

Can you spot the 'invisible animal'? Incredible

- These animals are trying their utmost to fool predators by blending into landscapes all over the world
- They were taken by photographer Art Wolfe over a period of 35 years, for his work 'Vanishing Act'

By [MATT BLAKE](#)

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Whether they are hunters or the hunted, these cunning animals are all masters of disguise who can fool even the

whether they are hunters or the hunted, these cunning animals are all masters of disguise who can fool even the most beady-eyed passer by into believing they are not there.

Some hide under lily pads, some dissolve into the bark of a tree while others slip seamlessly into the snow, either to hide from a hungry predator or silently stalk an unwitting prey.

But the one thing from which they cannot hide is the all-seeing camera lens of photographer Art Wolfe.

He has spent over 35 years roaming the deserts of Africa, the rainforests of South America, the mountains of the United States and snow plains of Canada to capture wildlife at its most invisible.





It's white in front of you! A willow ptarmigan in winter plumage, hidden on a brushy slope near Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. The animals are trying their utmost to fool predators but that's not enough to deceive international photographer Art Wolfe

He has travelled through every continent in the world in tireless pursuit of more subjects for his chef-d'oeuvre 'Vanishing Act' that dates back to the 1980s.

Art said: 'Throughout my career as a nature photographer, I have challenged myself to present new perspectives on well-documented subjects.'

'Like most of my projects this collection has been a long time in the making.'

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'Finding and filming animals on location is an exhilarating and painstaking process. I'm still adding to the project even now.'

'Conventional wildlife photography calls for isolating the subject by selective focus, this way the animal is clearly defined.'



Having a giraffe: A Giraffe in Transvaal, South Africa. Wolfe's 35-year career has spanned every continent as he has followed his passion for the environment



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Can't see the wolf from the trees: A wolf peering out from behind a tree trunk in an autumn Montana forest





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Eye spy: A spectacled caiman in Llanos, Venezuela. Wolfe works to make it visually challenging to the viewer by using depth field, scale and placement and confusing the subject





Cunning tricks: A Great Horned Owl uses colour in its plumage to disappear in a temperate forest in Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, left, while an American Pika performs a vanishing act in the Cascade Range of Washington, right





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Leaf me alone: A Mealy or Blue-crowned parrot disappears like just another leaf in the lush Central American rainforest, Chich, Belize

'Photographers always want to show off their subject. And yet, is this really the way an animal is viewed by the human eye? Not quite.

'We don't have the isolating abilities that a telephoto lens provides. On most occasions an animal remains somewhat concealed by the clutter of its natural habitat-a necessity of survival for both predator and prey.

'I have basically employed three different photographic approaches and purposely worked to enhance the

...more commonly, simple, but more difficult photographic approaches and perhaps, even more difficult the difficulty to find the camouflaged subject-as difficult as it is in the wild to see animals that do not want to be seen



