

## Tanzania – 8-23 May 2018



Our group on 17 May at Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania. Our drivers (Selemani [left] and John [right]) are kneeling in the front.

For spring break 2018, Dr. Julie Blanchong and I took a group of 12 students to Tanzania as part of an Iowa State University Study Abroad course. The course emphasized Tanzania's diverse ecosystems during a 14-day trip, of which we spent nine days on safari visiting several national parks. Overall, the trip went smoothly and the students learned first-hand about the diverse ecosystems of Tanzania.

### 8-9 May

We departed Des Moines on time at 11:30 a.m. on 8 May, flew to Minneapolis, then Amsterdam, and finally arrived in Arusha at 8:30 p.m. local time. It took about an hour to get through customs and purchase our visas, after which we met our driver outside. It was a 1-hour ride to Hotel Venus Premier, where we arrived at 10:30 p.m. Everyone quickly retired to their rooms to get some much needed sleep.

### 10 May

This morning we met at 8 a.m. for breakfast (a buffet) in the hotel. We took it easy today with a city tour of Arusha. Our tour began with a visit to the main city market where we saw all sorts of items for sale – fresh meats, a wide range of vegetables, spices, lots of hand-made crafts, and all sorts of domestic items and clothing. We covered the market in a little more than an hour and definitely were a focus for attention. Almost immediately, several young men attached

themselves to our group as “guides”. We already had a hired guide, but because we were spread out the additional people were of some help. They all spoke good English and were moderately informed about the market and could answer most of our questions. About mid-way through the visit we discovered from our main guide that these “extras” were definitely not welcome as they were expecting healthy tips at the conclusion of our visit. There was a bit of a heated argument at the end when we did not provide these tips on the advice of our main guide; he also indicated that he knew these characters and many were known pickpockets! An interesting adventure. Our second stop was at the Cultural Heritage Center where the students had a chance to shop for souvenirs. Many of the women were interested in tanzanite, a gem unique to Tanzania, but there were lots of other options too. After a lengthy visit with regrouped and returned to the hotel for a late lunch at 2 p.m. (a buffet). Everyone had the rest of the afternoon free to relax and catch up on sleep. We met for dinner at 8 p.m., which was once again a delicious buffet. [mostly cloudy with intermittent light rain, temperature 66-80°F, winds E 5-10 mph]

### 11 May



Crowned Crane

White-browed Coucal, Little and Crimson-chested bee-eaters, Nubian Woodpecker, Tropical Boubou, African Stonechat, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Collared Sunbird, Red-billed Oxpecker, and Pin-tailed Whydah. We had a picnic lunch (baked chicken, a vegetable sandwich, apple, crackers, chocolate, and fruit juice) at Little Momela Lake. While eating we enjoyed watching a large herd of African Buffalo come in for a drink, and there was a female

Today was our first game drive, scheduled for Arusha National Park. We met for breakfast around 7:30 a.m. (a buffet) and then loaded into the two Land Cruisers at 8:30 a.m. After a 1-hour drive we arrived at the park, checked in, and began our drive. The morning was excellent and we had our first introduction to African wildlife. Mammals included Blue Monkey, Angola Colobus, Olive Baboon, Bushbuck, Kirk’s Dik-dik, Common Warthog, African Buffalo, Common Zebra, Maasai Giraffe, Waterbuck, Bohor Reedbuck, and African Hare. We also saw many birds that included Hadada Ibis, Augur Buzzard, Helmeted Guineafowl, Crowned Crane, Blacksmith Plover,



Waterbuck

Waterbuck with a calf near a male Waterbuck just across a bay. We continued the drive after lunch seeing more of the same mammals, a small green snake (species unknown), and many waterbirds including Red-billed and Cape teal, Lesser Flamingo, Three-banded Plover, and Black-necked Stilt plus Purple-crested Turaco. In one area we saw lots of African Elephant sign, but alas no elephants. Near the park entrance the clouds lifted a bit and we were able to see a patch of snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro. We left the park at 4:35 p.m. and were back at the hotel by 5:30 p.m. Dinner was at 8 p.m. and consisted of tomato soup, a Caesar salad, roast chicken with rice, cooked vegetables, and ice cream for dessert. Everyone was tired and we adjourned at 9:30 p.m. [mostly cloudy with intermittent light rain in the morning, temperature 63-80°F, winds S 5-10 mph]

