



# WILDFOTO AFRICA

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY | CORPORATE MEDIA | COMMUNICATIONS



PhotoMail is an occasional picture newsletter for those with an interest in photography, nature and the environment, travel, Africa, Zambia, African life and happening things. And especially for those who just like looking at pictures.  
**Send your feedback - PhotoMail will be developed in line with what its subscribers want to see**  
 PhotoMail is available for free subscription by emailing me at [wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com](mailto:wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com)

## The Story Behind the Pictures: "Secret Lives of Birds"

In this PhotoMail, how wildlife photography can give you a unique insight into the secret lives of your subjects - in this case nesting birds.

The photography of birds at their nest is not nearly as difficult as many believe. It's much more about perseverance than it is about skill or luck. But it has to be done in a way that will not disturb or affect the birds and their breeding success.

But once you plan and make the effort, the long hours in a hide at the nest can offer some astonishing moments as you look into the birds' secret lives. Sometimes, these are aspects of the birds' lives that you will not learn about in the bird books. Here are two examples of the secret lives of birds (the first sequence is put together from photographs taken over several days).



**Heuglin's Robin**  
 The Heuglin's Robin (aka White-browed Robin Chat) is a spectacular bird in both its appearance and its distinctive song. It's common in gardens in this part of Africa. Luckily, a pair decided to build their nest in a hanging flower basket in our garden last year, which gave me a chance to photograph them and some aspects of their private lives. Of course, there were the usual shots of the parents bringing food to the nest.....

.....almost always greeted by the nestlings' hunger cries and their bright yellow gapes.



But occasionally one of the nestlings seemed to utter a very different cry, apparently needing something other than food. On the parent bird's arrival, the nestling does an about-turn, and seems to present its rear end to the parent.....



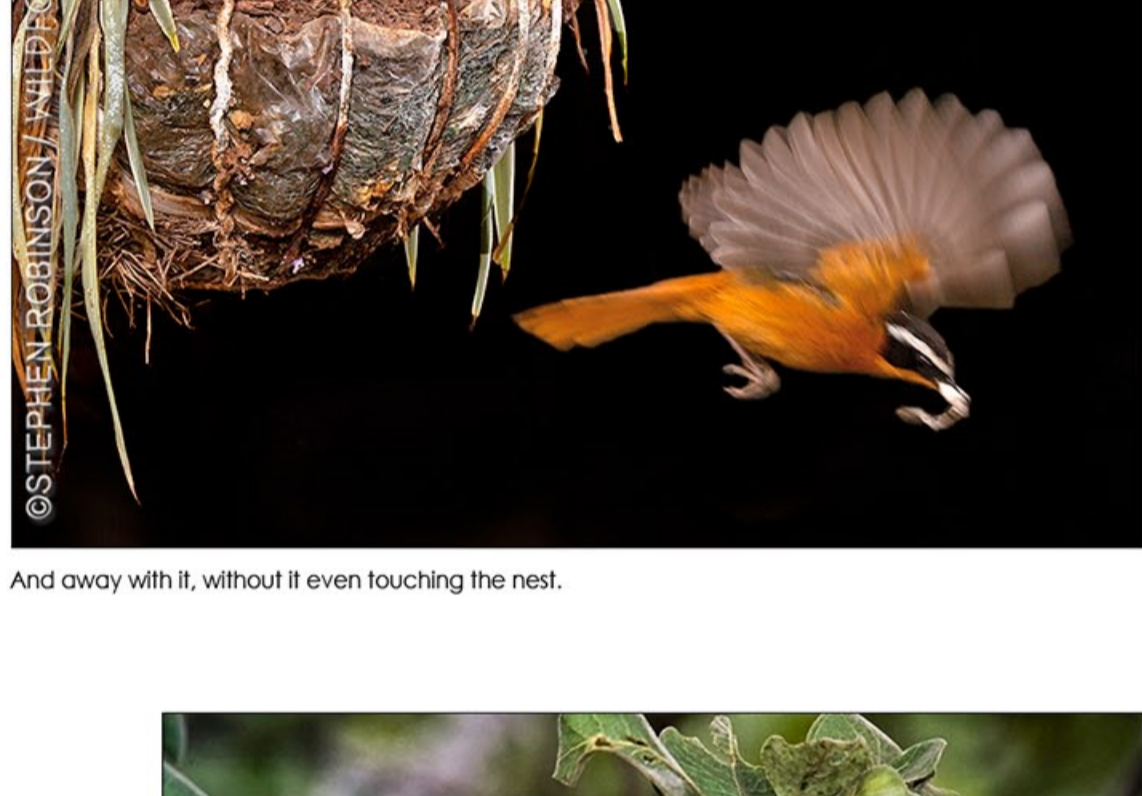
Yes, it's Toilet Time.....



