

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2013

AREAS COVERED: MARTHLY / EYREFIELD / MALAMALA / FLOCKFIELD / CHARLESTON

WEATHER SUMMARY –SEPTEMBER

Maximum temperature (°C)	39
Minimum temperature (°C)	9
Mean maximum (°C)	31
Mean minimum (°C)	15.5
Rainfall (mm)	16
Days of rain	4

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF SEPTEMBER 2013

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 7

1 ADULT FEMALE	18 YEARS (DECEASED)
1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	5 YEARS 8 MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS	2 YEARS 8 MONTHS
2 MALE SUB ADULTS	2 YEARS 8 MONTHS

MARTHLY, MALAMALA, EYREFIELD
(12 sightings)

There were twelve confirmed sightings of the Styx Pride during August. Over the last month the dynamics of the Styx Pride has been particularly difficult to understand. The six members spent most of the month apart. The monthly sightings so far are as follows.

DATE	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHER
13 September	2 Adult Lionesses with no ID Male	Wild Dog Rocks Open Area
15 September	2 Adult Lionesses	Mlowathi River (Nyala Kill)
16 September	2 Adult Lionesses	Piccadilly Triangle
19 September	4 Sub Adults	Gowrie Boundary
21 September	4 Sub Adults	Mlowathi Dam
23 September	All Members Present	Mlowathi River
24 September	All Members Present	Picadilly Triangle (Duiker Kill)
25 September	2 Sub Adults(1 Male:1 Female)	Picadilly Triangle
26 September	2 Sub Adults(1 Male:1 Female)	Campbell Koppies

Rangers have come up with reasons that may explain this inconsistency.

1. The two Sub Adult Males (32 Months) are attempting to mate with the sub adult females and lionesses. The lionesses may be intolerant of this behaviour and run away. However, this is an unlikely reason.
2. The sub adult males are larger and stronger than the lionesses. When feeding on small kills, the lionesses are out powered by the young males. This could be why they choose to mission off to hunt on their own.

3. As an instinctual mother, a lioness may separate herself from the sub adult males as form of protection from an intolerant father. When a sub adult male lion matures, he becomes competition to his father and therefore is no longer welcome in his domain. In this case, the mother may anticipate the Manyeathi Males coming their way. In response, she then moves away from the rest of the pride, working as a decoy to lure them away from the sub adults. This is probable reasoning.
4. Remember, dominant male lions will only protect lionesses that show their worth. This is usually in the form of reproduction or food supply. The sub adult females produce neither and because of this, are better off apart from the adult lionesses of the pride. The Marthly Sub Adult Female (28 months) is a good example of how male lions disregard an immature female. The Manyeathi Males regularly chase and injure her. The poor condition of her coat is evidence to this type of relationship. We witnessed her being followed by three Manyeathi Males as she tried to evade them only a few days ago.
5. One would assume that the sub adult females would find more comfort in following the lionesses and learning about pride ethics and routines. However, the young females may feel attached to their brothers as they have been together since birth.
6. Lastly, the Manyeathi Males could be interacting with the Styx Pride more often than we know, chasing them into disarray on a nightly basis. This is unlikely to be the case.

The death of the eldest Styx Lioness dawned on us early in the month. Reason of death is unknown at this stage. Respect to the old girl as she died turning eighteen as the oldest lioness on MalaMala. Her last litter, more than two years ago, saw one male cub survive to a year and since has not been able to procreate. At times the lioness seemed broken and often left the pride for several days. On one of her last sightings on MalaMala she lay at Wild Dog Rocks for almost three days barely moving an inch. The pride had long left her which put the end in sight. It is a blessing to her pride allowing them to grow stronger. The female sub adults must be ready to play their part in their fight for growth.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 9

2 ADULT FEMALES	6 YEARS 3 MONTH
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 2 MONTH
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 7 MONTH
1 FEMALE CUB	1 YEAR 7 MONTH
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 4 MONTH
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 2 MONTH
MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, EYREFIELD (13 sightings)	

There were thirteen confirmed sightings of the Eyrefield Pride during September. It was great to have the pride on MalaMala for a good part of the month.