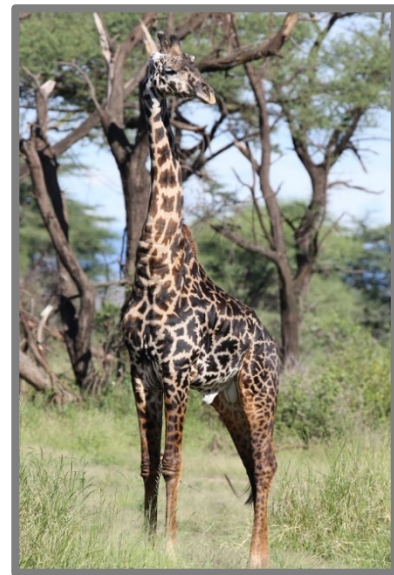
## 12 May



Bateleur

Bushbuck, Impala, Blue Wildebeest, Common Zebra, Maasai and Reticulated giraffes, and Common Warthogs. The bird diversity was excellent and included Lanner Falcon, African Palm Swift, African Gray Hornbill, Gray-headed Kingfisher, Speckled Mousebird, African Paradise-Flycatcher, and Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu. As we continued south we explored many side roads from the main park road. Wildlife included 2 loafing Elephants, African Buffalo, an African Monitor Lizard, and birds such as Brown Snake-Eagle, Bateleur, and Blue-mantled Crested-Flycatcher. By 2:30 p.m. we reached the picnic area where we had lunch. The lake held many waterbirds that included Great White and Pink-backed

We met at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast (a buffet) and then loaded the Land Cruisers at 8:15 a.m. By 8:30 a.m. we were ready and departed. It took about an hour to exit Arusha and continue west towards the Rift Valley. Along the way we saw many birds including Marabou Stork, Crowned Lapwing, Gull-billed Tern, African Palm-Swift, Lilac-breasted and Rufous-crowned rollers, Pangani Longclaw, and Superb Starling. At 10:45 a.m. we reached Lake Manyara National Park for a game drive. Our visit lasted until 5:45 p.m. and was excellent! The dense forest near the entrance held many Blue Monkeys and birds that included Marabou Stork. Farther south the forest became drier with more open areas and the mammal diversity increased. We saw many troops of Olive Baboons and Vervet Monkeys right along the road. The open areas held



Reticulated Giraffe



Lesser Flamingo

pelicans, Lesser Flamingo, Blacksmith Plover, Little and Intermediate egrets, and Hamerkop. From the boardwalk we also saw our first Hippopotamus. We were a little pressed for time on the way out of the park, but still saw lots of wildlife. Mammals included more Elephants (2 cows and then a cow with a calf being followed by a very interested bull), 2 Kirk's Dik-diks, and most of the common species seen earlier. Birds included Helmeted Guineafowl, Orange River Francolin, Crowned and Van der Dehm's hornbills, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Striped Kingfisher, d'Arnaud's Barbet, Slate-colored Boubou, Winding Cisticola, Abyssinian White-eye, Beautiful and Eastern Violet-headed sunbirds, and Grosbeak Weaver. What a great day! At 5:30 p.m. we left the park and headed for Migunga Tent Camp where we stayed for the night. We ate dinner (a buffet) at their restaurant and enjoyed lots of Olive Baboons and Banded Mongoose on the camp grounds at dusk. [partly cloudy, temperature 65-83°F, winds SE 5-15 mph]

### 13 May

Today was a long travel day to the Serengeti with a few stops and wildlife viewing along the way. We ate breakfast at Migunga Tent Camp (a buffet) and then departed at 8 a.m. The first leg took us through Karatu to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and along the way we saw Marabou and Yellow-billed storks, but little else of note. Passing through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area we saw Common Ostrich, White Stork, Long-crested Eagle, Kori Bustard, Red-knobbed Coot, Olive Pigeon, Fawn-colored Lark, Singing Bushlark, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark, Capped Wheatear, White-browed Scrub-Robin, and Red-collared Widowbird. We also saw our first large herds of ungulates, mostly Blue Wildebeest, Common Zebra, and Thompson's and Grant's gazelles but also including Common Jackal, Maasai Giraffe, and Hippopotamus. We continued on to Oldupai Gorge, arriving there at 1:15 p.m. This is a world famous archeological site, often dubbed the "Cradle of Mankind". We enjoyed a short program by the staff and then had a chance to view the displays and eat our box lunch (barbeque chicken, sweet cupcake, apple, potato chips, crackers with cheese, hard-boiled egg, peanuts, chocolate, and fruit drink). There weren't very many birds present, although a pair of Chin-spot Batis were notable. We left at 3:30 p.m. and soon entered Serengeti National Park. The short-grass habitat east of the main park gate held thousands of grazing mammals, mostly Blue Wildebeest and Common Zebras but also including quite a few gazelles. We also saw our first East African Lions and Black-backed Jackals. Birds included Black-headed Heron, Kori Bustard, Martial Eagle, Brown Snake-Eagle, Greater Kestrel, Two-banded Courser, Marsh Sandpiper, Fischer's Sparrow-Lark, Zitting Cisticola, and Red-billed Oxpecker. And Purple Grenadier. And finally,



Clockwise from top left: Crowned Plover, Marabou Stork, Little Bee-eater, African Elephants, and Black-bellied Bustard.



