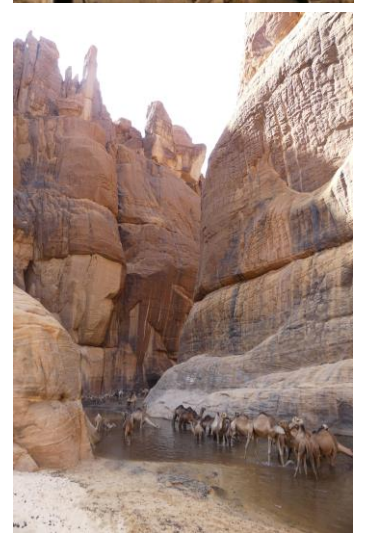
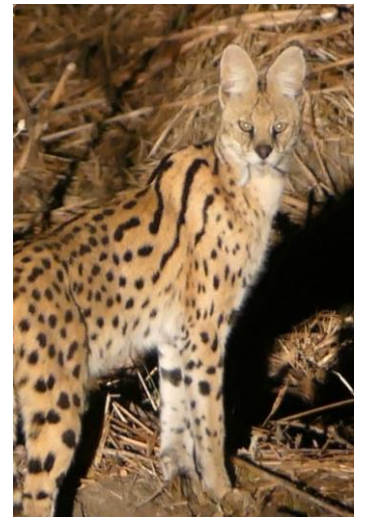


Zakouma, Oudi Rime & Ennedi Tour

Destination: South & Central Chad **Duration:** 22 Days **Dates:** 1st – 22nd Mar 2023

-  Watching herds of previously extinct in the wild Addax & Scimitar-horned Oryx
-  Recording the very first African Crowned Eagle from Chad & several other rare birds
-  Observing an record number of 75 mammal species with 20 species of carnivores
-  Having the expert guidance of one of Africa's top birders in Stratton Hatfield
-  Exploring the rugged desert wilderness offroad and the impressive Ennedi Plateau
-  Sahel endemic mammals such as Red-flanked Duiker & Red-fronted Gazelles
-  Night drives in Zakouma with dozens of civets, mongooses, servals & more
-  Spotting a total of 273 different species of birds (a Chad record!)
-  Camping in remote wild camp sites & finding wildlife like Aardvarks in camp!
-  Having close and prolonged views of a Leopard hunting geese next to the vehicle



Tour Leader / Guides

Martin Royle (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)
Stratton Hatfield (Tour Leader)
Togi and Jalil (Zakouma National Park Guides / Drivers)

Acknowledgments

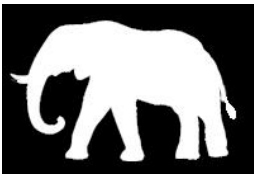
Adolfo (Chief logistics manager in Chad)
Abdul Rahman (Interpreter)
Mohammed, Ali & Korhan (Drivers)
Armand & Ali (Camp Cook and assistant)
Christian (Africa Parks Permit / N'Djamena Logistics)
Oliver & Lisa (Tinga Camp management)
John Newby & Tim Wachter (Sahara Conservation Fund)
Adam & Fatima (Ennedi Local Guides)

Participants

Mr. Ken Berry
Ms. Jill Clark
Ms. Annette Mizon
Ms. Ilka Rauch
Mr. Chris Suffren

Overview

Day 1:	N'Djamena
Day 2:	Mongo
Days 3-8:	Zakouma NP
Days 9-11:	Travelling
Days 12-15:	Oudi Rime
Day 16:	Travelling
Days 17-20:	Ennedi
Day 21:	N'Djamena



Day by Day Breakdown

Overview

Chad is huge, just enormous and no amount of staring at the map will do justice the huge expanses of land you have to cover and often have to yourself when travelling around this incredible country.

Often no safe to travel to and easily one of the most difficult countries in the world to get around from a logistics point of view; Chad is a 'strike when the iron is hot' kind of country. Meaning that if the logistics for travel are doable and the safety situation is good, you need to get there ASAP. That is exactly what Royle Safaris did with this tour. Working with in-situ and foreign agencies to make sure we had everything under control we decided to run a groundbreaking 3 week trip across Chad and visiting three of the top places in all of Africa (for wildlife and scenery). In fact the numbers of wildlife we saw and the rarity of the species means you could realistically say these place are *the* best places to visit in the whole of Africa.

Many of you reading this may have read the great report from Jon Hall, our itinerary was the same as his (only in reverse) and in some ways we were the guinea pigs for that trip as we were heading to these places first and laying the groundwork with local drivers. Many of which had not done long night drives (or any spotlighting) before and by the end of it, we had them wanting to stay out later than we expected and all getting very excited every time we saw a fennec fox or gerbill!

This tour started and ended in the capital city of N'Djamena before exploring the amazing Zakouma National Park, since having been taken over by Africa Parks this park has seen a huge up turn in wildlife numbers and the abundance of mammals and birds is staggering. The iconic Rigueik Pan attracts wildlife densities unparalleled elsewhere in Central Africa, including vast herds of Tiang, Savanna Buffalo, Lelwel Hartebeest and Loder's Kob along with tens of thousands of birds in the wetlands. What makes Zakouma so amazing is the huge herd of elephants here as well as the very large diversity and density of predators. We did safaris throughout the park every day and long night drives and saw nearly all of the medium and large mammal species recorded from here as well as some of the rare iconic birds such as black-breasted barbet and the very first record of the huge and powerful African crowned eagle from the whole of Chad.

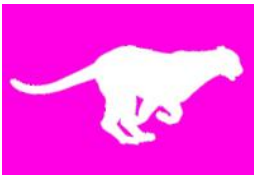
From Zakouma and the more typical African safari species we travelled north to see some truly Saharan Desert speciality species in Ouadi-Rime. Here the vast grassland ecosystem has seen a return of some previously extinct in the wild species and others which were on the verge of extinction. We were lucky enough to spend time with the founder of the project (John Newby) and were taken out by him and his team to see the wonderful ungulates; Addax, Scimitar-Horned Oryx and Dama Gazelle. We saw all of these and so much more, in what was probably the highlight of the trip, in terms of amazing wildlife and some unexpected sightings such as Libyan striped weasel, caracal and desert hedgehog.

From here we left the flat expanses of grassland and headed to what can (without exaggeration) the most spectacular landscape in the world. The Ennedi Massif is characterised by striking rock formations, vast desert wilderness and gorgeous oases. There are rock pinnacles, needles, stacks, teetering boulders, canyons, gorges and arches which would be the stand out individual rock feature in any other place. But here you often drive past some of these (which would be the reason to visit in Utah or Australia) just to get to a much bigger and more impressive rock feature! Ennedi really is a photographer's dream and hidden within this huge landscape are tribal groups using the permanent waterholes for themselves and their camel caravans as well as some amazing desert adapted wildlife.

So if you want to find out what we saw in all of these places and get a feel for what it is like to travel around one of the world's most impressive and wild countries we recommend reading the rest of this report.

If you are interested in visiting Chad, you should contact us (info@royle-safaris.co.uk) and request more information, we do not run this trip every year as standard, we have to assess the situation and due to the long duration and very high prices involved we do not always get the required numbers of interested people.





Day 1 N'Djamena - Mongo

Arrival & Travelling

Everyone had decided to arrive at least the day before and overnight in the hotel and some arrived today. Everyone was greeted by Christian from Africa Parks at the airport and ferried to the hotel where they all met up and met Stratton and Martin and were briefed on the plan for the next 24 hours or so.

We also had to give our passports to Christian for the police check in permit needed for travel to Chad. The first mammals of the trip were spotted today with Jill seeing a couple of **African straw-coloured fruit bats** flying around the airport.

Then on the morning of the first official day we all had breakfast and then packed up and checked out, we then waiting for Adolfo and his team to meet us here. The police registration was done nice and quickly and we got our passports back before leaving and then after a short delay in getting all of the vehicles to the hotel we loaded up, met the team and headed off out of the city and towards the town of Mongo (a driving distance of around 515km), which is around half way between N'Djamena and Zakouma National Park. However the first half is on a road, not a bad, mostly paved road, the second half would be offroad and in fact from Mongo onwards we hardly saw tarmac again for 3 weeks, more to the point we hardly saw tracks or noticeable road for large sections of the trip.

Before we set off we tried to get views of the resident common hippos which live in this stretch of the Chari River. However the river was very low currently and the hippos seemingly had moved off somewhere else, we couldn't find one (well not conclusively anyway), Stratton took a pic of what could have been the head of a **hippo** but it comes with a hefty question mark attached.

We did however see some very nice birds, including African openbill, common mynah, pied crows, white-faced whistling ducks, cattle egrets, little bee-eaters, Namaqua doves, yellow-billed kites and many more.

We then hit the road around 10:30am and the first few hours were very uneventful as we passed out of the town and some other smaller settlements, villages and mostly through urban areas before we left the road and stopped for lunch in the shade of some trees. This stand of acacia trees had some nice birds including a Sahel endemic, the black scrub-robin.

Further along and on the side of the road in the scrub we saw a couple of **striped ground squirrels** before we arrived at the chosen campsite just before dusk.

Adolfo, Armand and some of the team had arrived ahead of us and had mostly set up the camp. Considering we were expecting very basic camp facilities we were all pleasantly surprised with the tents, bedding, dining area, washing / toilet facilities and the camp setup in all.

As dinner was being prepared we went out for a walk which was not too productive, expect for some bats flying (presumably out of crevices in the koppies nearby) which looked like free-tailed bats with the bat detector also suggesting free-tails were around; these are most likely **Ansorge's free-tailed bats**.

Then after dinner we did some spotlighting and we had a nice barn owl on some rocks as well as hearing a golden nightjar calling. This was a key bird for the trip and if anyone was unsure how special this gorgeous bird is, they were left in no doubt when you saw the enthusiasm and passion that Stratton had for trying to find the nightjar. Alas we couldn't find it here, despite hearing it call a lot. We did have some mammals whilst spotlighting, the first was a very nice **white-tailed mongoose** going in and out of the nearly koppie and then we had a **common genet** in a tree, just waking up to start its night of hunting.

