

Pete's Pond August 2009

Although we saw a few sick or wounded animals, August has been a wonderful month. Day and night we had lots of exciting, interesting and sometimes fun sightings.

Let me start with pictures of the moon. We watched the moon set a few times. From a big full moon, to a moon that looked like the smile of the Cheshire cat in Alice in Wonderland.



Shore cam is still new to some of the animals and a few of them checked the cam out, which was fun to watch. From left to right you see a Warthog, Baboon and Water Thick-knee



The Elephants are back, sometimes in large numbers, day and night. It is fun to see them arrive. The sometimes arrive at high speed, kicking up some dust.



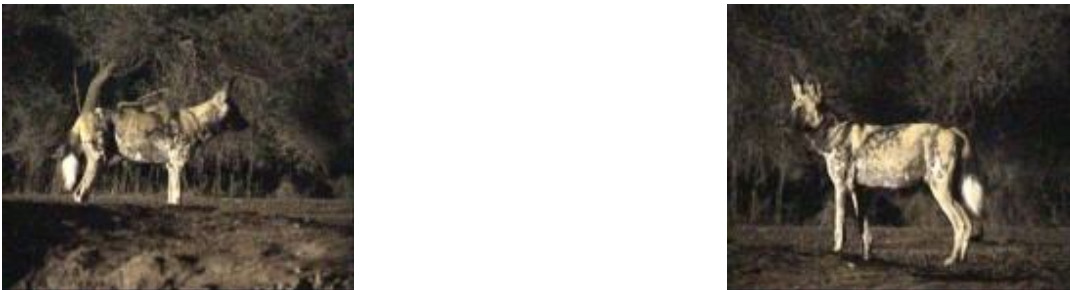
From left to right... little one covered in mud, young elephant reaching for the stars and a female resting her trunk on a tusk



The Wild Dogs have been at the pond regularly. Sometimes just for a quick check, but we've also seen them drink, rest, play, hunt and greet each other. They came around sunset quite a few times. The light makes the sighting a bit extra special.



But we've also seen them at night regularly. Well fed or hunting. Here are two pictures of the one of the Wild Dogs, probably after a meal.



We had Giraffes at the pond a few times this month. Sometimes browsing behind the trees so we could only see neck and head, but we watched them having a drink too.



There have been quite a few Spotted Hyena sightings this month and we've heard them call almost every night. One of them has a bit of a funny "whoop" and always makes us laugh when it calls. The Hyenas we see at the pond, come in two different colours, light and dark. They have been at the pond during the night and the day.



Birds... let's start with the big ones. We have seen some Ostriches at the pond. We often see them behind the trees, but we had a few coming for a drink. It is always an adventure. They either slip or trip or get startled. The result is always the same... they run. But this one had a quiet drink. And look at those feet!



The Blacksmith Lapwings defended their nesting spot against all others, including Wildebeests. White-breasted Cormorants came fishing and dried their wings. And the Grey Heron slept while impalas drank in the background.



Some bird details... from left to right: An egret's breeding plumage, tail feathers of a Sacred Ibis and a Grey Heron's breast feathers and foot.



Sometimes the sightings are not only interesting, but also fun. Here are a few of those. From left to right: tiny and giant elephant, upside-down guinea fowls and yawning baby Baboon



The pond is a beautiful place, but on a cloudy day, with the sun peeking through, it becomes stunning



That's it for this month. Enjoy the pond!

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Cam operator Pete's Pond

Live streaming video <http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/wildcamafrica/>

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