Clockwise from top left: African Leopard, Klipspringer, East African Lion cubs, Kori Bustard, and Black-backed Jackal.

after a very long day, we arrived at our destination for the night, the Serengeti Sopa Lodge, and 6:45 p.m. Dinner was a wonderful buffet and then we were off to bed. I enjoyed listening to a rather close Spotted Hyena calling after dark. [partly cloudy, temperature 60-85°F, winds S 5-15 mph]

## 14 May

This was our first of two full days to explore Serengeti National Park. Our game drive led us into the tall-grass regions generally southeast of the hotel. Our first stop was a small pool where we saw ~15 Hippopotamus and at least 2 Nile Crocodiles at close range. Our morning drive led us to two groups of lions – 3 lionesses sleeping in a large acacia tree, followed by 3 more lionesses with 2 small cubs, also sleeping in a large acacia tree. We also saw many Impala, Maasai Giraffe, African Elephant, Hippopotamus, and Olive Baboon. Some of the birds we saw included Common Ostrich, Secretary Bird, White-headed Vulture,



Dark Chanting-Goshawk

several Tawny Eagles, Bateleur, Green Woodhoopoe, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, and Fischer's Starling. At 11:45 a.m. we ate a box lunch (chicken sandwich, sweet cupcake, apple, potato chips, crackers with cheese, hard-boiled egg, peanuts, chocolate, and fruit drink) at the park headquarters, where we also enjoyed close looks at Yellow-spotted Rock Hyrax, Common Dwarf Mongoose, and birds that included African Cuckoo, Usambiro Barbet, and Village Indigobird. After lunch we wandered back into the grassland and spent some time driving along a kopjes where we found a cooperative Klipspringer, a herd of Topi, and a Dark Chanting-Goshawk. A nearby waterhole had a pair of Spotted Thick-knees and literally hundreds of lizards, including several bright male Agama Lizards. The afternoon was excellent for birds and we saw Lappet-faced Vulture, Pygmy Falcon, Kori, Hartlaub's, Black-bellied, and White-bellied bustards, Black Crake, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Black Cuckoo-Shrike, Schalow's Wheatear, Rosy-breasted Longclaw, and Yellow-breasted Apalis. We finished our game drive at 6 p.m. and had a little free time at the hotel before dinner at 7 p.m. (a buffet). [partly cloudy to cloudy, temperature 66-89°F, winds SE 5-15 mph]

## 15 May

Today was our second full day in Serengeti National Park, and we opted for a slightly different day plan. We decided to do an early morning game drive, then break for lunch and some relaxation time, and then do a short evening game drive. We met at 6 a.m. for the morning



East African Lion

drive and explored the tall-grass savannah south and east of the hotel. Just after departing we had a quick look at a Spotted Hyena, followed by a quick look at a Silver-backed Jackal. Near a small water hole we saw a female Hippopotamus with a small calf on land, and nearby was a Kirk's Dik-dik. As we continued as soon found a pair of Black-backed Jackals that were hunting the roadside and allowed close and extended looks. Next we encountered the first of three solitary lionesses, two up in trees (one of which appeared to be scanning for prey) and the other loafing on a

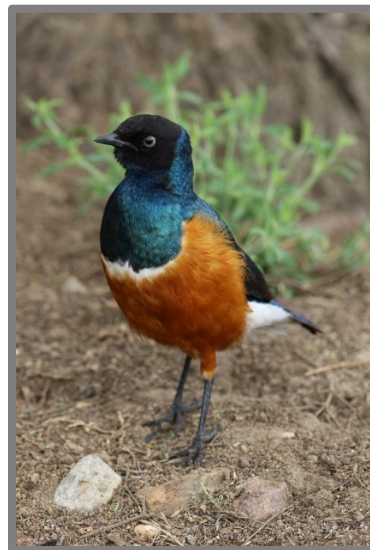
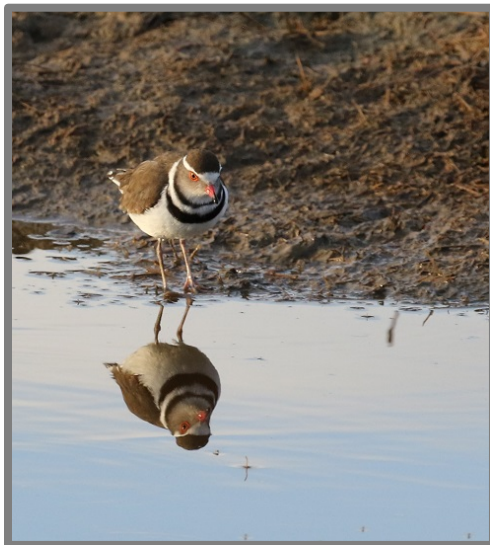
kopjes. We also saw a few groups of Impala and scattered Waterbuck, but no other ungulates. Some of the birds seen in early morning included Secretary Bird, African Fish-eating Eagle, Martial Eagle, Red-necked Spurfowl, Coqui Francolin, Harlequin Quail, Spotted Eagle-owl, and White-breasted Scrub-Robin. At 9:45 a.m. we stopped at a small lake for a late box breakfast (assorted rolls, banana, apple, hard-boiled egg, peanuts, chocolate wafers, and fruit juice). There were many birds at the lake including Greater and Lesser flamingos, Cape Teal, Pied Avocet, Common Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, White-winged Tern, and Lesser Striped Swallow. After lunch we made a bee-line for an African Leopard sighting, but missed seeing the animal by less than 5 minutes! The slow drive back to the hotel produced Long-crested Eagle, Hildebrandt's Francolin, Gray-breasted Spurfowl, and Yellow-throated Longclaw. We were back at the hotel by 12:30 p.m. and quickly met for an early lunch (a buffet – I had Nile perch fillets, vegetable rice, fresh fruit, and strawberry mousse).