Once again the pride spent a copious amount of time basking in the river bed. In the evening the lionesses lead the youngsters towards the open areas located near the confluence of the Matshapiri and Sand River. One morning we found the pride on an adult buffalo kill to the east of the Quarry. The nine lions finished the large beast in twenty four hours and spent the next forty eight hours sleeping in the Sand River opposite the Ngoboswan Donga.

The majority of the sightings were in the Sand River between Rattrays and MalaMala Main camp. Three

of the Manyelethi Males were found with the pride and Dudley Crossing. That night the twelve hungry lions walked to Graded Road in search of the large buffalo herd. We suspect they killed a calf because we found them the following morning back in the Sand River at Dudley Crossing.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 4

2 ADULT FEMALES

1 SUB ADULT FEMALE

1 SUB ADULT MALE

UNKNOWN AGES

3 YEARS 3 MONTH

3 YEARS 3 MONTH

EASTERN MALAMALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD
(1 sightings)

There was one confirmed sighting of the Fourways Pride during September. The full composition of the pride and the two young male lions were all present on this occasion. It seems the two young males have not left the comfort of the pride members since rejoining them two months ago. The sighting took on the southern parts of Charleston Drive. Rangers looked for the pride the following morning expecting to find them following the large herd of buffalo. When we failed to locate the lions we assumed they had made a kill in the middle of the block of land north of the Charleston Flockfield Boundary, east of Zebra Skull North. Interesting to note, the previous sighting they were mobile north over the Gowrie Boundary around Clarendon Open Area during last month.

Outnumbering the other prides in size and numbers allows the 4 adults and 2 sub adults to utilise hunting grounds where ever they please. Areas the Fourways pride have been found on large kills are: Mlowath Open Area. Clarendon Open Area, up and down the Kapen River, KNP Break, Buffalo Bush Dam, Jakkalsdraai Open Area and even further south into Toulon.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 5

2 ADULT FEMALES

1 SUB ADULT FEMALES

11 YEARS 1 MONTH

2 YEARS 5 MONTHS

MARTHLY

(10 sightings)

There were ten confirmed sightings of the Marthly Pride during September. Rangers worked the western parts of Marthly tracking the lioness with her cubs. Tracks were often followed east and west through Parrafin Drift. The lionesses were most often found lying on the track west of Bicycle Crossing utilising the area as an ambush zone to prey species frequenting the water course.

The pride killed a male Kudu in the Sand River just north of the Ngoboswan Donga. The lioness who was pregnant and currently lactating left the pride late that afternoon and walked right back through Marthly and over the Marthly Marthly Break. We assume she went straight to feed her cubs. By first thing the next morning she had returned to the kill sight to eat again.

One morning the tailless lioness and the sub adult female were on a fast walk eastwards past elephant rock. The two lions kept looking back as if they were being followed. Ranger Ross Forbes looped back to investigate. Hot on the girls heels were three Manyelethi Males. It appeared the lionesses were trying to evade the males as they only stopped to lay down once the males had given up their pursuit. The males litter tolerance towards the sub adult. She suffers undeserved blows particularly when feeding.

We expect to see the lioness's cubs on October.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4 **± 8 YEARS 7 MONTHS**
MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN
CHARLESTON
DOMINANT OVER THE STYX, EYREFIELD, MARTHLY AND BREAKAWAY
MARTHLY PRIDES
(6 sightings)

There were six sightings of the Manyelethi Males during September. This is half the amount of sightings from last month. It seems several sightings of one of the four male lions with the Marthly Pride and Eyrefield Pride.

The Manyelethi Male with three canines may be prove to be more dominant than one thinks. His movements closely mimic the movement of the most dominant dark-maned Manyelethi Male, in the form of visiting the Marthly and Eyrefield Prides' on his own and more frequently. Sightings of him around these northern MalaMala territories have outnumbered the hip-scarred and dark-nosed Manyelethi Males.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3
1 ADULT FEMALE **8 YEARS 9 MONTHS**
2 SUB ADULT MALES **2 YEARS 5 MONTH**
SOUTHERN CHARLESTON
(6 sightings)

There were six confirmed sightings of the Charleston Pride during September. Sightings occurred only in Charleston and the north eastern parts of Toulon.

The lions followed a herd of buffalo for three days to eventually kill a sub adult female in Northern Toulon. An epic sighting was watching all three lions wrestle over a bushbuck kill in a tree after chasing the Jakkalsdraai female off her fresh kill near Charleston North.

