

Issue 4 2022

# The Wild Lens

magazine for photographers

A close-up photograph of a brown sloth hanging from a tree branch in a lush green rainforest. The sloth's long, shaggy fur is the central focus, and it has a calm expression. The background is filled with out-of-focus green leaves and branches.

Rainforest  
Reverie

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The Art of  
Camera Traps

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Manul of  
Mongolia

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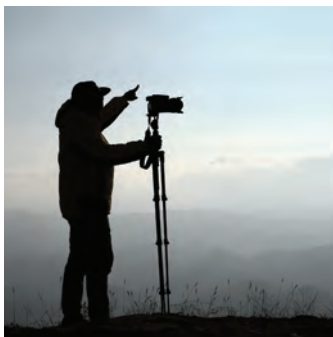
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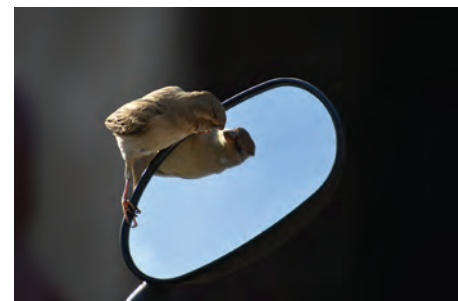
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# WILDAID

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White-bellied pangolins like Juba have been reclassified as endangered due to poaching.

Join WildAid and Djimon Hounsou to learn how you can protect these shy and sweet creatures before they go extinct.

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**The Wild Lens**  
**ISSUE 4 - 2022**

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**Publisher**

Michelle Liles

**Art Director/Graphics**

Ki Bowman, M/O Graphics

**Africa/Asia Editor**

Ranjan Ramchandani

**USA/Europe Editor**

Michelle Liles

**Conservation Editor**

Lori Lundin

**Student Correspondent**

Trikansh Sharma

**Contributors**

Brooke Bartelson, Michelle Liles,  
Alex McGregor

**The Wild Lens** is a quarterly publication for an international community of wildlife photographers and enthusiasts.

**Printed by**

Forum Printing, North Dakota



**Cover Photo**

*Three-toed sloth*, Anna K. Glenn

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**Yearly subscriptions available at**  
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**Publisher's Note**



GRETCHEEN KAY STUART

Wildlife trips can be a parallel of life; sometimes you're lucky, sometimes you aren't, but if you work hard, you'll eventually prevail. Looking for wildlife in the wild, it's important to remember that it isn't a zoo, but a habitat. For me, any sighting in nature is fortuitous.

Recently, I traveled to Mongolia in quest of Pallas's cat, known by the locals as manul. After 20 hours of flying and 10 hours of driving, though exhausted, we immediately went out to look for cats. We had our first sighting within 10 minutes. That is not the norm, so we were thrilled. See some of our favorite images from this journey in this issue courtesy of Zita Quentin, Sebastian Kennerknecht and myself.

One of my colleagues on the trip was photographing for the first time with mirrorless gear, and what a difference sitting next to someone whose shutter was silent. Please read our article about mirrorless photography courtesy of Adobe, Alex McGregor and Brooke Bartelson.

Anna K. Glenn dazzles and entertains us with her images of sloths and monkeys from Costa Rica. Roy Toft proves his position at the forefront of photography with beautiful camera trap images taken on his property in Ramona, California of spectacular species like mountain lions, bobcats, foxes and others.

Don't forget to enter this year's photography contest at [www.thewildlensmagazine.com](http://www.thewildlensmagazine.com). We look forward to featuring contestants in upcoming issues.

Michelle Liles  
[michelle@thewildlensmagazine.com](mailto:michelle@thewildlensmagazine.com)

# RAINFOREST REVERIE

Select photos from the Costa Rica portfolio of ANNA R. GLENN



Spider monkeys



Howler monkey



Squirrel monkey



Three-toed sloth





Howler monkey



White-faced capuchin



Anteater



Spider monkey



Squirrel monkeys



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### Jaguars of the Pantanal August 5-14, 2023



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# MANUL

of mongolia





# SMALL CAT

with a

# BIG

# HISTORY

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**THE PALLAS'S CAT** was documented by Prussian zoologist and botanist Peter Simon Pallas, on a trip to Southern Russia in 1776. Pallas's cat is called manul by the Mongolians, many of whom have cultivated a great respect for the small, rugged and beautiful wild cat.

This solitary cat uses caves, rock crevices and marmot tunnels as shelter. Pallas's cat is a highly specialized predator of small mammals, which it catches by stalking or ambushing near exits of burrows. It also pulls out rodents with its paws from shallow holes.

