

Beauty in the Beast

Vultures are arguably the most recognisable of all the bird species but is their reputation as the ugly scavengers of the plains a fair one? Wildlife cameraman and lifelong twitcher and vulture obsessive, Charlie Hamilton James travels to East Africa to learn more about the vultures living in the region and to show that they are greatly misunderstood birds. Charlie teams up with Simon Thomsett, a biologist, who has devoted his life to the conservation and care of all East African raptors, including vultures

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 2**VT CLOCK/IDENT**

**BBC NHU
 Natural World
 'Vultures
 Beauty in the Beast'
 FKA X985K/52
 National Geographic
 version**

NATURAL WORLD
 OPENING TITLE
 SEQUENCE:

Vars BCUs animal
 eyes in montage
 (sped up), ends on
 CU baby orang-utan
 looking R

S/I series title: -

**natural
 world**

Fade to black

CU carcass interior,
 reveals LA CU vulture
 with claw holding
 jawbone of wildebeest

LA CU vulture pecking
 at carcass (slo-mo)

MS vultures squabbling
 (slo-mo)

MCU vultures, same

MCU a/b

CU vulture pulls sinews
 from carcass

MCU vulture looking L

CU vultures feeding

**Preceded
 by 10: -
 00:00**

00:04

00:09

00:10

00:14

00:15

00:17

00:19

00:20

00:21

00:24

00:24

00:26

00:27

NARRATION:

Vultures... (00.18)

...perhaps the most maligned of the
 world's birds. (00.22)

The undertakers; (00.27)

**Preceded
 by 10: -
 00.00**

SEQ. 1

**Natural
 World
 opening
 title
 sequence**

**OUT
 00.09**

**IN
 00.12**

SEQ. 2

SEQ. 2

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION/SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u>
CU vulture looking R (slo-mo)	00:28		
MCU vulture moves R/L towards zebra carcass	00:30	the cleaners. (00.31)	
MS vultures, one pulling at sinew from wildebeest carcass	00:32		
CU vulture claws in ground (slo-mo)	00:35		
MCU blooded vultures scavenging carcass (slo-mo)	00:37	Able to strip a carcass in minutes, these birds have got to be tough and aggressive to survive in one of the most savage environments on Earth. (00.46)	
MS 2S vultures fighting with beaks (slo-mo)	00:40		
MLS vultures fighting over morsel (slo-mo)	00:44		
MLS vulture gliding in to land L/R (slo-mo)	00:52		
	00:54	But to some people there's more to these birds than meets the eye... (00.57)	
MS 2S vultures fighting (slo-mo)	00:56		
LA CU jaw and teeth of wildebeest carcass as vulture pecks at it	01:00		
	01:01	They see them as charismatic... (01.02)	
LA CU of vulture underside as it pecks at carcass	01:04	intelligent... (01.05)	
LA CU vulture pecking at jaw of carcass	01:06		
	01:07	...even beautiful. (01.08)	
LA BCU vulture same	01:08		
	01:10	Maybe we've got them all wrong. (01.12)	SEQ. 2

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u>
Soft focus b/g into black, and S/I programme title: -	01:12		
VULTURES beauty in the beast	01:13		OUT 01.15 IN 01.20
BCU female lion looking directly at cam (slo-mo), S/I caption bottom third RHS: Narrated by PHILIPPA FORRESTER	01:22		
CU cheetah looking R (slo-mo)	01:26		SEQ. 3
MS female lion advancing/stalking through grass to cam (slo-mo)	01:30		
LS cheetah chasing L/R, wildebeest calf f/g (slo-mo)	01:35	The plains of east Africa. (01.37)	
MS lion female chases young calf L, catches it (slo-mo)	01:38		
	01:39	It's here, on these vast grasslands, where	
MCU rear view cheetah looking to b/g, pull focus	01:44	predators and prey play out their life and death struggles. (01.45)	
BCU bloodied jaws of cheetah as looking L	01:47		
MLS hyena at zebra carcass, pulls out intestines, surrounded by vultures	01:49		
	01:50	And it's here where vultures thrive...	SEQ. 3
CU vulture looking R	01:52	(01.52)	

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u>
MCU vulture advances on skeleton of carcass	01:55		
	01:56	...profiting from the death of others. (01.58)	
CU vulture pecking at carcass	01:59		
MS vultures gathered around carcass, some feeding	02:02		
CU vultures scavenging ribcage of carcass	02:04		
CU 2S bloodied vultures looking about	02:07		
LA MS vulture walking L to other vultures at carcass, pan L	02:10	Vultures are one of the few animals known to rely solely on the carcasses of dead animals for food. (02.15)	OUT 02.10
CU vulture looking L	02:15		
MS vulture looking R, and bends down to carcass among other vultures	02:21		
	02:24	It's a niche existence, but one suited to this savage paradise. (02.28)	
CU vulture looks to cam	02:26		
MCU Charlie Hamilton James behind camera viewfinder, filming	02:31	Wildlife cameraman Charlie 'the earwig' Hamilton James has been filming the wildlife on the African plains for half his life. Nowhere on earth can match it for its drama. (02.42)	
LS vultures around carcass, backlit by low sun behind trees (slo-mo)	02:39		
	02:43	But Vultures are a family of birds often ignored, overlooked for being the sinister scavengers. Charlie's always been captivated by them, and now he's come to	
MCU vultures huddled	02:44		
MS vulture perched on earth mound, looking	02:51		

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC**

6

about, others b/g		Africa to explore the world of these fiercely aggressive birds. (02.58)	
MS vultures around carcass, Z/I to MCU same	02:56		
	03:00	There are 23 species of vulture worldwide, but Charlie narrows the search to	
CU vultures pecking at carcass flesh	03:09	Tanzania - to take a closer look at the East African vultures. He wants to see if beneath that ugly facade lurks a creature as fascinating and beautiful as any other. (03.16)	
LS Land Rover in heat haze driven R/L, pan L	03:17		IN 03.17
	03:20	The Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.	
MCU Charlie inside Land Rover driving L	03:23	It's February and the plains are empty. Finding vultures is proving to be difficult.	
MS 2S wildebeest and grazing Thomson's Gazelle in heat haze	03:32	It's the end of the dry season and although there are a few animals out on the plains, there clearly aren't enough of	
VLS Thomson's Gazelles in heat haze	03:36	them dying! (03.38)	
MLS zebras in heat haze	03:38		SEQ. 4
VLS Land Rover driven in heat haze R/L	03:42	It's normally assumed the plains would be heaving with vultures, but it's a few days before Charlie finds any. (03.48)	
VLS vultures in heat haze on ground	03:46		
VLS vultures soaring/gliding over distant carcass, other vultures below	03:49		
	03:54	And when he does track them down they seem very hungry. (03.57)	SEQ. 4
MLS vultures crowded around wildebeest carcass	03:56		
	03:59	The problem is that it's hard to know	