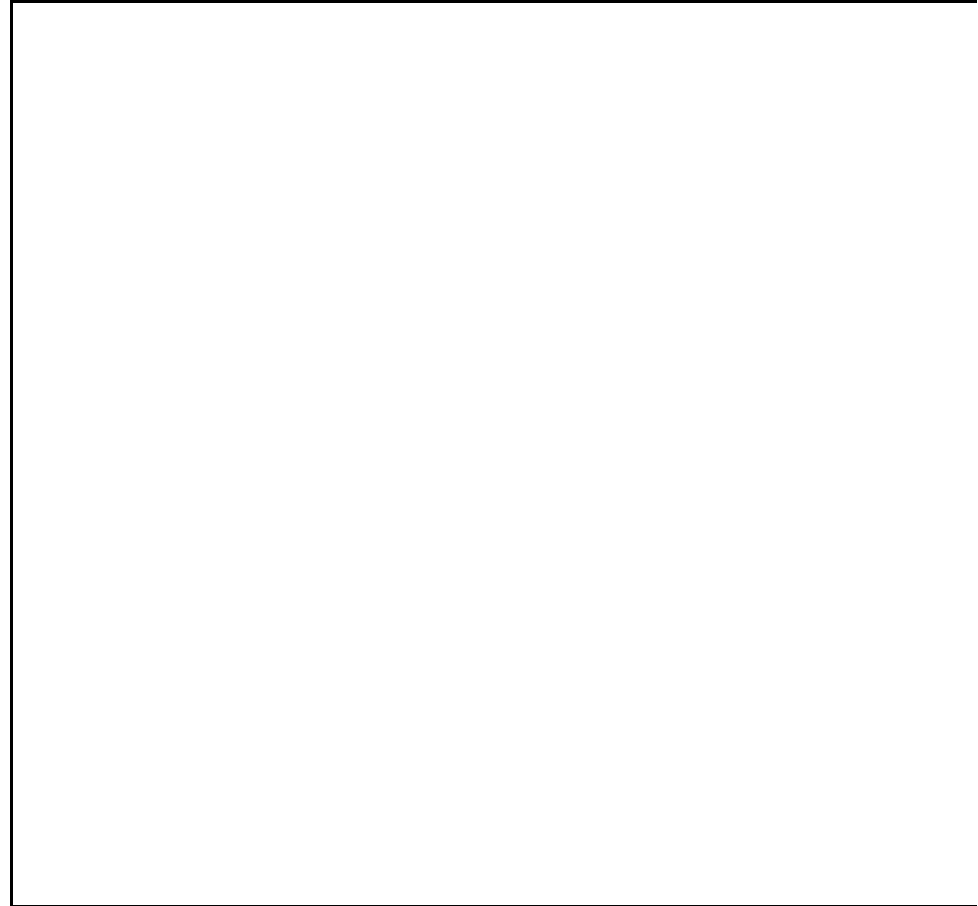
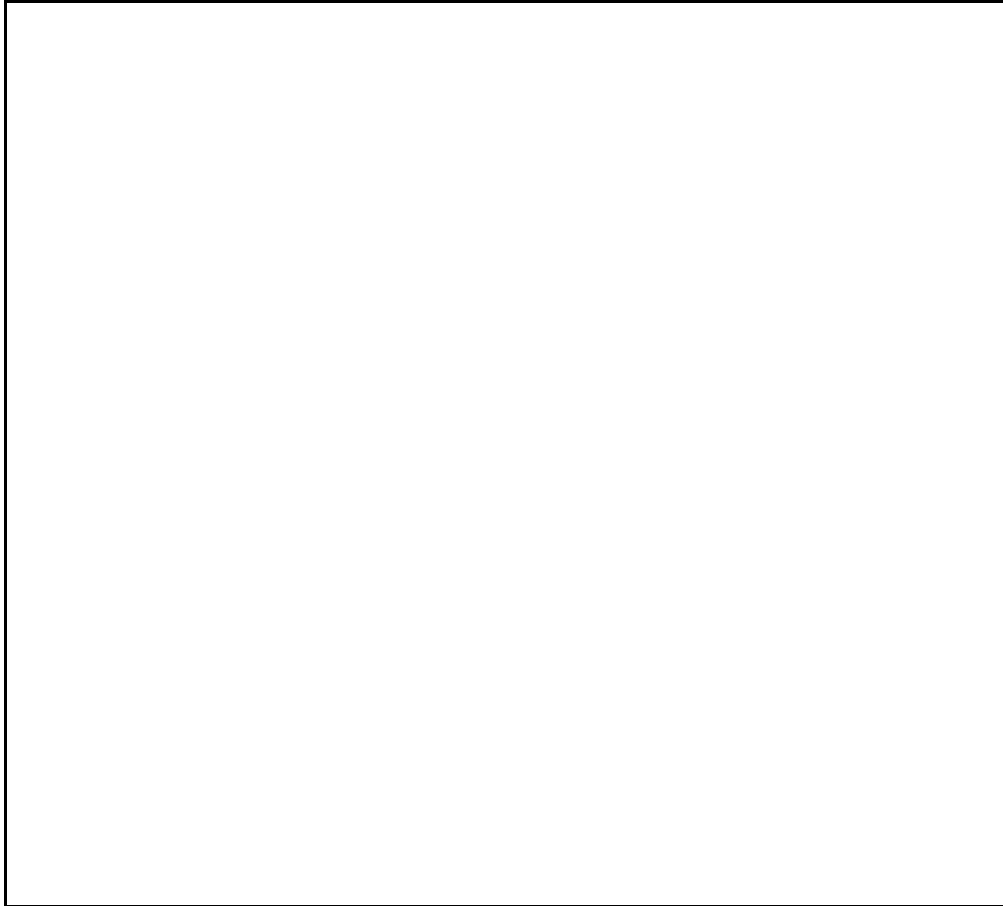
Snake eyes: A horned adder matches the colour of the sand in the Namib Desert, Namibia, where they bury themselves using a swimming motion to disappear beneath the hot surface