We then return to the camp for the night, before another long day of travelling tomorrow.

Day 2 Zakouma National Park

Travelling

This morning we woke up around 5am and breakfasted at 6am, before breakfast Stratton had some mammal in the spotlight (likely a fox of some sort, but no ID) as well as some African collared doves calling as we watched a gorgeous sunrise against the koppies.

We then dismantled the camp and hit the road again at 7am, along the road saw more pied crows, Eurasian kestrels, blue-naped mousebirds and Abyssinian rollers periodically along the side of the road. As we drove back to the main road and nearby a village we saw a couple of **northern patas monkeys** near the village, but that was about it until we got very close to the park.

In fact today was a very long drive, the main routes into the park from this direction had all changed due to flooding and apparently new road development. We didn't seen much sign of a new road, instead hours and hours of dirt track and barely trails. The only other mammals we had on the drive were a solitary **Gambian bush squirrel**, a group of **banded mongooses** and a troop of **olive baboons**.

In fact we didn't get to the park until well after dark. It was around 9pm when we saw the first signs for the park and started to head into what you would describe as actual wild bush. Just as we were about to head into the bush and the park we stopped as one of the cars had a small electrical problem. At this junction Chris had good views (and the others some view) of a **African Hammada jerboa**, near a village.

Entering the park in the dark we didn't get a real sense of what the park was about and we didn't see much (arriving at the lodge at Tinga Camp at around 11pm. But along the way we did see some **defassa waterbuck** and **Nigerian bohor reedbuck**.



Day 3 Zakouma National Park

Wildlife Watching

This morning we were out after breakfast at 6am with our national park guide Togi. At breakfast we had a small number of **tantalus monkeys** and then out in the park on our first safari we saw many of the ungulates that live here in huge numbers. **Defassa waterbuck, Loder's Kob, Lewel** (a variety of hartebeest known from the Sahel ecosystem) were all seen in small or large herds as we drove around this morning. We also saw huge numbers of **olive baboons**, several troops were around here including some that seemed to have hundreds of baboons in them.

We stopped at a waterhole and watched as a pair of African fish eagles perched and called to each other and a large flock of helmeted guineafowl came down to drink. So far Zakouma was living up to its reputation as it seemed that all the animals we had seen were in larger groups than usual. Also at the waterhole was a very large male **Lake Chad buffalo** and some male four-banded sandgrouse which gave us nice views.

We made our way to Riguek which is the iconic floodplain of Zakouma and along the way we had African green bee-eaters, **lewel** and a nice group of **northern giraffe**. The **giraffe** group included a very large and old male that was so dark in colouration it was difficult to see the markings which are usually so distinct on giraffes. There were several females with him, some very dark and some very pale. It was interesting to see the variation in coat colour among the same group of animals. It is similar with the **Lake Chad buffalo** also, with some individuals being very black and looking like Cape buffalo and some being bright red like typical forest buffalo and some being pretty much half and half.

As we got to the Riguek area the numbers of black-crowned cranes boomed, even before we arrived there we saw several pairs flying above us towards the floodplain. At Riguek we had some male ostriches in the most vibrant and almost fluorescent pink breeding colours as well as many **buffalo** and a pair of **Nigerian bohor reedbuck**. On the Riguek plain itself the numbers of waterfowl was immense, thousands of white-faced whistling ducks, knob-billed ducks, garganey and black-crowned cranes all lined the remaining patches of water. Interspersed with these flocks were groups of **lewel, waterbuck, buffalo** and **reedbuck**.

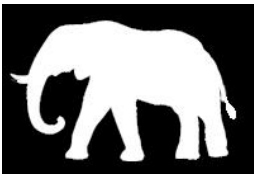
We then left the plain and headed back into the scrub forest mosaic, as we did this we spotted (thanks to Stratton) a juvenile African crowned eagle. This is one of the world's biggest and most powerful raptors and according to records was a bird that had never been known from Zakouma and not just that, but the whole of Chad. This was quite a record! It was being chased by a pair of African fish eagles and it took cover in a dense tree which is where we confirmed the ID.

Another nice raptor we saw this morning was a long-crested eagle before Jill and Martin spotted a **African grass rat** as we crossed a small patch of grassland and we stumbled across a pair of **side-striped jackals** which were sleeping in the grass. Driving out into this grassland we had an African grey hornbill overhead and another huge troop of **olive baboons** and the some Abyssinian ground hornbills foraging in the grassland. We stopped and watched these amazing birds for a while. As we stopped some **giraffes** came by and we had some very nice **giraffe** photography and some resting **reedbuck**.

We then returned to Riguek and found a flock of red-billed quelea (but not in their millions which this bird is famous for), also here where the large numbers of black-crowned cranes, spur-winged geese and other waterfowl again, the number of mammals had increased and we had large numbers of **waterbuck** and a herd of **tiang** had entered the plain now. A pair of large male **buffalo** came and checked us out before we left and started the journey back towards Tinga Camp. Along the way we found 4 **lions** resting in the shade of a tree. Two of these **lions** were near full adult males and 2 were females. However the manes of the males were shorter and less thick than those typical of east and southern Africa. This is a typical feature of this subspecies of lion. They were just lazing around which is exactly what lions do the majority of their time and after some pics we left and headed to a small pool nearby the park headquarters. Here there were a few West African crocodiles and then at the headquarters we found a pair of adult male **elephants**. We had nice close views of these bulls and even found another bachelor group a little further along, with one washing and drinking in the headquarters' main water supply. We followed them a short way and predictably there was a little flare up by the youngest of the males when we left them. Just telling us he was in charge of the whole situation, but being extra brave about it as we were then departing. The increasing temperature as the drive continued produce more **elephants**, including one sleeping in a mud wallow.

We then returned to Tinga and had some free time during in the heat of the day. After lunch we had a look around and found a roost of slit-faced bats (ID'd confirmed by Jon's group after us – as either or both of **large-eared / Egyptian slit-faced bats**).

We went back out at 3:30pm and quickly had nice views of a mother and calf **giraffe** in the late afternoon light, also around were many **olive baboons**, large male **Loder's kob** and a **side-striped jackal**. But in general it was quieter



this afternoon than this morning. But thing got a little better as the sun sunk lower in the sky and the temperature noticeably dropped (not to what anyone would call cool – but significantly cooler than the oven-hot afternoon temperatures).

The evening sightings started with fleeting glimpses of a **striped ground squirrel** and then we found several individual **red-fronted gazelles**. These gazelles are a Sahel endemic and one of the species which is a speciality species for Zakouma, so that was nice to see and see on the first day. We saw some of them well as they sheltered under trees, but it was interesting to not see many of these and they were always on their own when we did see them (unlike all of the other ungulates we had seen so far).

We also had great views of an African grey woodpecker as it lived up to its name searching for food in a dead tree and then we had a large group of **banded mongoose** running very far from a waterhole and away into some thick grass. A little further along we found a pride of 16 **lions** resting on the side of the road. They were not very active (like most lions) and so we didn't spend too long with the pride as drove around to the other side of the waterhole near where the **lions** were resting. There were many African white pelicans in the pool as well as spur-winged geese, storks and whistling ducks. There was also a lone male **lion** with a badly injured face (a cut ran up to his left eye and he seemed lucky not to have lost his eye). It was interesting to theorise if this male was the recently ousted male of the pride nearby or if he was still the alpha male of the pride but was taking some time away to deal with his injury. We watched as he got up slowly and had a good long drink.

We then departed and started spotlighting, as soon as it got dark there were many long-tailed nightjars around and we then found a very relaxed **large-spotted genet** near the road and posing for us. Following the genet we saw two female and a young **central bushbuck** quickly followed by a male **bushbuck** which crossed the road. Low down in the trees lining the road we found several **northern lesser galagos** some of them giving us nice views as they came out into the open on occasion.

As we continued the spotlighting back to the camp and dinner we had a couple of **African civets**, a **honey badger**, a nice **serval** and a few more **large-spotted genets**. This was a great little glimpse into what the night safaris in Zakouma can be like. Anywhere else the mammals we had seen in around 1 hour of a night drive just after dark would make an unbelievable total of species.

After dinner we went back out and quickly found another **African civet**, more **red-fronted gazelles** and **side-striped jackals** as well as some **northern lesser galagos**. We then entered the park headquarters to visit a known den site of another Sahel endemic the amazing and cute pale fox. Even before we entered the headquarters we found a **pale fox** and then inside and at the huge den complex located in between the staff houses we had views of four more **pale foxes**. Including a young one at the entrance of the den, just sticking its head up and looking at us. We then started to return to Tinga and didn't have any new species recorded, but did have more **civets** and **genets**, before arriving back at 10:30pm for a good nights rest.

Day 4 Zakouma National Park

Wildlife Watching

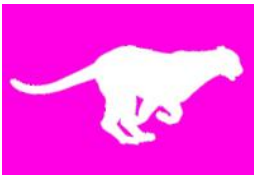
This morning were out again at 6am, at this time the **slit-faced bats** were returning from a night hunting to their roost under the restaurant. We headed towards the Cheita River today and along the way we found many of the common residents including **waterbuck**, **kob**, **buffalo** and **olive baboons** in large numbers. We also had pretty fresh ground pangolin tracks on the road, but they headed off and into very thick bush, so little to no chance of us finding it and we continued on. The birds were once again very prolific with the largest (showiest) being more Abyssinian ground hornbills and yellow-billed storks, one stork caught a very large barbel and struggled to swallow it.

At the same waterhole there was a small pride of **lions** (all females) until a **male** came out of the bush and joined them. Nearby we spotted some **common warthogs** and a nice male **buffalo** staring intently at us (all of the buffalo seem to have even more attitude than normal in Zakouma). Just around the corner there was a very large herd of **buffalo**, including some of the mixed red and black ones, several of the young reddish ones had the huge tufted red ears of typical of the forest variety of buffalo.