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 7
CU vultures scavenging wildebeest carcass	04:05	exactly what's happening here. It appears to be just a mass of angry birds fighting over a carcass. (04.07)	
	04:09	But Charlie's convinced that there's	
MS vultures scavenging carcass	04:11	actually a lot more going on here than meets the eye. So he heads to Kenya, to meet a man who might be able to explain more. (04.18)	OUT 04.17
LA MS Rüppell's Griffon vulture approaches Simon, sat beside it	04:18		
	04:21	Simon Thomsett - world vulture expert and nanny. Simon rescued this Rüppell's	
MS Charlie with Simon, picks up chunk of meat, proffers it to Rüppell's Griffon vulture, which pecks other piece	04:31	Griffon vulture after an eagle tried to kill it. If anyone can unlock the secrets of vultures it's him, and his friend. (04.37)	
A/b, then Charlie sync	04:38	<i>Charlie: So, do I pick a piece up? Simon: Yep, and oops. Charlie: You're supposed to eat this bit, not me. Simon: Well, you can see that it's pretty useless at eating on its own. Charlie: Because it's just gonna pull it around, isn't it? Simon: Yeah, it needs to have a heavy body behind it, something that you can...yeah, so put, hold it down really hard, like this. Charlie: Right. Simon: And then, and then it can... Charlie: Otherwise it's just gonna pull it, pull it like that, and not get anything off it. (05.06)</i>	
C/A MCU Simon looking R	05:05		
MCU vulture pecking at meat held down by Charlie's gloved hand	05:07	NARRATION: When combined with a strong neck and powerful tongue, the vulture's beak is the	
CU vulture eating meat	05:16	perfect tool for stripping meat off a bone. (05.15)	
LS 2S Charlie and Simon beside vulture feeding on meat	05:18		

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC**

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	05:19	Simon's named this vulture Gollum.	
MCU Simon looking R	05:22	Gollum isn't the dirty, aggressive bird vultures are thought to be. (05.25)	
LA MCU vulture eating from meat held down by gauntlet	05:22		
LA MCU vulture, pecks at Charlie, sync OOV, then meat	05:29	He's actually clean and well mannered... (05.30)	
	05:31	Charlie: <i>Ow, not me! Ha ha.</i> (05.32)	
LA CU vulture looking R and then directly at cam	05:34	NARRATION: ...despite occasionally trying to bite the hand that feeds him. (05.36)	
MCU Charlie holding meat as Rüppell's vulture feeds, then sync	05:36		
	05:38	Weighing around 8 kilograms with a wingspan of about two and a half metres, Gollum is a big bird, although he's still a juvenile. (05.45)	
	05:46	Charlie OOV: <i>That's so delicate, isn't it? Are you looking at yourself in the lens? You are, aren't you? What do you think? Have you seen yourself lately? Well, you're looking pretty good.</i> (06.00)	
LA CU vulture looking R and then directly at cam	05:49		
C/A MS Simon	06:01		
LA CU Rüppell's vulture eating meat	06:02		
	06:03	NARRATION:	
C/A CU Charlie observing L	06:14	Gollum is one of the only captive Rüppell's vultures in Africa..and it's hoped that he'll be fit for release one day. Understanding how Gollum eats is fascinating...but how closely does it mirror a group of vultures feeding in the wild? Now is the perfect	
CU Rüppell's vulture looking about	06:19		IN 06.20

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION/SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u>
		time to find out. (06.21)	
GV grassland, stormy clouds b/g and LS cheetahs f/g	06:22		SEQ. 5
MCU vulture stood still in rain (slo-mo)	06:28		
MS vultures stood still in rain (slo-mo)	06:39	The long-awaited rains have finally come to the southern Serengeti... (06.44)	
MS zebra carcass in rain (slo-mo)	06:46		
	06:48	...too late for some. (06.49)	
MLS vulture f/g, marabou stork b/g, stood still in rain (slo-mo)	06:52		
MS lion male stood in rain, calling R (slo-mo)	06:56		
CU lion male calling R	07:03		
Aerial GV grasslands, clouds f/g, TF	07:06		
	07:09	Rain is as important to the vultures as it is to any animal here...(07.13)	
Aerial VLS vulture gliding R/L, pan L	07:10		
	07:16	...because following the rains are the herds. (07.18)	
Aerial VLS migrating wildebeests moving L, TL	07:18		
	07:22	The great wildebeest migration is just a few days away – and everyone's waiting for it. (07.27)	SEQ. 5
LA LS wildebeests, running to cam (slo-mo)	07:23		
LS same (slo-mo)	07:29		OUT 07.30
	07:35	It won't be long before this place becomes vulture heaven as they fly in from all over	
LS vultures perched in treetops	07:36		

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 10

LA MS vulture preening	07:41	East Africa – so it's the perfect time to really get to know them and see them at their best. (07.47)
MS Charlie, rear view, setting up camera	07:47	
MCU Simon observing with binoculars inside Land Rover	07:50	
	07:51	Simon wants to show Charlie that there's a lot more going on when vultures feed than you might think. (07.57)
MS wildebeest carcass (from remote camera) T/L, as LS vulture approaches from R, with another that feeds	07:52	
	07:59	So they've come out to the Serengeti in search of carcasses. (08.02)
	08:06	Charlie: <i>And they're coming right... oh they're on the carcass. They're feeding straight away.</i>
LA MCU wildebeest carcass, with flies as vultures start to feed (remote cam)	08:09	Simon: <i>Yeah, they're now...ice has been broken. Everybody's just going to pile in. So it's every man for himself now. (08.14)</i>
LA MCU vulture feeding on carcass (remote cam)	08:16	
	08:18	NARRATION:
A/b	08:19	With cameras in the carcass and a long lens in the car, all the angles should be covered to get a really good look at the action. (08.26)
LS vultures feeding on carcass as Marabou Stork glides in from L to land	08:21	
MS vultures feeding and squabbling on carcass (slo-mo)	08:24	
MCU vultures feeding in huddle	08:28	Charlie: <i>To me, this looks like complete chaos. Everyone fighting over the, the food, actually reminds me of Sunday lunch when I was a kid. But is there any order to this?</i>
MCU Charlie sync while filming	08:31	
MCU Simon sync in car	08:40	Simon: <i>If you were to take a photograph from directly above you'd see the carcass in the middle, the dominant vultures immediately eating it, the less dominant</i>
MLS vultures surrounding carcass,	08:43	

