

Serengeti 2020(2) by Walt Anderson

Previously I shared a dozen photos from Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, and it's time for another Serengeti fix, an eclectic set of organisms that may surprise you. I'm skipping the vast herds of wildebeest and zebras for now, promising more of those in a future post. All of these shots were taken on a visit around the first of February in 2020. As you know, Covid soon appeared on the scene, and further 2020 safaris were toast.

However, as we get vaccinated and as testing becomes routine, safari bookings are booming again, and we have two safaris scheduled for August into early September. The first safari is filled, but we have space on the second, which you can read all about here: http://www.geolobo.com/?page_id=522

We will spend five days in the Serengeti, but we will also visit Olduvai Gorge, Ngorongoro Crater, Tarangire, Lake Manyara, and Mkomazi National Parks. This is not mass tourism; it is an in-depth experience where you will learn so much while enjoying the incredible diversity that Tanzania offers. It is a different season from the one in these images, so the grasses will be golden and the animals concentrated where there is food and water.

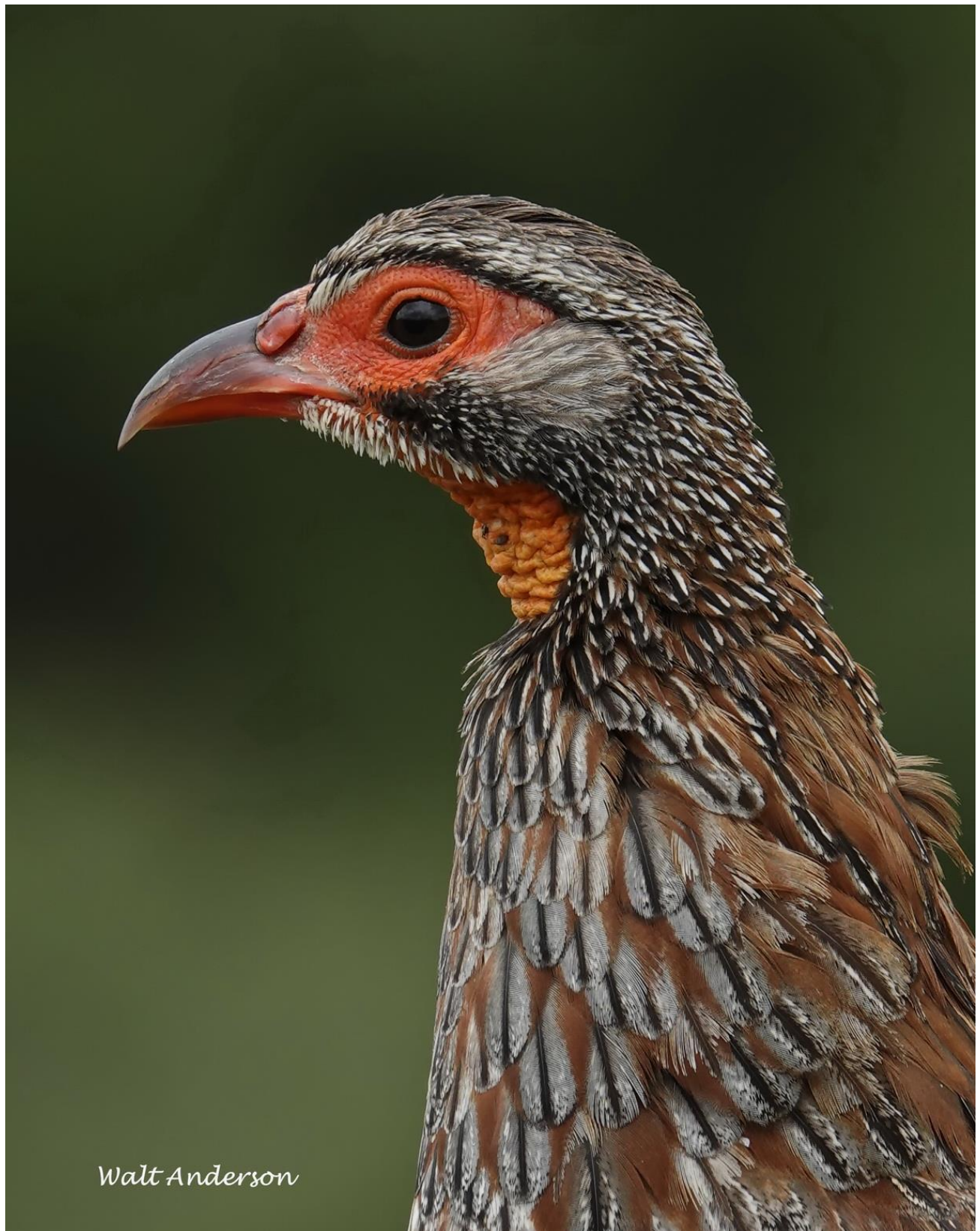
If this appeals to you, please contact me right away, as reservations are becoming hard to get.



Aardvark Safaris Tanzania respectfully visiting a lion pride. Taken with a small lens.



The same lionesses shot with a telephoto lens. You won't get this shot with a cell phone.



Walt Anderson

One of my favorite birds, a Gray-breasted Spurfowl, a type of francolin.



Another favorite is the big Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, with its fluffy, vermiculated feathers and pink eyelids. We saw at least a half dozen on this trip.



Two eagle-owls were hunting on the ground, and this one was working on a small terrapin, one of the local turtles. Not your classic formal portrait! We love observing behavior.



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The Black-chested Snake-Eagle is one of about 50 species of diurnal birds of prey in the Serengeti!



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Diversity is the name of the game, and this is just one of the dramatic lizards we typically see. The Southern Tree Agama. Wouldn't this be a challenge to paint?



The Nile or Grass Rat is a charming and very social rodent.



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Look closely at all the species of insects on this spike of *Chlorophytum gallabatense*.



The European Roller is a migrant visitor during the northern winter, but we will surely see the even more colorful resident Lilac-breasted Rollers on our safari.



Starlings in Africa are gorgeous birds, so unlike the European Starling that has spread in North America, competing with our native birds



The Ngorongoro Highlands as viewed from Lake Ndutu in the southern Serengeti. Both parks are World Heritage Sites, among the best of the best. As you can guess, there are plenty of waterbirds too, from flamingos to storks to shorebirds to waterfowl. Check in again when I post Installment 3 of the Serengeti!