We relaxed at the hotel during a short rain shower and then met at 3:30 p.m. for our late day game drive. On the early part of the drive we saw a Black-backed Jackal and birds that included Usambiro Barbet, Northern Anteater Chat, and Black-crowned Tchagra. But at 3:45 p.m. it began to rain, and it rained very hard until 4:30 p.m. We drove through the rain heading generally northeast from the hotel, and eventually drove out of it. Immediately after it stopped raining we stopped for almost 45 minutes to pull out



Cape Teal





Clockwise from top left: Spotted Hyena, Cheetah, Superb Starling, and Two-banded Plover.

the vehicle of another safari operator. The driver was totally unprepared and did not even know how to engage the 4WD on his vehicle! Afterwards the animals really came out for the last hours of daylight. The clear highlight was a female Tanzanian Cheetah loafing by the road. She had just made a kill (most likely a young Hartebeest) and was resting. She also appeared to be pregnant. A few minutes after we arrived she got up and walked into the tall grass, not to reappear. During this time we also saw several groups of African Elephants, Spotted Hyena, Kirk's Dik-dik, Maasai Giraffe, Hippopotamus, and Black-backed Jackal. Birds included Common Ostrich, Pygmy Falcon, Rufous Chatterer, Common Rock Thrush, and White-winged Widowbird. The long drive back to the hotel was interesting because the roads were extremely slippery, but we made it back by 7 p.m. [partly to mostly cloudy, temperature 66-80°F, winds SE 10-20 mph, intermittent heavy rains after 1 p.m.]

## 16 May



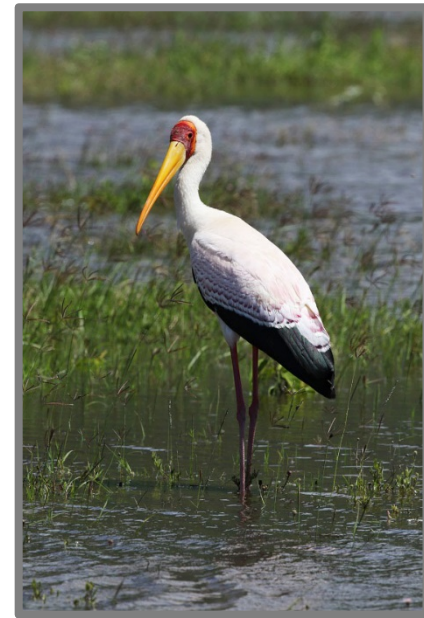
Common Ostrich

Today was our final day in the Serengeti ecosystem. We met for breakfast at 7 a.m. (a buffet as usual) and loaded the vehicles at 8:15 a.m. for an 8:30 a.m. departure. Wildlife around the hotel included 3 bats (species unknown) roosting above the main entrance, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Woodland Kingfisher, and White-faced Go-away-bird. Our plan was to slowly drive east through the park looking for wildlife, take a lunch break at the main park gate, and then turn south on a secondary road for

more wildlife watching before exiting the park. Because of the heavy rains we had to exit the park on the main road, although we did travel that secondary road for a short distance and the wildlife viewing was excellent. Soon after we left the hotel we came across a female African Leopard perched in a large acacia and spent about a half hour watching her from a distance. Not far away was another large acacia with 4 lionesses and 7 small cubs that we very approachable and photogenic. Some of the birds we saw included African Fish-eating Eagle, Lizard Buzzard, Dark-chanting Goshawk, Two-banded Courser, Speckled Mousebird, and many of the common grassland passerines. We stopped at noon for a box lunch (barbeque chicken, rice with vegetables, sweet cupcake, apple, potato chips, crackers with cheese, hard-boiled egg, peanuts, chocolate wafers, and fruit drink) at the park entrance. It was raining intermittently, but we still found a few birds that included Black-shouldered Kite, Red-fronted Barbet, Ashy Starling, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Rufous and Chestnut sparrows, and Speckle-fronted Weaver. At lunch we learned that the other half of our group had seen two large male East African Lions a few

miles back into the park, so we detoured back to see them. Along the way we saw Spotted Thick-knee and literally hundreds of Crowned Plovers on the road. Back at the park entrance we drove east a short distance and then south on an extremely muddy road. We drove this road south for several miles before turning around. This was short-grass habitat and covered with wildlife – hundreds of ungulates including a solitary male Common Eland, Spotted Hyenas, and Golden Jackals. Birds included Common Ostrich, Kori Bustard, Black-winged and Senegal lapwings, Gull-billed Tern, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark, and Plain-backed Pipit.

