

At the Pond, June 2008



June has been a wonderful month at Pete's Pond with lots of great sightings. It started off with a visit from a Giant Eagle Owl. It was hunting and ran around on the beach or flew from one dead tree to another. The Black-smith Plover kept following the owl, loudly calling it's alarm.

We see Eland at the pond regularly, but sometimes the sighting is extra special. We have a few well known females. One of them has a horn that is growing at a strange angle.



Another day, around sunset, a huge Eland bull came for a drink. He was magnificent. A Jackal was there too and as you can see neither of them seemed to be worried about the other being there. The Jackal was right behind the Eland bull's hind legs.



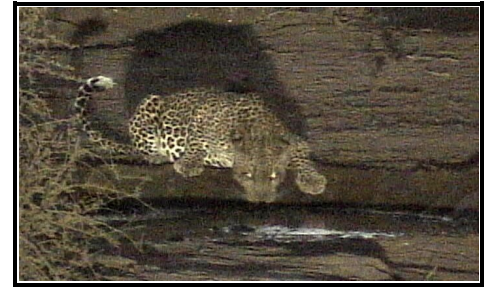
The Waterbucks started to come back to the pond more regularly this month. The males sometimes "fight", banging their heads together and chasing each other around the pond. They are very impressive, strong looking animals. Have you ever noticed that their nose is perfectly heart-shaped??



For about a week a light colored Hyena was a regular, almost daily, visitor. It came in for a drink either in the evening or in the morning. And sometimes both. A very beautiful and healthy looking Hyena. Most of the times it turned it's backside towards us while drinking, but every now and then we got a better view.



Just after dark one early evening we saw a beautiful Leopard. It walked along the shoreline and just before it disappeared out of sight, it stopped. It layed down and while lifting it's head regularly to have a quick look around, it lapped up water for a few minutes.



All sightings I mentioned so far were wonderful and exciting. But I think the greatest sighting this month must have been when one of the Blue Wildebeest herds arrived at the pond with a new born calf, only a day or two old.

It is very unusual to have a calf this time of year and it was a great surprise to see it. It's legs were still a bit wobbly, but it could keep up with the herd without any problems.

When we saw it again two days later, it was steady, strong and fast. It jumped around like Wildebeests often do and it ran at amazingly high speed. Such fun to watch!

Reflecting on June we can safely say it was another wonderful month at the pond. A month with many lovely and sometimes very exciting sightings. And with a bush and birdsounds that are changing rapedly.

The bush is getting dryer again and "old friends", birds we have been watching last year, are starting to come back, changing the sounds at the pond slowly but surely. We are up and running for almost a whole year now. Our first full year of camming at Pete's Pond. What a treat!



Enjoy the pond!

Afke
Pete's Pond
Mashatu