

Stealth ATTACK

If you've set your heart on a specific wildlife sighting, be prepared to be patient. It took wildlife photographer Hannes Lochner 60 days to get this shot.

During my latest photographic project in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, I set myself a very specific task. Two particular sightings I wanted to photograph at a particular waterhole. The one was a black-backed jackal catching Namaqua sandgrouse, the other a lanner falcon catching either a dove or Namaqua sandgrouse.


The lanner is such a high-speed raptor it's an achievement to get it looking good in your frame at all, never mind with a kill. The action is lightning fast. You have to be very familiar with your equipment and extremely quick.

The location was Polentswa waterhole in the north of the park, where you can get really close to the action. As a rule, the Namaqua sandgrouse arrive in their hordes early morning to drink alongside Namaqua and Cape turtle doves, and remain until late in the morning. I spent two months there, watching and waiting.

Long hours and scorching days made my self-imposed assignment wearisome. Needing to be constantly geared up because things happen so quickly, yet also constantly patient. 60 days at the same spot, hot and bothered, frustration levels sky high, then suddenly it all falls into place. The shot is captured. The waiting is over. Patience is the only way. 🐾

In total, Hannes Lochner spent 800 days in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park observing and photographing wildlife. The results are assembled in *Colours of the Kalahari*, a photo safari of this amazing park.

EQUIPMENT: Nikon D3s with Nikon 600mm f4 lens



SUPER STRIKER
In the Kgalagadi lanner falcons often hunt Namaqua sandgrouse.