

At the pond, September 2009

September has been a good month. Not too many technical difficulties at the pond and we even had a whole day (and night) of wonderful rain, including some spectacular lightening! The sightings were good too this month. And we saw a few very special things.

Let's start with a view we see often... the shoreline near shore cam. On the left at dawn, in the middle at night and the right one... that's a little story on it's own. One night, when it was quiet at the pond, one of our viewers suddenly noticed that the shoreline looked like a totem pole. And she was right! We will never be able to look at that shoreline again without thinking of the pond's totem pole...



Although the elephants stayed away for a while, we did have some wonderful visits of herds and lone bulls. On the left is a bull in the water, in the middle a tailless young elephant at night and on the right elephants wallowing in the mud. Including adults!



From large animals to sightings of the small ones... insects! A dragonfly on the left, a Pond Skater in the middle and a Damselfly on the right. Just as wonderful and interesting to watch as the larger animals, they specially provide us with nice sightings when it's quiet at the pond.



The bird sightings were great too this month. All from left to right...

Grey Heron walking into view, Kori Bustard after having a drink and A Hamerkop at Rocky Point (note the Nile Monitor on one of the rocks)



Namaqua Doves watching a Nile Monitor, a Pied Kingfisher on a dead branch and a flock of Red-billed Queleas at sunset.



A Blue Waxbill and a female Sunbird having a drink, a male Scaly-feathered Finch looking at the cam and Guinea fowls and a Blacksmith Lapwing at the water's edge.



An adult and a young Natal Francolin drinking, a Wood Sandpiper near shore cam and the one-eyed Crested Barbet that we see regularly near the hide.



The pretty Green-winged Pytilia (or Melba Finch) after having a bath, Red-billed Queleas bathing with a few Guinea fowls and an Egyptian Goose close by, and a Lilac-breasted Roller on a dead branch.



The White-fronted Bee-eaters were close to the hide again at last, a beautiful Green Pigeon having a quick drink and the Great Egret preening.



And the Egyptian Geese... well... from left to right... both start calling, they mate and then they display while calling again.



We saw Giraffes a few times too. Here are some of the more unusual sights we had.



A very special sighting was the Sandsnake we saw. Unfortunately it was under the ladder so we couldn't get a good view, but still... wonderful to see an animal like this on cam. On the left you see the body markings, in the middle the neck markings, and on the right you see both.



The male Impalas have begun their sparring fights for dominance again. These two came for a drink near shore cam, but soon they were kicking up dust on the beach.



We have seen troops of Banded Mongoose at the pond a few times this month. We've seen them drink, run around, rest and check a Nile Monitor. One of the troops has a ginger colored one. Quite special!



We get close-up views of monitors near shore cam regularly. The one on the left is a Rock Monitor, the other two are Nile Monitors.



A very nice sighting in September was the male Steenbok's visit. It stayed around needle tree for a while and had a long drink.



We have two small Blue Wildebeest herds that visit the pond almost every day. Often they just come for a drink and go, but sometimes they stay for a while. They like to wallow in the moist sand and rub their heads in it too. It's often the bulls that do this, but the cows do it too.



Warthogs eat Sedge often, but every now and then, after a good wallow, one of the males starts "fighting Sedge", uprooting it.

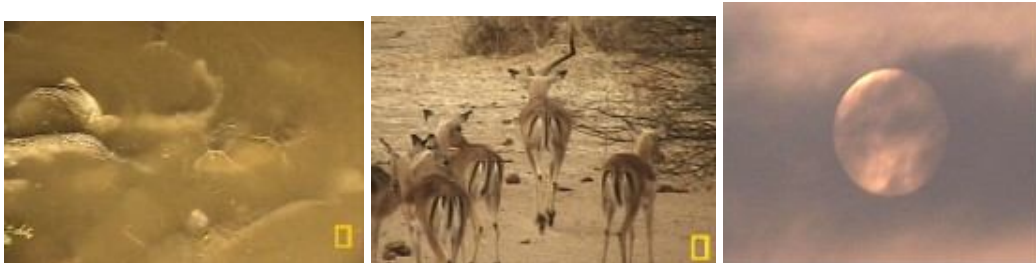


Let me end this report with a few fun pictures... from left to right...

Three Vervet Monkey females. The first two (left) have a baby, the last one (right) is still pregnant. Two Baboon baby's playing, pulling each other's tails. And a Vervet Monkey with two stiff fingers.



Hunting Catfish at night. An Impala with a broken horn. And the sun on an overcast day.



That's it for now. Enjoy the pond!

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Cam operator Pete's Pond

Live streaming video

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/wildcamafrika/>

Forum

<http://www.facebook.com/topic.php?topic=9638&post=79417&uid=64770241927#/topic.php?uid=64770241927&topic=9638> (click on "last")

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