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 11

storks to side, Z/l			<i>vultures around the outside - Marabou storks, hooded vultures, in a sort of a growing ring. So it looks like chaos right now, but there is some order. (08.58)</i>
MCU Simon sync in car	08:50		
LS vultures surrounding carcass, Marabou storks standing by b/g	08:52		
MCU Simon sync in car			
MS vultures feeding	08:57		
	09:03		Simon: <i>And you can see when they really are, getting very angry they stretch out their necks, and they just make that horrible hissing roar.</i>
CU Simon sync a/b	09:05		<i>And they're just bashing into one another, they're real thugs, aren't they? (09.16)</i>
CU vulture looking to cam, hissing	09:08		
CU Simon in rear view mirror of car, sync	09:13		
MS vultures on carcass, pan R, as squabble	09:15		
MCU Simon sync in car	09:25		Simon: <i>They have incredibly strong necks. And when you see them actually biting one another you think they're doing terrible damage. But their necks are a bit like pythons and snakes. They have such incredibly strong necks. (09.35)</i>
MCU vultures squabbling, biting, pan R	09:28		
MCU Simon sync in car	09:39		Simon: <i>They can pull about 20 Kg, 40 pound pull, straight pull with just the muscles of their necks. (09.45)</i>
MCU vultures feeding on carcass, stork legs f/g	09:43		
	09:46		NARRATION: So vultures might be ugly to us, but they're actually beautifully designed to do what they do. They have powerful long necks to reach right up inside the carcass, which, critically have few feathers so they don't get dirty and store bacteria. They have strong hooked beaks for ripping flesh and a powerful tongue with backward facing spines. And Simon explains to Charlie
MCU Charlie filming L	10:07		
MS 2S vultures fighting, pan R (slo-mo)	10:10		

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 12

		that there's some order in this chaos. There's a hierarchy decided by age, bluff and species – there's not just one species of vulture here. (10.21)
CU 2S white-backed vultures looking R	10:21	
	10:23	Charlie: <i>What's this vulture here then?</i> Simon: <i>That one's a, they're both white-backs. White-backs have the black bill, slightly smaller. (10.30)</i>
MCU Charlie filming L	10:32	
MCU Rüppell's vulture walks L, pan L, looks about	10:34	
	10:36	Simon: <i>That one's the other one. The Rüppell's - a totally different skull shape - and it has an ivory coloured bill. And adults have that, that pale yellow eye. White-backs have a dark eye all the time. (10.47)</i>
MS 2S vultures clash (one a lappet-faced vulture)	10:51	
	10:52	NARRATION: Then another species arrives at the carcass - a lappet-faced vulture. He's much bigger than the others. (10.57)
CU Charlie sync while filming, MS Simon b/g	11:03	Charlie: <i>I love that strut, that attitude they've got. Look at that guy, a stunning looking creature. And he's just piling in there, saying "I'm the man". (11.21)</i>
MS lappet-faced vulture walks L among other vultures, spreads its wings and jumps L	11:11	
CU Charlie sync while filming, MS Simon b/g	11:19	
MS lappet-faced vulture pulls at carcass, as other vultures look on	11:22	NARRATION: This guy is clearly the boss and the other vultures know it; backing off and giving him the space he needs to feed. (11.29)
LA MCU inside carcass, lappet-faced vulture b/g pecks at bone, T/L	11:28	

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 13
	11:31	Simon: <i>He is tearing away at the edges of the scapula here, tearing off the sinew.</i>	
MCU lappet-faced vulture eats tendons etc	11:33	<i>He's not eating any of the raw meat. (11.36)</i>	
	11:41	Charlie: <i>He's eating tiny little stringy bits of tendon, isn't he? And there's all that meat there. (11.45)</i>	
CU viewing screen in rear of car	11:44		
LA MCU lappet-faced vulture pulling at carcass	11:46		
	11:47	Simon: <i>You know, this film really is very valuable, because we can see precisely what he's eating. You wouldn't think that that is going to sustain a huge vulture. (11.55)</i>	
CU Simon sync in car	11:52		
LA MCU lappet-faced vulture pulling at carcass	11:54		
	11:57	NARRATION:	
		So each vulture species here has a niche.	
MS Rüppell's vultures at carcass	12:03	The Lappet-faced eats the tendons and visceral tissue – the Rüppell's dominate the best meat on the carcass and the smaller white-backed vultures get what they can. (12.10)	
MS white-backed vulture eats	12:09		
	12:13	Each vulture species has its own specialised needs. (12.16)	IN 12.16 SEQ. 6
MLS lammergeier flying R, exits frame R	12:18		
	12:19	There's one in East Africa, however, which takes specialisation to a whole new level. (12.25)	SEQ. 6
Profile MS same in flight L/R	12:25		
	12:28	- the lammergeier. (12.29)	
Aerial HA GV cliff with waterfall from lammergeier's POV in flight	12:31		
	12:32	The lammergeyer, or bearded vulture, as it's also known, is a bird of the highlands. (12.36)	
LS lammergeier circling near cliffs	12:36		

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 14

	12:38	It's large, with a wingspan as big as a	
CU lammergeier flying L	12:41	lappet-faced vulture, but it feeds in a different way. (12.46)	
HA MS lammergeier circling above grassy slope	12:44		
MS lammergeier landing among vultures (slo-mo)	12:48		
	12:51	80 to 90 per cent of the lammergeier's diet	SEQ. 6
CU lammergeier picks up bone with beak, grips it with talons	12:55	is bone marrow. (12.55)	
	12:59	The problem is bone marrow is generally very well protected inside bone. (13.03)	
	13:08	So in order to get at it the lammergeier has developed a very special behaviour. (13.13)	
MLS lammergeier takes off with large bone in talons, flies R, pan R	13:17		
Aerial LS lammergeier cruising near cliff	13:24		
	13:28	First it picks up the bone in its talons, then	
Profile MS lammergeier in flight carrying bone R, exits R	13:31	takes to the air. (13.32)	
MLS lammergeier flying R, circling above cliff	13:33		
	13:36	It circles on updrafts until it's reached the required height. (13.41)	
A/b, flies L	13:45		
HA GV rocky terrain	13:47		

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 15

below, track over

LA LS lammergeier in flight R/L, drops bone, tilt down to see it land on rocks below

13:50

Then it drops the bone... (13.52)

LA MS underside of lammergeier as lands

13:59

14:00

...smashing it onto the rocks below, exposing the precious marrow within. (14.05)

SEQ. 6

LA MS crow calling L

14:09

MCU lammergeier picks up broken bone, in beak, swallows it

14:10

14:14

The lammergeier is the only bird species that specialises in feeding on marrow in this way. (14.19)

14:24

It usually disdains actual meat... (14.26)

Aerial GV mountains, track fwd past cliffs

14:29

14:30

...unlike its vulture cousins in the Serengeti. (14.33)

MS Simon sat in car, Charlie b/g filming, VLS carcass and vultures feeding b/g

14:36

SEQ. 6

MCU vulture, tilt up from swollen crop to head, after it has fed

14:39

Back at the carcass the vultures have cleaned up the disease ridden wildebeest. (14.43)

**OUT
14.39**

14:47

Their stomachs are full and they've stored more meat in their bulging crops, ready to digest later. Some are now so stuffed that they'll struggle to fly. (14.56)

