



Wildlife of the World Newsletter

July 2025



Siberian Chipmunk (Eutamias sibiricus) in Hokkaido, Japan

Hi ,

Welcome to another newsletter from Wales where the weather is somehow managing to alternate on an almost daily basis between sweltering and sodden!

Watching the desperate struggles of the Welsh rugby team in Japan this week brought back some rather happier memories of my visit two years ago... including the photo above. If you're wondering exactly what's going on, it's a chipmunk which I happened to catch steadying itself with one paw while acrobatically leaping between two tree stumps! (athleticism that was sadly missing on the rugby pitches 😞).

I thoroughly enjoyed my trips to Japan. It's a fascinating country with a surprising variety of wildlife, and I'd strongly recommend a visit if you get the

chance. If you're interested, you can read more about my latest trip and the wildlife I saw here: [Hokkaido Trip Report](#)

Wildlife-watching Sites

Cape of Good Hope, South Africa

The location I've chosen this month is definitely in my top five places in the world to watch wildlife. Right down on the southern tip of Africa, in addition to spectacular scenery, the nature reserve at the Cape of Good Hope is alive with animals, from baboons, bontebok and fur seals to penguins, ostrich and a host of other exotic mammals and birds. My favourites though are the amazing insects and reptiles that live in the Cape's unique fynbos habitat.



Monkey Beetle (Hopliini sp.)

The strange beetle above looks as if it wasn't concentrating and crash-landed in a flower... but it's actually just feeding on the pollen. The freshest, tastiest pollen is located deep in the centre of the flower so monkey beetles can often be seen like this with their heads buried and legs waving around in the air!

Another strange inhabitant of the Cape Nature Reserve is the puff adder below. It gets its name from the massive thick 'puffed up' body which makes it look rather as if someone has inflated it with a bicycle pump! With such a thick body, instead of slithering like most snakes they mainly move around by shuffling in a straight line like an enormous caterpillar. They're certainly no joke though, with a highly potent venom that's responsible for more fatalities than any other African snake. So if you are lucky enough to spot one, make sure you admire it from a safe distance.



Puff Adder (Bitis arietans)

The Books

I'm busy updating all the books with new graphics and features. The second edition of *Wildlife of the World - China* is now on sale, and I still have a few **free review copies** available if anyone is interested. Hopefully, the second edition of *Wildlife of the World - Costa Rica* should be out sometime next month.

Please let me know if there are any topics or places you'd particularly like me to include in the next newsletter. Until then...

Best Wishes,

Hugh



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