We found another very pink flushed male common ostrich looking for a female and had very nice Abyssinian roller in flight over a small group of **roan antelope** which were resting under a tree. More **buffalo** followed and then we spotted a male ostrich with a large creche of chicks following him around, there were no less than 14 chicks this male had to look after. Having bred and now was rearing the brood this male had lost its rich pink colouration of the other males we had been seeing which needed to breed.

Another nice bird and a near Sahel endemic which we saw this morning was a Clappteron's francolin on the road. Driving around further we had more views of large number of **lewel** and **reedbuck** as well as **giraffe** and then another single **red-fronted gazelle**. We even found a den of a pale fox next to the road with fresh tracks showing that just this morning the den was being used and there was probably a fox or two inside the den.

We then arrived at the river and saw many waterbirds including, African openbills, yellow-billed storks, garganeys, ruff, black-crowned cranes, Egyptian geese, grey heron, great egrets and then truly enormous numbers of red-billed quelea. It was amazing and mesmerising watching the thousands upon thousands of quelea coming in along the river and landing in trees and then erupting from trees and moving to other roosts. Flock after flock kept coming, some were minutes long of unbroken, innumerable birds. When they landed in a tree the noise was deafening.



What a spectacle from the world's most abundant bird species. None of the flocks were in the millions and millions which this species is famous for, but we must have seen several hundred thousand today.

Also around the river and making up this very nice scene was a troop of **baboons** low down in the trees and along the waters edge and a pair of Ruppel's vultures in a tree and then on the other side of the river a large troop of **patas monkeys** appeared and started to drink and giving us nice views.

We passed by Riguek on our way back to Tinga or lunch and found many **tiang** in the plain, but that was the only notable sighting before we returned to the camp. In the camp and at the small internet spot in the middle of the day a bent-winged bat was flying around (clearly disturbed from its roost somewhere) and flew straight into a door and knocked itself out, it took a few seconds to right itself and then groggerly took off and away. This is likely **Velliers's bent-winged bat (*Miniopterus villiersi*)** a newly split species as per the 2019 paper from Monadjem, Ara; et al.

Nearby Tinga there is a small pool of rapidly drying water and in this pool are at least 30 West African crocodiles all vying for space and fish.

We then went out around 6pm for a longer night drive and before we got into the car a distinctive **yellow-winged bat** came flying out of a tree roost and around the car briefly. Interesting to see a second species of bat flying around in the day today. As the sun began to set we had the usual plentiful long-tailed nightjars and some nice black-crowned night herons before great views of a **norther lesser galago** close to the road. In quick succession we found **large-spotted genets**, more **galagos**, male **elephants**, **buffalo**, **giraffe**, **common duiker**, **reedbuck** all seen very well before we had the first view (briefly) of another Sahel endemic, the **red-flanked duiker**. Only Togi, Chris and Ilka saw this duiker before it disappeared into the bush.

Carrying on we found a female **leopard** under a tree on the other side of a small river. It was distant at first (around 100m) but we had nice views in the spotlight as it got up and came to the river for a drink. We drove around once we realised the **leopard** was very relaxed and were able to get around 20m from her and followed her as she started to hunt some geese on the river bank. We stayed with her and just watched and followed for around 20 minutes before leaving her in peace and going in search of other species.

We then came across a **pale fox**, **African civets**, so many nightjars (causing problems with their eyeshine and we disturbed by accident a group of **banded mongooses** who had their den right at the side of the road. Further along we found a nice **serval** in a meadow followed by a close **side-striped jackal** and in another open area a **white-tailed mongoose**, two **civets** and two **genets** all very close. We had one very close **civet** foraging close by which was nice to watch.

At the far end of this clearing we had some **buffalo** dotted around and then a pair of **honey badgers** moving swiftly along with yet more **white-tailed mongoose**, **civets** and another **large-spotted genet**. In a much smaller clearing we had a second **serval** of the night, this one had caught a bird and we stopped as it moved close by to us with the kill in its mouth. At first we thought it was the whole (small) bird it was carrying but later we found the carcass of a black-crowned night heron it had killed and it was just a bunch of feather it was holding after it had started to pluck the bird before eating.

We then left the cat in peace to finish its meal and headed back to the camp.

Day 5 **Zakouma National Park**

Wildlife Watching

This morning we would be out all day as we would visit the Salamat area of the park, which is several hours away from Tinga. But this part of the park is a very different habitat, dominated by riverine and palm forest and therefore home to a different set of species we had been used to seeing around Tinga. In particular this area was meant to be good for red-flanked duiker and black-breasted barbet.

Along the way we saw many **giraffes** and **waterbuck** as well as a long-crested eagle perched nicely in the top of a tree. There were of course lots of the numerous **olive baboons** around (never had we seen so many baboons) and a pair of lappet-faced vultures together on a branch and in nice light for photography.

Stratton, Togi and Chris then spotted a **common slender mongoose** briefly as many swallows and martins hunted insects in the sky over the road. The habitat change was evident in the numbers of insects around as this was by far the most swallows and martins we had seen so far. There was another fleeting view of a **Gambian sun squirrel** running on the ground and away into thick vegetation and then at a small pool there were thousands of white-faced whistling ducks, spur-winged geese and knob-billed ducks and nearby a **striped ground squirrel** and a family of **common warthogs** with some very small piglets.

We started to come across larger groups of **lewel** interspersed with smaller groups of **tiang** and **waterbuck** as well as small groups of **buffalo** and some ostriches with saddle-billed storks and egrets in the remaining pools of water.

Before we entered the first area of riverine forest we had a **side-striped jackal** run across the road and then as we approached the first fruiting fig tree (the most likely place for duiker and barbet alike) but all we found was a flock of Bruce's green pigeon feeding in the tree. Near the side of the road was a huge savanna monitor basking in the sun and then at another fig tree we had some more luck with birds. Many starlings; including lesser blue-eared, greater blue-eared and long-tailed glossy starlings were feeding along with Viellot's barbet and African grey hornbills. But no black-breasted barbet.



Carrying on around and checking out the various fig trees we came across more **Gambian sun squirrel**, **striped ground squirrel** and an **Egyptian mongoose** before we came to a view point overlooking an open floodplain. In this view we had large numbers of **lewel**, **giraffe** and **waterbuck** with smaller numbers of **warthog** and **roan**. The birds were also very numerous but the top bird sighting was a Beaudouin's snake-eagle soaring low above us.

Other ungulate species we saw today including small numbers of **reedbuck**, a group of 4 **northern greater kudu** containing one adult male and one adult female and two younger individuals, great views of male **central bushbuck** and then a very nice pair of **Sudan oribi**.

At another fig tree we had very fleeting views of a black-breasted barbet flying into the tree and away, but we didn't get the location of where it went and couldn't get any real views of this impressive bird.

We then stopped for lunch on the river, there were many crocodiles around and a very nice nesting pair of Egyptian plovers on a sand bank. After lunch we went to look for some of the super herd of **elephants** which make Zakouma such a famous location. It was this herd (of several hundred elephants) which was the reason the park was taken over by Africa Parks and the place became safe to visit. These elephants make up the largest known group of elephants in Africa (likely the world) and they were heavily poached before AP came along with their zero tolerance approach to poaching and changed all of that. However the elephants have very long memories and they can be very hard to get close to as they smell and hear the vehicles from a long way away and disappear into the dense forest in fear that we are poachers. As has been seen in some parts of East Africa where elephants were equally heavily poached decades ago we have seen elephants once again get used to vehicles without seeing them as a threat, but it takes a long time and that process is only just starting in Zakouma.

We did find a group of 14 **elephants** having a drink and Togi told us that the main herd is beginning to splinter off and so the chances of seeing the staggering numbers of elephants altogether was getting lower and lower each year. In this group of 14 we had some young males sparring with each other, practising for when they head out on their own and have to fight other males for the right to breed and there were several young ones also in the group.

We started the long drive back towards Tinga and along the way found a couple of troops of **patas monkeys**, one on the ground foraging and one washing and drinking in the river. We walked down and got around 80m away and watched the behaviour of these social primates. Also at the river were some crocodiles and brilliantly coloured northern carmine bee-eaters.

We also had a small group of **roan** next to the road and giving us great views as well as male and female ostriches which were the only notable sightings on the way back to Tinga. We arrived around 5pm and had dinner before a shorter night drive tonight. Togi had done a lot of driving and so we only did a few hours after dinner.

There were some male **elephants** near the camp as we headed out. It is very interesting to see the difference in approach to the vehicle from the male **elephants** and the females in the super herd. These males had hardly been poached, as they live solitary or sometimes in small bachelor groups it was never very profitable for the poachers to spend time looking for these as opposed to finding hundreds together. So they were much more comfortable around the vehicles. We also found some **reedbuck** and of course **large-spotted genets** before we had great views of a **striped hyena** in the open. Along with the common **lewel**, **reedbuck** and **common duiker** we had a black-tailed morph of a **white-tailed mongoose**, **civets**, **genets**, another **serval**, **galagos** and a solitary **spotted hyena** as well as a **Guinea multi-mammate mouse** in the grass right next to the car and giving us a little show.

Even the shorter night drives are remarkably productive in Zakouma!



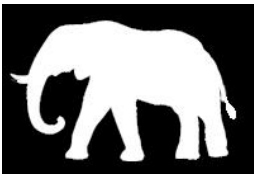
Day 6 Zakouma National Park

Wildlife Watching

This morning we were out again around 6am and saw much of the same common species as well as some **red-fronted gazelles** and had a **honey badger** run across the road in front of us. We focused this morning on an area where a female cheetah and two cubs had been known from recently. We didn't find the cheetah but had nice views of a large group of **giraffes** and watching some yellow-billed kites feeding on barbel in drying out pools as pairs of black-crowned cranes flew overhead.