MS full lappet-faced vulture, still

14:48

MS vulture glides L, pan L

14:58

14:59

Others however have chicks to feed and

**IN
15.01**

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 16

		head off on the long journey back to the nest. (15.04)	
	15:08	Simon thinks that vultures make very	SEQ. 7
MCU Simon driving Land Rover, pan L to road ahead	15:09	dedicated parents. So he and Charlie head for their nest site - across the border from Tanzania into Kenya - en route to Lake Kwenia. (15.19)	
Vars shots, Land Rover en route, tracking shots roadside etc.	15:12		
	15:27	This hidden wildlife oasis on the edge of the Rift Valley is criss-crossed with high cliffs – perfect nesting sites for Rüppell's vultures. (15.36)	
MS 2S Simon and Charlie in Land Rover driving R	15:28		
GV Rift Valley wall, TL	15:30		
CU haversack hauled up cliff by Simon above Charlie	15:34		OUT 15.34
LS 2S Charlie and Simon walking up slope	15:37		
	15:39	Rüppell's vultures don't just nest	
LS 2S same, walking R over rocks, pan R	15:41	anywhere, they're very sensitive to disturbance and very picky about where they'll lay their eggs – so finding a nest to film isn't easy. (15.49)	
LA MCU cliff as ropes thrown down cliff	15:45		
MS 2S Simon and Charlie descending cliff on ropes	15:49		
	15:56	Charlie: Ah, a few vultures Simon. Simon: It's pretty good, isn't it? Charlie: Look at that. Wow. It's nice to be in their world, isn't it, on their level? Simon: Yeah, and this is a totally different experience from out on the open. Charlie: Look at this guy, see, he's just coming right in to have a look. Simon: You have a huge amount coming straight over your head, over this way. Charlie: Wow, oh, that's incredible. Wow. That's a lot of vultures, isn't it?	
VLS vultures wheeling about	15:58		
MS 2S Charlie and Simon on cliff on ropes, sync	16:06		
MLS Rüppell's Vulture Glides L/R, pan R	16:11		

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 17

MS 2S Simon and Charlie on cliff on ropes, sync	16:18	Simon: <i>It is looking good today, isn't it?</i> Charlie: <i>Hundred or so?</i> Simon: <i>Eh? Hundred?</i> Charlie: <i>What do you reckon?</i>
LS Rüppell's Vultures gliding in formation O/H	16:22	Simon: <i>Looks like it could be.</i> <i>Well, very few people in the world get to see this kind of thing.</i>
MS 2S Charlie and Simon on cliff on ropes, sync	16:29	Charlie: <i>At this level.</i> <i>That's pretty stunning. (16.48)</i>
LS vultures wheeling about O/H	16:32	
MCU 2S Simon and Charlie sync a/b	16:39	
VLS vultures glide L/R, GV grassland below, pan R	16:45	
	16:49	NARRATION:
CU rock face	16:50	These sheer faces of dangerous crumbly rock are exactly what the vultures need to
MS 2S Simon and Charlie on cliff face	16:53	nest because they're inaccessible to predators like baboons and leopards. Simon is keen to show Charlie a nest, which is apparently made of a rather unusual material. (17.06)
MS 2S Simon and Charlie examine old vulture's nest site on cliff, then sync	17:05	
	17:08	Simon: <i>So, there you go.</i> Charlie: <i>What, this is, this is a nest?</i> Simon: <i>This is a solid lump of vulture guano.</i> Charlie: <i>That's amazing.</i>
CU Charlie's fist as knocks nest surface	17:16	
CU Simon sync	17:20	Simon: <i>That's vulture poo over hundreds of years.</i> Charlie: <i>Really?</i> Simon: <i>Yeah.</i> Charlie: <i>Just incredible.</i> Simon: <i>Who knows, it could be thousands of years old. I mean, this is a very dry environment, there's no, hardly any rain here. Something as thick as this must have been built up very slowly.</i> Charlie: <i>Really quite disgusting at the same time that I'm rubbing and tapping what is essentially a massive great pile of</i>
LS 2S Simon and Charlie crouched beside vulture nest	17:34	

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 18

MCU Simon, pan R to CU Charlie sync	17:37	<i>poo. And you're sitting in it!</i> Simon: <i>And I'm sitting in it. Ha ha.</i> (17.46)
LS 2S Simon and Charlie walking on cliff ledge in harnesses	17:46	
	17:48	NARRATION:
GV cliff edge (hand held)	17:51	Charlie and Simon are after an active nest though – one preferably with a decent sized chick in it. (17.54)
MCU 2S Simon and Charlie, Simon pointing, Charlie observes with binoculars	17:56	It's not long before Simon spots a potential site with an adult bird on duty. With a bit of luck this nest just might be reachable by rope. (18.05)
MS Rüppell's vulture sat at nest	18:00	
GV grassland below cliff as dawn arrives, T/L	18:08	
	18:09	Early the next morning Simon descends the face to try to find a good place to install a camera. (18.15)
HA MS Simon arriving at camera site on rope	18:15	
MS Simon descending cliff on ropes	18:18	
MS Simon walks away along ledge holding ropes	18:25	
	18:26	Little is known about nesting Rüppell's vultures. Placing a camera on a nest and watching it remotely should give Charlie and Simon a unique look at these vultures. (18.36)
	18:38	The chick sits still and lies flat... (18.40)
MLS Rüppell's vulture chick on nest	18:40	
	18:41	Simon OOV: <i>Hello buddy.</i> (18.42)
	18:42	NARRATION:

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 19
CU Simon's hands holding camera	18:44	...trying to hide itself against the rocks. It's important to install the camera quickly	
HA MLS vulture chick on nest (remote cam)	18:46	to cause as little stress as possible to the young bird. (18.50)	
LS 2S Simon rejoins Charlie sync, crouches by laptop screen	18:56		
	18:58	Charlie: <i>Have a look at this.</i> Simon: <i>Ah...</i>	
O/S CU screen of view of nest site and vulture chick	19:06	Charlie: <i>Has anyone ever filmed vultures here before?</i> Simon: <i>No, never before. Not here in Kwenia. In fact, the whole species, very little has been done like this.</i>	
MS 2S Simon and Charlie sync looking at screen	19:09	Charlie: <i>That's actually a pretty big chick, isn't it? How old do you reckon it is?</i> Simon: <i>Well, it's deceptive 'cos it, I mean physically it's very big, but it's only about, I think about forty-five to sixty days old. And it has at least another month or so to go. (19.30)</i>	
MLS vulture chick on nest (remote cam)	19:14		
MS 2S Simon and Charlie sync looking at screen	19:19		
MLS vulture chick stood up on nest (remote cam)	19:30		
	19:31	NARRATION: Simon explains that at this age the chick needs around 1 kilogram of food per day. (19.37)	
	19:39	Parents visit the nests daily, bringing their chicks a soup of meat and guts, which they regurgitate for them. (19.45)	
	19:47	But after a day of watching, Charlie and Simon become concerned about not seeing either of the parents visiting this chick. (19.54)	IN 19.52
Aerial GV grassland, Serengeti, TR	19:56		
	20:03	Back in the Southern Serengeti and the wildebeest have finally arrived. (20.07)	SEQ. 8

