

Pete's Pond October 2009

We had rain this month! First a full day (24hrs) of wonderful soft rains. Later in the month we had another bit of rain, but only for an hour or so. It was wonderful to see the colours of the bush change... everything looked fresh. And the elephants that came for a drink were wet from the rain, not from bathing.



October was also the month that the temperature went up more and more. That means we see elephants bathing and playing in the mud a lot. Such fun!



And we saw many, many little elephant calves, some of them newly born, including pinkish ears and feet, wobbly legs and not knowing what exactly to do with a trunk. Wonderful to watch...



We had a dragonfly in close-up a few times. We could see every detail of it's body and wings!



Another close-up that was very nice... a guinea fowl. We see those birds every day, they look like grey birds and they are fun to watch as they run towards the pond, chase each other, drink and preen. We can even see the bright blue colour of the head when they are watching them drink. But this time we could see the beautiful markings and colours in detail. Isn't it amazing?



Another bird that created quite a bit of excitement, was a pelican. It was the first time we saw one at the pond. It didn't stay very long, because when it was checking out the pond and watching a Yellow-billed Stork, a Warthog walked in and scared it off. But an amazing sighting it was!



The last but not the least of the exciting bird sightings, was the long visit of a juvenile male Giant Kingfisher. Another very beautiful bird! And the huge yawns we saw were so funny...



There was a funny sighting of a young baboon, wondering what the adult was eating...



During the night we see wonderful things too. Here are a few examples of some unusual sightings. From left to right... a jackal's nightly silhouette, an African Wildcat on the beach and a Genet checking out shore cam.



It is always fun to have more than one animal species on cam at the same time. I thought it would be nice to share some of those sightings with you so you get an impression of the things we see.

All pictures from left to right...

1-Jackal and warthog, 2-Nile Monitor, Great Egret and 3-Blacksmith Lapwing, warthogs and elephants



1-Yellow-billed Stork and Saddle-billed Stork, 2-Impala, Eland, Blacksmith Lapwing and Guinea fowl, 3-Eland and Blue Wildebeest.



1-Blue Wildebeest, Elephant, Yellow-billed Stork, African Spoonbill and Egyptian Geese, 2-Impala and Yellow-billed Storks, 3-Saddle-billed Stork, African Spoonbill, Yellow-billed Storks and Kudu's.



1-Jackal and Kori Bustard, 2-Kudu's and Nile Monitor, 3-Baboons and Yellow-billed Storks



1-Waterbuck, Blue Wildebeest and Guineafowl, 2-Nile Monitor and Terrapin,
3-Vervet Monkey (note the baby's tail!) and Skirminkel, our rescued Banded
Mongoose.



1-Jackal, Grey Heron and Yellow-billed Stork, 2-Genet and Egyptian Goose,
3-Jackal and Elands



And just to make you smile, I finish this report with the funny faces of three
Spotted Hyena's.



Enjoy the pond!

Afke

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")

Pictures

http://www.facebook.com/photo_search.php?oid=64770241927&view=all

Videos

<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=1029083542791&oid=64770241927#/video/?oid=64770241927>