We also had a male and female black-bellied bustard nearby a large herd of **buffalo**. We added a couple more rare raptor species to our growing bird list with a western banded snake-eagle and an Ayre's hawk-eagle carrying a small bird which it had just killed. This was a possible new record for Chad also, Stratton would investigate that in the future. We watched the hawk-eagle land in a nearby tree and watched as it started to feed on the vinaceous dove which it had killed. There was even a brief interaction between the hawk-eagle and a yellow-billed kite as it tried to keep hold of its lunch.

We then visited Riguek again and once again were met by the huge numbers of birds and also large groups of **waterbuck** and this time there were also three **roan** here too. There was also a short-toed snake-eagle on the



ground here which took off when we got close, we saw it well and had already seen all of the know snake-eagle species from Chad on this trip. Whether the raptors were out in force in honour of Stratton or Stratton had a radar for raptors we didn't know, but either way we were not complaining.

In the middle of Riguek we found some **lions** on a buffalo kill feeding and resting nearby. The carcass was right in the middle of the floodplain and the sun was beginning to bake. Some of the **lions** got up and headed to the shade on the edge of the plain leaving a couple of **lions** near the carcass and panting heavily.

The birds were very numerous and diverse in the remaining (and constantly shrinking pools) and we watched many African fish eagles, woolly-necked storks, saddle-billed storks, great egrets, black-crowned cranes, grey herons, spur-winged geese, knob-billed ducks, wood sandpipers, spotted redshanks, little stints, red-throated pipits and yellow wagtails and others aggregating around. It was great watching the birds interact with each other, including the scattering of smaller birds when a Monatgu's harrier flew over looking for an unsuspecting wading bird to swoop down on. As we waited and watched some ostriches came down to drink, it was a strange mix of birds together with the ostriches and African fish eagles.

The skies were filling up with many vultures as the remaining **lions** began to move away from the carcass, however one of the **lions** was hanging back a little, not letting the vultures getting close to the kill. You could clearly see this **lion** was torn between cooling down (it was visibly very hot) and protecting the remaining meat on the kill from the vultures. The **lion** even came to us to use us for shade so he could stay close to the kill and get shade, but there was not much shade, it was approaching midday and we didn't want the lion immediately underneath the vehicle, so we left and carried on with the game drive and made our way back to Tinga.

We had views of a very nice murmuration of red-billed quelea near the river and then a lanner falcon showed up and we waited a while to see if it was going to start hunting the numerous quelea. We didn't see any action and headed back and along the river had views of many great white pelicans, spur-winged geese, African openbills, cattle egrets, knob-billed ducks, yellow-billed storks all lining up along the river banks.

We arrived back in the early afternoon and had lunch and then waiting for dusk before having a longer night drive. Giving Togi some rest time also as he had worked so hard for us so far.

On the night drive we had once again many carnivore sightings including **African civets**, **large-spotted genets**, **white-tailed mongooses**, three **lions**, the same female **leopard** we had seen a few nights ago (we had great views of this very chilled out **leopard** again), two **servals** and also two **striped hyenas** including views of one of these just 25m away from the vehicle.

Every night drive was living up the amazing reputation that Zakouma has for carnivore numbers and diversity at night.

Day 7 Zakouma National Park

Wildlife Watching

Today we split the group, with Ken, Ilka and Stratton heading out with a second driver (Jalil) on a birding mission to Salamat for another chance at the black-breasted barbet. Whilst Martin and Togi headed out with Annette, Jill and Chris to Machtour and Riguek (the areas where the cheetah had been seen).

We didn't see the cheetah again but we did have some time with three adult female **lions** and a young male all resting with 4 Ruppel's vultures nearby (three perched in a tree and one drinking). We also had another very pink male ostrich and a brown snake-eagle on the ground as well as the common mammal species including a higher number of **giraffes** than we had seen previously. Other animals of note from this morning around Machtour and Riguek included **banded mongooses**, **olive baboons**, **waterbuck**, **roan**, **tiang**, **reedbuck** and a pair of Abyssinian ground hornbills and a large troop of **tantalus monkeys**.

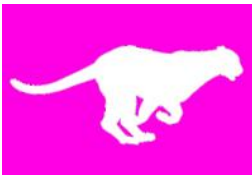
In Riguek Chris set up a timelapse camera on a tripod and we left that for an hour or so, hopefully he would get some great footage of the birds coming and going from the floodplain. We spotted another three **lions** sleeping under the tree before we left this part of the park to go and meet the other vehicle around Salamat for lunch (which was pre-arranged).

When we arrived around Salamat we headed to the wetter areas and found a group of **elephants** having a drink, however they must have heard of smelt us (we were around 100m away and down wind, but something alerted them and they moved off and into the dense forest. We drove around further and found another small group of **elephants**. We watched this group for a while in the trees and then went to a waterhole to wait for any that may come out as the sun rose to its highest point in the sky. The elephants never came to where we were waiting.

We had lunch and met up with the other vehicle. We had had heard that this other vehicle had had a very nice views (and pictures) of the black-breasted barbet as well as a huge rock python which had recently killed and was beginning to eat a **central bushbuck** and even a couple of **African civets** out in the daylight as they drove to Salamat and a day time roosting **yellow-winged bat**.

The numbers of the common ungulate species in the plains were as high as we had lunch and then headed back to Tinga at around 2pm.

We were once again back out after dark for another night drive (or final night in Zakouma), we quickly saw **waterbuck**, **galagos**, many nightjars, **civets**, **red-fronted gazelles**, **common duiker**, **white-tailed mongooses** and a pair of Verreaux's eagle-owls. We also had a mystery cat at the limit of the spotlight and in the thermal (probably a serval but it could have been an African wild cat). We also had a nice male **lion** chilling out just next to



the road and another **pale fox** before very nice views of a young **serval** on the road and seen for a long time very well.



Day 8 **Mongo**

Travelling

This morning we left Zakouma after breakfast at around 6:30am and started the long drive out of the park and back towards Mongo (around 200km) but nearly all on seasonal roads and we got lost a couple of times on the roads which were brand new.

We did have a couple of **red-fronted gazelles** on the drive out of the park and at lunch (in a forested patch) Ilka and Ken stumbled (almost literally) on a **red-flanked duiker**.

We made it to Mongo and our campsite with some local Wadabi tribal nomads at around 4:20pm. We had a chilled evening, some people were shown around the tribal camp by the elder and others went for a birding walk around the koppies. Martin managed to find a very nice and obliging **Heuglin's striped grass mouse**. The only other mammals seen this evening were several **rock hyrax**.

Day 9 **En-route to Ouadi Rime Reserve**

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning around the camp we had a shrew darting around and based on appearance, habitat and records it would appear to be **savanna shrew** but we would never know for sure as well as another **Heuglin's striped grass mouse** and **rock hyrax** as well as quite a few nice birds around including fan-tailed ravens, fox kestrel, tawny eagle, Egyptian vulture, house bunting, desert wheatear, red-pate cisticola and speckle-fronted weavers as we had a little walk when the camp was being packed up.

We left at around 8am and headed to the town of Abeche, along the way we stopped for lunch and at lunch we had some beautiful Sudan golden sparrows as well as some more **rock hyrax** and then a flock of red-billed quelea next to the road and very low down to the ground. We stopped and watched and the flock grew and grew and we got the views of a flock of over 1 million (easily), they were all over the ground, then taking off and moving around from patch of grassland to another, flying over the road. The noise and even breeze from their wings was amazing, the dust they blew up from the dry ground also started to clog the air. What a great experience.

We carried on and then stopped at our campsite for the night which was randomly selected and around 200m off the road in some scrub land. We arrived here and set up the camp just before dusk. The landscape around us had began to change in the last couple of hours of driving, the koppies that had dotted the landscape had stopped appearing and the vegetation started to get more and more sparse.

Just at dark we found a pair of **golden wolves** and a **white-tailed mongoose** within view of the dining table at the camp, then at dinner we had an **African wild cat** next to the camp, followed by three more **golden wolves** (two of which could have been the two we saw earlier) and then after dark we walked around the camp area briefly and had some very nice close views of **pouched gerbils** which were quite numerous around here.

Day 10 **En-route to Ouadi Rime Reserve**

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning at around 6:30am we had many birds around such as white-billed buffalo-weavers, desert wheatears, African collared doves as well as many Sudan golden sparrows and a nice black scrub-robin. There were also some fresh aardvark diggings nearby camp.

Then at 7:30am we left and hit the road again to drive towards Oaudi Rime. Along the way we had a couple of **African grass rats** next to the road and moving in between bushes. Another mammal we saw running alongside the road was a **striped ground squirrel**. The camp we picked this evening was in the south-east of the huge Ouadi Rime reserve and our camp was very close to a large and possibly active striped hyena and aardvark den system. After dark we had a walk around and found several **African savanna hares** and lots of cute **pouched gerbils** which allowed us to walk up to them and get inches away. Then we hit the jackpot with two **aardvarks** foraging around 100m away from the camp. We watched them then moving around, stopping to dig and feed a little for around 30 minutes. What an amazing sighting and from the camp, the random campsite. It seems that the density of very cool mammals in the Chadian wilderness is amazing, just random roadside camps come complete with wolves, mongooses, wild cats and aardvarks (among other species).



Day 11 Ouadi Rime Reserve

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

We woke up and in the middle of the camp was sign of armadillo and honey badger, we had breakfast and birded a little which included some nice cricket warblers, before setting off and heading deeper into the huge grassland reserve of Ouadi Rime. This grassland is the size of Belgium and home to the Sahara Conservation Fund who for decades now have been breeding back, releasing and studying the lost ungulate species from this region.

Our destination would be the headquarters of the SCF and specifically Oryx Camp, we would stay there and be given an incredible insight into the work being done here and also be given the chance to see the amazing animals they are bringing back from the edge of extinction and in the case of the scimitar-horned oryx, beyond extinction.

