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## Game Drive no 224 by Neil and Morag Hulett unit 45

Hi, Everyone,

Monday 8 am. This morning there's a bit of high cloud around and it's pretty cool, but as the morning goes on, lots of huge puffy white clouds start coming in from the south, the same applies for the game, to start not much about and what we do see, tucked away in the woodland, so 2 giraffe below idube, up kudu and over and down onto the palm, we go north then across the RWL up the hill and we turn down for hide at jackal plains, impala about but still tucked away, a few impala at hide so we continue on for sand and again, the impala still in bush, we move on down for big, where we stop for T C&R, and as it warms up a huge herd of impala come out and the s/a have a wonderful time chasing each other around, behind us in the parking area, all doing their stiff legged pronging, then it's along engwe drive and onto the klaserie road, our southern cut and then down rhino walk and into sable, masses of impala all about, we continue along sable plains, more impala, and more on zozo plains, we turn right and go back along zozo hut ext, and bump into a lion, the one with a limp, call it in and Lawrence, Petronella and friend Gavin come down from warthog along the single pylons, bump into a lioness, one of the 'mating pair', anyway they move into the palm. While sitting there watching we hear a buffalo bellow towards sable, so back we go and find a huge herd at and in the water, hard to count, but easily more than 250, plenty of calves as well, fantastic sight, they eventually drift off in the direction of klaserie, we cross the palm and up snake alley and along the top of buff plains, plenty of game out and about now, impala, giraffe, zebra herd, 2 tiny foals with them, warthog family of 5, more impala and giraffe around warthog and a wildebeest herd at the bottom of the airstrip, home. Decide to pop along to warthog, down the short cut to the palm and on serengeti we find a herd of 8 elephants and enjoy some good viewing before moving onto warthog, a fair amount of general game. We are parked with Andy & Pat Ochse, catching up on all the news, when Eric calls in a leopard, near the runway, in a tree, but as so often happens, gone before we get there.

Tuesday 9 am, No drive today, away for the day, down to Nelspruit to pick up my sister Meg, from the airport, only get back after 6.

Wednesday 10 am, The usual overcast morning, light breeze from the south and soon large puffy clouds start to come over, the drive starts quietly, see one giraffe, a steenbok and couple of impala between the house, the palm loop and hide and double, then between the 2 dams, at the link, large herd of impala, another large one at big, past natural pan and onto sand, a few impala about, we take the road for rhino, another large herd at the water and more impala over on the plains under the 4 pylons, we move across to sable, and once more, plenty of impala at the water, we back track and cross the palm and take the zozo ext and continue on all the way to the RWLR, find a rhino, in the palm loop and another large herd of impala at the RWLR, then off at warthog, impala in numbers, 5 giraffe, 2 herds of zebra and then at idube 5 giraffe and 4 zebra, home. Out for lunch with Andy & Pat, a most pleasant time, so by the time we get home, decide no evening drive.

Thursday 11 am, The usual cloudy morning, first solid cloud then blue appears then puffy white all about, general game a bit patchy, on warthog the usual bachelor herd of impala, plus the herd of wildebeest, then near nkhonkoni, a large herd of impala, zebra x 20, and 6 giraffe, we move over to sand and find 2 rhino in the river bed right near the road, but then around hide, all quiet, a few zebra up at jackal plains, and nothing to be seen around either double or big, we take the loop round tamboti link and back to big, find nothing, so past natural pan, and then south down the 4 pylons for rhino but we turn

off at the link, sort of jinx through phone clearing and onto the old main road for buff plains and as we come into buff plains 3, find the 3 cheetah lying on one of those grey termite mounds, looks like one cub has gone missing, just as Andy & Pat arrive they have ago at a warthog family, without any success. We continue onto warthog, impala all about and a elephant cow and her s/a calf, for some reason she is quite agro, thinks about chasing us off, but instead dashes down into the palm, then when a whole lot of impala come into drink she returns to the water, a giraffe is at the water, all the while keeping an eye on them, eventually, they end up chasing the impala all over the place, the calf in the lead and mum right behind, finally end up, the impala with the 2 ellies close behind, disappearing into the woodlands to the north, shades of Happiness??? home.

