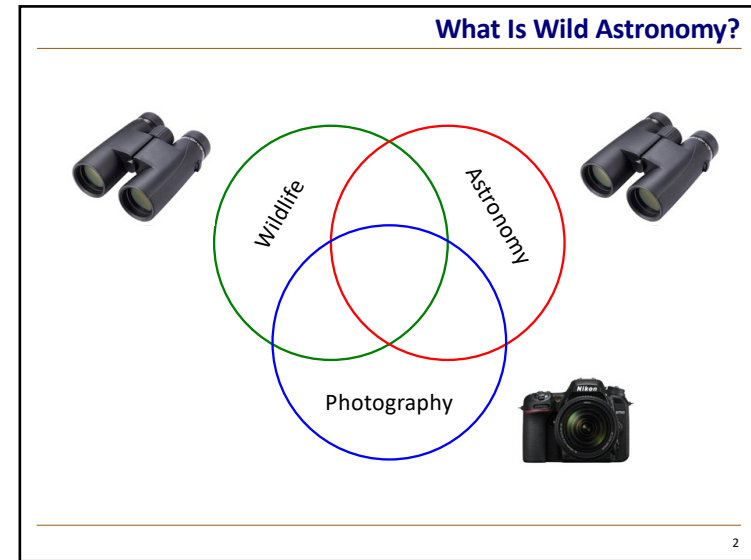


# Wild Astronomy



### What Am I Talking About

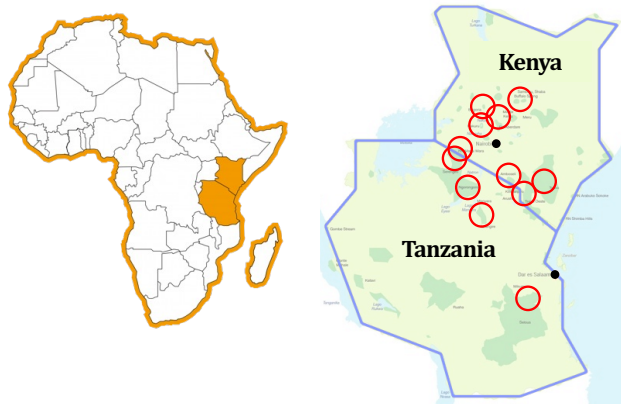
<b>Going on Safari</b>	Where to go, what to take
<b>Lodges and Camps</b>	Where to stay
<b>Game Drives</b>	How to see all the wildlife
<b>Wildlife Photography</b>	Capturing it all
<b>Astrophotography</b>	Under the darkest skies

3



# Wild Astronomy

## Kenya and Tanzania



5

## Going on Safari



6

## Hitting the Road



7

## Quintessential Africa



Lots of zebras, elephants and giraffes ...