Along the way we passed by flocks of greater short-toed larks and then entering the endless pale waving grasslands we started to see the most numerous gazelle species here, the small and elegant **Dorcas gazelle**. We saw many of these **gazelles** as we drove through the grasslands, it was a very beautiful but harsh landscape, very little shade, very hot and only dry grass as far as the eye can see.

We also started to see some different bird species as we entered a different ecosystem, including greater hoopoe larks, Arabian bustards and a very nice female Nubian bustard. We arrived at the Oryx Camp around midday and met Matthieu (in charge of the rangers and security) and Tim and had a great chat with Tim as we settled in. Tim was in charge of the day to day work in the reserve and agreed to take us out on safari whilst we were here. We were also lucky to be there when the founder of the SCF and the man behind the ungulate reintroduction projects would come to visit for a few days (John Newby).

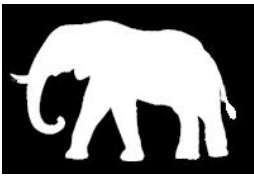
We had lunch and hung around the base camp in the intense heat of the day, there were many African silverbills and Sudan golden sparrows around the camp as well as a couple of **striped ground squirrels** which came down to the water baths to have a drink every afternoon.

As the temperature began to drop at around 3:30pm we headed out to try and find a herd of scimitar-horned oryx which was last seen quite close to the headquarters. Along the way we stopped at some large pens which housed some 'new' dama gazelles which were going to be released in the future. We saw these amazing gazelles in the pen before heading off to see the oryx, along the way we found some more **Dorcas gazelles** as well as more bustards before we found the herd of **scimitar-horned oryx**. We had amazing close **oryx** for a long period of time, they were feeding and moving between patches of shade offered by the stunted acacia trees. Nearby we also found a pair of adult **addax** and more **scimitar-horned oryx** nearby. There was a time not long ago when the oryx was extinct in the wild, and it was only through captive breeding and the amazing work on the SCF that this species was now back free ranging in its natural habitat. In fact John Newby had arrived here in the 70's and seen herds of hundreds of these amazing animals and then painfully watched as over the years they were hunted down in number and eventually to extinction. The addax was not hunted quite as ruthlessly and as they are able to live in even more arid habitats (believe it or not but this harsh habitat in Ouadi Rime was at the limit of the tolerable habitat for addax, it is a little lush for them!), but they were still reduced to tiny numbers dotted in the most wild and remote parts of North Africa. Here there were growing numbers which was great news, and they were beginning to leave this part of Ouadi Rime and head to their old historical range in Chad. Seeing these two amazing animals in the wild and together was just incredible and an absolute highlight of the trip. We stayed with these antelopes until the sun started to get very low and then we returned to the camp, along the way we saw an **African wolf** and a pair of white-faced owls. Because we had all had long driving days, we just had a little walk around the headquarters after dark, instead of a night drive, but it was productive with close views of more **African wolves** and nice **pleasant gerbils** just outside the camp fence.

Day 12 Ouadi Rime Reserve

Wildlife Watching

This morning we were out at around 6am to look for wild dama gazelles. The history of the dama gazelle in Ouadi Rime is interesting, this was once a widespread and common species of gazelle in much of the areas bordering the Sahara desert. However being strikingly beautiful as well as being the largest of the gazelle species, it was hunted to the verge of extinction (and it is still far from being out of the woods); but throughout the worst of the hunting there were still some dama gazelles living completely wild in the Ouadi Rime and some were still around today. This very small population has been supplemented by some introductions which has resulted in some 50 or so living wild in the reserve; meaning this is the largest population of them in the world. However with the reserve being the size of Belgium and there only being 50 dama gazelles, it is not guaranteed to see them.



However a small number had been seen not too far from the Oryx Camp in the last few days, so with the help of Tim we set off in that direction.

Almost immediately we spotted a pair of **dama gazelles** at around 500m away, so we approached to see how close we could get. As most of the **dama gazelles** around here are fully wild they are more skittish than the addax and oryx and many of the sightings are distant ones. We managed to get around 150m away before they started to walk off away from us. Amazing to see in the wild and so easily this morning.

We then carried on and found many **Dorcas gazelles** around and also had a very nice pallid harrier soaring low over the grassland in and amongst several groups of **scimitar-horned oryx**.

Driving around and looking for more dama gazelles we found and had great views of a wonderful Arabian bustard as well as finding 6 swallow-tailed kites in a tree, probably resting from a long flight along their migration route. We then found more and more swallow-tailed kites in other nearby trees, there was clearly a large flock of these moving through the area. We then had another bustard species as we found a beautiful male Nubian bustard followed by a nice lappet-faced vulture which took off to fly to its mate in another tree. The pair was seen very well and close. It was great to see vultures here and doing ok, their numbers are declining rapidly everywhere in Africa and this ecosystem may be a great last stronghold of this huge bird.

We found more **dama gazelles** but once again struggled to get very close to them, we also found more bustards and **Dorcas gazelles** before finding a long **addax** nearby a group of 8 **oryx** which had several young calves with them. As the sun started to get higher and higher and the temperatures rose accordingly we found a short-toed snake eagle in a tree and a mixed group of **addax** and **oryx** resting in the shade of some bushes. As we approached the stand of trees and bushes these ungulates were resting we had an **African wild cat** run out from the back of these bushes and away at speed.

We then returned to the camp for a break during the heat of the day and lunch, going back out at around 3:30pm. During the middle of today we had a great highlight as John Newby (the founder of the reserve and the reason there are any ungulates here at all) arrived and we spent a few hours just listening to his incredible stories and tales of what this place was like 50 years ago and hearing about his plans for the future too.

The afternoon drive was a little shorter than normal so we could go out again after dinner. We walked a little this afternoon and found a pair of northern white-faced owls and had great close views of them as well as finding two pairs of short-eared owls and Ken managed to get views of the Dunn's lark which was a key target for him on this trip. We also had some common quails on the tracks dissecting the grass. On the way back we spooked a **African savanna hare** and then back at the camp we had the resident **striped ground squirrel** at the bird bath with many small birds.

Then back out again after dark we quickly spotted a **pale fox** as well as having three **golden wolf** pups on the road and being very close and curious, giving us great views. Further along we had a shier **African wild cat** and then an **aardvark** just off the side of the road, it moved quickly into the taller grass. This was followed a short way along by many more **pale foxes** and some roosting Nubian bustards which we tried not to disturb too much. Before we got back to the camp we had even more **wolves** and **pale foxes** as well as some **pygmy gerbils** on the tracks of the road and a **African savanna hare**. What a fantastic night drive.



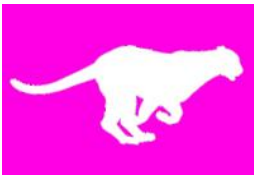
Day 13 Ouadi Rime Reserve

Wildlife Watching

Once again this morning we went out in the direction of where the dama gazelles had been seen recently. We found a pair of Nubian bustards nearby the camp and then amazingly we found a group of no less than 11 **dama gazelles** around 150m away from us. This must be one of the largest groupings of this species seen in the last few decades, they were relaxed and just grazing. With the permission (and excitement of Tim) Chris use his drone to get some amazing aerial footage of the **dama gazelles**. Seeing them like this was a great way of assessing age and health of the animals which was valuable info for Tim and his team.

A little further along Stratton and Jill had views of a shy **caracal**, it's camouflage making it impossible for everyone to find, despite it not being that far away or even particularly hidden, which we found out after looking at Stratton's pictures.

We found more nice birds including short-eared owls, short-toed snake-eagle and fulvous babblers. Driving around more we found more **oryx** and **Dorcas gazelles** as well as small buttonquail and another **African wild cat** which was seen well. The final sighting of note this morning was a large laner falcon flying and then landing nearby the road.



After lunch the group split with Ken, Ilka, Jill and Annette going out with John to watch the feeding of the dama gazelles in the holding pen and see them up close. Whilst Stratton and Chris went out with Tim to see a short-toed snake-eagle nest (as there are so few recordings of this species nesting in the Sahel and with Chris's drone the serial footage into the nest would be valuable information). At sunset Chris was rewarded with some stunning footage of **oryx** at sunset, getting their sweeping horns silhouetted against the huge orange African sun.

We then all met back at the camp and had dinner, then we went back out for a night drive with John and Tim. Once again the two most commonly seen mammals were **golden wolves** and **pale foxes**, it was amazing to see so many **pale foxes**, we had tried so hard to get this species in Zakouma not realising just how numerous they would be in Ouadi Rime. There is so much to discover and understand about mammalwatching in Chad.

Stratton then found eye-shine of a wonderful mammal, it was very brief before it disappeared into its burrow but it was clearly identifiable as a **Libyan striped polecat**.

Along a fire control burn line we found a short-eared owl as well as **African savanna hare** seen very well. Then on the airstrip we had great sightings of a **desert hedgehog** as well as several **lesser Egyptian jerboas** around and then just off the airstrip Stratton got one of his most wanted birds on the trip (and one of the most wanted in all of Africa) as we found a very relaxed golden nightjar. We got very close views of this gorgeous bird.

Then leaving the airstrip and carrying on we had a few **African wild cats** and then great prolonged views of a **crested porcupine** and more **African savanna hares**. We then found a second **Libyan striped polecat** and this one allowed us to have great views of it as it moved through the short grass looking for prey. That wasn't the end of the mustelid sightings either as we then had a **honey badger** close to the car and then run away into a burrow, we went to have a look and when Martin looked into the burrow he was confronted with an angry **honey badger** which had not gone as far into the burrow as we expected, so we left it in peace (all acutely aware of the various YouTube videos of honey badgers causing much larger and tougher animals than Martin serious problems).

Our final sightings of note was a northern white-faced owl in the same tree as a roosting African grey hornbill, before we returned to the camp after what was one of the best night drives Ouadi Rime had ever had and one of the highlights of our who trip.

