

Herewith the latest sightings report from Kwando: August 2008

A fabulous month for Kwando with wonderful sightings in all the camps.

Lagoon

A single female Lioness has been seen on regular basis the last month with her four young cubs she has been mostly seen on the western side of the airstrip and she has done extremely well hunting down a few buffalo to feed her young. Sadly towards the end of the month she has crossed into the Namibian side. Two heavy black maimed Lions have been dominating the area probably causing the young female with her cubs to flee.

Great news for Lagoon the Selinda pack of Dogs have denned in the Lagoon area and have proudly produced eight pups, it has taken a while to find the den so the pups are active and out the den. They have been giving guests great sightings of the dogs hunting Impala and bringing the pups food from the field.

The lagoon pack of Dogs have been scarce the past week since the epic tragedy last month, the pack has been located from time to time in the Mopane scrubland.

Hundred and hundreds of Elephant have been seen on every game drive in the Lagoon area, with the pans dry in the Mopane forests now the Kwando concession have some of the largest concentrations of Elephant in Botswana.

The three resident Buffalo are still roaming around camp seeking protection from the Lions that are within the area. The buffalo herds have been seen on most game drives as the numbers increase due to the rain pans that are now completely dry.

Raptors like the Brown snake eagle, Martial eagle and the African hawk eagle and different species of Vultures sighted regularly by the guests on game drives.

Black backed Jackal and side stripped Jackal are seen at most kills during the night drives with a few Bat eared foxes seen on the cut line road.

This month the guests were stunned to get to see a Pangolin on a night drive, the guide had almost missed it just before it ran under the grassy undergrowth. Surprisingly it stopped and curled up into a tight ball this is what do for protection against predators.

Lebala

Roan and Sable antelope have now been seen on a regular basis in the Lebala region, general game on most game drives down towards twin pools is Lebala's most spectacular area for game this month, Lechwe, Hippo, Zebra and general game is absolutely phenomenal.

Guests were intrigued with the tracking skills on a morning game drive as the guide and tracker managed to track down two large male Lions after two hours and then

to their surprise the two joining up with a pride of seven on the marshes towards Wildebeest road. The pride gave it their best to hunt Lechwe in the marshes but were unlucky as the semi aquatic antelope had the upper hand in the marshes.

Leopards have been spotted on a few evening game drives, a single female Leopard perched up a tree was seen by the guests but seemed very shy and slowly disappeared into the thicket of the bush, later on the guests came upon a large male leopard which seemed very relaxed and the enormous cat entertained the guests for a couple of hours as he patrolled his territory.

Two male Cheetah were spotted by the tracker along the edge of the Mopane woodland, they were extremely relaxed as they casually walked along the side of the game drive and began to hunt. The two Cheetah had no luck with the hunt on a herd of Impala so settled down for the night.

The Carmine Bee Eaters have begun to build their nests in the sand banks on the main road towards Lagoon. Water birds like the Spoon bill, Jacana, Herons and large flocks of Duck on the marshes. The highlight of the birding experience was to see a Goliath heron feeding along the edge of the marsh.

Banded Mongoose have been seen on the morning game drives by the guests, the creatures whistle and squeal as they forage along the under growth of the riverbanks.

Kwara and Little Kwara

Lion are still abundant in the Kwara concession with a female Lioness and her two cubs hunting a fully grown Warthog just a few kilometres from camp. The small pride managed to bring down the warthog and feast on. The main pride has been hanging around the big herds of Buffalo but don't seem to be interested in Hunting them but rather taking down smaller prey like Lechwe and Zebra. The coalition of seven male Lions were located on the boundary road hunting warthog on mogwele road. Three Lioness's were seen towards Paulson's crossing on an evening game drive hunting and killing an old female Buffalo.

The Alpha male and female Wild Dog were spotted on a morning game drive seen building up their courage to chase off a single female Cheetah an Impala kill, guests were stunned by the fierce interaction of the creatures. The Dogs manage to chase the Cheetah off the kill and called in the rest of the resident pack of five to feast.

Wattled crane and various summer birds have been seen this last month with the Yellow billed storks breeding at Godikwa lagoon.

With a fire just to the north of Kwara airstrip the area has brought new life to the moribund grass and which now flourishes with game as the guests arrive at the airstrip. Herds of Zebra, Tsesebe and Wildebeest thrive on the short grass seen as far as the eye can see across the Kwara floodplains.

Three Honey badgers were seen on Tsesebe loop on the evening drive with guests, the guide managed to follow the startled three Badgers and witnessed a scuffle between the three badgers and a Spotted hyena, as aggressive as they are the Honey badgers managed to win the fight causing the Hyena to flee across the flood plains.

Tau Pan

The drillers at the new camp site had to divert off the road to witness one of the largest black maimed Lion they had ever seen, the enormous cat lay under a tree in the middle of the road, the one driller who has been in Botswana's back country for all his life says that it was one of the largest Lions he has ever seen.