



beneath the radar

Ruaha National Park in Tanzania is vast, wild and almost free from human interference. Fine-art and nature photographer **GREG DU TOIT** spent nearly two years in its remote southern sector and brings us a glimpse of this secluded world.





ABOVE **Woodland kingfishers arrive** in December with the rains, which transform the bush into an electric kaleidoscope of green. It is hard to believe that just three months before the landscape was desperately dry and desolate.

OPPOSITE **Unlike the rest of East Africa**, Ruaha only has one rainy season. During this time, the bush becomes thick and the ever-shy Kirk's dik-diks are especially hard to photograph. Curiosity finally got the better of this individual.

PAGE 43 **Ruaha is baobab country**, where ancient trees are framed by a massive sky. This double exposure was the only way I could do the scene justice.





ABOVE **When the Ruaha River** and the last of the pans start to dry out, hundreds of yellow-billed storks can be found trawling the shallow waters. Their lightning reflexes often reward them with a meal, in this case, an unfortunate catfish.

OPPOSITE **The birdbath outside my house** attracted some exotic visitors. My favourites, however, were the tiny yet immaculate red-cheeked cordonbleus that allowed me to approach within a few metres.

PREVIOUS SPREAD **When I first arrived in Ruaha**, the dominant male lion coalition was wild and shy, either charging the vehicle or running from it. It took a year to gain any sort of trust until finally, early one morning, I was able to follow one of the males at close quarters. He reached a steep bank of rock that formed a dark backdrop and, as he turned to face the first rays of the day, I felt as though I was shooting in a studio.

