

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – AUGUST 2015

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

WEATHER SUMMARY – AUGUST

	Celsius (°C)	Fahrenheit (°F)
Maximum temperature	41	106
Minimum temperature	8	46
Mean maximum	29.3	84.7
Mean minimum	14.9	58.8
Rainfall (mm)	0	
Days of rain	0	

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF AUGUST 2015

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 8

1 ADULT FEMALE	12 YEARS 7 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	7 YEARS 7 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALES	4 YEARS 7 MONTHS
2 ADULT MALES	4 YEARS 7 MONTH
2 SUB ADULT FEMALES	1 YEAR 9 MONTHS
1 CUB	4 MONTHS

MALA MALA, EYREFIELD
(16 sightings)

As with July the Styx pride, or representatives thereof, were seen on just over half of the days during August. The month started off seeing four of the adult lionesses, in the company of one of the sub-adult females. This reunion did not last two long, as both of the sub-adult females were seen a few days later on their own at lower Mlowathi crossing, and again at the end of the first week of August in the central parts Mlowathi river.

The next sighting was of the four adult lionesses, with the two Clarendon males, on the very eastern parts of Southern side Nwana Nonantshemeni. The two sub-adult females were seen on the same day, about two kilometres south and west of their maternal pride's position, at the junction of Matshapiri Dam road and Old Borehole road. These two young females were seen the following day, north of Campbell koppies - close to the sausage spot.

A most welcome sighting during August, was of the two young males from the Styx pride, who were seen together on the tenth of the month, along the northern parts of Gowrie Trust road. They were seen on two more occasions - once at Clarendon dam and the third and last time for the month was at the confluence of the Mlowathi, Manyalethi and Sand Rivers. They have clearly learnt their lessons over the last year, and were very silent during their brief visits onto MalaMala in August. Inso doing, making sure they did not cross paths unnecessarily with any potential threats, namely the Clarendon males or the males from the Matshapiri pride.

Our first sighting of the Styx pride's cubs, was on the eleventh of August, who were found on their own in the northern reaches of the Mlowathi River. The next and last time they were seen, was with the adult lionesses from the pride, as well as the Clarendon males on a buffalo kill, south of Matshapiri dam.

The two sub-adult females were seen a total of nine times during August, aside from the aforementioned sightings. These two were seen, yet again, around: the southern parts of the Mlowathi river, Tslebe rocks, between Clarendon open area and Matshapiri dam (with a warthog kill), Matshapiri dam and Piccadilly triangle. The last sighting of either of these two sub-adult lionesses, was on the 29th of August.

This sighting involved the sub-adult female with the weaker right eyelid, the lioness with the cubs and one of her cubs...or so we thought. This trio were found where Eastern side Mlowathi meets Northern side Nwana Nonantshemeni, and what appeared to be a fairly peaceful situation escalated rapidly, when the two Clarendon males appeared out of the Mlowathi River and proceeded to attack the sub-adult lioness in what appeared to be a display of dominance, leaving her with a few superficial injuries. The action which raised eyebrows the most, was that the young lioness from the Styx pride assisted the Clarendon males during these attacks.

Another thing which stood out at this sighting, was the presence of only one cub of three. Reports from the north are of a male coalition of five, that have been moving further south and are inching into the Clarendon males' territory. During these advances, they have come into contact with the Styx pride, and have consequently claimed the lives of two of the cubs as well as the second young lioness from the pride (i.e. not the mother of the cubs).

Three members down, with a fair amount of separation and uncertainty for the future of the remaining members. Let's see what September has in store for the Styx pride.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALES	8 YEARS 2 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	8 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	3 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	3 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	3 YEARS 3 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	3 YEARS 0 MONTHS

MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD
(12 sightings)

The twelve sightings of the Eyrefield pride, consisted of three sightings of a couple of the young males and nine sightings of one or more of the females. There was not one occasion, where the males were seen with the females. The evidence supporting the young males are breaking away from the pride grows every month. Only two of the males were seen during August, the first sighting was of both of them on the shortcut to the Charleston-Flockfield boundary on the 20th of the month. The following day they were seen about three kilometres north and west of this position, at the entrance of Sibuye drive. Their northward journey continued, as our last encounter with these lions, was on the 22nd of August on the MalaMala airstrip.

The remaining nine sightings of the females from the Eyrefield pride, mainly consisted of one of the females mating with one of the males from the Matshapiri pride. The pair were seen mating on numerous occasions over five different days during August.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 2

1 ADULT FEMALE	UNKNOWN AGE
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	5 YEARS 2 MONTHS

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALES	13 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 4 MONTHS
3 MALE CUBS	2 YEARS 2 MONTHS
1 FEMALE CUB	2 YEARS 2 MONTHS

MARHTLY
(4 sightings)

There were four sightings of the Marthly pride during August, initially found on the first day of the month around the area of the sandpit. This pride was not seen again for over three weeks. On the 27th of the month, they were found in the Sable rotunda. The following day, they were seen again - this time fast asleep beneath a noticeable brown ivory, south of the road which leads from the MalaMala main camp booms to the causeway. This slumber was interrupted by the roaring of the Treehouse male leopard,

which they eventually chased up a tree. Shortly afterwards they came into contact with the Airstrip male leopard, who was also investigating the recent roaring, he too was chased up the same tree as the Treehouse male. They did not move too far in the evening, and were found the following day about 200 meters (650 ft.) eastwards.