... and a watering hole

8



# Wild Astronomy

Flying To Rufiji



Flying by bush aircraft – faster and more expensive than by road

9

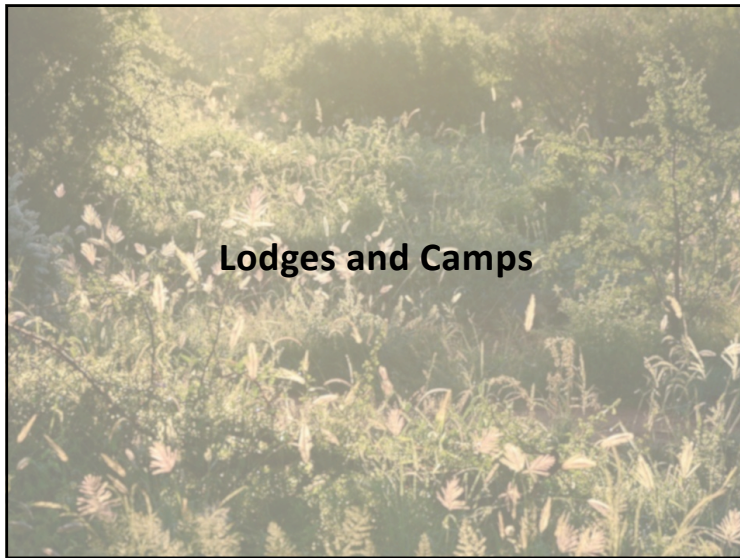
Rufiji International Airport



Mtemere Airstrip, Rufiji River Camp

10

## Lodges and Camps



Sunbird Lodge



View from terrace of Sunbird Lodge, Lake Elementaita

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# Wild Astronomy

Sunbird Lodge



Inside Sunbird Lodge room, Lake Elementaita

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Mara Serena Lodge



View from terrace of Mara Serena Lodge, Maasai Mara

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Kilaguni Serena Lodge



Terrace of Kilaguni Serena Lodge, Tsavo West National Park

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Overlooking the Watering Hole



Terrace of Kilaguni Serena Lodge, Tsavo West National Park

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# Wild Astronomy

Eland at Sunrise



Watering hole of Kilaguni Serena Lodge, Tsavo West National Park

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Floodlit Watering Hole



Watering hole of Kilaguni Serena Lodge, Tsavo West National Park

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Star Trails Over Kilaguni



2003 First attempts at astrophotography, Kilaguni Serena Lodge, Tsavo West National Park

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Rooms On Stilts



Sunrise at Salt Lick Lodge, Taita Hills

20

# Wild Astronomy

Crater View



View from Ngorongoro Lodge room, Ngorongoro Crater

21

Keekorok Lodge



Boardwalk in grounds of Keekorok Lodge, Maasai Mara

22

Oi Tukai Lodge



Oi Tukai Lodge, Amboseli National Park

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Oi Tukai Lodge



Grounds of Oi Tukai Lodge, Amboseli National Park

24



# Wild Astronomy

Star Trails Over Ol Tukai



2003 First attempts at astrophotography, Ol Tukai Lodge, Amboseli National Park

25

Tented Camps



Mara Sarova Game Camp, Maasai Mara

26

Tents by the River



Governors' Camp, Maasai Mara

27

Tents by the River



Signs of a nocturnal visitor – maybe astrophotography is not such a good idea

28



# Wild Astronomy

Rufiji River Camp



Rufiji River Camp, Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania

29

Star Trails Over Rufiji River Camp



Nikon D70 + 18-70mm lens  
Static tripod (no tracking)  
120s exposures

2005 Early attempts at astrophotography, Rufiji River Camp, Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania

30

## Game Drives



Our Safari 'Team'



The Syzygy Society with David – our driver, guide and friend

32



# Wild Astronomy

## Room in the Van



Amboseli National Park

33

## Do You Need a Big Telephoto Lens?



Sigma 200–500 mm

Nikon 300 mm

Canon 600mm

Telephoto lenses up to 300 mm are great for wildlife photography

34

Lion

35

## Can You Get Close?



Impala

36

# Wild Astronomy

## Can You Get Close?



Leopard walks past us, Maasai Mara

37

## Ready For a Game Drive



Waiting for a game drive at Ashnil Mara Camp, Maasai Mara

38

## Wildlife Photography



## A Million Wildebeest



About 1.5 million wildebeest migrated from Tanzania to Kenya

40



# Wild Astronomy

## A Thousand Pelicans



Flock of pelicans, Lake Nakuru

41

## Animals Are Curious About Us



Zebra (Maasai Mara) / Giraffe (Amboseli) / Lion (Serengeti)

42

## Animals in the Grass



Lioness watching over her cubs in the grass, Serengeti National Park, Tanzania

43

## Animals in the Grass



Elephant in the swamp, Amboseli National Park

44

# Wild Astronomy

Animals in the Grass



Giraffe in the long grass, Maasai Mara

45

Zebras Grazing



Zebras grazing at sunrise, Maasai Mara

46

Starlings



Red-winged starling / Golden-breasted starling

47

Starlings



Greater blue-eared / Superb / Lesser blue-eared

48



# Wild Astronomy

## Little Birds



Dusky flycatcher / Rosey-patched bush-shrike / White-eyed slaty flycatcher / Common waxbill / Paradise flycatcher 49

## Colourful Birds



Purple grenadier / Malachite kingfisher / Collared sunbird / Crested barbet / Red-cheeked cordon-bleu 50

