



Centre de conservation de la faune ailée



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Dear birders,

I would like to share with you two important events I have experienced in the last 5 months. First, I had the privilege of participating in a three week birding trip to Kenya this past May. Second, it is with great pleasure that I introduce you to one of the youngest birders in Québec, my daughter, who was born on August 20th. After leaving the hospital, we saw a Merlin flying very low over us. It's a good birding start for her. Will her passion for birds grow like her father's? Only time will tell!



As always we anticipate and appreciate your feedback. Keep those comments coming!

Happy Reading.
Alain Goulet, owner

We will be at the upcoming events:

September 11th: Congrès des Ornithologues Amateurs du Québec (COAQ) in Victoriaville.

September 17-18-19th : Festival des migrateurs de la Haute Côte-Nord in Tadoussac

October 9-10-11th : Fête des oiseaux migrateurs at l'étang Burbank at Danville in Estrie

If you plan to be at those birding events, please drop by our booth and see our specialized birding products.

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Hours of operation

Tue. / Wed. 9:30 – 18:00
Thurs. / Fri. 9:30 – 19:00
Sat. 9:30 – 17:00
Sun. / Mon. Closed

A trip to Kenya

From May 7th to May 27th, I had the opportunity to participate in a birding trip through Eagle Eye Tours which was led by Rodger Titman and David Bird.

Fifteen of us travelled to Kenya where Rodger and David have led trips with their McGill University students 10 times collectively in the last decade...

Fund Raiser

Purchase our full series of 6 paper posters of the birds of Quebec for 30\$ and help support Observatoire d'Oiseaux de Tadoussac and McGill Bird Observatory.

For each series sold, 10\$ will go to OOT and 10\$ to MBO.



30\$



After our arrival in Nairobi, our itinerary included time spent birding at the ICIPE research station and in Nairobi National Park.

We also journeyed to Mpala in the Laikipia District, a research station not usually open to tourists. Our trip continued west toward Lake Bogoria and Lake Baringo. We proceeded to Kakamega, a beautiful tropical rainforest, and then spent some time in the plains of the Maasai Mara where great herds of large mammals are found as well as many spectacular birds



Baglafaecht's weaver

J. Hébert

We visited Lake Naivasha, Lake Nakuru and Lake Elementaita before returning to Nairobi. The habitats we encountered were quite varied: tropical rain forest; savannah desert; cultivated fields; rift valley plains as well as fresh water and alkaline lakes.



Red and Yellow barbet

A.Goulet

Birds of the day

Each day we elected a "bird of the day" which represented the bird that impressed us the most or that we most enjoyed seeing.

Here are the "birds of the day" for the trip:

- 1)-African Paradise Flycatcher (also elected as "bird of the trip" due to its beauty, the two morphs we witnessed, the two nests we found and the great opportunities many of us had to photograph it)
- 2) Von der Decken's Hornbill
- 3) Vulturine Guineafowl
- 4) Long-crested Eagle

- 5) Verraux's Eagle Owl
- 6) Heuglin's Courser
- 7) Goliath Heron
- 8) Woodland Kingfisher
- 9) White-headed Sawing
- 10) Great Blue Turaco
- 11) Klaas' Cuckoo
- 12) Purple Grenadier
- 13) Pigmy Falcon
- 14) Dark-chanting Goshawk
- 15) Golden-winged Sunbird
- 16) African Harrier-hawk
- 17) Open-billed Stork
- 18) Olive Pigeon



African Jacana

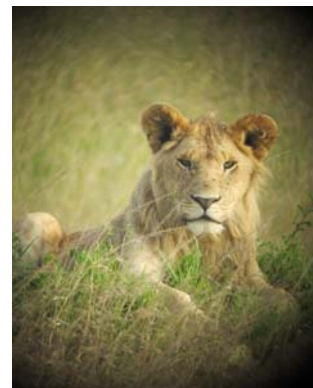
A. Goulet

Numerous other bird species we saw didn't make this list including:

Ostrich; Superb Starling; African Jacana; Giant Kingfisher; Grey-crowned Crane; Marabou Stork; Ground Hornbill; many species of sunbirds; hornbills; barbets; shrikes; weavers and bee-eaters; Kori Bustard and my favourite, the African Finfoot!

Mammals

We encountered many different species of mammals during our birding safaris and a couple of night drives. Some of the highlights were: black rhinoceros; white rhinoceros; plains zebra; numerous species of monkeys; warthog; Maasai giraffe; Cape buffalo; gerenuk; hippopotamus; various types of gazelles; black-backed jackals; many mongoose; rock and tree hyrax; aardwolf; hyena; cheetah and lion. The only "Big Five" animal to elude us was the leopard.



Quiz

New QUIZ

What bird can fly but cannot walk, crawl or climb?

The answer will be in our next newsletter.

Previous Quiz

Is it possible for a bird to carry its young in flight? If yes, what (s) case (s) are capable of?

Yes, the male Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*) has 2 pouches under each wing to carry their young in flight.