Over to buff plains, manage to find the 3 cheetah, after some sharp spotting by Meg, they move out onto the open areas, we then head back for home, stop off at warthog, some impala about, alone dagga bull comes into drink and a couple of elephant on the runway, then on kudu drive we bump a large herd of elephant crossing the road and have to wait for them to move on, home.

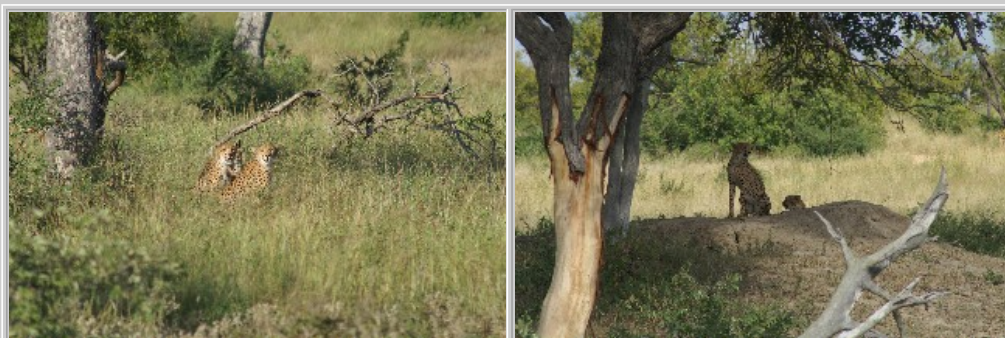
Friday 12 am, Morag & Meg stay home, so away on my own, first up a couple of rhino, on serengeti, then through the tunnel and onto hide, a few impala about, so take the hide loop and on into kudu loop, again just impala here and there, and at sand the same, I take the road for rhino and I'm passing through phone clearing when Colbert calls lion on sable plains, and it's a mating pair, lying up near the palm, I take the zozo hut road to the RWLR, stop off at warthog, impala and a herd of wildebeest, and then down along the palm for the office, and on serengeti find the 2 rhino again, fuel, post etc, then home This afternoon we pop along to sable plains, find the mating pair about a 100ms along from where they were this morning, the cheetah are called in on kudu loop, so we go that way and find them not far from sand dam, good news there are 4 of them, and at hide we find a herd of elephant going into drink, home.

Saturday 13 am, Overcast morning, first up a couple of ellie bulls at the bottom of kudu drive, we continue along towards the office then past M&M's house the e/e and then straight up the hill for the 4 pylons, on jackal plains turn down for hide, not that much about, just a few impala here and there, at hide all quite so we take the road for nkhonkoni and on the plains, impala some zebra and a wildebeest bull, we continue onto sand, looking for the cheetah, no luck, so back along kudu loop then right and onto sunset plains, again just a few impala about. we take the 4 pylons road for star crossing and find a breeding herd of elephant crossing over into lisbon, we decide to enjoy a cuppa and watch them, slowly move through, then onto double dam, a single zebra, at the smaller dam, and at big a small herd of impala, we make our way past natural pan then sand and onto nkhonkoni and just on the open areas below buff plains we find the 4 cheetah on a impala kill, there's not much left, then one of the cheetah decides to run off and the next second from behind us, a troop of baboon appear and the end result is they chase the cheets off, fortunately they are found again across on buff plains 2, we are meeting Andy & Pat at sand bar hide for our champs breaky, starting to get late so a through warthog and up parallel road, impala, zebra and wildebeest, nothing about on pels and the same on ON, while enjoying breakfast watch a couple of giraffe come down to drink, home.

No drive this evening.

Sunday 14, Beautiful day, some cloud about, thats the lot for the week, you all take care now, Couple of pic's, cheetah on buff plains.

Roars & Trumpets, N&M.....



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