## White-fronted Bee-eaters



White-fronted bee-eaters, Rufiji River Camp

51

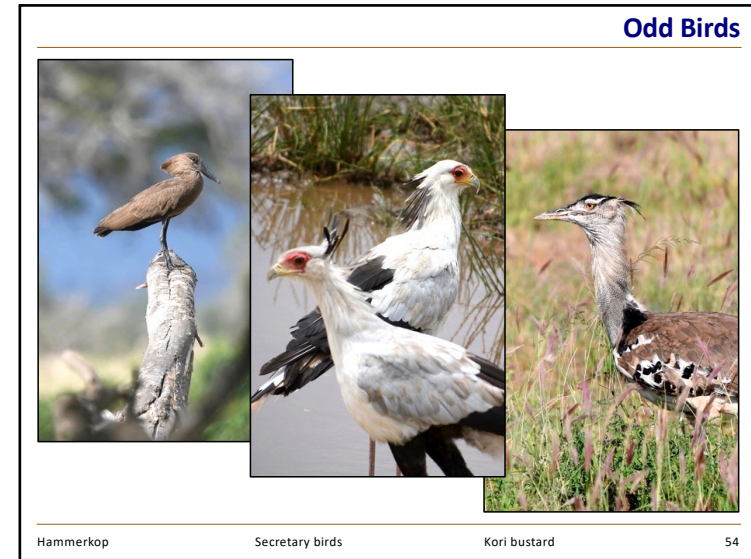
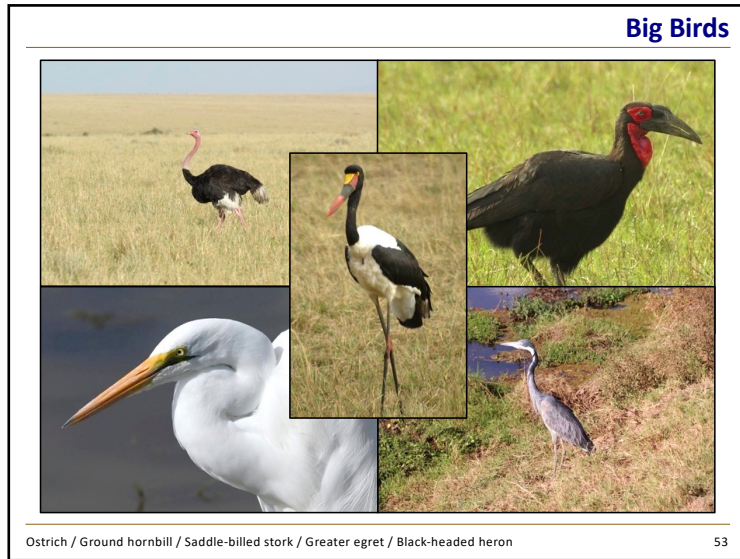
## Lilac-breasted Roller



Lilac-breasted roller, Taita Hills

52

# Wild Astronomy





# Wild Astronomy

## Patience



Tawny eagle, Tsavo West National Park

57

## Bad Hair Day?



Tawny eagle, Tsavo West National Park

58

## Water Birds



Black-winged stilt / Greater painted-snipe / African jacana

59

## Lesser Flamingo



Lesser flamingo, Ol Tukai Lodge, Amboseli National Park

60

# Wild Astronomy

## Reflections



Great white pelican / Lesser flamingo / Black-headed heron / Great cormorant / Lesser flamingo

61

## Reflections



Elephant (Amboseli NP) / Impala (Tsavo West NP) / Zebra (Tsavo West NP)