SELATI PRIDE = 17
1 ADULT FEMALE **14 YEARS 8 MONTHS**
3 ADULT FEMALES **±10 YEARS 8 MONTHS**
3 ADULT FEMALES **UNKNOWN AGES**
4 SUB ADULT MALES **2 YEARS 8 MONTHS**
2 SUB ADULT FEMALES **2 YEARS 8 MONTHS**
2 CUBS **±1 YEAR 4 MONTH**
2 CUBS **1 YEAR**
WESTERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of the Selati Pride during September.

MALES FROM THE EYREFIELD PRIDE = 2
1 EYREFIELD MALE **6 YEARS 2 MONTH**
MARTHLY MALE **8 YEARS 2 MONTH**
NOMADIC
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of either of these male lions in September.

KRUGER MALE LION = 1 **± 7 YEARS 11 MONTHS**
SOUTHERN CHARLESTON, WESTERN CHARLESTON
DOMINANT OVER THE SELATI PRIDE
(0 sightings)

There were no recorded sightings of the single Kruger Male lion. Reports indicate he is competing with the young males from the Eyrefield and Marthly Prides for dominance over the Selati Pride. Reports also state that the Kruger Male is dominant over the younger Eyrefield Male but the older Marthly Male is dominant over the Kruger Male.

Other lions encountered: (4 sightings)

- **The Break- Away Marthly Pride (0 sightings)**

No sightings of these lions during September

- **3 young male lions in South Western Charleston (0 sightings)**

There was no sign of the three sub adult males during September. It is likely that these were three of the thirty two month male sub adults from the Selati Pride. Finding the lions in the north eastern parts of south western Charleston indicates they may have been chased by either the Eyrefield and Marthly male lions, the Kruger Male Lion, or the three adult male lions located on Flat Rocks a few weeks later.

- **4 unidentified young males seen consistently so far in 2013. (0 sighting)**

These same lions did not appear on MalaMala in August.

- **2 young male lions with Fourways Pride (1 sightings)**

These two young male lions were seen together with the Fourways pride on one occasion. The Fourways pride were only seen once during September. The larger of these two males has bigger mane and a large scar on his back. The younger has a very blonde mane and a mature looking face for his size.

- **3 male lions in Charleston (1 sighting)**

Three adult male lions were located in the Sand River near track West of Flat Rocks on two occasions. They are fully mature male lions.

- **1 male lion seen with the Styx Pride(2 sighting)**

One male lion between 5 and 7 years old was found with the Styx Pride on two occasions. Reports suggest that this male lion has been mating with the two Styx pride Lionesses and spends time with them when they are in Gowrie.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JULY	35
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LEOPARDS

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

11 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON
(4 sightings)

There were four confirmed sightings of the Bicycle Crossing Male in September. This is less than in the past few months where we encountered him well into the eastern parts of Flockfield and Charleston. The dry pans in land were reflected his movements closer to the Sand River while utilising the Kapen River and the Rock Drift Donga as his hangouts.

A young male leopard has been seen well within the Bicycle Crossing male's territory. He is from an area south and west of Charleston. He may lay threat to the Bicycle Crossing Male's territory.

AIRSTRIP MALE

7 YEARS 3 MONTH

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLY, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD
(15 sightings)

There were fifteen confirmed sightings of the Airstrip Male in September. He was found most often in the central parts of his domain. He was watched more than any other leopard in September.

The Airstrip Male Leopard sustained an injury to his left eye. We presume this was as a result on an aggressive encounter with the Marthly Male. At first glance it would appear that he cannot see through that eye. However, what you see is the inner membrane or inner eyelid eye, also known as a nictitating membrane. This eyelid, apparent in all cats, plays an important role in maintaining the surface of the eye. The photograph indicates that both outer and inner eyelids are badly bruised causing the eye to appear shut. Upon closer examination we noticed that when the Airstrip Male looked intently towards an object, the nictitating membrane would fold back, allowing his eye to be used normally. We hope the Airstrip male recovers from this injury. Secondary infection is unlikely but would worsen the condition substantially. We know of other male leopards with only one eye who have survived unharmed by such an injury.