The Pallas cat's range extends from the Caucasus eastward to Central Asia, Mongolia and adjacent parts of Dzungaria and the Tibetan Plateau. Due to the species' success, Pallas's cat has been given the "Least Concern" designation by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Part of the species' perseverance can be attributed to the sparse human population in its native habitat.

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ZITA QUENTIN PHOTO



SEBASTIAN KENNERKNECHT



MICHELLE LILES



SEBASTIAN KENNERKNECHT



ZITA QUENTIN



MICHELLE LILES



SEBASTIAN KENNERKNECHT



# Tanzania

12th-23rd March, 2023

After many visits to the African continent and creating several itineraries for photographers & holiday makers alike, I found myself working on a very unique Tanzanian experience.

Imagine yourself landing at Kilimanjaro international airport and there-on being taken care of by an expert team which specialises in the culture and wilderness of Tanzania.

You will visit four different wildlife parks - The Tarangiri national park which is known for the elephant populations, Ngorongoro where an eco system lives in the crater, Ndutu where, if lucky, one would witness the most amazing phenomenon of the calving season and lots of cat action, The Serengeti where you would have the opportunity to see the famous tree and or rock climbing lions among other forms of wildlife.

You would also visit the Handzabe tribe which lives in it's primitive ways, the Masai tribes and also the Datoga tribe.

This is a very carefully created itinerary which is suitable for all age groups, holiday makers and photographers alike.

Looking forward to hosting you in the beautiful landscape of Northern Tanzania.

Ranjan Ramchandani

African Adventure Specialists  
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Westlands business Park  
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# • Photograph the Unique Pallas's Cat •

**July 15th-23rd, 2023**

Experience the vast steppes of eastern Mongolia while searching for and photographing the unique manul. This small cat is distinguished by its low set ears, long fur and short legs.

The tour is perfectly timed for manul kittens to emerge from the den. The kittens will often curiously peek from behind rocks before becoming more confident and playing in front of our cameras. The mother will return to the den periodically, bringing back prey for the kittens. It is a truly unique opportunity to photograph the young of this small cat species.

We will also photograph the majestic steppe eagles and the curious looking corsac foxes of the area.

Our base will be a traditional ger camp where we will dine on delicious regional foods.

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- One of the few manul photo tours offered in the world
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**PHOTOGRAPHER FEATURE**

# Thomas Vijayan

Thomas Vijayan is an architect and wildlife lover originally from Bangalore, India. He now resides in Canada with his wife and four daughters. Thomas and two of his daughters, also photographers, are past winners in the Wild Lens Magazine Wildlife Photography Contest. Among his many awards, Thomas also has also been named the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

Thomas is currently quite active photographing globally, capturing some of the top images in the world today.





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# Considering Mirrorless?



Reflect  
On  
This

Article courtesy of Adobe

ALEX MCGREGOR and BROOKE BARTELSON, Contributors

## Mirrorless cameras vs DSLRs: What's the difference?

As the name suggests, mirrorless cameras capture images without the use of a mirror in the camera body. This is different from DSLR cameras, which reflect images into viewfinders via mirrors. Instead, mirrorless cameras often use electronic viewfinders (EVF) to display images digitally.

The name mirrorless can be a bit confusing since many types of digital cameras already don't use mirrors. Digital point-and-shoots, rangefinders such as the legendary Leica, and even your smartphone's camera are all technically mirrorless. But the term mirrorless now mainly refers to cameras with interchangeable lens systems.

Because they have no bulky mirror box in the body, mirrorless models are more compact cameras than their DSLR counterparts. And because the lens sits closer to the sensor without a mirror in the middle, image quality is potentially superior. For these reasons and others, mirrorless technology is the apparent successor to DSLR's reign over the digital photography world.

## Advantages of mirrorless cameras

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### Electronic viewfinder

Apart from size, the electronic viewfinder is the most obvious difference from DSLRs. EVFs show a digital rendering of the frame, which shows you what the exposure will look like in real time as you adjust the settings. “You can review your image in the viewfinder, which saves a lot of time during shoots,” says photographer Alex McGregor. “You can also customize what information is displayed in the EVF,” he adds.

“The shooting experience is much smoother because of the EVF,” says photographer Brooke Bartleson. “With a DSLR, you often have to bring your camera down to look at the image and recompose it. But with an EVF, you get a more realistic view right in your viewfinder so you can review and adjust much more quickly.”

While EVF image quality isn’t quite on par with optical viewfinders yet, their clarity and sharpness make significant strides with each new model. The best mirrorless EVFs nearly measure up to optical viewfinders and will only continue to get better.

