

Pete's Pond April 2009

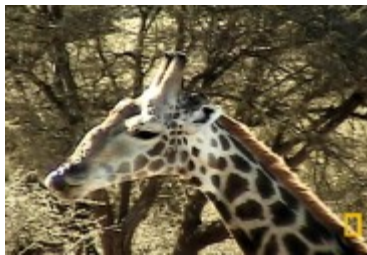
In April the bush was drying out again and the dust was back. We saw quite a few dust devils and the wind blew big clouds of dust along the beach. But we did get some rain this month! Very unusual. The last two years have been very very special regarding the weather and rains. Wonderful and very interesting to see the changes in the bush because of it.



We had lots of fun watching the storks, ibises, egrets and herons at the pond this month, but the large flock of yellow-billed storks was specially entertaining. Hunting for fish in a group, going faster and faster, because every single one of them wanted to be in the front, confusing the grey heron... lovely!



And April was the month we saw the giraffes again! No more blobs in the distance... they were at the pond! Sometimes just one, sometimes a whole herd. Sometimes just for a drink and sometimes they stayed around for a while, drinking, feeding and relaxing.



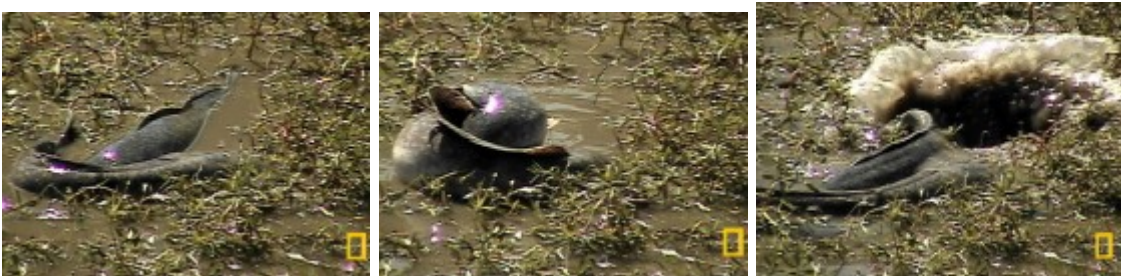
We also had wonderful visits of zebras. We saw two stallions once or twice, but most of the time it was a herd of about eight, including foals. They drank, rested, took a dust bath and the little ones played or nursed.



Birdlife was again very good this month. We had a great sighting of the verreaux's (giant) eagle owl one night. It was on needle tree so we good have a real close look. The (common) squacco heron paid us a very short visit and the woodland kingfisher youngster kept us entertained with it's "begging" for food (it called for food all the time and when the adult caught something, the youngster wouldn't wait, but grab and eat it in a second)



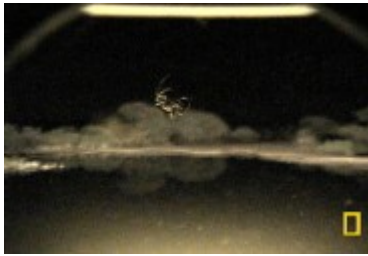
But the most special sighting this month must have been the spawning catfish. What a sight! Two of them come together, one with it's head against the other one's side. That one then curves it's body, they are still for a while and then "explode" with waving tails. Amazing!



Before I end this report, I want to tell you about the herd of elephants that arrived after sunset. We saw them walk towards the pond behind the trees, but they kept on walking and quite fast too! We watched them walk past, behind the beach and I thought they'd moved on. But suddenly they came through the bushes and arrived at the pond. Lovely!



And here are a few unusual night sightings we have at the pond. A common stick grasshopper, a little spider in front of the lens and a beautiful moon.



Enjoy the pond!

Afke

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