We finally exited Serengeti National Park at 3:30 p.m. and entered the Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area. We picked up driving speed now because we were still a long distance from the hotel, although we did stop occasionally for wildlife. We saw large herds of Blue Wildebeest, Common Zebra, and Thompson's and Grant's gazelles plus scattered groups of Maasai Giraffe. Birds included Kori Bustard, Red-fronted Parrot, Hartlaub's Turaco, and Schalow's Wheatear. Once we reached the rim of the crater the roads got worse and it rained intermittently. The long, bouncing ride finally ended at 6:25 p.m. when we arrived at the Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge, our hotel for the next two nights. We met for dinner at 7 p.m. (ordered from a short menu) and then relaxed for the rest of the evening. [partly to mostly cloudy, temperature 66-80°F, winds SE 5-20 mph, intermittent light rains after noon]



Yellow-billed Stork

## 17 May

We spent all of today exploring Ngorongoro Crater. The crater is distinct because it is the world's largest intact and unfilled volcanic caldera. The crater was formed 2-3 million years ago, is 610 m deep, and the floor covers an area of 260 km<sup>2</sup>. The crater is also famous for its wildlife, home to an estimated 25,000 large mammals, mostly ungulates. We met at 7 a.m. for breakfast (a buffet) and then left at 8 a.m. The crater was a short drive from the hotel and after we passed through the main gate we began our descent. The road rapidly descends from humid forest through dense shrubland, a mixed shrub grassland, and finally into an open grassland. The bottom of the crater is basically devoid of trees with tallgrass areas along the edges and shorter grass mixed with bare areas near the lakes. The open habitat in the crater means that the animals are a little easier to see than on the Serengeti where the grass is often taller. We saw scattered herds of ungulates around the edges, but most were concentrated at the bottom near Lake Magadi, a large lake near the western side of the crater. The most common mammals were Blue Wildebeest, Common Zebra, African Buffalo, and Thompson's and Grant's gazelles. The main highlight was seeing several Eastern Black Rhinoceros, including a female with a baby and a pair in the process of mating. We also saw many groups of East African Lions and got to watch a pair



Clockwise from top left: Coqui Francolin, Fischer's Lovebird, East African Lion, Eastern Black Rhinoceros, and White-bellied Go-away-bird.

mate a couple of times right next to our vehicle. Other mammals included several very old (and large) bull Elephants, lots of Spotted Hyenas and Golden Jackals, a herd of Common Eland, and many Hippopotamus. The bird-life was quite diverse and included Common Ostrich, Spur-winged Goose, Yellow-billed Duck, Bateleur, Kori Bustard, Yellow-billed Stork, African Spoonbill, Common Moorhen, Whiskered Tern, Grey-headed Gull, Olive Pigeon, Dusky Turtle-Dove, Peregrine Falcon, Red-capped Lark, Pangani Longclaw, African Hoopoe, Northern Anteater Chat, White-browed Robin-Chat, African Citril, and Purple Grenadier. We ate our box lunch (beef sandwich, sweet cupcake, apple, potato chips, crackers with cheese, peanuts, chocolate wafers, and fruit drink) while watching some Eastern Black Rhinoceros. What a great place to spend a day! At 6 p.m. we left the crater and returned to the hotel to relax and enjoy the sunset. At 7 p.m. we met for dinner (ordered from a short menu) and then relaxed a bit more before bed. [clear to partly cloudy, temperature 63-80°F, winds W 5-15 mph]

## 18 May



Southern Ground-Hornbill

Today we traveled from Ngorongoro Crater to Tarangire National Park, where we had an afternoon game drive scheduled. We met at 7 a.m. for breakfast (a buffet) and then loaded the vans and departed by 8:10 a.m. On the slow drive through the Ngorongoro Conservation we saw a few birds that included Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting, Forest Batis, and Grey Cuckoo-Shrike. As we were filing paperwork at the main entrance, some aggressive Olive Baboons