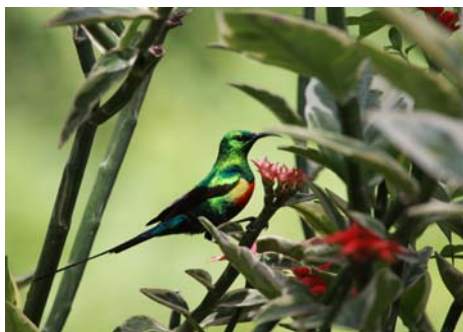
There are also other documented cases of birds such as comb ducks, shelducks, Egyptian Geese, and possibly some woodcocks who have been observed carrying their young with their feet.

Thanks to all who participated.

Close encounters

We had a few close encounters with African wildlife. For example, in Mpala, we witnessed two of our African guards running as fast as they could.

I assumed they were having a friendly race until we saw a striped hyena appear only 30 feet in front of us. We suddenly realized the two men were actually chasing it from our camp area. We also heard barking and howling behind our tents that same night!



Beautiful Sunbird

J.Hébert

At Lake Nakuru, we stopped at an overlook where we were "stormed" by a baboon that jumped right into our truck.

The baboon landed on Rodger Titman's lap and proceeded to run up the aisle looking for food. It found a bag of nuts under a seat and ran out of the truck with it. David Bird chased it off with well-placed kicks all the way down the aisle!

At Lake Naivasha, I got up early as usual before the first birding walk and I went to look for birds by the lakeside. There was a small piece of narrow land, about two hundred yards long that acted as a long dike which led me to the lake side through a papyrus swamp. As I reached the tip, a large hippo swam around the dock where I was standing, ten feet in front of me! I quickly decided to return to the campsite and as I was walking back, I noticed that the hippo had overtaken me and was now in the water beside the dock about half way between me and the land. I treaded carefully and quickly back to the mainland!



African paradise flycatcher

J.Hébert

Culture

We had many opportunities to interact with local people who were always very happy to welcome us to their native land. While in the Maasai Mara, we visited a village and had the privilege of witnessing a Maasai wedding.

Conclusion

In all, we observed 349 species of birds of which 308 were lifers for me (species I had never seen before). As most participants would agree, this was a trip of a lifetime and the expertise of David Bird, Rodger Titman and local guides was greatly appreciated.



Lesser Flamingo

J.Hébert

The trip was put together to experience the birds of Africa and there was enough time to explore the culture and natural history of Kenya for those who wanted to. (Even though we were far from home, we even received regular updates on the progress of the Montreal Canadiens in the playoffs!)

If you would like to receive a full list of the species seen on this trip or if taking such a trip in the future interests you, please contact me. I will make sure that you receive a list and/or information about the next trip to Kenya which will likely be in 2012!



African Fish Eagle

J. Hébert

Our new products and suggestions

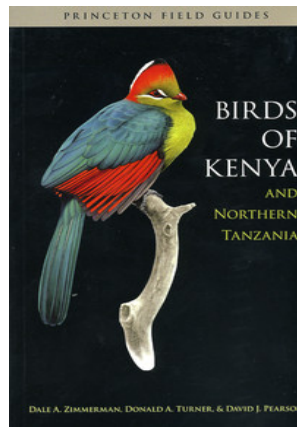
Playing Card Set "Birds of North America"



52-card high-quality decks. Each deck features educational info such as wingspan, weight, length, etc. Knowing how to identify birds by sight is a key to becoming familiar with different species.

This beautiful collection of photos provides an enjoyable and educational experience that will benefit birders of all ages.

Birds of Kenya & Northern Tanzania Field Guide Edition



The guide features 124 color plates, depicting all 1,114 species in the area, including variations by subspecies, age, and sex. It contains over 800 range maps and succinct text that covers identification, voice, and distribution.

Specially designed for use in the field, it is the most comprehensive, accurate, and beautiful guide ever produced for the region. With its modest price, small trim size and sturdy, weather-resistant binding, this field guide is the one volume that every adventurous traveler to Kenya and northern Tanzania must have.

Friends

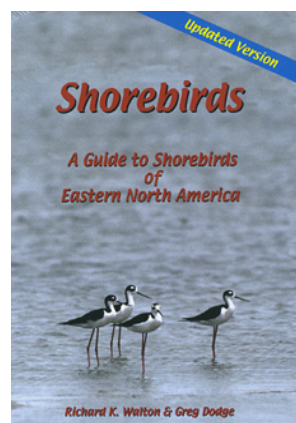
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SHOREBIRDS, A Guide to Shorebirds of Eastern North America (DVD).



From inland lake shores to coastal beaches and bays, this DVD takes you on an educational and entertaining excursion as you learn shorebird identification techniques.

Thirty-eight species are studied in detail. The menu-driven DVD format allows you to view the whole presentation or to go directly to a specific shorebird you wish to view. Also includes a slide show quiz you can take before heading out into the field. DVD is 70 minutes long
#DVD-13105