

Lake Manyara Birds, January 2020. Walt Anderson

I previously posted shots of monkeys and baboons seen on our visit to Lake Manyara and promised some birds from that visit, so here is a sample. I emphasized birds of the wetlands, though the lush groundwater forests are filled with colorful birds too. Now that I have shown critters from Arusha, Tarangire, and Mkomazi National Parks, the next visit will be to the world-renowned Ngorongoro Crater. Stay tuned!

Still four spaces left on the August Tanzania safari, but they could go any minute:

http://www.geolobo.com/?page_id=522



A handsome Gray Crowned Crane wading in the shallows. A cloud came over, reducing the sun-shadow contrasts, so you can better see the spectacular feather colors.



This crane is the national bird of Uganda. It's easy to see why it is such a favorite. I love hearing their haunting calls too.



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Beyond words to describe!



East Africa has 20 species of hornbills! This is the Southern Ground-Hornbill, no relation to the Northern Ground-Beef.



One of my favorite African birds is the Hamerkop, an aberrant stork in its own family. They build an enormous nest, as much as six feet across, with an entrance tunnel low on the side. Indigenous people often attribute magical powers to them. In some parts of Africa, they are known as the Lightning Bird. I always feel that a Hamerkop a day portends great luck on safari.



Another really unusual bird is the Water Thick-knee (or course, those bulging “knees” are really the bird’s ankles; their knees bend just like ours but are up under the feathers). The large eyes indicate that this bird is primarily nocturnal, but we often see them during the day. When they crouch in the gravel, their camouflage is amazingly effective.



Close view of a Water Thick-knee showing the most unusual eyes.



The Marsh Sandpiper is an elegant shorebird.



Common Ringed Plover



Common Snipe



Crowned Lapwing



Spur-winged Lapwing

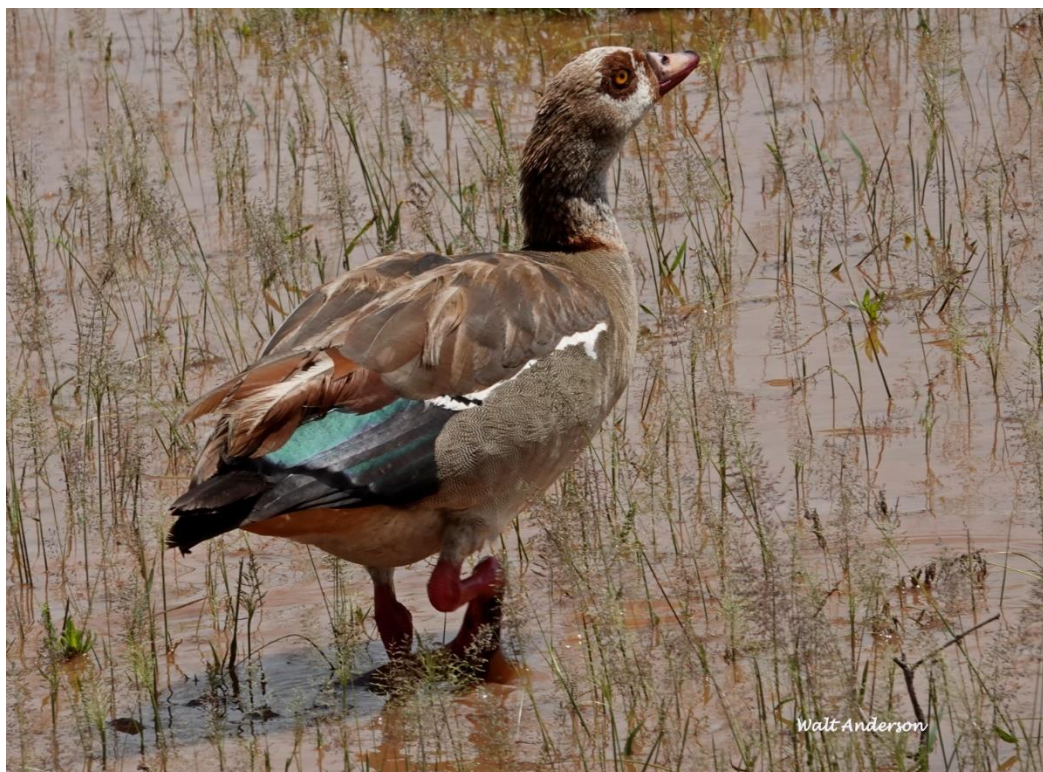


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Double-banded Courser, an upland shorebird. These birds prefer to run over flying, hence are "coursers."



Long-tailed Fiscal, a shrike



Egyptian Goose



Western Yellow Wagtail, a migrant from Eurasia.