MARTHLY MALE

± 9/10 YEARS

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLY
(4 sightings)

There were four confirmed sightings of the Marthly Male in September. This is the same as last month. On one occasion he was found with a young female on Jeremiah's Loop with the remains of a female impala in a tree. Copulation was not witnessed by rangers. As long as the rains hold up further we will continue to see the Marthly Male near the Main Camp.

CHARLESTON MALE

7 YEARS 3 MONTH

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Charleston male during September. The only sighting of the Charleston male this year occurred in May. He was seen heading eastwards around the southern parts of Jakkalsdraai open area. We assume he is competing with the Bicycle Crossing male and the Hogvaal Male for territory.

WEST STREET MALE**4 YEARS 5 MONTH**WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(6 sightings)

There were six sightings of the West Street Male in September. Previous months show that this is far less than normal. Last month he was seen the most out of any other leopard on MalaMala. His scarcity could be the result of expanding his territory eastwards towards the Hogvaal Donga and south towards the more eastern parts of the Kapen River. Since the Hogvaal Male has not made an appearance in that area for some time now, it may be an opening for the young West Street Male. He is confident and conducts himself like an adult by defending his kills and mating with females.

NEWINGTON MALE**4 YEARS 11 MONTHS**WESTERN MALAMALA
(12 sightings)

There were twelve confirmed sightings of the Newington Male in September. The wound on his hind left quarter is healed.

His movements were no different to previous months mainly sighted on the western bank of the Sand River between Rattrays and MalaMala Main Camp. He seems interested in exploring the eastern bank between Wildebeest Crossing and the Causeway. Entering his prime now he may be frustrated of being harassed by the Princess Alice Pans Male and therefore is looking to explore new territories.

He was found around the Airstrip hunting warthog.

HOGVAAL MALE**7 YEARS 5 MONTH**EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN
CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Hogvaal Male during September. There has not been one confirmed sighting of this leopard this year.

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE**± 7 YEARS 9 MONTHS**NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Tsebe Rocks Male during September.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE**12 YEARS 9 MONTHS**WESTERN MALAMALA
(11 sightings)

There were eleven confirmed sightings of the Princess Alice Pans Male during September. This is consistent with previous months. He encountered the Emsagweni in a Mahogany tree which resulted in a brawl over a young impala carcass. Grant Roodt captured incredible footage of the leopard fight. The Newington and West Street Male leopards were also found in the area and all had a go at the carcass. The Princess Alice Pans Male had his work cut out for him trying to defend the kill from three other leopards.

The large male suffers a territorial threat from three male leopards who all frequent the western bank of the Sand River between the camps. The Marthly Male, West Street Male and the Newington Male are often found in that region. He still has the cub of the Tamboti Female to protect.

GOWRIE MALE ± 6/7 YEARS
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sighting)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Gowrie Male during September. His yellow eyes are a dead giveaway of his ID.

KIKILEZI FEMALE 12 YEARS
WESTERN MALAMALA, MARTHLY
(9 sightings)

There were nine confirmed sightings of the Kikilezi Female in September. Sightings consisted mainly around the lower regions of the Mlowathi River and southern Marthly where she may be spending time with the Marthly Male. We suspect he killed her last litter and to her, may seem more capable of securing an area for her to utilise.

TAMBOTI FEMALE 5 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 CUB (FEMALE) 7 MONTHS
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA
(2 sightings of female, 2 sightings of female and cub, 1 sightings of cub without female)

The Tamboti Female was seen four times in September. Reports suggest that one of her two cubs is dead. The cause of death is unknown. Little interaction with the leopards has made it difficult to give an accurate summary of her monthly endeavours. There was a unidentified female seen near Rattrays Camp on two occasions, this may have been her. The Tamboti Female and her cub were found on an impala kill near the parking bay and both seem in good health.

MLOWATHI FEMALE 6 YEARS 7 MONTH
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

There was one confirmed sightings of the Mlowathi Female during September. She was located on eastern side Mlowathi.

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE 13 YEARS 10 MONTHS
CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER
(3 sightings)

There were three confirmed sightings of the Jakkalsdraai Female in September. We found her at the confluence of the Rock Drift Donga and the Sand River with an impala kill in the tree. She was also chased off a bushbuck kill by the Charleston pride a few nights beforehand. There have been no recorded interactions with the Bicycle Crossing Male but however all of the sightings were within his territory.