62

## Lake Nakuru



Waterbuck / Black rhinoceros / Zebra

63

## Play Fighting



Young lions play fighting, Maasai Mara

64



# Wild Astronomy

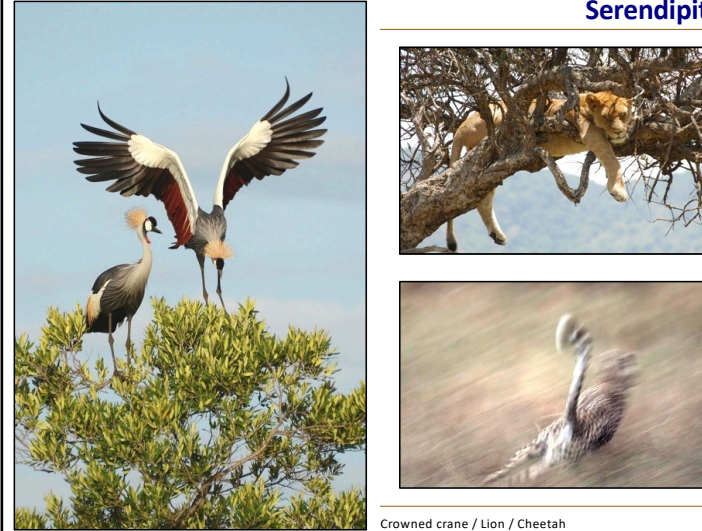
## Real Fighting



Lappet-faced vultures / Hippopotamus / Cape buffalo / Lion and hyenas

65

## Serendipity



Crowned crane / Lion / Cheetah

66

## Zebra Crossing



Zebras crossing flooded plain, Ol Tukai Lodge, Amboseli National Park

67

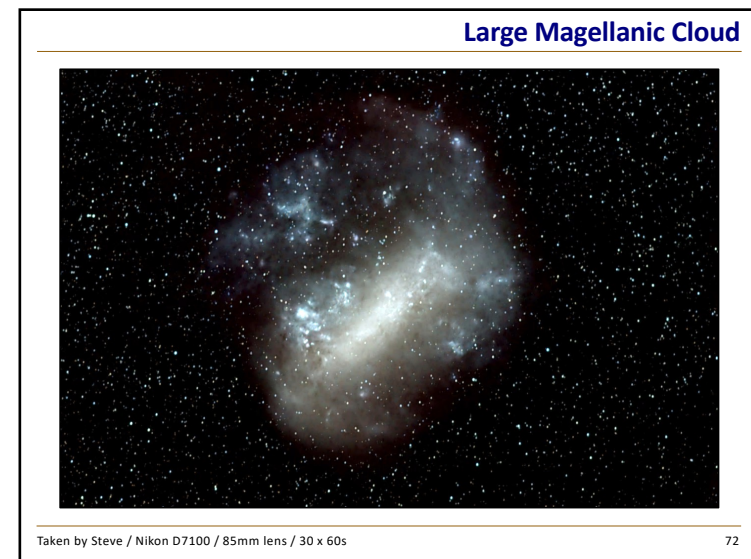
## Yawns



Olive baboon / Leopard / Cheetah / Hippopotamus

68

# Wild Astronomy





# Wild Astronomy

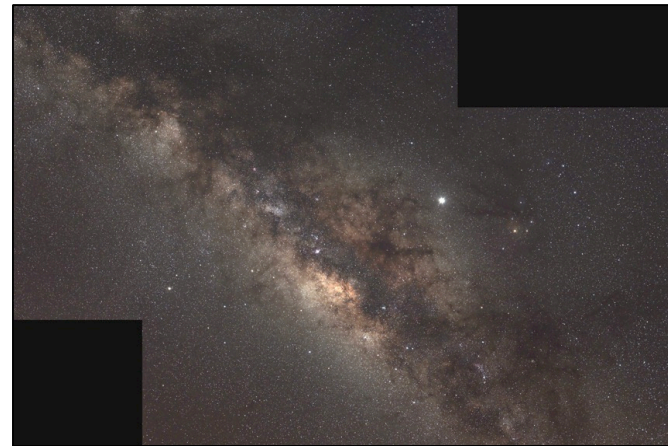
Carina Nebula



Nikon D7500 / 85mm lens / 15 x 60s

73

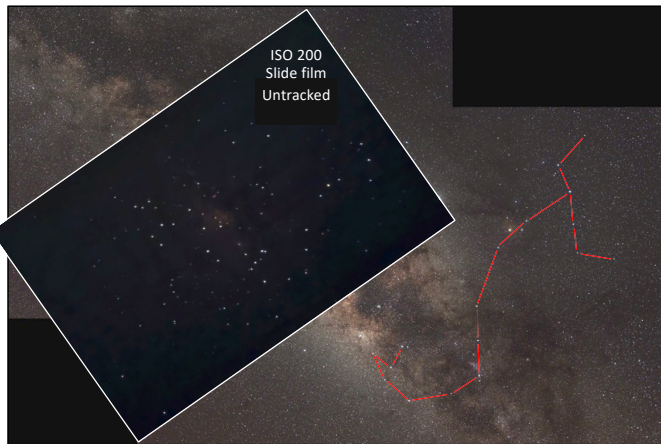
Milky Way