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 20
LS/VLS wildebeest in huge herd, Serengeti, pan R	20:09		
	20:11	Around 1.4 million of them... (20.13)	
	20:16	500,000 tons of fresh meat. (20.19)	
	20:22	And when they arrive they calve. No other animal is as important to the vultures here as the wildebeest. (20.30)	
MS wildebeest calf walking R beside adult	20:23		
MLS a/b, pan R	20:27		
	20:33	Vultures mainly eat the bodies of animals that have died naturally – of old age or starvation - and it's the other scavengers and predators that benefit from vultures - not the other way around. (20.44)	
MS wildebeest massed together	20:34		
MLS hyenas walk L, LS wildebeests b/g	20:40		
LS vultures wheeling O/H	20:47		SEQ. 8
	20:48	Like eyes in the sky, hyenas watch the vultures. (20.51)	OUT 20.48 IN 20.49
MS hyena walks R, but looking L	20:49		
	20:54	Where they circle may be food. (20.56)	SEQ. 9
LS vultures wheeling O/H	20:56		
MS 2S vultures squabbling and fighting, pan R, other vultures at carcass (slo-mo)	21:00		
	21:05	Vultures and hyenas rely on each other, but their relationship is a fractious one. Without hyenas, the vultures can't break through the tough hide of the dead wildebeest, and are only able to eat it through the nose, mouth and anus. (21.19)	
CU vulture, tilt down as feeds on carcass through opening	21:15		

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 21
	21:24	Competition for these openings becomes	
MS vultures at carcass, Z/O to MLS	21:25	intense and all the fighting means that few vultures actually get to feed. (21.31)	
MS vulture stood, wings outspread	21:37		
MLS vultures beside carcass, as hyena approaches from R, goes to carcass (slo-mo)	21:40		
	21:41	So hyenas are a necessary evil for	
MS hyena beside carcass, feeding	21:49	vultures. They can butcher the carcass with their hugely powerful jaws, providing access to the prime cuts of meat inside. (21.52)	
	21:55	The problem is they want to eat it all themselves. (21.58)	SEQ. 9
CU vulture looking to cam	22:01		
	22:02	All the vultures can do is watch. (22.04)	
MLS 3S hyenas at carcase	22:08		
MS vultures looking on R	22:11	Some vultures do build up the courage to creep in closer... (22.15)	
MS hyena runs L to displace vultures (slo-mo)	22:15		
	22:17	But Hyenas will kill them, given the opportunity. (22.19)	
CU vulture looking about	22:24		
	22:25	Despite that, pestering is something vultures are very good at. (22.30)	OUT 22.25 IN 22.27
MS vultures as hyena feeds on carcase	22:27		
CU hyena biting bones	22:35		
MCU hyena same, as	22:41		

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 22
vulture walks L, pan L	22:47	Where vultures and hyenas gather,	SEQ. 10
MS black-backed jackal walks L, pan L	22:49	black-backed jackals are sure to follow. (22.52)	
MLS vultures looking on as hyenas eat carcass	22:55	Jackals are consummate thieves and rely not on size and strength...but bravery and speed to get past the hyenas. (23.05)	
MCU black-backed jackal looking to cam	23:00		
CU vulture same	23:03		
MLS hyena eating, vultures looking on	23:05		
MS black-backed jackal walks R, pan R (slo-mo)	23:07	If you want to eat at the carcass...you've got to have guts. (23.11)	
BCU hyena eating intestines	23:10		SEQ. 10
MLS 2S as black-backed jackal bites rear of hyena, reacts	23:13		OUT 23.13 IN 23.13
MLS black-backed jackal attacks vulture (slo-mo)	23:16		
MCU 2S lappet-faced vultures looking to cam	23:23		
MLS black-backed jackals and vultures squabbling over meat (slo-mo)	23:25		SEQ. 11
MS same (slo-mo)	23:32		
MCU 2S lappet-faced vultures looking about	23:36		
MS 3S black-backed jackal and vultures clash (slo-mo)	23:38		
	23:40	The problem for this jackal though, is that	
MLS 2S black-backed jackal and vulture	23:42	he's actually getting a little too big for his boots... (23.45)	

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 23

squabbling over meat
(slo-mo)

MCU 2S lappet-faced
vulture runs L (slo-mo) 23:47

23:48 ...and someone needs to show him who's
boss. (23.50)

MS vultures beside
carcass (slo-mo) 23:51

MS 2S lappet-faced
vulture attacks black-
backed jackal (slo-mo),
which exits L 23:54

24:18 Weighing in at 10 kilos, with a wing span **SEQ. 11**
of nearly three metres, few jackals are **OUT**
foolish enough to mess with the might of a **24.19**
Lappet-faced vulture. (24.27)

MS 2S lappet-faced
vulture walks R
(slo-mo) towards other
vultures 24:29

GV grassland and b/g
cliffs at nest site 24:35

24:36 Back at the nest in Kwenia, Charlie and
Simon are relieved to see what they've
been waiting for. (24.41)

LS Simon and Charlie
in hide above cliff
looking at laptop
screen 24:38

LS 2S as adult vulture
lands on cliff, chick on
nest f/g (remote cam) 24:42

24:43 **Charlie:** Oh, look, there's an adult.
Simon: Ah look. Just landed, that's great.
(24.47)

24:50 **NARRATION:**

MCU vulture adult 24:53

This is the first time they've seen one of
the parent birds visiting the nest. (24.54)

MCU vulture chick,
calls 24:55

24:58 After such a long wait the chick will be
hungry. (25.00)

MS 2S Simon and
Charlie and laptop 25:00

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 24

screen

25:03

It's vital at this stage in the day that the

LS 2S as adult vulture approaches chick in nest

25:04

parent has some nourishment to give to its offspring. (25.08)

25:16

Charlie: *Is that the chick begging, that noise?*

MCU 2S Simon and Charlie sync looking at screen

25:17

Simon: *That's definitely a begging sound. (25.20)*

MS vulture chick calling L on nest

25:20

25:23

NARRATION:

CU 2S Simon and Charlie looking intently at screen, vars similar shots follow, intercut with adult feeding chick at nest, vars

25:28

Carrying food in their crop – rather than digesting it in their stomach – means that this parent bird can bring food back from the Serengeti over a hundred miles away and still keep it reasonably fresh. (25.35)

25:43

Charlie: *Ah, it's quite disgusting. Ha ha. This is weird 'cos it's very lovely, adult feeding chick, but it's really quite disgusting at the same time. (25.53)*

26:08

Charlie: *It's so funny seeing them in the nest like this and not scrapping over a rotten piece of meat on the Plains. And they just suddenly look like stunningly beautiful, magnificent birds rather than these sort of beggars scrapping over a carcass, don't they? (26.24)*