Day 14 Ouadi Rime Reserve – Ennedi

Wildlife Watching & Travelling

Today was our last morning in Ouadi Rime and before we left we had one final game drive, we started with many **Dorcas gazelles** followed by **oryx** including several young **oryx** in this herd. We also had very nice views of a pair of pretty Nubian bustards and then we had a couple of **golden wolves** in the daytime, they were nice to see in the daylight having only seen this species at night previously.

We also had a pair of Montagu's harriers patrolling low over the grassland and then briefly fighting together over a kill that one of them was carrying. We saw some of the same raptors we had been seeing over the previous days also, including lappet-faced vultures on a nest and some more migratory swallow-tailed kites.

We then had great views of some **dama gazelles** pretty close to the road, we stayed with them for a while before they started to walk away and we left them and headed further into the grassland to see what else we could find. Along the way we came across a small herd of **dromedary camels**. What was interesting about these **dromedaries** was the lack of any branding, hobbles, piercings or harnesses. We had seen hundreds and hundreds of camels on the trip and we would see even more in Ennedi. But every single camel would bare the distinctive brands on their legs, rump, face and neck (marking them as belonging to one family or another) as well as having ropes and harnesses attached to their faces, necks and many of them having hobbles around the legs too. So whilst we will never know, this group did look as feral and 'wild' as any we had seen and considering we were many miles away from any villages or even nomadic camps it seems more than reasonable that these would be feral and not belonging to anyone.

On our return to the camp we had another herd of **oryx** and these were seen very well moving and feeding around the vehicles very relaxed and our final sighting was another **wolf** in the daylight.

We got back around 9:45am and packed up and then had an early lunch and left to start the long drive towards Ennedi. Leaving in the early afternoon the temperatures were very hot, it was the hottest day so far and it seemed to get hotter and hotter until quite late in the afternoon. The drive from Ouadi Rime to Ennedi and the Verde camp belonging to Adolfo was nearly all completely off trail, off road and pretty much as the crow flies across the wonderful and remote landscape of central Chad.

We arrived at the camp around 17:15 and set up and had a god nights sleep, we didn't see anything of note around this campsite.

Day 15 En-route to Ennedi - Ennedi

Travelling

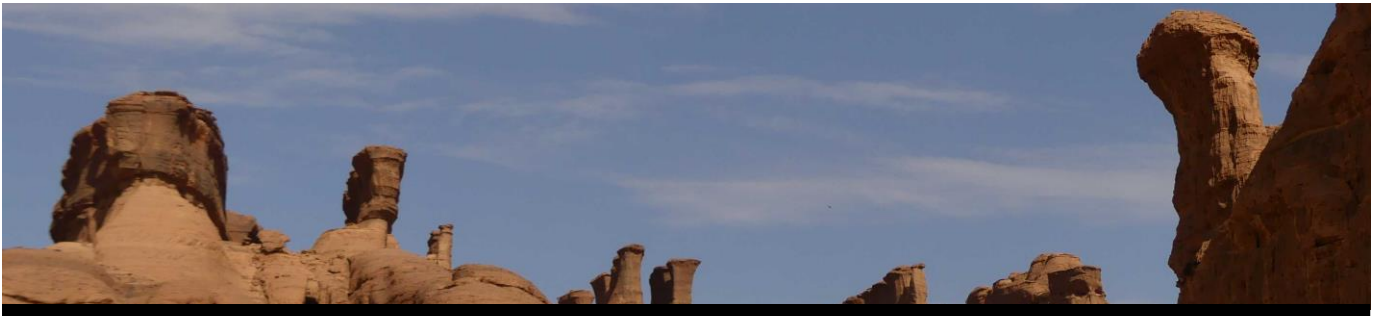
This morning after breakfast we left the camp and started the final long driving day as we progressed towards our last destination in Chad. We started to enter the Ennedi plateau in the late morning and in the distance we could start to see the barren and flat landscape give way to distant rock formations, it was also noticeable that the vegetation was getting sparser and the whole landscape was getting drier as we entered the Sahara and left the Sahel.



Along the way on the drive and when we stopped for lunch we had some nice birds, the fauna was also changing as we got further north and we had views of Sennar penduline-tits, blue-naped mousebirds, black scrub-robins, Bonelli's warbler and booted warbler.

When we finally got close enough to properly see the rock formations we were staggered, there were so many, pillars, stacks, balancing rocks, arches, monoliths of all shapes and sizes, we didn't know where to look and what to take in first. But all of the locals were telling us that these are nothing special and we would see much better. It was a bold claim from them and we didn't know how to take it, the whole area here is like another planet, the world's greatest adventure film set is how one client put it and that is right. A combination of Utah, Colorado, Australia's Red Centre and Gobi A all rolled into one and put on steroids is another way of describing the incredible Ennedi plateau.

We arrived at the camp, which was located in a beautiful location just as the sun was setting and we settled in for the first night here and dinner. We did see a **striped ground squirrel** around the camp as well as a tentatively ID'd **tarabul's gerbil** running around next to the camp.



Day 16 Ennedi Plateau

Sightseeing & Wildlife Watching

At breakfast we had a Barbary falcon, plain martin, Pallid harrier and house buntings as well as white-capped wheatears in and around the camp area before we left the camp to take in some of the stunning scenery around here. We visited Elephant Arch, which is shaped a little like an elephant in terms of it having a secondary arch coming off the larger round (head) which looked like a trunk. Around here we had several **rock hyrax** as well as **olive baboons** and smaller numbers of **patas monkeys**. These three species are by far the most common mammal species seen in Ennedi in the daytime and we would find small groups of these regularly as we drove and walked around the various rock formations.

We visited so many canyons, gullies and pilar formations it was hard to keep track of them all. One very narrow rock pillar was called the bottle or champagne pilar and it did look a lot like a bottle of wine standing alone. Another formation we visited was the labyrinth which was a collection of pillars, corridors, caves and tunnels which was nice and cooling as most of it was in shadow for most of the day and here we had nice views of trumpeter finches before we returned to the camp to spend the heat of the day in relative shade.

Then we headed out again around 4:30pm and tried to find somewhere for nice sunset photography, we watched the sunset against the rock formations and watched as the colours changed from every shade of orange and red as the sun got lower in the sky. Then after dark we spotlighted back to the camp and found **cape hares** as well as a very nice pharaoh eagle-owl flying and then perched on some rocks nearby the car. We then found a pair of **pale foxes**, we were seeing so many of this little canid species now as well as many **lesser Egyptian jerboas**, before we found a **fennec fox** which was followed by another two **fennec foxes** in quick succession. Seeing the **fennecs** was a clear sign that we had left the Sahel and were now in true Sahara. It was interesting also to see the **pale** and **fennec foxes** sharing the same habitat here.

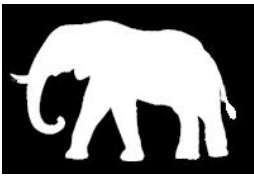
Before we got back to the camp we didn't have any new species, but we did see a nice **lesser Egyptian jerboa** well and then a sleeping **fennec fox** which gave us closer views than the others before it moved away from us.

Day 17 Ennedi Plateau

Sightseeing & Wildlife Watching.

This morning we left to visit the famous Guelta d'Archei, this is a permanent body of water located in a narrow ravine and every day hundreds of camels are lead here by their herders to drink. Special permission is needed to visit from the resident herders and a great level of respect is needed when experiencing the guelta as these permanent sources of water are the most significant parts of this landscape for the people and animals around here. The walk into the guelta is a little tough, it involved climbing up (along a trail) and dropping down the other side of a ridge and then walking along a ridge to get an aerial view of the guelta and from there we would watch for the herders bringing their camels in. We would also be keeping an eye out for the four remaining desert Nile crocodiles which live in this tiny body of water. These are a remnant population from when this whole area was much wetter and lush.

Along the way we saw several **rock hyrax** and then arriving at a view point high over the guelta we had views of some donkeys and a handful of people drinking, washing and filling up bottles and drums from the water. In the



water was a dense shoal of fish (there are four species of fish which are known from this guelta (blackstripe barb, red-belly tilapia, *labeo parvus* and mango tilapia), it is very likely that it was the barb making up the majority of this very dense shoal at the surface and as we watched it was disturbed and the distinctive head of a crocodile broke the surface.

We were not waiting too long before the first camel herd arrived to drink, the sound and sight of hundreds of camels moving through the narrow gorge and through the water was incredible, the echoing deep calls of the camels and the splashing of water was a stark contrast to the usual still and silence of the Ennedi. More and more camels came in, each herd spending a few minutes and drinking huge quantities of water before moving on and making way for more camel herds.

We stayed there for a good time and just relaxed and took in the spectacle and then went back to camp for lunch and a rest. Once it started to get cooler again around 4:30pm we headed back out again and visited the same guelta but from the other direction (where the herders bring their camels) and visited a cave nearby. In the cave we found a small roost of **Egyptian mouse-tailed bats** in the deeper recesses of the cave and all over the floor of the cave were the skeletons (some fresh, some very old and some very fresh whole bodies) of hundreds of Sudan golden sparrows. It was very surreal and weird, no one could think of a reason why there were so many dead birds from lots of different periods all in this one cave. The locals we asked said that there was a cat that lived here and ate birds, but that didn't make sense as the birds were not eating, just dead and intact and in various states of decomposition.

After dark we spotlighting once again, finding a **common genet** and some **pale foxes** before we had great views of a Sahara sand viper which was on the trail and allowed us some very nice close views, which was the last sighting of note tonight.



Day 18 Ennedi Plateau

Sightseeing & Wildlife Watching

This morning we started just before dawn as Adam took us to a place where a few barbary sheep were still known from, but they are heavily hunted here and their numbers are dwindling. We didn't have a great chance of seeing any, but we wanted to try and we spend a few hours hiking the area and scanning several slopes and areas where Adam had seen this species in the past.

Along the way to this location we found a **pale fox** at its den and it was nice to see it in the daylight, and then when we arrived at the location we had a **golden wolf** and then whilst scanning and looking for the sheep we spotted some **patas monkeys**, **rock hyrax** and a peregrine falcon, but unfortunately no barbary sheep.