managed to snatch some food from the hand of one of our students! These particular baboons are known to be extremely aggressive and we're glad the student wasn't bitten. From here we had a rather uneventful drive to Tarangire National Park, where we arrived at noon. While our drivers were dealing with the permits we ate a box lunch (grilled chicken with bread, sweet cupcake, apple, potato chips, crackers with cheese, hard-boiled egg, peanuts, chocolate wafers, and fruit drink) and enjoyed a few birds that included Fischer's Lovebird and Ashy Starling. Our game drive through the park was awesome and dominated by birds rather than mammals. This park is known for its bird diversity and it didn't disappoint during our short visit! Notable birds seen included Knob-billed Duck, Eastern Chanting-Goshawk, Lizard Buzzard, Grey Kestrel, Crested Francolin, Yellow-billed Spurfowl, Violet-tipped, Heuglin's, and Two-banded coursers, Black-faced Sandgrouse, African Orange-billed Parrot, Southern Ground-hornbill, Mottled Swift, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, d'Arnaud's and Red-and-yellow barbets, Common Rock Thrush,

and Swahili Sparrow. The mammal list was lean but included a single East African Lion, Waterbuck, Kirk's Dik-dik, many African Elephants, and smaller numbers of several ungulate species. We also saw a couple of African Monitor Lizards plus Water Turtle. At 6:10 p.m. we finally arrived at our destination for the evening, the Tarangire Sopa Lodge. Dinner at 7 p.m. was off a menu (I had a calamari appetizer, fish soup, grilled beef with potatoes, and caramel crème for dessert) and we adjourned by 9 p.m. for bed. [clear to partly cloudy, temperature 59-82°F, winds E 5-10 mph]

## 19 May

This morning we awoke at the Tarangire Sopa Lodge, ate breakfast (a buffet), and then departed for a morning game drive through Tarangire National Park en route to Arusha. On the hotel grounds we enjoyed more close looks at Yellow-spotted Rock Hyrax (including several cute babies), a Kirk's Dik-dik, and 2 Gambian Sun Squirrels. Birds included Gray-headed Kingfisher, White-bellied Go-away-bird, and Cliff Chaff. We departed at 8:30 a.m. for an early morning game drive through the park where we saw Black-backed Jackal, Slender and Common Dwarf mongoose, a couple of large herds of African Elephants, Waterbuck, Kirk's Dik-dik, African Buffalo, African Monitor Lizard, and Water Turtle. Birds were plentiful and included African Hawk-Eagle, Bateleur, Red- and Yellow-necked Spurfowl, Black-faced Sandgrouse, and Brown Parrot. The game drive ended a little before 11 a.m. and we headed for Arusha, where we arrived at 1:10 p.m. We saw our final Blue Wildebeest, Common Zebra, and

Thompson's Gazelle plus birds that include Marabou Stork, Eastern Chanting-Goshawk, and Brown Parrot. On arrival we ate lunch at the hotel (a buffet) and then relaxed for the rest of the afternoon. We met again at 8 p.m. for dinner (another buffet) and then took it easy that evening. [clear to partly cloudy, temperature 58-84°F, winds E 5-10 mph]

## 20 May

Today we had a lighter schedule with a Moshi City tour that departed at 9 a.m. We met for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. (a buffet) and left on time. We had a pleasant 2-hour drive east to Moshi City, where we arrived at 11:30 a.m. This is one of the main jumping off points for those seeking to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. We began with a quick driving tour of the city, stopping to view the Lutheran Hospital and medical school and passing through scenic neighborhoods. At mid-day we took a short walk through the market, which was surprisingly busy for a Sunday morning. Some of the students purchased Maasai blankets and other decorative cloths. After spending almost an



Lilac-breasted Roller

hour in the market we left, and ate our box lunch (grilled chicken, vegetable sandwich, hard-boiled egg, yogurt, apple, chocolate, and fruit drink) on the drive back to Arusha. We arrived at about 3:30 p.m. and took it easy for the rest of the afternoon. We met again for dinner (a buffet) at 7:30 p.m. and called it a day. [overcast, temperature 60-78°F, winds SE 5-10 mph, light rain in the early morning]

## **21 May**

Today was our last full day in Tanzania. We once again took it easy and ate breakfast (a buffet) before leaving at 9 a.m. to visit a local Snake Park. At the park we had a chance to see some of the local reptiles (most are very difficult to see in the wild) up close. The park has a nice variety of venomous and non-venomous species, including several large boa constrictors, cobras, mambas, and pit vipers. We even got to watch one snake kill and begin to swallow a medium-sized chameleon, which is the preferred prey of this snake. The students really enjoyed handling some of the less harmful species such as a ground snake and a large chameleon. The park was also home to a small colony of flying foxes, probably Straw-colored Fruit Bats, and a few birds. Afterwards we stopped at a souvenir shop for one last chance to buy something. We then returned to the hotel for lunch at 1 p.m. (a buffet), then a free afternoon to relax, and then dinner at 7:30 p.m. (another buffet). [clear to partly cloudy, temperature 60-73°F, winds E 5-10 mph]