HA MLS vulture and adult on nest, (remote cam)

26:15

MCU 2S Simon and Charlie sync

26:21

MCU adult vulture looking R

26:24

26:25

NARRATION:

MS 2S adult vulture and chick, adult takes off L from cliff

26:32

As they watch the nest over the next few days, it becomes clear that it is only being visited by one adult; Simon assumes it's

VLS adult vulture takes off, pan L

26:35

the mother. What could have happened to the father is impossible to know. But

LS vulture gliding L, pan L

26:41

one thing is certain, with only one parent,

**IN
26.38**

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 25

		the chick's chances of survival are slim. (26.45)	
Aerial WA GV grassland, TF	26:47		SEQ.12
	26:51	Finding around one kilogram of meat a	
VLS vultures gliding about, pan L	26:53	day for the chick puts an enormous pressure on the single mum. It means	
Aerial HA GV grasslands directly below	26:59	travelling huge distances in search of carrion.	
		But vultures are designed for this.	
VLS vultures gliding L, pan L	27:05	Rüppell's vultures have a wing span of around two and a half metres, shaped for gliding. They also have specialised haemoglobin in their blood. It allows them to fly at extremely high altitude. (27.16)	SEQ. 12
	27:18	They've been recorded flying at 11,000	
VLS wildebeests in herd, walking L	27:24	metres – higher than Everest - higher than any other bird. There's now plenty of food to be had on the plains... (27.29)	
MS wildebeests crowded together, in herd	27:29		OUT 27.26
	27:31	...there's also plenty of competition. (27.32)	
MS vultures scavenging	27:34		
	27:36	To find enough food for herself and her chick the mother's going to have to be assertive and aggressive. (27.42)	
MCU Charlie setting up high speed camera in Land Rover	27:44		
	27:45	But just how aggressive do vultures actually get? To find out, Charlie has the perfect piece of kit for the job - a specialist high-speed camera. With this he should be able to slow the action right down, and see in incredible detail what's going on in	

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 26

		the fight. (28.02)	
BCU vulture, takes off R (slo-mo)	28:03		
	28:06	There's certainly no shortage of scrapping	
LA MS vultures at kill, (extreme slo-mo) as vulture bites head of other	28:10	among the vultures on this kill – so it's perfect for the high speed camera. (28.11)	IN 28.10 SEQ. 13
	28:13	And straightaway it starts delivering – giving me a completely new look at the vulture behaviour. (28.20)	SEQ. 13
MCU vulture looking L (slo-mo)	28:34		
CU vultures at kill, eating	28:37		
MCU blooded vultures scavenging on carcass (slo-mo)	28:46		
LA MCU vultures squabbling (slo-mo)	28:55		
LA MS same	29:04		
MCU vultures eating kill (slo-mo)	29:11		
MS vulture pouncing on vulture to bite it (slo-mo)	29:20		
CU vultures scavenging (slo-mo)	29:31		
MLS vulture gliding down, pan R (slo-mo)	29:39		
CU vulture looking R (slo-mo)	30:02		
MS vulture glides down to hover above wings of anr (slo-mo)	30:13		
CU vultures eating kill (slo-mo)	30:30		

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION/SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 27
CU 2S Marabou stork repelled by lappet-faced vulture (slo-mo)	30:38		
MCU vultures at kill, as one threatens another (slo-mo)	30:56		
LA MS vulture flies low over ground, pan R as it lands (slo-mo)	31:04		
LA MLS vultures at kill, squabbling (slo-mo)	31:45		
	31:49	The high-speed camera has revealed another side of vultures to Charlie – they’re actually more vicious to each other than he thought. (31.57)	
	32:01	He can now see how perfectly designed they are to be like this. (32.05)	
CU vultures eating kill (slo-mo)	32:04		
	32:07	They’re designed to fight; they’re designed to be tough. (32.11)	
MCU vulture beside kill, head pops up (slo-mo)	32:12	It might seem nasty and aggressive to us – but to them it’s normal. (32.18)	SEQ. 13
LS vultures, with Marabou storks beyond, at kill, feeding and squabbling (slo-mo)	32:20		
	32:22	Many of these birds are parents trying to find enough food to feed their chicks, so the pressure is really on them. (32.29)	OUT 32.28
LS vultures take off, pan L	32:31	And the food supply is about to run out. (32.34)	IN 32.31
Aerial HA GV of wildebeest migration below, Serengeti	32:35		

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION /SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 28
	32:39	The wildebeest migration doesn't stay long in the southern Serengeti. (32.42)	SEQ. 14
A/b, closer	32:45	It soon moves off, following the rains into the western corridor... (32.49)	
	32:53	...where the wildebeest disperse. (32.54)	SEQ. 14
Aerial GV watercourse of river, TF over empty plains	32:54		
	33:00	The plains now lie empty... (33.02)	
Aerial VLS vultures gliding, pan L	33:03		
	33:05	...and for the mother vulture, finding food for the chick becomes increasingly difficult. (33.09)	OUT 33.09
MS vulture flies L, pan L	33:07		
	33:14	Back at the nest in Kwenia the sun beats down. (33.17)	IN 33.16
GV cliffs of valley, Kwenia, T/L as cloud shadows pass	33:16		
CU clouds O/H, T/L, sun b/g	33:19		SEQ. 15
	33:20	The midday temperature here can reach over 40 degrees Celsius, and on the bare cliff edge, there's no respite for the chick. (33.30)	
MLS 2S vulture protecting/shading chick from sun	33:25		
A/b, wings outstretched to shade chick a/b	33:33		
	33:36	So mum creates a parasol with her wings...(33.39)	
	33:41	...shading her chick. (33.41)	
C/A MCU 2S Charlie and Simon in hide observing screen	33:44		
	33:45	But as Charlie and Simon watch her over	

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION/SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 29
CU TV screen of remote output from vulture nest, vulture shading chick	33:47	the days on the monitor, they notice that she seems to be spending a lot of time shading the chick and only visiting the nest with food every other day. (33.55)	
MS vulture shading chick (full screen)	33:54		
	33:58	Perhaps her duties are becoming too stretched. (34.00)	SEQ. 15
C/A MCU 2S Charlie and Simon in hide observing screen	34:03		
	34:04	The chick's requirement for food is now enormous. It's growing fast, some of its feathers at a rate of over two centimetres a day. Without enough food, its bones will fail to develop properly... (34.17)	OUT 34.05
MS 2S vulture, with chick crouching in shade	34:06		
	34:19	...and it will probably die. (34.20)	
LS 2S Charlie and Simon in hide	34:22		
	34:23	Vultures breed slowly, only having one chick at a time. (34.27)	
	34:29	The chances of a chick surviving to adulthood are about 50 per cent. (34.33)	
MCU chick in nest, resting, facing R	34:30		
	34:35	With only one parent to feed and protect it, this chick's chances are much slimmer. (34.40)	
Night, CU flames of fire	34:42		
	34:44	That evening Simon explains to Charlie just how bad things are becoming for vultures in East Africa. (34.50)	
MS 2S Charlie and Simon beside camp firelight	34:47		
CU TV screen pictures (vulture poisoning	34:52		