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Can you spot me? A Leopard conceals herself in vegetation at the base of a tree in Kruger National Park, Transvaal, South Africa



Rock and hole: A gyrfalcon at their nest built on a cliff, left, and a California Ground Squirrel blends in with its rocky environment, right



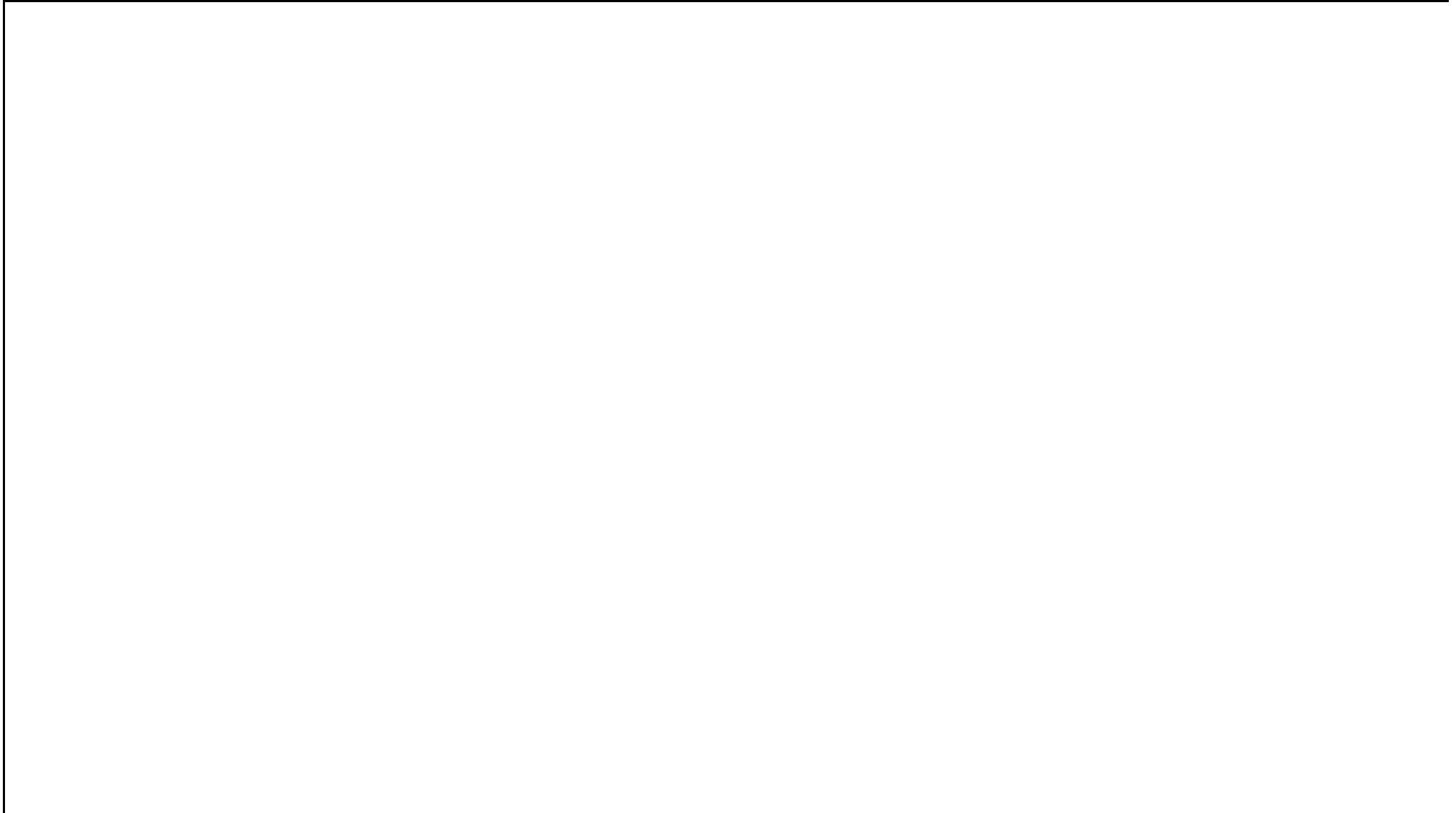


Bark and hide: A Great Gray Owl positions itself in front of a similar pattern to take advantage of his camouflage in Oregon, United States

'Since it is impossible to capture all the distractions to the senses of an entire landscape in a photo, I worked to make it visually challenging by using depth of field, scale and placement and confusing the subject.'

