

## Pete's Pond Wildcam Update – February 2008

Although impala, blue wildebeest, elephant, warthog, baboon, vervet monkey, eland, banded mongoose, waterbuck, kudu and many many birds visited the pond, February wasn't a good month for Pete's Pond. The cameras went down and the only thing we could do was tell our viewers on the forum about what we were seeing at the pond. I told you about the big bull elephant that spent some time at the pond, about the wildebeest that came in for a drink with all the calves and about an exciting visit by many elephants.

At least you knew what was going on at the pond, even though you couldn't see it!

But then the unexpected happened... the satellite modem broke down too. No more cameras and no more Internet. Pete's Pond was down; we couldn't contact our viewers anymore. We tried everything we could to get it all back up and working, but alas we had to send both cameras and the modem to South Africa for repairs. As I write this, we still don't have them back and we are still offline.

It's frustrating and we can only imagine what it means to all of you who are used to watching the pond from your homes.

I have spent some time at the pond while everything was down and have a bit of good news. A large herd of eland came in one day and I saw the lapping female! For those of you who don't know about that Eland... she broke her jaw a year or two ago and isn't able to drink like the other elands do. She has to lap up the water like a cat or dog does. That means it takes her more time to drink than the other elands and she used to spend hours at the pond drinking on her own.

But this time she left with the others. And... she has been back at least twice since with the herd.

And one evening six giraffes visited the pond. They slowly neared the water and a few of them drank. A jackal appeared and spooked the giraffes. All six of them ran off in a slow-motion gallop. What a sight! And all the time I thought what a pity it was that we couldn't show this to you. Because we have been waiting to see giraffes at the pond for such a long time this season!

We hope we will have our cameras and modem back soon and when we do, we will be up and running again as soon as we can. Thank you for your patience and support!



Afke,

The wildcam operator