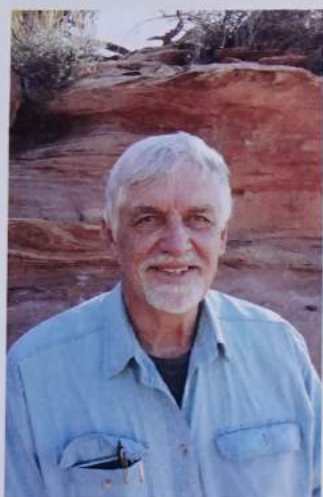


Nature through the Artist's Eye: Walt Anderson

walt anderson



Walt Anderson has been referred to as "the naturalist of old cast in modern times, the next generation of a proud and ancient lineage." As a trip leader and one of the pioneers of ecotourism, Walt has field experience spanning the globe: East Africa, Madagascar, Brazil, Ecuador (including Galapagos), Argentina, Australia, Antarctica, Mexico, Alaska, and the American West. A Prescott College Professor of Environmental Studies and Sustainability for 27 years, Walt has taught and advised on natural history, ecology, wildlife management, wetland ecology, interpreting nature through art and photography, animal behavior, and field biology. His artwork and photographs have graced many books and magazines. With graduate degrees in wildlife biology and resource ecology, Walt applies his knowledge and his artistic skills to educate, inspire, and motivate people toward informed activism on behalf of environmental causes.

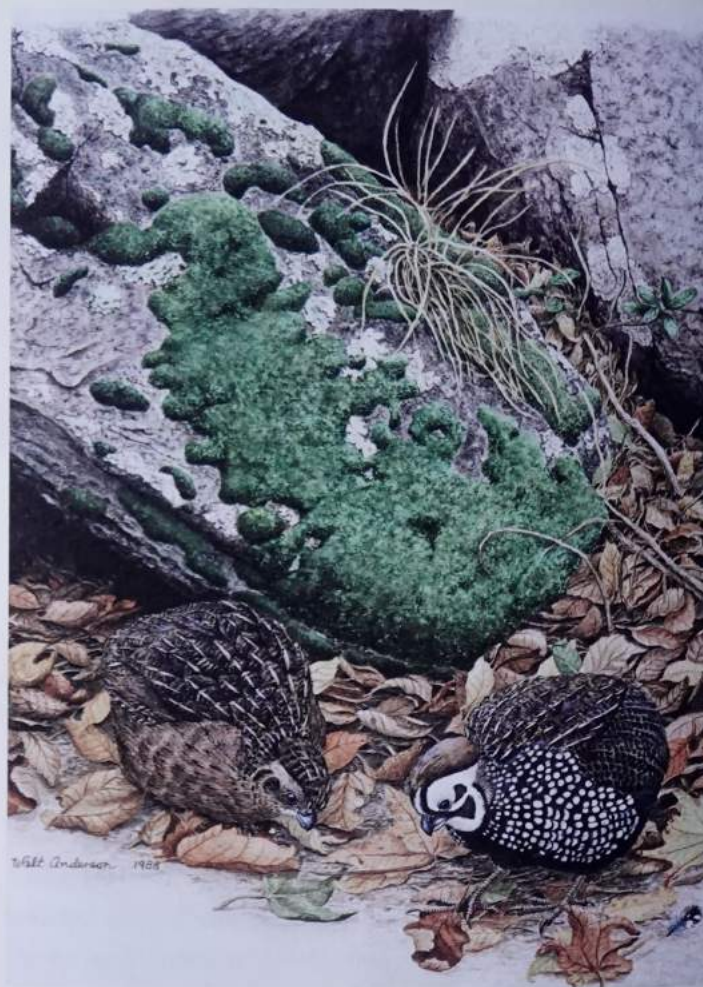
Like many wildlife artists, Walt starts with the subject's eyes, key to capturing the life and spirit of the animal. Once that essence is realized, the rest of the painting or drawing proceeds as an intense interaction with the subject until, almost as a surprise, the artwork is complete. As a naturalist, Walt cares deeply about depicting the animal with scientific integrity and fidelity. Context is important: plants, rocks, and other environmental complements to the subject must be real and

accurate. Similarly, Walt's ecotours are in-depth experiences that combine scientific knowledge with celebration of the incredible beauty of nature. More information is at <http://www.geolobo.com>



Golden Eagle

A majestic eagle perches on a rock wall built of andesitic rocks in the Sutter Buttes of California. A Western Fence Lizard shares the wall with the alert bird of prey. A good portion of my adult life has been spent interpreting this privately-owned landscape, which was opened to public use with naturalist-guides and is the subject of my book, *Inland Island: The Sutter Buttes*.



Pair of Montezuma Quail

I have a special fondness for quail, partly because I did my MS thesis on Scaled Quail in southern Arizona. The Montezuma Quail manages to elude detection by many an eager birder, freezing in the shadows of the oak grove until nearly stepped upon, then bursting into flight. The challenge here was to use watercolor to capture the textures of feathers, dried leaves, hard rock, and soft moss, using negative space so that the grass stands out.



Vermilion Flycatcher

While many North American Flycatchers are subdued in coloration, the Vermilion Flycatcher is a stunning exception. In this watercolor, I sought to contrast the brilliance of the bird with more subtle variation in color and texture of sycamore roots.



House Sparrow

Abandoned by its human occupants, this old house makes fine quarters for the cheeky House Sparrow. This is a study of textures and contrasts.



Two-tailed Swallowtail

This was one of the subjects I painted for interpretive panels for the Discovery Trail at the Highlands Center for Natural History in Prescott. The panels featured photographs of each biotic community with typical organisms arranged thereon. The communities featured were Grassland, Chaparral, Woodland, Montane Forest, and Riparian. This swallowtail is the Arizona state butterfly.



Abert's Squirrel

Also done for the Highlands Center's interpretive panels, this Kaibab Squirrel was rendered in ink on clayboard so that the fine white hairs could be scratched out with a scalpel. Some light touches of acrylic paint finished off the artwork.