



# *The Parting Shot*

Italian photographer Antonio Macioce had the encounter of a lifetime and shares his experience with us: *"The European Wildcat Felis silvestris is certainly one of the most difficult animals to observe and photograph in Italy. In many years I have had the opportunity to spot it a very few times in our territories: usually sightings by car at night, or from a distance with binoculars. In the National Park of Abruzzo Lazio and Molise I had already photographed one, but at a great distance, just*

*record shots. But last winter, luck had me photograph a beautiful subject just a few meters away. I could tell you of days spent stalking in unbearable temperatures before being able to photograph it, but in reality it was not so - one morning, coming back from a photo shoot, we saw an animal crossing the road. When we were a few meters away we realized that it was a Wildcat. The habit of always keeping cameras ready and within reach paid back - after having crossed the road, we*

*expected it to vanish into the vegetation, but instead it stopped and then sat looking at us for a few seconds, just the time to take two shots, then it got up and hid in the thick bushes of blackthorn. I found similar attitudes in the Wildcat population in Slovenia which I had the opportunity to photograph several times. Shooting data: Nikon D500, Nikkor 600 mm f4, f4- 1 / 320sec. ISO 800. Other shots can be viewed on my website: [www.antoniomacioce.it](http://www.antoniomacioce.it)".*

