



Newsletter November 2009

Mini me...



November is the birthing peak month of a few species i.e. Blesbok, Impala, Red hartebeest, Warthogs, Blue wildebeest and Black wildebeest. While other species i.e. Waterbuck, Zebra, Gemsbok, Giraffe, Hippo and Rhinos have their babies at any time of the year. Look out for these miniature replicas running along side their proud mothers!



Creepy crawly...

Roman spiders, also known as solifugae or sun spiders are plentiful at the moment. These harmless arachnids have no fangs, poison glands or silk apparatus and digest their food inside rather than outside their bodies.



Family time...



The big bull elephant (BFE) and the breeding herd of elephants have been seen frequently this month. BFE has been spending a lot of time with the cows and his offspring. We have had some splendid sightings on Spruit Road, Ndlovu Lane, Links Loop and Blue Crane Way. The breeding herd is moving around a lot, which makes them more visible and provides excellent sightings.

General...

Rhino sightings have been numerous! The Warmbath cows have made Nambiti Plains their new home and can be seen here frequently. The Phinda cow, her previous calf and pimple nose have expanded their home range from the Braakfontein Plains to the Nambiti Plains and still provide hours of entertainment. Pimple nose is enjoying his new vegetarian diet, but occasionally still has a sip of rich and creamy mothers' milk. The Braakfontein sub-adult bull rhino and sub-adult cow are either seen together or wandering by themselves in the northern side of the reserve.



The Braakfontein cheetahs have been seen once at night, as they were making their way to the Braakfontein Boma. Other cheetah sightings have been frequent. The Phinda males have been spending all their leisurely time in the areas of Little Serengeti and behind the Rangers Village. The Phinda female and cubs are on the move and have been seen regularly at Valley Split.

The lions have been very mobile and more visible. They have been seen as far north as the Nambiti Plains just south of the waterfall and as far south as Springbok Lodge.

Brandon, new ranger at Springbok Lodge had the very first sighting of the young female leopard. She was apparently lying in the riverbed on Shangela Lane. Well done!



Other...

A whole colony of vultures (mostly White-backed and Lappet-faced vultures) is roosting in the area south of the waterfall. They have been there for more than a month now. Talking about birds...Ian Sinclair and the birders club of Ladysmith have been and will be visiting Nambiti Private Game Reserve to establish a comprehensive bird list for the reserve.

Weather report...

It is that time of the year again...temperatures have been rising resulting in fierce thunder and lightning storms in the afternoons and bringing well appreciated rain.

Rainfall: 90.9mm

Average minimum temperature: 15.8°C

Average maximum temperature: 25.8°C



Lourette Bredenkamp
General Manager

Telephone: 078 803 5545

Fax to Email: 086 567 6578

Email: gm@idwalalodge.co.za

Website: www.idwalalodge.co.za