Lake Manyara, January 2020

I have been remiss in not posting more of my photos from the wonderful Tanzania safari in January-February 2020, so here are some images from a short visit to Lake Manyara. Images from the amazing Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti will follow when I can get to them!

Lake Manyara is noted for its large lake and the unusually lush groundwater forest at the edge of the escarpment of the Great Rift. It has one of the highest densities of elephants in Africa, famous tree-climbing lions, and very diverse birdlife.

Though our visit was short, it was incredibly productive, and I have too many interesting images to share in one post, so I will limit it here to two primate species, the Olive Baboon and the Blue Monkey, though we saw and photographed Vervet Monkeys too. Birds and other mammals will come in the next post.

I’ve been leading safaris in East Africa since 1979 and always see something new. I was saddened that Covid forced the cancellation of our August 2020 safari, but we have one planned for August 2021, and 8 of the 12 spaces are already spoken for, some by clients who were on the previous one. Please sign up soon if you’d like to join this lucky group on safari to some of the finest wildlife areas on the planet.

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Large male Olive Baboon. These social primates are fascinating to watch—African soap operas!
Is this Uber or Lyft?

Time for a mid-day nap.
A Sleep Number fig tree, just perfect for anyone’s needs.
Figs are some of the most important and interesting trees in the ecosystem. When they are fruiting, they host a menagerie of birds and mammals.
More arboreal than the baboons, Blue Monkeys are common in the groundwater forest. Here is a peaceful maternal scene that gave us all huge smiles.
I find Blue Monkeys completely charming, curing any blues I might have.

Looking forward to seeing them again in August!