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 30
footage), Simon sync	34:54	Simon: <i>The day started by me having a chat with somebody out in the open plains and I looked up and I saw a whole kettle of vultures just circling in the sky. But my attention was drawn to a few of them which were flying in a funny, erratic manner. And then some of them just simply tumbled straight out of the air, fast glide, and a flit and then piling straight into the ground. (35.15)</i>	IN 34.56
MCU/CU Simon sync with Charlie listening and viewing archive a/b	34:58		SEQ. 16
MS vulture perched on rock, tumbles down, staggers about (archive)	35:05		
	35:27	Simon: <i>I drove over there to go and find them, I couldn't see any, but on my way there there were carcasses under trees, virtually everywhere you looked there were dead animals, like dead jackal and hyena. (35.38)</i>	SEQ. 16
MS man holding up wing of dead vulture, among a line of others on grass, Z/I (archive)	35:29		
MLS dead jackal dragged away by man (archive)	35:36		
CU 2S Simon sync with Charlie listening	35:42	Simon: <i>People had poisoned with Carbofuran, which is a pesticide used in the agricultural industries. It is widely used here to kill wildlife. (35.53)</i>	
MS dead vultures placed in cart by men (archive) (slowed)	35:48		
MLS 2S men holding dead vultures wings, Z/I to head (archive)	36:14		
CU 2S Simon sync with Charlie	36:24	Simon: <i>And it's important to understand that where the actual place is the poison's put, the effect of the poison is that it doesn't stay there; it moves. So you get mini explosions of deaths occurring. What happened was that the hyena ate the cow, went 9 kilometres away, died. These vultures came down to eat it and within just a few minutes were comatose and dying. And within a few minutes of that whatever landed on that dead vulture is also dying. (36.55)</i>	
MS dead hyena, Z/I on ground	36:35		
CU Simon sync	36:41		
MCU TV screen with archive , fire b/g	36:47		
LS dead and dying flies beside vulture (archive)	36:54		
MS vulture carcasses, pan L (archive)	36:58		
	37:00	Simon: <i>Inside that pile of dead vultures was one living vulture whose face had</i>	

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 31
CU Simon sync beside Charlie	37:07	<i>been staring up at the sun until its eyes were completely burnt, and the corneas were burnt. We managed to save that one and release it later. (37.13)</i>	
MS vulture with damaged eye being handled (archive)	37:12		
	37:16	<i>And it was catastrophic for the vultures 'cos we lost 187 vultures in just one poisoning incident. (37.22)</i>	
BCU Charlie sync, CU Simon b/g, then sync	37:24		
	37:25	Charlie: <i>We've had a big decline in vulture numbers in East Africa. What effect is that then going to have on everything else, you know, the people and the animals here?</i>	
LA MS dead/dying vultures beside tyre, Z/I (archive)	37:39	Simon: <i>Well, that's a good question 'cos there's been a, a similar thing has happened in India, where they've all died from Diclofenac poisoning and it's been banned and we're expecting a recovery. Well, one of the great arguments that they've had is saying that human health is at risk if all the vultures do go. It's not entirely clear exactly what kind of diseases people will get if there's thousands of dead and rotting animals lying in the street that do not get ingested by vultures. But certainly it causes a huge increase in domestic dogs. And you can see really quite a clear graph, we're seeing the numbers of incidents of rabies amongst people has, has shot up in the absence of their, of the vultures. Other things, such as just filthy water, you know, disgusting amounts of pathogens just pouring into the main streets. Similar sort of thing obviously can happen here. There are many places, even large conservancies in Kenya where you will go and see a dead animal. And it just doesn't get consumed by anything other than bacteria and maggots. (38.34)</i>	
CU Simon sync, Charlie f/g	37:55		
MS trailer containing dead vultures towed away (archive)	38:07		SEQ. 16
MLS man digging hole in earth with spade (archive)	38:17		
MS bones buried in hole (archive)	38:20		
CU Simon sync, Charlie f/g	38:29		OUT 38.28
CU camp fire flames	38:35		
WA GV plains, cloud shadows T/L as shadows of cliff retreat	38:39		
MLS 2S vulture adult and chick on cliff nest, adult flies off L and b/g	38:44		
	38:48	NARRATION:	

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 32

		The next morning the mother vulture leaves the nest early; possibly heading back to the Serengeti, in search of any remaining carcasses. (38.57)	
MLS vulture flies L and glides away	38:57		
MLS chick on nest, as Verreaux's eagle glides past nest on cliff L	39:02		
	39:09	But today a female Verreaux's eagle is on the wing, on the hunt for young vultures.	
HA LS Verreaux's eagle glides L and R below, and being mobbed by small bird, pan to follow	39:16	(39.15)	
MCU vulture chick in nest looking about on cliff	39:25	With only one parent and an eagle patrolling the cliffs, the chick needs to remain still to avoid becoming a meal.	
		(39.33)	
HA LS Verreaux's eagle glides R below, and being mobbed by small bird	39:35		
MCU vulture chick in nest looking about on cliff	39:42		
	39:45	The chick may have got away with it for now, but the eagle's continued presence here will greatly reduce the young bird's chance of survival. For Charlie it's time to leave, and he heads north in search of other vultures. (39.59)	
MLS Verreaux's eagle perched on bush	39:46		
HA MLS vulture chick in nest	39:51		
Aerial GV dry landscape, TR and tilt down	39:56		IN 40.00
	40:05	As a result of poisoning, vultures are now the fastest declining family of animals in the world. (40.11)	SEQ. 17
	40:14	In India vultures face near extinction - due to the use of Diclofenac – a now banned	
CU Charlie in light	40:16		

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 33

plane wearing
headphones, looking
out of window

drug used to treat cattle but which is lethal
to vultures. (40.23)

Aerial GV landscape
seen below wing of
aircraft, TR

40:27

The cost to human health of this decline is
staggering. Vultures had consumed
million of tons of rotting meat a year. But
as they declined, the feral dog population
exploded. The result - over 50,000 extra
human deaths from rabies. (40.45)

SEQ. 17

CU Charlie in plane

40:40

Aerial GV landscape
seen below wing of
aircraft, TR

40:57

It's thought that the vulture decline has
cost India around 34 billion dollars.
(41.02)

41:08

Vultures are perhaps far more important to
us than we realise. (41.12)

Aerial GV misted plain
of Masai Mara

41:16

41:17

The Masai Mara. (41.18)

**OUT
41.18**

Aerial a/b, closer

41:19

41:20

It's July and the Serengeti rains have
come north into Kenya – following them as
always are the wildebeest. (41.28)