.....and the parent helps.....



.....and helps more..... a very important job, keeping the nest clean and the nestlings healthy.



And away with it, without it even touching the nest.



**African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpisiphone viridis***  
 In an area of Miombo woodland in northern Zambia, this male Paradise Flycatcher was tending his two nestlings, huddled together in their egg-cup sized nest. The male shares with the female the work involved in tending and feeding their young. The main feature of the male's beautiful breeding dress is his long, streaming tail, which temporarily doubles his length to about 34cm (13") and seems to cause him some difficulty in flight.



This is the female. Every twenty minutes or so she, or the male, returned to the nest to feed their constantly hungry young. But then a February rain storm was approaching. What would they do to keep the young dry and warm?



First, the female settled down over the nestlings, making sure they were both tucked up, dry and warm, below her feathers. Then as the heavier rain came down, she pointed her bill skyward and held that (presumably very uncomfortable) position for the next 15 minutes of heavy rainfall. I could only guess that this must have helped the rain run down her body and over the edge of the nest. I have never found any mention of such behaviour in bird books, nor in the internet searches done. Perhaps one of the ornithologists out there can enlighten us about this aspect of the secret lives of birds?

### THIS WEEK'S PRINT OFFER

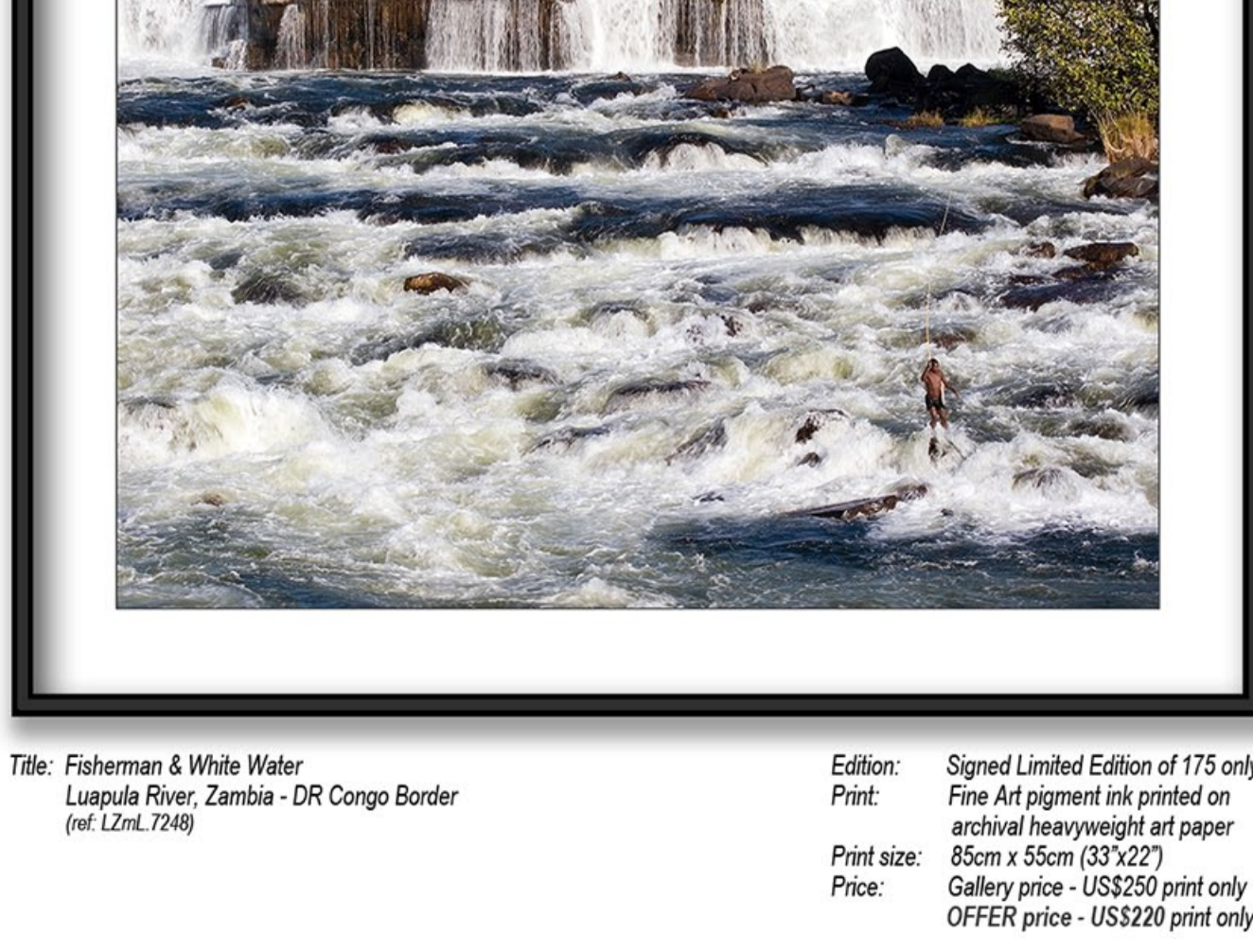
**Fisherman & White Water, Luapula River, Zambia - DR Congo Border**