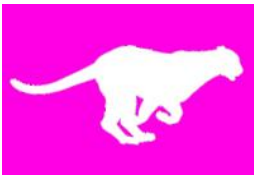
We then returned to the camp for breakfast and then we would spend the day visiting some sites in Ennedi which have cultural importance. We visited a couple of caves (one of which was called Magnageli) and both were very rich in rock art. Fantastically detailed pictures of people, camels, cows and other aspects of daily life for people living here hundreds/thousands of years ago, adorned the walls and ceilings of the various caves. One of the caves we visited had a huge red cow drawn on the roof and showing the cultural importance of cattle to the ancient people which still holds true for many of the tribes in Chad today, however the climate around Ennedi has changed so much that cattle have been replaced here by camels. One of the caves we visited was decorated completely by individual finger prints, the affect of hundreds and hundreds of red finger prints lining the walls and roof of the cave was quite stunning (almost mesmerising) to take in.

Travelling in between the caves one of the vehicles had nice day time views of a **fennec fox** which was a nice bonus. Then at sunset we went to a dried out lake bed for some contrasting sunset photography on this unusual landscape. On our spotlighting drive back to the camp we found more **fennec foxes**, **Cape hares**, **lesser Egyptian jerboas** as well as a pair of **pale foxes** and a pair of **golden wolves**. Along with these mammals we also had very nice pharaoh eagle-owl on the ground close to us and seemingly hunting nearby **hares**.

Day 19 Ennedi Plateau

Sightseeing & Wildlife Watching

Today was our last full day in Ennedi and we were going to spend this visiting some spectacular arches and another guelta a couple of hours drive away from the areas we had been exploring so far.



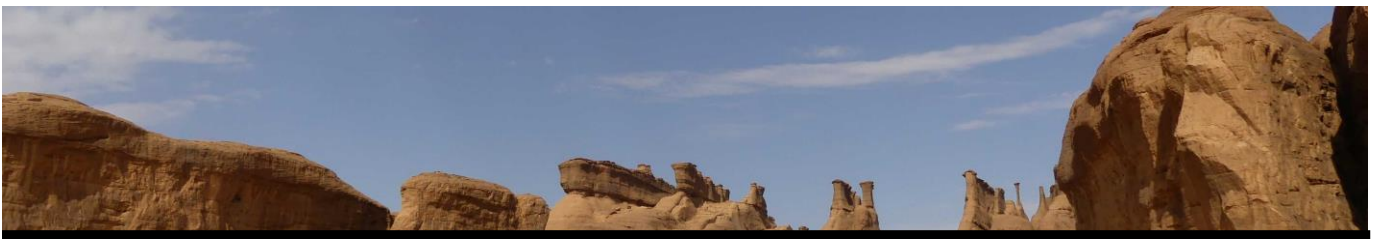
Driving along we passed so many canyons, rock pillars, stacks and arches. The sheer abundance of rock formations in Ennedi is impossible to comprehend. Along the way we also saw **patas monkeys** as well as lots of aardvark activity around and in the skies we had lanner falcons and short-toed snake eagles.

The first arch (Aloba Arch) we visited was stunning, huge (standing over 120m tall and with a span of around 75m it is the third largest arch in the world) and nearly perfectly round. This is one of the highlights of the whole Ennedi if not one of the spectacular natural features in the world! We spent a fair amount of time around here this morning, just taking in the size and scale of this arch.

We then visited Bachikele guelta which is very large and more a true oasis than the Guelta D'Archei that we had visited previously. We arrived in time to have our packed lunch after getting permission from the local tribal leaders to be in the guelta. Then we walked along the river here, taking in the nice palm trees and shaded canyons, many **baboons** made their permanent home in the guelta and the area was very busy with camels too. But as we walked further along the river we did find some amazing animals, including blackstripe barb forming small shoals and also endemic puddle frog (an unknown species of the *Phrynobatrachus* genus), it could even be a new species to science as we couldn't find any records of people finding frogs from the guelta's around here. As we spend some time around the guelta we also had short-toed snake eagles and lanner falcons in the skies above us and the ever presence of watching **baboons** from the gorge walls.

When we left to head back to Verde Camp we stopped at another couple of stunning arches including the very narrow Arch of Bashekele which is over 30m tall; and then a formation called 'the Table' which is a huge square shaped rock supported by numerous pillars (legs) making a lot of arches and giving the appearance of a dining table which was very cool. It was as we were leaving here that we saw a young boy on the side of the trail holding what looked like an animal, we stopped and found he was looking to sell us a baby short-toed snake eagle. Clearly he was looking to make a quick buck from the tourists passing through here. We stopped and Stratton took over and explained to the boy via Abdarahman (our interpreter) about the fact that this chick will die on its own and it needs to go back to the nest ASAP. We convinced him to take us to the tree and the nest and he very adeptly climbed up and put the chick back after Stratton had given it a drink and a quick medical check. We were very lucky we had one of Africa's leading raptor experts on the trip in this case. Whether the poor chick was just going to be collected again by the boy and hawked (pardon the pun) to the next vehicle passing through we would never know, but at least we gave the bird a fighting chance and we would report the incident to Africa Parks on our return to civilisation. Another interesting bird we saw on the way back was an ostrich, these birds were once common in Ennedi but they have been reduced to near extinction and Africa Parks was busy reintroducing them to the area and we were lucky to see one of these. The reintroduction both here and in Ouadi Rime is quite controversial as they are using both imprinting techniques of introduction (which was shown by the very friendly and boisterous ostrich in Oudi Rime who was convinced he was a person or at least we were all ostriches) and some released without imprinting. We also saw some more **patas monkeys** as we got back to the camp around sunset.

After a long day driving for the guys we gave them the night off from a night drive, especially as tomorrow we would also have another long drive as we headed north to Fadar to catch our flight back to N'Djamena.



Day 20 Ennedi / N'Djamena

Sightseeing & Travelling

We left the camp at 7am after an early breakfast and headed to a couple more rock formations to see, the first was Wimeena which included some impossibly balanced rocks and thin pillars which had eroded into wonderful mushroom shapes. We also visited the 'toast rack' which was a collection of wide, flat rocks which was shaped like a toast rack (unsurprisingly) and around these rock formations we found the skull of an impressive sized barbary sheep which had probably been hunted here for food.

Then we hit the road and started the drive north, along the way before our lunch stop we found a huge Sudan mastigie lizard basking on a hot black rock. These large lizards are hardy animals living in the hottest parts of this inhospitable habitat.

We arrived in Fadar a little early and waited in this backwater town for a while for the plane to come from N'Djamena. When the plane arrived (around 5pm) we were rushing a little as the plane couldn't fly after dark and we needed to take off before sunset. We met the other group as they were arriving on the plane, this group included Jon Hall, Ian Thompson and Pictus owner Tom Clode. They would go on to repeat the trip we just completed in reverse and had a very good trip and saw near identical species, proving that our trip was not a one off and that Chad is one of the last great untapped wildlife watching locations in the world.

The flight back was good, we didn't get the stunning aerial views of the Ennedi as it was getting dark, but we did see some of the rock formations before it got too dark. We then arrived back at the airport, which was closed, we



were walking around the empty airport after finding some people to unlock the doors and let us in. Typical Chad in many ways, but we made it to the baggage collection, got taxis and arrived back in the hotel for much needed showers, air conditioning, cold beers and soft beds!

But the mammalwatching was not done yet, we spotted a couple of **common hippos** from the hotel to conclusively add this species to record total of mammals recorded from this amazing country.

Day 21 **Departure**

Travelling

Today we had a nice relaxing breakfast and then were all transferred to the airport in time to catch our respective flights back home.

We at Royle Safaris plan to return to Chad, but the unique logistics involved in this 3 week trip mean the costs are exceptionally high and unfortunately the costs have increased significantly once again from this trip. So we have struggled to generate enough confirmed interest, however if you are interested in this trip and joining a trip for the future, please do not hesitate to contact us (info@royle-safaris.co.uk) and we can of course look to get a group together.

Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	OROA
Black Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	ZNP, MON-ZNP
Grey-headed Batis	<i>Batis orientalis</i>	MON
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	ZNP
White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>	NDJA-MOY, OH, OH-OROA, OROA, OROA-ARA, ARA
Pharaoh Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo ascalaphus</i>	ENCR
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>	ZNP
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>	ENCR
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>	ZNP, ZNP-MON
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	ZNP
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	ZNP
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>	ZNP
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	ZNP
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	OROA
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	ZNP
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>	Widespread
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>	ZNP
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>	ZNP
Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>	ZNP
Golden Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus eximius</i>	MOY, OROA
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	Widespread
Black Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas podobe</i>	NDJA-MOY, OH, OH-OROA, OROA, OROA-ARA, ARA, ARA-ENCR, ENCR
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	ZNP
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	ZNP
Scissor-tailed Kite	<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>	OROA
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	ZNP
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>	ZNP
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	NDJA
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	ZNP
African Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>	ZNP
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	ZNP
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	ZNP

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>	ZNP
Western Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>	ZNP
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	ZNP-MON
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	OROA, ENCR
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Widespread
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Widespread
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Widespread
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>	NDJA-MOY, MOY-ZNP, MON
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	ZNP
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	Widespread
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	ENCR
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>	MOY-ZNP, ZNP, ZNP-MON, MON
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	Widespread
Fan-tailed Raven	<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>	MON, ENCR
Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	OH, OROA, OROA-ARA, ARA, ARA-ENCR, ENCR
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>	ZNP
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	OROA
Plantain-eater species	<i>Crinifer species</i>	ZNP-MON
White-rumped Seedeater	<i>Crithagra leucopygia</i>	OROA, ARA, ARA-ENCR, ENCR
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>	ENCR
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	NDJA, OH-OROA, ENCR
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	ZNP, OROA, ENCR
Rüppell's Warbler	<i>Curruca ruppeli</i>	ENCR
Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	ARA
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	ZNP
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	ZNP
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	NDJA, ZNP
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>	ZNP
Glossy-backed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus divaricatus</i>	ZNP
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>	ZNP
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	ZNP
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	ZNP
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Widespread
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>	ZNP, MON
Gosling's Bunting	<i>Emberiza goslingi</i>	MON