**IN
41.25**

MS wildebeests in
herd, running L through
frame

41:24

LS same (slo-mo)

41:29

MLS Marabou stork,
soft focus wildebeest
herd b/g

41:34

SEQ. 18

LA MLS wildebeest
running to cam, slo-mo

41:35

41:37

But here the wildebeest face their greatest
challenge... (41.40)

MLS wildebeests
climbing down, sliding
on banking

41:39

41:43

...crossing the Mara River. (41.44)

MS wildebeest leaps
into river, swims R

41:45

LS wildebeests

41:50

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 34
crossing river, vultures on sand bar in middle	41:51	Wildebeest are not particularly good swimmers so many never reach the other side of the river – perishing instead in the murky water. (42.00)	
MLS many wildebeests enter river L/R from bank	41:54		
VLS wildebeests crossing river L/R, LS vultures f/g, one with outstretched wings	42:03		
MLS wildebeests swimming across Mara River R, dead zebra floating f/g	42:08		
MLS wildebeests slide down banking, a calf leaps in, among others	42:13		
VLS masses of wildebeests crossing Mara river L/R, pan R	42:19		
	42:27	This is the moment every scavenger and predator in the Masai Mara has been waiting for. (42.32)	
MLS vulture flies L/R on riverbed, lands among other vultures	42:33		
	42:34	And vultures have flown in from all over East Africa. (42.37)	
MLS vulture perched on rock as, wildebeests walk L/R across river b/g	42:38		
MS wildebeests climbing slippery, rocky riverbank	42:42		SEQ. 18
MLS 3S 2 hippos and wildebeest in water	42:47		
MLS wildebeests L/R approaching riverbank, LS vulture perched f/g a/b on rocks	42:54	As the chaos and panic of the river crossing builds, the vultures here, watching in the wings, play a waiting game. (43.03)	
MLS vultures perched in top of dead tree,	42:59		OUT 43.03

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 35

looking intently R

VLS wildebeests
swimming L/R b/g, LS
vultures on sand bank
f/g

43:04

43:06

There is now a surplus of food, as the
river swells with the corpses of the
wildebeest. (43.12)

**IN
43.07**

MLS dead wildebeest
floating in water, pan L

43:09

CU rushing water

43:23

43:27

And as the waters rise in the rains, they're
carried away downriver – to the waiting
vultures. (43.34)

SEQ. 19

LS wildebeest corpse
floating downriver to
cam

43:29

VLS vultures circling
O/H

43:41

A/b, closer

43:52

MLS vulture flies down
to cam

44:01

LS wildebeest corpse
floating away down
river, tilt up to more
bodies in distance

44:06

44:08

Up to 10,000 dead wildebeest a day have
been recorded floating down the Mara
river. (44.13)

MLS dead wildebeests
in shallows, vultures
stood on carcasses

44:23

44:25

And when they reach the shallows, they
pile up and rot. (44.28)

44:32

MS vulture perched on
top of floating dead
wildebeest, pecks at it

44:34

This is what the vultures have been
waiting for – it's the most important
feeding event of their year. (44.38)

LS skeletal carcasses
of wildebeests being
scavenged by marabou
storks and vultures,
pan L

44:39

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 36

<u>VISION</u>	<u>T/CODE</u>	<u>NARRATION / SYNC</u>	<u>MUSIC</u> 36
LA MS vultures scavenging with ibis	44:50		SEQ. 19
	44:52	The hot sun and rotting corpses now turn	OUT
LA MS marabou stork perched on carcass in water	45:00	these shallows into a soup of bacteria and it's up to the vultures and marabou storks to clean it up. (45.01)	44.56
LA MS storks and ibis scavenging skeletal remains	45:02		
MCU vulture scavenging remains	45:07	Vulture stomach acid is so powerful that it can dissolve metal. It's this adaptation that means they can eat even the most putrid meat and destroy dangerous	
MS 2S a/b, vulture and Marabou stork pecking at wildebeest remains	45:20	diseases such as rabies, cholera and anthrax - diseases which could otherwise remain in the system and proliferate. (45.28)	
CU horn of dead wildebeest, tilt up to anr floating wildebeest corpse b/g	45:31		
	45:32	But downriver the carcasses pile up uneaten – left to rot in the sun – leaching bacteria and disease into the river. (45.41)	
CU Charlie looking L, Mara river b/g, pan L, tilt to mass of floating wildebeest corpses	45:40		
	45:45	The result of East Africa's vulture decline is now starkly obvious. (45.50)	
MS floating wildebeest corpses close together	45:53		
	45:54	Vultures have declined by 60 per cent in the Masai Mara in the last ten years – not good when they're responsible for consuming around 70 per cent of the dead animals here. Without them the meat will just rot, diseases will increase, as will scavengers, such as jackals and hyenas.	
HA GV river with raft of floating wildebeest corpses f/g, VLS Charlie at R at riverside observing	45:59		
CU leg of wildebeest, floating, more dead wildebeests b/g, soft focus	46:13		
		This will in turn throw one of the world's	

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 37

		most important eco-systems out of balance. (46.18)	
LA MLS 3S vultures stood on grassland, backlit, preening	46:20		
	46:22	Deliberate poisoning of vultures is now increasing, not just in Kenya but all over Africa; extinction is beginning to loom.	
CU vulture looking about, backlit	46:30	The problem is few really care – people like Simon Thomsett are tragically rare. (46.37)	
BCU Simon looking R	46:34		
LA MLS 3S vultures and hyenas scavenging as 2 vultures fight (slo-mo), backlit	46:42	We might see vultures as dirty, filthy and ugly – but the truth is we need them as much as they need us. (46.49)	
	46:52	The more Charlie has got to know them, the more impressed he's become with them. The veneer of ugliness that surrounds them has been stripped away –	
CU vulture looking about and R	46:56	when he looks at them now, their character, their swagger, their extraordinary design... he sees beauty. (Ends 47.11)	IN 47.12
MS 2S vultures backlit, both take off R and L	47:05		
LS vulture gliding down (extreme slo-mo)	47:13		SEQ. 20
MCU vulture looking about (extreme slo-mo)	47:19		
MS 2S vultures fighting (extreme slo-mo)	47:23		
MS vulture lands on and attacks vulture on ground near zebra carcass (extreme slo-mo)	47:27		

VISION**T/CODE****NARRATION / SYNC****MUSIC** 38

Extreme slo-mo
sequence of vultures
feeding and fighting
continues

S/I end credits roller: - 48:17

produced by
CHARLIE HAMILTON
JAMES

SEQ. 20

filmed and directed by
AIDAN WOODWARD

**End credit
sequence**

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End of roller, fade to
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F/U to MS sea lions
swimming underwater,
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Freeze frame,
End of Programme 48:47

(Cut to black) (48:57)

SEQ. 20**SEQ. 20****OUT
48:47**