Fine Art pigment ink print on archival heavyweight art paper

This Limited Edition Fine Art print is available now. One only, of large display size 85cm x 55cm (33"x22"), supplied ready for matting & framing, and packed for export.

Worldwide delivery is available. To reserve this print, please email [wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com](mailto:wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com)

Typical framing illustration



Title: Fisherman & White Water  
 Luapula River, Zambia - DR Congo Border  
 (ref. LZml.7248)

Edition: Signed Limited Edition of 175 only  
 Print: Fine Art pigment ink printed on archival heavyweight art paper  
 Print size: 85cm x 55cm (33"x22")  
 Price: Gallery price - US\$250 print only  
 OFFER price - US\$220 print only

**Advertisement**

## PHOTOGRAPHER FOR HIRE

Stephen Robison is a photographer operating from his Zambia base. He undertakes photo assignment work in the corporate, industrial, mining, donor-aid project and environmental fields, including the production of photo based communications, advertising and promotional media.

This commercial work supports his nature photography speciality, including landscape, environment, conservation and wildlife work - and including his well-known panoramic photography project and exhibitions on the remote landscape, peoples and environment of Zambia.

**PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY**  
 Assignments | Commercial | Calendars  
 Corporate Media | Features | Reportage  
 Nature & Landscape | Environment  
 Portraiture | Fine Art | Gallery

**SPIRIT OF THE LAND**  
 FINE ART PRINTS FROM THE PROJECT ON  
 PANORAMIC ZAMBIA  
[www.spirit-of-the-land.com](http://www.spirit-of-the-land.com)

**WILDFOTOAFRICA**  
 ALL NEW PORTFOLIO WEBSITE  
 Zambia, Africa & Beyond  
[www.wildfotoafrica.com](http://www.wildfotoafrica.com)

ENQUIRIES  
 EMAIL: [wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com](mailto:wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com)  
 TEL: +260 966 992999

Fine Art Prints of the above photographs are available to order email enquiries to [wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com](mailto:wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com) - worldwide delivery available -

**UPCOMING PhotoMail ISSUES**  
 -landscape Africa in black & white-  
 -wildlife Africa in black & white-  
 -more impressions from four of Europe's big cities-  
 -zambia, africa & beyond - a new photo website-  
 -Congo mine, Congo town-  
 and the stories behind the pictures

Back Issues - previous PhotoMail issues can be seen at the all new portfolio website [www.wildfotoafrica.com](http://www.wildfotoafrica.com)  
**ZAMBIA, AFRICA & BEYOND**  
 click on the direct links above

If this PhotoMail has been sent to you in error, or if you want to cancel a subscription, please send an email with "PhotoMail unsubscribe" in the subject header.

All photographs ©Stephen Robison. All rights reserved.  
 Photographs can be supplied as prints or made available for licensed use by first contacting me at [wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com](mailto:wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com)