House Bunting	<i>Emberiza sahari</i>	ENCR
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>	ZNP
Dunn's Lark	<i>Eremalauda dunni</i>	OROA
Green-backed Eremomela	<i>Eremomela canescens</i>	ZNP
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>	OH-OROA
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>	Widespread
Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix nigriceps</i>	Widespread
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>	ZNP
African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>	OROA
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>	NDJA-MOY
Fox Kestrel	<i>Falco alopex</i>	MON
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	ZNP, MON, OROA, ENCR
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	MOY
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	ENCR
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Widespread
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	OH-OROA, OROA, OROA-ARA, ARA, ARA-ENCR
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	NDJA
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	ZNP
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	ZNP
Sahel Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris dentata</i>	ZNP
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	ZNP
Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>	ZNP, OROA
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>	ZNP
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>	ZNP
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	ZNP
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>	Widespread
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>	ZNP
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>	ZNP, MON
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	ZNP
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	
Ethiopian Swallow	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>	ZNP
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Widespread
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	NDJA-MOY
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>	ZNP
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>	ZNP
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	ZNP
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa lactea</i>	ZNP

Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>	ZNP, ZNP-MON, MON
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	ZNP, ZNP-MON, MON
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>	ZNP
Chestnut-bellied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis pulcher</i>	NDJA-MOY, OH, OH-OROA, OROA, OROA-ARA, ARA, ARA-ENCR, ENCR
Black-headed Gonolek	<i>Laniarius erythrogaster</i>	ZNP
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	OH, OROA, ENCR
Grey-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>	ZNP
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	ZNP, OH-OROA
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	ZNP
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>	ZNP
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	ZNP
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>	MOY-ZNP, ZNP, ZNP-MON, MON
White-headed Barbet	<i>Lybius leucocephalus</i>	ZNP
Black-breasted Barbet	<i>Lybius rolleti</i>	ZNP, MON
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>	ZNP, MON
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	ZNP
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	ZNP, MON
White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	ZNP
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	ZNP
Red-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullocki</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>	NDJA, ZNP
African Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridissimus</i>	ZNP, MON, OROA, ARA
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>	Widespread
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	Widespread
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	ZNP
Horsfield's Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra javanica</i>	OH-OROA, OROA
Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	OROA
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	ZNP
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	ZNP, ENCR
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	ZNP
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	ZNP
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	MON

Nubian Bustard	<i>Neotis nuba</i>	OROA
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>	ZNP
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	ZNP
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	ZNP, ARA, ARA-ENCR, ENCR
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	ZNP
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	Widespread
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	OROA
White-crowned Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucopyga</i>	ENCR
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	OH-OROA, OROA, ARA
Blackstart	<i>Oenanthe melanura</i>	ENCR
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Widespread
Brown-tailed Rock Chat	<i>Oenanthe scotocerca</i>	MON
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	ZNP
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Widespread
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	ZNP, MON
Sudan Golden Sparrow	<i>Passer luteus</i>	MON-OH, OH, OH-OROA, OROA, ARA, ENCR
Desert Sparrow	<i>Passer simplex</i>	ENCR
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	ZNP
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	ZNP
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	NDJA
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	ZNP, MON
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	ZNP, ZNP-MON, MON
Buff-bellied Warbler	<i>Phyllolais pulchella</i>	ZNP
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>	ARA
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Widespread
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	ZNP
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	ZNP
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	ZNP
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>	ZNP-MON
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>	ZNP
Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>	ZNP
Egyptian Plover	<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i>	ZNP
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	ZNP
Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>	ZNP, MON
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	ZNP
River Prinia	<i>Prinia fluviatilis</i>	NDJA
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	ZNP

White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>	ZNP
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	ZNP, MON
Clapperton's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis clappertoni</i>	ZNP
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>	MOY-ZNP
Four-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>	ZNP
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>	MON, MON-OH
Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>	OROA
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	MON
Pale Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i>	ENCR
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	Widespread
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>	OROA
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Widespread
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>	ZNP
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	ZNP
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	ZNP
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	ZNP
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	NDJA
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	Widespread
Cricket Warbler	<i>Spiloptila clamans</i>	OH-OROA, OROA, OROA-ARA, ARA, ENCR
Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>	ZNP, MON, OROA
Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	ZNP
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	ZNP
African Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>	MOY, OH, OH-OROA, OROA, ARA, ENCR
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	ZNP, MON
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>	ZNP, MON
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	ZNP
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>	ZNP
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>	ZNP, MON
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	ZNP, MON
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	ZNP
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	NDJA, ZNP
Northern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	MOY-ZNP, ZNP, ZNP-MON, MON
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	MOY-ZNP, ZNP, OROA
Yellow-breasted Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus margaritatus</i>	OROA, ARA
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>	ZNP
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	ZNP

Amphibians (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1		<i>Phrynobatrachus</i> sp.

March																				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
																		4		

Fishes (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Blackstripe barb	<i>Barbus macrops</i>
2	Mudfish	<i>Clarias anguillaris</i>
3		<i>Tilapia dageti</i>
4	Redbelly tilapia	<i>Tilapia zilli</i>

March																				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
																~1,000's		~10		
		1	1																	
~30																				
																~20				

Pictures below from Martin Royle and Stratton Hatfield



Addax



Addax



Addax



Lake Chad Buffalo



Dama Gazelle



Lelwel



Nigerian Bohor Reedbuck



Sudan Oribi



Red-fronted Gazelle



Roan



Scimitar-horned Oryx



Scimitar-horned Oryx



Scimitar-horned Oryx



Tiang



Defassa Waterbuck



Dorcas Gazelle



African Civet



Caracal



African Wild Cat



Leopard



Lion



Leopard



Serval



Striped Hyena

Serval



White-tailed Mongoose



Central African Large-spotted Genet



Golden Wolf



Pale Fox



Egyptian Mouse-tailed Bat



Nycteris sp.



Northern Giraffe

African Bush Elephant



Desert Hedgehog



Cape Hare



Heuglin's Striped Mouse

Pouched Gerbil



African Hammada Jerboa



Aardvark



Tantalus Monkey

Olive Baboon



Arabian Bustard



Black-breasted Barbet



Black-crowned Crane



Abyssinian Roller



Lappet-faced Vulture



Clapperton's Spurfowl



Crested Lark



Crowned Eagle



Golden Nightjar



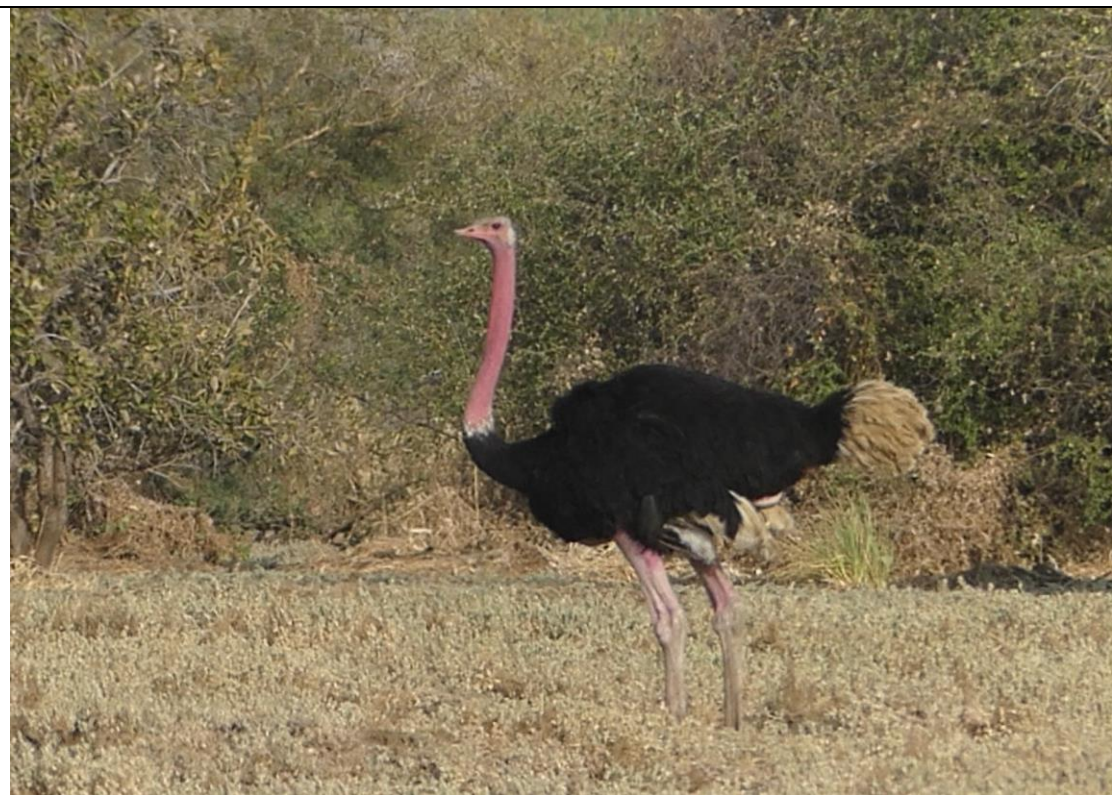
Greyish Eagle Owl



Abyssinian Ground hornbill



Nubian Bustard



Common Ostrich



Red-billed Quelea



Nile Crocodile (in the Guelta d'Archei)



Mystery Frog from Bachikele Guelta (*Phyronbatrachus* sp.)



Aloba Arch



Ennedi Massif



Bachikele Guelta



Ennedi Rock Art



Ennedi Rock Art



Guelta d'Archei