Art is also a successful book publisher and television producer. He has published at least one book a year since 1989.

The 61-year-old from Seattle said: 'It is in the wild places, where the edge of the earth meets the corners of the sky, the human spirit is fed.'



Invisible: A male Spotted Deer disappears among sun-dappled vegetation in Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan, India

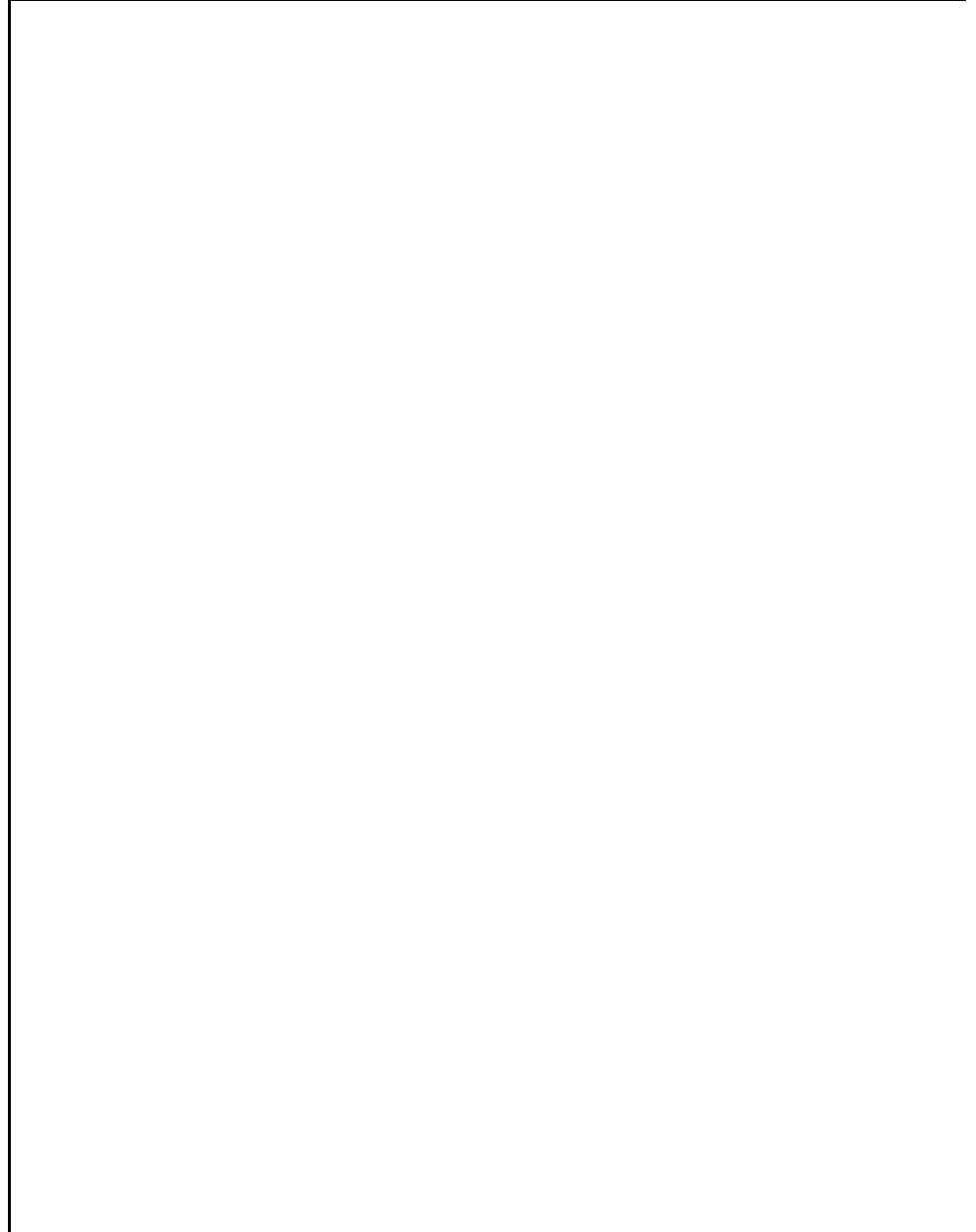
Stop monkeying around: A family of Japanese Macaques disappear amid their rocky habitat on Honshu Island, Japan

I'm white over here! White-tailed Ptarmigan in Churchill, Manitoba, Canada

The long grass: An Impala hiding in vegetation in Botswana's Chobe National Park, Africa

