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## Game Drive no 206 by Neil and Morag Hulett unit 45

Hi, Everyone, at around 2 this am, we are awakened to a squabble, in the channel around our house and right outside our bedroom we get a glimpse of a couple of lion, making off with our hosepipe, dash off when we start shining our torches, so multiple holes, which means, new hosepipe, no drive, and what a beautiful day.

Monday 31 am,

Again we are awoken in the early hours, this time elephant around the house, in fact right outside our bedroom, later when we leave, we find 5 bulls, between us and units 51 & 52, then up kudu we find 2 buff bulls lying up near the road and a little further on 4 giraffe, but after this very quiet, down the short cut, across to hide then up to jackal plains and down to double and big and finally at sand we find our next game, very large herd of impala, we stop in at nkhonkoni for a cuppa, before going through buff plains for rhino, find a few impala and then at sable same, when we cross the palm under the single pylons, 4 giraffe, and along zozo hut a lone kudu, we stop off at warthog for breakfast, a few impala come into drink and then along the palm for the office, 4 more kudu, and finally as we pass idube pan the elephant bulls are at the water, home.

Very quiet evening, meet Sean & Carol, and Eric & Sandy, up at Geoff's table, very pleasant evening, after a pretty hot day, home.

Tuesday 1 September 2009 am, Clear, cool morning, we pop down to the river to start, plenty of baboon and guineafowl, and a large band of banded mongoose, dash across the road in front of us, also find a pair of duiker and a pair of bushbuck, plus a good view of a couple of trumpeter hornbills, while still on pels, Sean calls in the lion pride at hide, on the way find 4 kudu on glacier valley and then on the RWLR a rhino is close to the turn off to hide but before we get there the lion, 3 lioness & 3 cubs, move into thicker bush, and that's about as far as we go, we make for home, on the way home, we find 14 wildebeest, impala, more impala along the flood plains and 7 giraffe, and by the time we get it's fairly warm, weather report says, we will be 36 today, we'll see.

This evening just sat at hide, hoping the lion would come into drink, no luck, they called a few times, from thick bush, but no luck.

Wednesday 2 am, Once more a beautiful morning, up kudu and north along the e/e and before we get to the railway line, Sean calls in the lion pride, at hide, they are lying up in one of those dry spruits that feed into the dam, 11 in all, 4 lion, 3 lioness's and 4 cubs, looks like they may have killed a buff cow or calf, can't really see, but by the amount of dung and tracks in the parking area, it's obvious that the herd slept there, from here we move on to sand along kudu loop, a few impala about then along to rhino and sable, more impala and 4 giraffe near the wallows, then warthog along sable plains and a couple more giraffe, under the single pylons, we take zozo hut and find more impala and a couple of jackal, off to the south we can and see the chopper, game count on at the moment, so along the RWLR, through warthog, impala and a lone giraffe, up the airstrip, then down glacier and right onto pels pass and finally along the river, impala, another giraffe, monkeys, and that's the drive.

Birds, Harrier Hawk, near idube, along kudu loop, the 3 tawny eagles, parent birds and their chick.

No drive this evening.

Thursday 3 am, Beautiful morning, but not much to report, we have to be back early, impala around hide, nkhonkoni and then through buff plains, a couple of jackal along zozo hut road, and when we stop off breakfast at warthog, impala, kudu, come into drink, home.

This evening we stay home, watch impala, kudu, a herd of 6 come down to drink on the ON side and a large troop of baboon also appear and then first a herd of 18 odd elephant come down from the ON side, drink and generally mess about in the water, 3 very tiny calves, with them, before crossing over onto our side, they slowly move up past unit 5, then a second herd arrives, also from the ON side, about 20 in all, they drink and have fun in the river, they too have tiny calves, but they turn back and disappear up river once more, and finally, like they do most evenings, hundreds of guineafowl, float down, from up where we are, onto the sand banks.

Friday 4 am, Another great morning, now last night the lion pride were seen on warthog, and sometime later the 2 males, killed a impala, so we go up kudu, down the short cut and then along the palm towards warthog, no luck, we continue up parallel road to drop off some refuse and while doing so, we hear 2 lion calling off towards lans pan, we go that way and then Sean calls to say he has the 2 males on lan's loop, we are in time to watch them crossing the road, heading in the direction of sable, maybe?????we continue our drive, along the RWLR and off at vetsak, for first nkhonkoni and then hide, except for a few impala, and a herd of 4 kudu, near hide, plus a lone impala ram, actually on the island, we have our breakfast here, while waiting to see what might happen, at first we can't see the croc, but then it comes ashore at it's favourite spot, finally the impala decides to go and with a mighty leap, lands about half way across, on the south side, and swims ashore, the croc never moves. office and then home.

This evening we meet Sean & Carol, up at Geoff's table for a light supper, they return to Cape Town in the morning, amazing how time flies, *and we are off to, for a couple of weeks,*

Saturday 5, Until next time, you all take care now, Roars & Trumpets, N&M.....

*Our game drive team will be away for a few weeks keep your eye on home page for updates*

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