

Pete's Pond January 2009

Even though the cam was down for a while in January and February, the first month of 2009 was still a great month. We had good rains, the bush was green and blooming and the animals looked healthy and strong.

We had quite dramatic skies during rain storms and it was so good to see the animals graze and rest in the grass amongst the yellow flowers. We do not see the animals relaxed like that very often. But there was so much food around for them that they didn't need to go and look for it.



Birdlife was wonderful and we had great sightings. Many a cattle egret stopped by the pond to rest and feed. It gave us a chance to have a good look at them, in close up. The black-smith lapwings were defending a spot on the shoreline against every other animal or bird. They even chased impalas away! One day we had a very special bird visitor. An African Darter! We don't see those very often. A wonderful bird.



We had lots of insects too during this wet and warm season of course. Not only the biting kind, but wonderful insects like moths and dragonflies too. The birds were having a feast!



Animal love was in the air too and males were busy impressing each other (and the females!), sparring, fighting for dominance and mate with the females. We had a wonderful sighting of two kudu bulls sparring. It never

got to a real fight, but impressive it was. Magnificent animals! And our famous hairless baboon male found himself a female in heat. We watched them stay close together and mate and we were happy to see that he was a normal part of the group. We noticed he grew a little fluffy hair on the back of his neck and his shoulders and we were hoping all his hair would grow back.



Enjoy the pond!

Afke

**Cam operator Pete's Pond
Mashatu Game Reserve
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