A sandy place to hide: A cheetah cub disguised against the Kalahari Desert, South Africa

Water good place to hide: A Common Snipe, well hidden in the shoreline vegetation of a Minnesota stream



Painstaking: Mr Wolfe, right, says finding and filming animals on location, such as this wandering tattler chick in Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park, left, is 'an exhilarating and painstaking process'



Out of sight hawk: A nighthawk resting on rocks where it blends into its surroundings in eastern Washington

Snow way I'll be spotted here: A coyote camouflaged in the surrounding brush at the edge of a snow dusted field, Washington State, USA



Precarious perch: Two Klipspringers camouflaged against a rocky outcrop in Chobe, Botswana

Branching out: A well-concealed blue dactylis takes a rest in foliage in Panama

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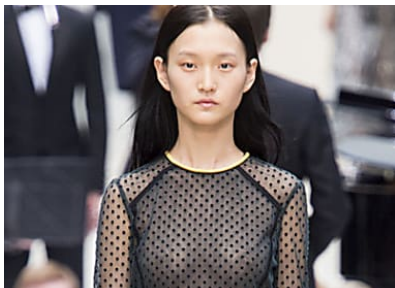
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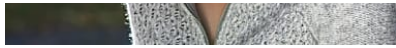
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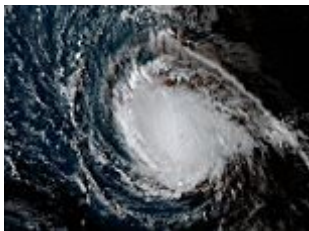
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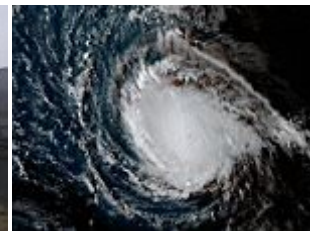
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[Savedbygrace](#), Minnesota, United States, 4 years ago

Mr. Wolfe can thank DM for a sale. I enjoyed this so much I just scooted over to Amazon and bought a copy for my coffee table. Also, i still can't find the snip and I know what they look like! Short story - eons ago was winter camping in Northern Minnesota in college (the high was -20F, only college kids so dumb!) and an initiation for us city kids was to go snipe hunting in the moonlight out on the middle of the lake. It's of course a joke, but I knew there were birds called snipes so I was quite confused - and got to point out to those from the range that they needed a little education and a new initiation! My education was frostbite.

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[SparkleBerries](#), Melbourne, Australia, 4 years ago

Did anyone else think Mr. Wolfe didn't really attempt to hide at all? I saw him straight away!

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13



[Jimdea](#), Gloucester, 4 years ago

@Poppy, Snipe is a bird and is in the bottom left corner on the edge of the water, very camouflaged by the grass but if you strain long enough you can see it I spotted it once and when I went back just now, I had to strain to see again! Very well hidden.

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[Mike](#), Los Gatos, 4 years ago

Art Wolfe's Travels to the Edge is a PBS show that's on here in the US that is consistently the most incredibly beautiful show on television.

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5



[Poppy](#), Manasquan NJ, 4 years ago

Stunning pics, and, educational as I had to look up snipe, but, still cannot find it. Such fun when the eyes appear before you. Good brain game.

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4



[Zeena](#), Triangle de, Bermuda, 4 years ago

Thanks for the pictures, the children here enjoyed looking for the animals, some where quite difficult to find.

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[ex jack](#), ayr, United Kingdom, 4 years ago

who else spotted the 'man' hiding behind the spotted deer?

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[labyrinth144](#), Melbourne, 4 years ago

I thought they were trying to pull our legs with the snipe picture, as I've often heard of people going on "snipe hunts" when there isn't actually anything to hun (there's a King of the Hill episode about it, in fact). I actually laughed at the cleverness of the joke until I found it, haha! :) For those who haven't found it: look about two-thirds of the way from the top, one quarter from the left (its long beak is pointing toward the bottom left corner of the photo).

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7



[peeps49](#), Harrogate, United Kingdom, 4 years ago

The snipe was the most difficult to see, amazing photos,think I'll stay at home,not worth risking wandering around some places in the world!

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[Rose](#), Leicester, 4 years ago

I had to zoom in but I found the Snipe, if it's so common why is it so hard to spot! It is bottom left corner, lying in the grass looking at the camera.... Great pictures!

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