DAUGHTER OF THE JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE 2 YEARS 2 MONTH
CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER

(1 sighting)

There was one confirmed sighting of the Daughter of the Jakkalsdraai Female during September. Her independence continues to grow and her movements continue to expand. When sighted, she appears relaxed around the vehicles showing similar behavioural characteristics to her mother.

CAMPBELL KOPPIES FEMALE
WESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

(DECEASED)

Months ago we received news from an ex-MalaMala ranger informing us that the Campbell Koppies Female had died. These reports can often be premature assumptions and it was important to confirm this news was accurate before releasing a statement. Although the Campbell Koppies Female has not been viewed regularly on MalaMala Game Reserve for some time now, we owe her a few words in celebrating her life that was observed and documented by guests and rangers for the past thirteen years and nine months.

In September 1999 her mother, the Ngoboswan Female (A mistress of the Rock Drift Male, also known as Tjololo the movie star) gave birth to a litter of three. One of which was the Campbell Koppies Female. Her brother lived for less than five months and was killed by the floods in early 2000. Her sister moved off MalaMala shortly after early stages of independence in 2001. During this time, archived game reports state the Campbell Koppies Female spent months and months hunting on the banks of the Sand River between MalaMala and the old Harry's Camp. She would attempt to catch duiker, young impala, bushbuck, water monitors and terrestrial birds. Occasionally she would return to her mother with the hope of being offered a meal, but when the Ngoboswan Female gave birth to a new litter of three cubs in October 2001, their meetings became more and more hostile. It was now time to prove her independence.

The Campbell Koppies Female was awarded her historical name in January 2003, a clear sign that she was now an independent, semi-territorial female. Campbell Koppies are the rocky outcrops located several hundred meters east of the MalaMala main camp, named originally after a previous farm owner, William Andrew Campbell. She was awarded this title as she began to set up a territory in this area.

A closer look into her relatives and other leopards of similar descent shows that the Kikilezi Female and the Tamboti Female are her younger sisters by two and eight years respectively. Another two of her siblings include the son of the Ngoboswan Female 2005 and a female born in 2007 both of which have not featured as territorial leopards on MalaMala.

It appears the Campbell Koppies Female's first successful litter produced the Ostrich Koppies Female who we assume was fathered by the Old Newington Male leopard in 2004. Three years later she gave birth to another litter and successfully raised the Mlowathi Female to independence. Her legacy on MalaMala property now lies in the paws of the Ostrich Koppies Female and Mlowathi female.

Her presence will be sorely missed by all who witnessed her beauty.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE
1 CUB
EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

8 YEARS 11 MONTHS
7 MONTHS (DECEASED)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Ostrich Koppies Female. Since the death of her cub it is likely she is exploring regions outside of her territory.

MATSHAPIRI FEMALE **12 YEARS 11 MONTHS**
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There was one confirmed sighting of the Matshapiri Female in September.

DAUGHTER OF THE MATSHAPIRI FEMALE **1 YEAR 11 MONTHS**
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

There were three confirmed sightings of the Daughter of the Matshapiri Female in September. She was found in the northern parts of the Matshapiri River. She continues to show independence still well within her mother's territory.

DUDLEY FEMALE **14 YEARS 11 MONTHS**
1 FEMALE CUB **1 YEAR 5 MONTH**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(1 sightings of female, 1 sighting of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

There was one confirmed sighting of the Dudley Female and her cub in September. Her cub was seen with her on one occasion as well. The two leopards were found on Dudley Lookout. The sighting did not last very long after they headed straight westwards over the Sand River towards Dudley.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE **9 YEARS 5 MONTHS**
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Flockfield Female during September. She was last seen mating with the Bicycle Crossing Male leopard in the Tamboti Thickets towards the end of March.

DAUGHTER OF THE FLOCKFIELD FEMALE **2 YEARS 3 MONTH**
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(0 sighting)

There has not been one confirmed sighting of the Daughter of the Flockfield Female this year, although there have been sightings of a young female which could be her.

THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE **3 YEARS 9 MONTHS**
WESTERN MALAMALA
(9 sightings)

There were nine confirmed sightings of the Emsagweni Female in September. One of the more memorable sightings was when we watched her bring down an impala west of West Street Bridge. She then treed the carcass and spent the following two days consuming it in the company of a hyena. This young female was viewed on both sides of river and in four different male leopards' territories as she continues to seek out their services; the Airstrip male, Princess Alice Pans male, Newington male and the West Street male.

CALABASH FEMALE **± 6 YEARS**

1 CUB (Potentially more than 1 cub)

7 MONTHS

WESTERN CHARLESTON

(0 sightings, 0 sighting of cub without female, 0 sighting of female with cub)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Calabash Female or her cub during September. We suspect she may be raising cubs in south western Charleston.

Other leopards encountered:

- **Son of the Dudley female 2009:** (3 sightings).

4 YEARS

The three sightings suggest that the core of his small territory has shifted slightly southwards. All three sightings were on the eastern bank of the Sand River between Charleston North and Sibuye Drive. On one occasion we viewed him in the presence of the Jakkalsdraai female. It was a brief and unfriendly encounter but perhaps a sign of potential sexual interest between the two. She is however nine years and ten months his senior.

- **Old Female from the West. 2:2 Spot Pattern with Black Nose** (3 sightings)

This very old female appeared on MalaMala three times during the month. Her condition has neither improved nor worsened since last month. Yet again we viewed her hunting and killing mongoose- this time it was banded mongoose and she showed us the value of experience as she killed seven in quick succession. These kinds of prey species are typically killed by very old leopards whom lack strength and skills required to kill larger prey. But the will to live is stronger than any other and this leopard will not go gently into that good night.

- **No ID females:** (14 sightings).

There were fourteen No ID female leopard sightings during August. Most of these sightings occurred in the southern parts of Charleston or on the KNP Break.

The Female seen mating with the west Street Male last month could make up part of the No ID female leopard sightings.

There was a No ID female leopard and about six month old cub seen near Calabash Crossing. It was not the Calabash Female.

- **No ID males:** (8 sightings).

The majority of these leopards were seen along our boundary roads. There is one large young male who we are seeing on a more regular basis around the Kapen. He has already had a few run ins with the Bicycle Crossing male and although there was aggression shown it was very limited and controlled, perhaps a sign that this youngster is one of the Bicycle Crossing males sons. We assume he has come from west.

- **No ID (gender and identity unconfirmed):** (1 sightings)

- **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

SEPTEMBER	24
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CHEETAH (1 sighting)

September produced one cheetah sighting in one of our larger open areas, Clarendon open area. This was a large male cheetah and provided us with a good sighting and showed interest in prey species such a young male steenbok, the steenbok however escaped the advancement of the cheetah. The cheetah made further attempts to attain himself a meal, none of which were successful.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

SEPTEMBER	1
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS (7 sightings)

The month of September was prosperous in terms of viewing the Cape Hunting Dogs. We regularly saw a pack of 8 Cape Hunting Dogs. This pack has a distinctive male who is very dark in comparison to the other members he is also an elderly male and has a high concentration of gray hairs on his face, one of the males also has a wound on his genitals. This wound has been present for a long period now and does not seem to be on the mend. The Pack were successful in making kills in September. Bushbuck came in as the flavor of the month once again with impala being the runner up. The pack unfortunately showed no signs of denning as was expected from the previous month's activity.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

SEPTEMBER	8
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

Being the peak of the dry season we were very fortunate to have a multitude of elephant sightings along the Sand River as this is the most prominent water source. Large herds of elephants were seen making their way down to the river during the day as they sought the reprieve offered by this perennial river. At times there were so many of these pachyderms that it was difficult to count. Large elephant bulls with very impressive ivory also frequented the property.

The Sand River acted as a magnet for the large buffalo herds as they needed to head down to the river to have their bi-daily drink of water. This ensured lengthy visits on our property and we enjoyed regular sightings. Herds numbering in excess of five hundred animals were common.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

African Wild Cat: 1

Caracal: 3

Civet: 6

Honey Badger: 6

Serval: 1

Sable: 1

Ostrich and eight chicks at Clarendon Open Area: 4

Hyena pups at the Den Site to the east of F bend Open Area.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

Lion: 47

Leopard: 101

Elephant: 154

Buffalo: 77

Cheetah: 1

Cape Hunting Dogs: 7