### In-body image stabilization (IBIS)

IBIS is a feature that stabilizes the sensor while shooting handheld. It allows you to shoot at very slow shutter speeds without a tripod, which makes it easy to get low-light shots without cranking up your ISO (sensitivity to light that can add noise or grain to your photo). “Some people have been able to handhold an exposure for several seconds with no motion blur, which is impossible with a DSLR,” says McGregor.

It’s also great for video, as it allows you to get smooth, stable shots without using a gimbal (a pivoted support that allows the camera to remain stable). Not all mirrorless options have IBIS, but the technology became popular with the rise of mirrorless cameras.

### Touchscreen live view

The ability to switch seamlessly from viewfinder to live view on the OLED or LCD screen is a draw for many photographers. Some models even allow you to autofocus by simply touching the screen. Continuous live view is perfect

for shooting at tricky angles without needing to raise the camera to your eye, and it’s great for shooting video. Many creatives choose to use their mirrorless as a video camera for this reason. If you want to shoot video, a mirrorless is an ideal choice, as many models are equipped to shoot 4K video, such as the popular Sony A7R IV, while the Canon EOS R5 can shoot up to 8K.

### Autofocus system

For McGregor, the AF system was a standout improvement over DSLRs. “The ability to move focusing points to the edge of the screen helps with composition and quickness during the shooting process.”

Continuous focus tracking is another feature that mirrorless cameras are known for. “You can tell the camera which subject to focus on and it will track that subject as it moves in your frame,” says McGregor. “This lets the photographer focus on the exposure and composition and trust the camera to handle the focusing.”

### Silent shutter

With no mirror to flip up when you press the shutter, mirrorless cameras can take photos without making a sound. Stealth is a huge advantage in event photography or weddings, where you need to be as unobtrusive as possible. Most camera models are available with either a mechanical shutter or an electronic shutter option. You might choose the electronic shutter for sports photography or scenarios when you need to capture motion, as it can shoot many more frames per second than the mechanical shutter.

### Lenses

Mirrorless cameras use the same bayonet-style lens mount as DSLRs. These lenses come loaded with the latest technology for tack-sharp autofocusing and can be more compact, as they don’t have to leave space for mirror swing. Keep in mind that if you want to use a DSLR lens on a mirrorless camera, you’ll need to buy an adapter.

## Drawbacks to consider

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### Shorter battery life

With more electronic components to power, mirrorless camera batteries don't last as long as their DSLR counterparts. If you decide to go mirrorless, be sure to have plenty of extras on hand.

### Price and limited lens options

You can expect to pay a premium for many mirrorless cameras and lenses. Limited selection is another potential drawback to buying into the mirrorless family. Most manufacturers are still rounding out their lineup of mirrorless lenses; you'll get a much more extensive selection with DSLR lenses.

While you can use DSLR lenses and get high-quality results, you'll get the best performance out of your mirror-

less with native lenses. Starting your lens collection from scratch is a big investment, and while an adapter is the perfect budget-friendly solution for many, it's still a cost to factor in.

### EVF quality

While some love the EVF, for others it's an unwelcome change. EVF quality is on the rise across the board, but some cameras are leaps and bounds ahead of others, and while EVF will give you an accurate image most of the time, in tricky situations such as low light, the rendering will be noticeably poorer than what you see with your naked eye. Whether you consider EVF a pro or a con comes down to personal preference.

## Get the most out of your mirrorless

While mirrorless cameras are typically a bit spendier than DSLR equivalents, there's an option for every budget. You can pick up an entry-level model with an APS-C sensor without breaking the bank. You can opt for a lightweight camera with a Micro Four Thirds sensor size, seen in Olympus and Panasonic cameras. Or you can spring for a professional setup with a full-frame sensor and high-megapixel count. Depending on your needs, a mirrorless camera could quite literally revolutionize how you approach photography.

Between the cutting-edge technology and the extra space in your camera bag that a mirrorless will give you, there are plenty of reasons to make the switch to mirrorless. You can pretty much guarantee that any mirrorless camera you consider will come with a good deal of extra features, such as built-in wi-fi and bluetooth, dual slots for memory cards, weather sealing and more.

With all these features on board, "it can be overwhelming for beginners to learn how to navigate their camera," says Bartleson. "It's best to spend some time reading up on your camera and getting to know the default settings so you know how to use this tool to your advantage."

Mirrorless cameras open up a world of possibilities for many photographers. Now that you know the inside scoop on all things mirrorless, you can continue your hunt for the perfect camera with ease. And when you're ready to edit your shots, you can count on Adobe Photoshop Lightroom to provide support for the latest mirrorless cameras and lenses.

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