## **22 May**

Today was our final day in Tanzania. We met for breakfast (a buffet) at 7:30 a.m. and then spent a little time in our rooms packing for the return trip. We met again at 10 a.m. to load the bus and depart for a visit to the Arusha Museum. Afterwards we ate lunch (Pepe Hotel; choice of beef, chicken, fish, or pork with steamed vegetables and French fries, which was delicious!) at a local restaurant and then headed for the home of the owner of Bushbuck Safaris to spend the afternoon. Mustafa and his wife were excellent hosts and had a couple of rooms ready for us plus snacks and drinks. We couldn't have been more appreciate of their efforts to be great hosts! John picked us up at 5 p.m. and we arrived at Kilimanjaro airport at 6 p.m., in plenty of time for our 9 p.m. departure. [cloudy, temperature 62-78°F, winds ESE 5-10 mph, light rain in the morning]

## **23 May**

This was our travel day home. Our flight from Arusha departed at 9 p.m. with a brief landing in Dar es Salaam before continuing to Amsterdam where we arrived at 7:30 a.m. After a 5-hour layover we departed at 12:50 p.m. for Minneapolis, arriving at 3 p.m. We had one final short layover before our final flight to Des Moines, where we arrived at 7 p.m. after a very long "day"!

**For more information, please contact:** Stephen J. Dinsmore, Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, 339 Science Hall II, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011; E-mail: [cootjr@iastate.edu](mailto:cootjr@iastate.edu)

**Mammals (39 species)**

Yellow-spotted Rock Hyrax  
African Elephant  
Vervet Monkey  
Blue Monkey  
Olive Baboon  
Angola Colobus  
Gambian Sun Squirrel  
African Hare  
Straw-colored Fruit Bat  
Tanzanian Cheetah  
East African Lion  
African Leopard  
Slender Mongoose  
Common Dwarf Mongoose  
Banded Mongoose  
Spotted Hyena  
Gray-backed Jackal  
Black-backed Jackal  
Golden Jackal  
Common (Grant's) Zebra  
Eastern Black Rhinoceros  
Common Warthog  
Hippopotamus  
Maasai Giraffe  
Reticulated Giraffe  
Hartebeest  
Blue Wildebeest  
Topi  
Grant's Gazelle  
Thompson's Gazelle  
Kirk's Dik-dik  
Klipspringer  
African Buffalo  
Common Eland  
Bushbuck  
Common Duiker  
Impala  
Waterbuck

Bohor Reedbuck

**Birds (257 species)**

Ostrich  
Great White Pelican  
Pink-backed Pelican  
Long-tailed Cormorant  
Gray Heron  
Black-headed Heron  
Great Egret  
Intermediate Egret  
Little Egret  
Cattle Egret  
Hamerkop  
Yellow-billed Stork  
White Stork  
Marabou Stork  
Sacred Ibis  
Hadada Ibis  
African Spoonbill  
Greater Flamingo  
Lesser Flamingo  
Egyptian Goose  
Spur-winged Goose  
Comb Duck  
Cape Teal  
Yellow-billed Duck  
Red-billed Duck  
Black-shouldered Kite  
Black Kite  
African Fish-Eagle  
Egyptian Vulture  
White-backed Vulture  
Rueppell's Griffon  
Lappet-faced Vulture  
White-headed Vulture  
Brown Snake-Eagle  
Bateleur  
African Harrier-Hawk  
Lizard Buzzard

Dark Chanting-Goshawk  
Eastern Chanting-Goshawk  
Shikra  
Eurasian Buzzard  
Augur Buzzard  
Tawny Eagle  
African Hawk-Eagle  
Martial Eagle  
Long-crested Eagle  
Secretary-bird  
Pygmy Falcon  
Greater Kestrel  
Gray Kestrel  
Lanner Falcon  
Peregrine Falcon  
Coqui Francolin  
Crested Francolin  
Orange River Francolin  
Hildebrandt's Francolin  
Yellow-necked Francolin  
Gray-breasted Francolin  
Red-necked Francolin  
Harlequin Quail  
Helmeted Guineafowl  
Gray Crowned-Crane  
Black Crake  
Common Moorhen  
Red-knobbed Coot  
Kori Bustard  
White-bellied Bustard  
Black-bellied Bustard  
Hartlaub's Bustard  
African Jacana  
Black-winged Stilt  
Pied Avocet  
Spotted Thick-knee  
Double-banded Courser  
Three-banded Courser  
Bronze-winged Courser



