Middle East PhoNographic Mornings #12/15 Each Morning of the World #10 Wadi Darbat ~ Dhofar ~ Oman GPS coordinates (lat, long): 17.1046, 54.4533 "**Wadi coming to life**"

Sander Pieterse

The beautiful Wadi Darbat is coming to life in the morning. In this 4-minute soundscape, many natural sounds are heard. Very notable are the eerie calls of a herd of Arabian camels (e.g. 0:39) and several donkeys (1:26), resonating between the cliffs. Several bird species can be heard, such as grey wagtail, common sandpiper, cinnamon-breasted bunting and Tristram's starling. I was standing at the water's edge while recording this soundscape, and you can hear figs falling into the water (e.g. 3:40) from the large figs trees hanging over the water. This was probably the result of the Bruce's green pigeons feeding on them. Apart from two distant birdwatcher friends, there were no other people in the wadi at the moment of recording, allowing for a true natural experience.

In this soundscape recording I tried to capture that beautiful morning, me connecting to nature, and experiencing the beauty of the Dhofar region in the south of Oman. I feel very strongly that we should make an effort to preserve the natural soundscape in the era of the Anthropocene. I recorded this with a simple Edirol R09-HR recorder, while on a birdwatching holiday to Oman with two friends. During this holiday, we crossed the entire country from Muscat to Salalah in a rental car.

Recording date: October 29 2015 Recording time: around 9:00 AM

Recording location: Wadi Darbat, Dhofar, Oman GPS coordinates (lat, long): 17.1046, 54.4533

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Sander Pieterse	

Sander Pieterse (1982) is a biologist, birdwatcher, nature enthusiast and sound recordist from The Hague, The Netherlands. He works for Naturalis Biodiversity Center, the national museum of natural history of The Netherlands, and is a board member of the Xeno-canto Foundation for Nature Sounds.

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