Taken by Steve / Nikon D7500 / 35mm lens / 10 x 120s

74

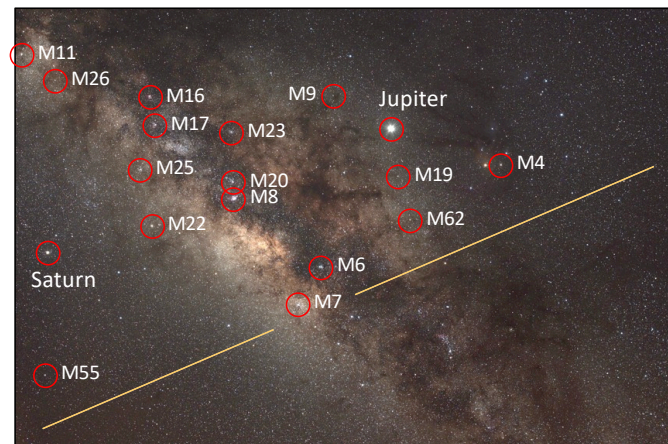
Milky Way



Taken by Steve / Nikon D7500 / 35mm lens / 10 x 120s

75

Milky Way

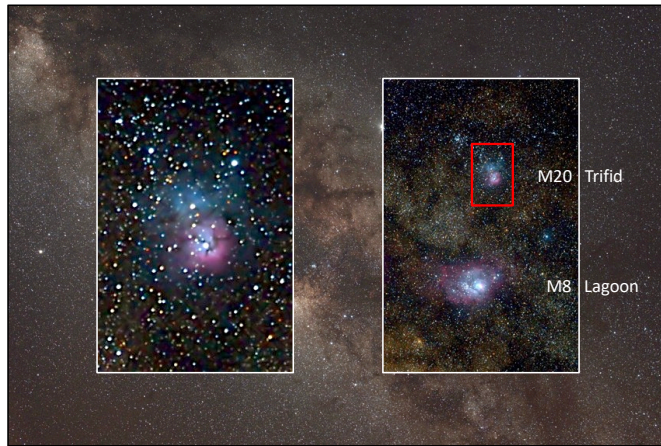


Taken by Steve / Nikon D7500 / 35mm lens / 10 x 120s

76

# Wild Astronomy

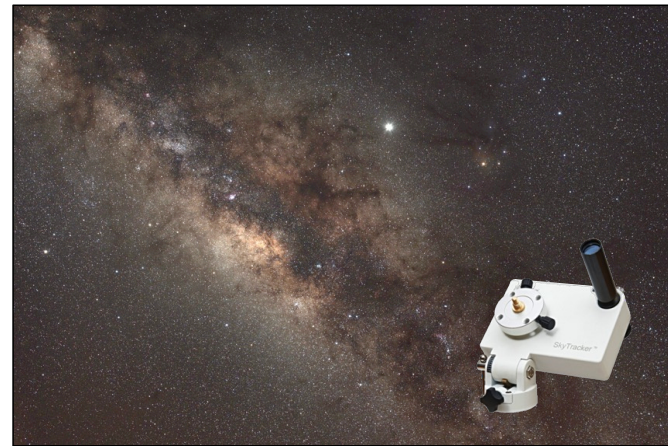
Lagoon and Trifid Nebulae



Taken by Steve / Nikon D7500 / 300mm lens / 1 x 30s

77

Milky Way



Taken by Steve / Nikon D7500 / 35mm lens / 10 x 120s

78

The End(s)



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Wildlife by day ...

... stars by night

# Wild Astronomy

[www.liverpool.ac.uk/~sdb/Talks](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/~sdb/Talks)

Dr Steve Barrett

WU3A 16 Jan 2026