

Birdwatch Tanzania – Pictures sent by Tony Pace from Tanzania to coincide with the

Bugbrooke Birdwatch 26/27<sup>th</sup> January 2013

We thought we would try and play reasonably fair with the bird watch day so here are some pictures we have seen in the last few days. If your man wants to put them in Link later, that's OK but he may need to rewrite this a bit.



Hadada Ibis

First here is another picture of an Hadada Ibis – taken from right outside our front door. They are usually the first thing we hear in the morning, just before dawn and they are around all day. They are silent when on the ground but squawk continuously in flight.



Baglfetch and  
Blackheaded  
Weaver Birds

Weavers are also very common both in the trees behind our house and in the forests and gardens. There are several different types of masked weavers around but my best guess from my bird book is that this one is a Baglfetch – but I could be wrong ! The other weavers are definitely black headed weavers but the pattern on their heads are rather different.

I have mentioned mousebirds before. Speckled Mousebirds are very common wherever there are bushes and shrubs. They usually move about in small flocks 2-6 and they never

seem to settle for more than a few seconds. I was quite pleased with this head shot taken from the back door of our house.



Mousebird

Pied Crows are very common in villages and towns though I actually took this one on the roof of the house next door so a bit rural for them. Where we are building the clinic there is a whole colony of them (who says crows are solo?) and last week I saw five of them working together to drive off a Black Kite which was threatening them. There was a lot of chatter as they flew back celebrating their victory – clever birds !



Pied Crow

Black Kites are common in villages and towns but not in the country. Yesterday we saw one having an argument with an Augur Buzzard over the hotel in Arusha. I think Black Kites are quite a bit bigger than UK Red Kites; they are one of the top scavengers around. Augur Buzzards are truly beautiful. Almost pure white underneath and a span almost as big as an eagle; I was once told they are the biggest buzzard but I don't know if that is true. We see them quite often round this area. I didn't get a picture of either as, when low they move too fast and when high they go really high – like thousands of feet above.



Red Breasted Cuckoo

My proudest picture is of the red breasted cuckoo. We see them every day in the forest where we are building the school but all previous pictures had been of their back, a deep grey-blue colour. But of Thursday I got this one front on and they are very smart. The same day we saw a straw-tailed Whydah flitting through the forest – the wings look blurred because it never stopped flapping. I guess it needs to do this to balance the huge tail. What men have to do for a bit of nookie !!!



Fiscal Shrike

Olive Thrush

Yellow Vented Bulbul

Electricity wires are always a good place to see birds though it is often difficult to get the light right from below. Fiscal Shrikes are very common and I have also seen the Thrush several times but this was the only sighting of a Bulbul.

Last Thursday we went to the other side of Arusha to an area with paddy fields and as expected there were lots of Cattle Egrets. Leg and Bill colour is the determining factor. We also saw several Hamerkops but this shot was from very close and he politely stood up for me. Besides being quite ugly their claim to fame is that they build the biggest nest of all birds.



Finally I just thought you would like a picture of a Nungunungu. This one was very small and maybe too young to be out alone. We just love the word.



Tony and Sue Pace