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## Game Drive no 225 by Neil and Morag Hulett unit 45

Hi, Everyone,

Monday 15 am, Last night, lots of wind, black clouds, the odd bit of the thunder and a splash of rain on the deck, looks hopeful, but then starts to clear up, a drive of the spots this am, up kudu and then down along the palm and along warthog, find a large herd of impala and the wildebeest herd are with them. Eric calls in the 4 cheetah at the top of buff plains, we join him and they are all lying on a termite mound in the typical pose, spend sometime there, then Janine arrives and we stay longer, but finally move on, keeping on for rhino but decide to turn left through phone clearing for sand and just before we clear the woodland, a leopard right near the road, but as usual he slips away and we lose him in the thick bush, a few impala around what little water there is in sand, we take the road up to the 4 pylons and big, we find a large herd of impala and the wildebeest herd come into drink, also a couple jackal lying close to the water, we move onto double on the old road then take the link across onto engwe drive and as we come into double, across from the brown ivory, a great spot by Meg, another leopard, get a slightly longer look this time and she looks like a female. Nothing about so up to star crossing through jackal plains and just above hide the other 3 cheetah. Morag has said from the first time we saw the 4 these aren't the same cheetah, dead right, so 2 families on Olifants at once, pop up to Geoff's table and arrive at the same time as Andy & Pat, so breakfast together, home.

This evening pop down to the river, park on the ON side, absolutely stunning evening on the river, we see a couple of giraffe and lone bull elephant.

Tuesday 16 am, Just Morag & I out this am, very quite morning, we spend some time around sable and rhino, 5 lion were seen in the area last night, but no luck, then when get to hide dam we find the one family of 3 cheetah, impala here and there, on most of the clearings, the wildebeest herd at warthog, 5 giraffe around nkhonkoni, and thats about the morning drive.

No drive, watch 2 elephant bulls, a baboon troop, waterbuck and impala, down along the river.

Wednesday 17 am, The usual overcast morning, Morag stays home, so just Meg & I, first up 5 zebra at idube, then near the top of kudu drive, 3 lion, lying in the road, they don't stay long, but move into the bush, we go down onto the palm and along towards warthog, large herd of impala, at the bottom of serengeti, then on warthog, more impala and a couple of giraffe, we take the road to nkhonkoni, impala and some zebra dotted about on buff plains, over to sand, again a few impala about, we continue straight for sunset, find impala, the wildebeest herd plus a herd of zebra, then onto jackal plains, once more impala and a few zebra and then just behind hide another huge herd of impala, stop off for a cuppa and watch the hippo, then up the hide plains, impala and zebra, round past sand and then south for rhino, phone clearing, a few impala, take the old road back towards buff plains 3, then down snake alley for sable, once more plenty of impala about, we take the zozo hut road for the RWLR and continue along, all the way to the office and then home.

At nkhonkoni. spoonbill, couple of black duck, heron, couple of greenbacked heron, and little grebe with her tiny chick, and at sable a fish eagle and large flock of guineafowl and on hide plains, on a dead branch, 10 eurasian bee-eaters, beautiful sight in the morning sun.

Warthog this evening, hope the lion come in, to start plenty of impala and 10 giraffe all about on the plains, then Andy & Pat join us, then just on dark we head for home across the palm, up the short road to the e/e and there lying on the road are the 3 lion, Andy & Pat join us, just as they move into thick bush, but looks like they are going down towards warthog, so A&P go back and find them once more, and there are 4 not 3 lion, anyway they finally move next to the runway, quite a bit of impala and the herd of wildebeest, at the top of the runway, but they don't seem interested, eventually we leave them lying about in the grass, home.

Thursday 18 am, Heavy overcast, even a spit & a spot, we leave a little later than usual, Meg stays home, we do see a small elephant herd near sand, and another small herd just leaving the water at hide, the 4 cheetah, near nkhonkoni, a large herd of impala behind hide, but otherwise a very slow morning, what other impala we do see are all tucked away in the woodland, tries to rain again, so we head for home, really hope we get a good down pour.

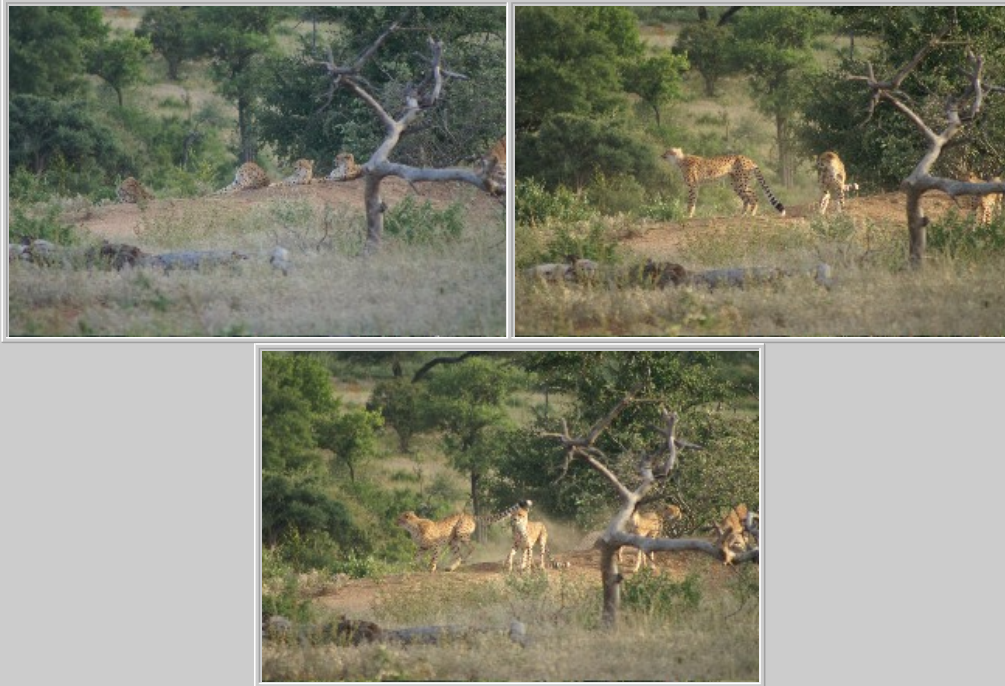
Go a little further this evening, all the way to double and big, not much about though, impala here and there, a elephant bull at double, who walks along the wall and when he gets to the steep part to go down, for some unknown reason, turns round and goes down backwards, unusual, and a rhino bull near nkhonkoni.

Friday 19 am The usual overcast morning, and a very quiet drive, 5 zebra at idube, then nothing more till zozo hut road, where we find a herd of impala, nothing around either sable or rhino, so we take the old road through buff plains, some impala about plus a couple of herds of zebra, all quiet around nkhonkoni, so along to hide and on the plains, impala, 5 giraffe, and a herd of 20 wildebeest, 5 of them calves, upto jackal plains, a couple of zebra and a small herd of impala, then down to the office, post fuel etc, home.

No drive, Andy, Pat & Janine join us for dinner, great evening.

Saturday 20 am, Overcast once more, even a few drops of rain, a very quiet drive, impala, a few zebra on hide plains, apparently last night, lions killed a impala on jackal plains, no sign this am, then a lion is called in at sable, but when we get there, no sign, but he roars from somewhere in thick bush, east of the dam, Eric then calls in a lion at warthog, but we are too late there as well. Ah well thats how it goes. Now we are going to be away for a while, so until the next time you all take care and have a happy Easter, and good spotting. 3 pic's of the 4 young cheetah.

Roars & Trumpets, N&M



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