

The Northern Tuli Predator Project

Text and pictures by Andrei Snyman

Predator Drives

In September 19 guests joined me for a predator research drive. Bogale, the new collar male of my study, was seen most often and he is becoming increasingly more relaxed towards the presence of a vehicle. Bogale was yet again seen this month with a female, but no matter how hard the female tried to entice him to mate, Bogale did not care, well, for the time while there were people watching... Cheetahs, lions and spotted hyenas were also seen during the predator drive.



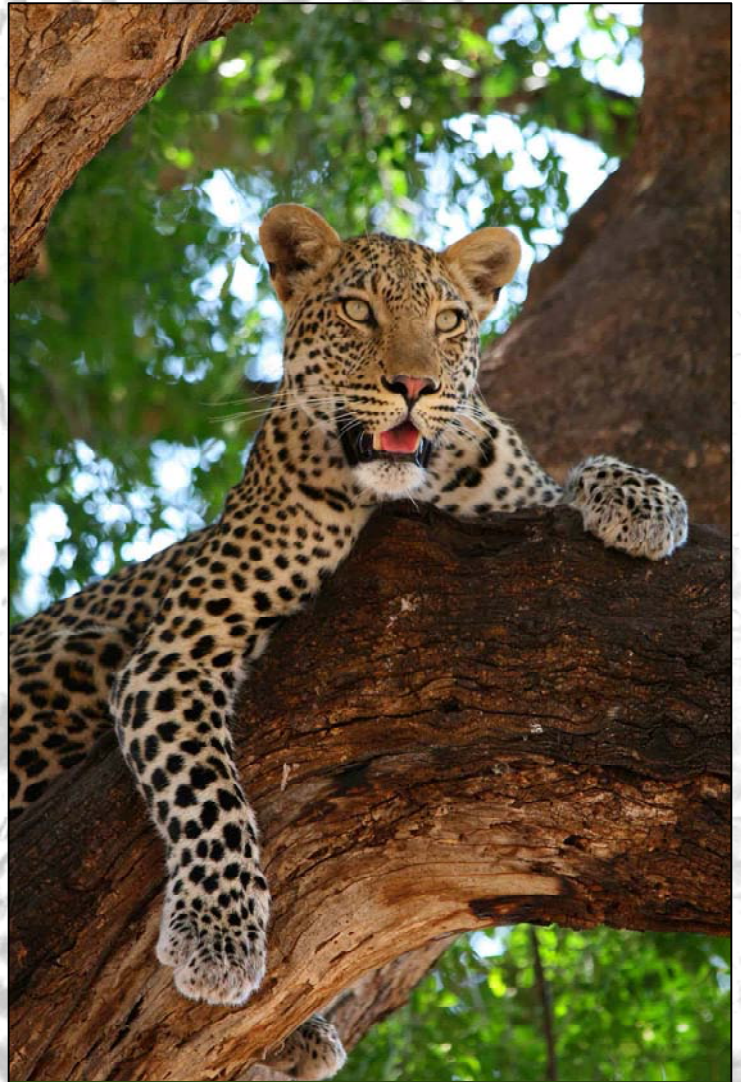
September '09 Predator Sightings

Leopards

Sightings of leopards were frequent and the star of the month was definitely the young male living around Beacon-Hill. This youngster hardly takes notice of vehicles and gives guests the best possible photographic opportunities. Other sightings of females, and a large male, living close to Nell's Vlei were also seen.

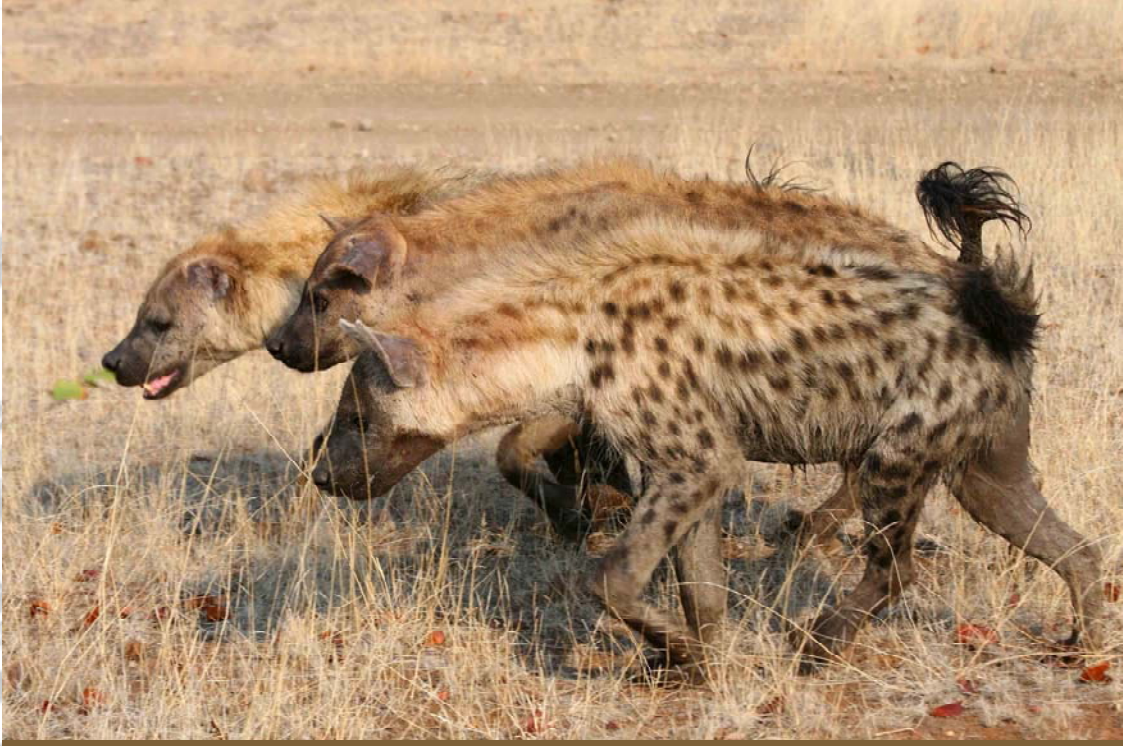
Lions

The pride living in the central parts of Mashatu was seen every day. The cubs, now growing bigger quickly, are just as playful as usual and Matswane (adult male) still keeps a close eye on all vehicles. The pride managed to kill yet again a couple of elands during the month of September.



Spotted & Brown Hyena

Sightings of spotted hyenas were numerous, especially around camp. The resident clan living around Main Camp was frequently seen at the waterhole outside the bar-area at night.



Cheetahs

September once again proved to be another good month of cheetah sightings. The usual coalition of three males was not seen as much, but a young female accompanied by a male was ironically seen at, Cheetah's Koppie! A female with 4 cubs were also seen moving around the northern parts of the Vlei, this is normally considered dangerous territory, since the resident pride of lions frequent that area.

Predator regards
-Andrei Snyman-