Blacksmith Plover  
Senegal Lapwing  
Black-winged Lapwing  
Crowned Lapwing  
Three-banded Plover  
Caspian Plover  
Marsh Sandpiper  
Common Greenshank  
Green Sandpiper  
Common Sandpiper  
Gray-headed Gull  
Gull-billed Tern  
Whiskered Tern  
White-winged Tern  
Black-faced Sandgrouse  
Rock Pigeon  
Speckled Pigeon  
Rameron Pigeon  
Delegorgue's Pigeon  
Dusky Turtle-Dove  
African Mourning Dove  
Red-eyed Dove  
Ring-necked Dove  
Laughing Dove  
Emerald-spotted Wood-  
Dove  
Namaqua Dove  
Fischer's Lovebird  
Red-fronted Parrot  
Meyer's Parrot  
Red-bellied Parrot  
Hartlaub's Turaco  
Purple-crested Turaco  
Bare-faced Go-away-bird  
White-bellied Go-away-  
bird  
African Cuckoo  
White-browed Coucal  
White-faced Scops-Owl  
Spotted Eagle-Owl  
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl  
African Palm-Swift  
Mottled Swift  
Little Swift  
White-rumped Swift  
Speckled Mousebird

Gray-headed Kingfisher  
Woodland Kingfisher  
Striped Kingfisher  
Little Bee-eater  
Cinnamon-chested Bee-  
eater  
Northern Carmine Bee-  
eater  
Lilac-breasted Roller  
Rufous-crowned Roller  
Broad-billed Roller  
African Hoopoe  
Green Woodhoopoe  
Common Scimitar-bill  
Abyssinian Scimitar-bill  
Red-billed Hornbill  
Von der Decken's Hornbill  
Crowned Hornbill  
African Gray Hornbill  
Southern Ground-Hornbill  
Red-fronted Barbet  
Red-and-yellow Barbet  
D'Arnaud's Barbet  
Usambiro Barbet  
Lesser Honeyguide  
Nubian Woodpecker  
Golden-tailed Woodpecker  
Gray Woodpecker  
Singing Bushlark  
Rufous-naped Lark  
Flappet Lark  
Fawn-colored Lark  
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-  
Lark  
Fischer's Sparrow-Lark  
Red-capped Lark  
Short-tailed Lark  
Bank Swallow  
Plain Martin  
Gray-rumped Swallow  
Rock Martin  
Barn Swallow  
Wire-tailed Swallow  
Lesser Striped-Swallow  
Mosque Swallow  
Black Sawwing

African Pied Wagtail  
Yellow-throated Longclaw  
Rosy-throated Longclaw  
Pangani Longclaw  
Plain-backed Pipit  
African Pipit  
Gray Cuckoo-shrike  
Black Cuckoo-shrike  
Common Bulbul  
Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush  
Olive Thrush  
Trilling Cisticola  
Rattling Cisticola  
Winding Cisticola  
Croaking Cisticola  
Zitting Cisticola  
Desert Cisticola  
Tawny-flanked Prinia  
Yellow-breasted Apalis  
African Dusky Flycatcher  
White-browed Robin-Chat  
Red-backed Scrub-Robin  
African Stonechat  
Capped Wheatear  
Schalow's Wheatear  
Northern Anteater-Chat  
White-headed Black-Chat  
Short-tailed Batis  
Chinspot Batis  
African Crested-Flycatcher  
African Paradise-  
Flycatcher  
Rufous Chatterer  
Kenya Violet-backed  
Sunbird  
Collared Sunbird  
Amethyst Sunbird  
Scarlet-chested Sunbird  
Beautiful Sunbird  
Variable Sunbird  
White-breasted White-eye  
African Golden Oriole  
Gray-backed Fiscal  
Long-tailed Fiscal  
Taita Fiscal  
Common Fiscal

Magpie Shrike  
White-rumped Shrike  
Black-crowned Tchagra  
Tropical Boubou  
Slate-colored Boubou  
Fork-tailed Drongo  
Pied Crow  
White-necked Raven  
Wattled Starling  
Greater Blue-eared Glossy-  
Starling  
Rueppell's Glossy-Starling  
Superb Starling  
Hildebrandt's Starling  
Fischer's Starling  
Ashy Starling  
Red-winged Starling  
Red-billed Oxpecker  
House Sparrow  
Rufous Sparrow  
Swahili Sparrow  
Chestnut Sparrow  
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver  
White-headed Buffalo-  
Weaver  
Speckle-fronted Weaver  
Rufous-tailed Weaver  
Gray-headed Social-  
Weaver  
Baglafecht Weaver  
Lesser Masked-Weaver  
Black-necked Weaver  
African Masked-Weaver  
Black-headed Weaver  
Red-headed Weaver  
Cardinal Quelea  
Red-billed Quelea  
Yellow-crowned Bishop  
Black Bishop  
Red Bishop  
Fan-tailed Widowbird  
White-winged Widowbird  
Red-collared Widowbird  
Grosbeak Weaver  
Red-billed Firefinch  
Red-cheeked Cordonbleu

Blue-capped Cordonbleu  
Purple Grenadier  
Village Indigobird  
Pin-tailed Whydah  
African Citril  
Streaky Seedeater  
Cinnamon-breasted  
Bunting

**Reptiles and Amphibians  
(4 species)**

Water Turtle  
Nile Crocodile  
African Monitor Lizard  
Agama Lizard