

November at Pete's Pond

Summer has arrived. That means it's nice and warm. But best thing is that we got some rain! We've had a few nice showers that didn't wash anything away. The bush had already started to turn green before the rains, as the trees got new leaves, but after the rains the bush really came to life. Lovely to see animals like Waterbuck graze!



We've seen a lot of (returning) birds at the pond this month. The Sacred Ibis was here and we had a lovely sighting of the White-fronted Bee-eater.



The African Mourning Dove calls a lot lately and luckily we got them on cam. Their call is really a lovely sound. We also saw Ostriches. Since it's breeding season for them too, the adult males have reddish schins. And it is as if their white is whiter and their black is more black. They look wonderful and their call is impressive. When you hear it for the first time, you would think it's a Lion's roar in the distance.



I think we had a little baby-boom with the Elephants. We saw quite a few new born calves! They are a lighter grey (when not wet!) and have pinkish ears and feet. All the Elephants like to swim and wallow, but the little ones are specially fun to watch. Sometimes a herd stays at the pond for a while, browsing and resting. And some come very close to the hide while feeding on the bushes!



We had a few extra special visitors this month. First of all the Zebra's came back. What a wonderful sight! And luckely for us, most of their visits are during the day so we can really enjoy their beautiful markings. Another very special visitor is a hairless male Baboon. He looks healthy, is very much part of the troop, he takes part in the grooming sessions, tells off the youngsters and we even saw him mating with a female in heat a few times. He just doesn't have hair...



And last but not least, another very special group of visitors starts to come to the pond more often. Mashatu guests. It is always such a pleasure to have a group of enthusiastic people at the hide for a while, watching the pond and it's wildlife and whispering about what we do and what we see!

All in all, November was another exciting month at the pond with great sightings and sounds. The pond is a wonderful place to be, online and in real life. I hope you'll be able to visit us one way or another.

Enjoy!

Afke
Cam Operator

You can watch the cam at
<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/wildcamafrika/>

You can find all the sightings and sounds at
<http://forums.ngm.com/forums/t/7848.aspx>

My conversations with visitors are at
<http://forums.ngm.com/forums/t/7920.aspx>