

## Pete's Pond March 2009

The bush was still green and blooming during March. We even got some rain again! It was such an amazing sight to see an elephant walk past, almost completely disappearing in the high plants! Other animals, like the impalas, were still resting (even falling asleep) in the grass around the pond during the day.



Warthogs and cattle egrets kept us entertained this month. We have watched the cattle egrets catch and eat quite different prey. A praying mantis, a dragonfly, a frog...



But also little birds! The cattle egrets became quite good at catching the red-billed quelea's at the pond. Amazing! But they also were very good in cleaning the warthogs, taking insects and ticks off the warthog's skin.



The warthogs on the other hand were very relaxed and rested right at the edge of the water, often falling asleep for a while. They would never do that if the crocodile was there! (FYI: the crocodile left the pond during rainy season. We think it's at the Vlei (a marsh-like area not far from the pond) now. We hope it will come back when the Vlei dries out again) Warthogs are not easily scared and like to check out every other animal that arrives. It was fun to watch a piglet meet a Nile monitor.



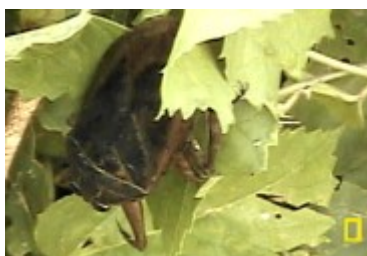
Many young animals visited the pond this month. Guineafowls, waterbuck wildebeest and jackals amongst others. There were so many little guinea fowls! They look quite different from the adults with their brown stripes. The little waterbuck was such fun to watch. It was a curious little buck, but being close to mom seemed the best idea when checking something new.



And the jackal family... in the end we saw five of them at the pond. That means from the litter of five, three pups survived. That is not bad at all! In one of the two blue wildebeest herds that visit the pond regularly, another late calf was born. We are pretty confident it is from the same cow that had a late calf last year. We have seen the three of them together quite a few times.



Other lovely sightings? Well... how about a pair of African mourning doves? Or a giant water bug? A hyaena resting in the water? The pond is always fun to watch!



**Enjoy the pond!**

**Afke**

**Cam operator Pete's Pond  
Mashatu Game Reserve  
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