They were not seen again until the final day of August, when they were found in the general area of a large herd of buffalo - estimated to be just over seven hundred animals in total. This part is not too unexpected, what did raise a few eyebrows was the position of the Marthly pride. These seven lions were seen close to the Charleston-Flockfield boundary, much further south than they usually occur. As the sun got lower, the pride became more and more interested in the herd of buffalo who were now drinking from the Sand River, at its confluence with the Rock Drift donga. They were not the only lions around, as two of the young Eyrefield males were seen - their company was not welcomed by the Marthly pride, who ended up chasing the two young lions into the herd of buffalo. They got the messaged and soon hightailed it out of the area. The Marthly pride continued to cause chaos, this time turning their attention to that of the buffalo. These seven members worked seamlessly together, however it appeared they weren't intact trying to kill one of the buffalo but rather herd a potential candidate further north - closer to their territory. When these animals were left in the evening, as far as we know upon there was no success in the hunting department.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 5

1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 7 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULT MALES	4 YEARS 3 MONTHS
2 MALE CUBS	± 5 MONTHS

CHARLESTON

(14 sightings of the female; 13 of the two male cubs; 12 of the two males)

The Charleston pride were seen on 17 days during August, the lioness was seen most frequently - being seen on 14 of these days. Her cubs were a close second being seen on 13 occasions, trailed by their older male cousins who were seen 12 times. Three of which were not in the company of their aunt and her cubs, when they were seen at: Calabash crossing twice, and once north of the Trollip's hippo pools.

The female from the Charleston pride, along with her two cubs were seen in close proximity to the Sand River - in their most preferred areas, between Flat rocks and Calabash crossing, occasionally spending some time around Trollip's hippo pools. Just over a week into August she successfully captured an nyala, which she and her growing cubs shared.

With ten days to go, until the end of August, the full complement of the pride were seen on the eastern bank of the Sand River, close to Charleston river rocks with a fully in tact male buffalo carcass, which they had recently killed. They remained in this position for five full days, during which the members took turns feeding on the carcass, sleeping, drinking from the river and occasionally being chased by elephants.

MATSHAPIRI PRIDE = 5

2 ADULT MALES	±5 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
1 ADULT FEMALE	±3 YEARS 4 MONTHS

EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, MALAMALA
(13 sightings)

The first sighting of this pride during August was on the third of the month, where the two males were found around Confluence crossing with a female from the Eyrefield pride. Besides seeing one of the males mating with this lioness, the males also had a bit of interaction amongst themselves which was sorted out by a brief, but adrenaline filled, altercation in front of a few rangers and their guests.

Of the thirteen days this pride, or any of its members, were seen during August - seven were in the company of either one or more of the females from the Eyrefield pride. At each of these sightings, the lions were seen mating - something which has been going on now for about three months. We have noticed that one of the females appears to be pregnant - let's see what unfolds during September.

TJELLAHANGA PRIDE=9

2 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	± 3 YEARS 7 MONTHS
6 SUB-ADULT MALES	± 3 YEARS 7 MONTHS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride.

JAKKALSDRAAI MALES = 2

2 SUB ADULT MALES	5 YEARS 2 MONTHS
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WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride.

CLARENDON MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES	±10 YEARS 8 MONTHS
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NORTHERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN MARTHLY
(8 sightings)

A majority of the eight sightings of these two males, were in the latter parts of August. Five of which were of just these two males - moving around their territory and ensuring any potential competitors were well aware of their presence, by scent marking and roaring.

The remaining three sightings were in the company of members from the Styx pride; the first was with the four adult females, the second with these same four and the cubs from the pride during which they shared a buffalo carcass south of Matshapiri dam. The last sighting of these males, was on the 29th of the month

where they were seen with three members of the Styx pride (the mother of the cubs, one of the cubs and one sub-adult lioness). There was definitely something going on, as their approach was stealthy and soon both of the males took turns in attacking the sub-adult lioness, who was clearly showing signs of submissiveness towards these large Clarendon males. This did not stop them, as we were witness to at least five of these encounters - although they none of them were fatal, the sub-adult definitely did not walk away unharmed, and was seen with some lacerations on her back.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4 **± 10 YEARS 11 MONTHS**
MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALA MALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD
DOMINANT OVER THE STYX, EYREFIELD, FOURWAYS, MARTHLY AND
BREAKAWAY MARTHLY PRIDES
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Manyalethi males.

Other lions encountered

Eight unknown lions were seen during August, and two lionesses. The first sighting of any of these unidentified animals, was of three young males who were seen in the south eastern parts of the property on a buffalo kill, which fed them for the remainder of the day as well as the following. On the third day, there was no sign of the lions, and the hyenas happily moved into the area and finished the remnants of the carcass.

Of the five other unknown males that were seen in August, three of which were in western Flockfield, and the remaining two in eastern Flockfield. These last two were found on Lannea road, after following tracks of their which were on top of those of a herd of buffalo from Rocky crossing. During the evening these males walked in the general direction of the herd of buffalo once again, and then all of a sudden turned around and walked south and east back to where they had come from.

Two lionesses were seen during August, north of the Windmill. They had captured a buffalo calf on the twelfth of the month, and were seen feeding on the carcass.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

July	41
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LEOPARDS:

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

13 YEARS 6 MONTHS

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

For a male leopard who is six months into the 13th year of his life, the Bicycle crossing male is still looking in fantastic condition. The records continue to be broken as the most recent number of sightings in July (9) was broken by the 12 encounters we had of the Bicycle crossing male in August. Mainly found along the river this month, this leopard was seen on two separate kills - one at the confluence of the Sand River and the Rock Drift donga with a duiker kill and the second on the western bank of the Sand River, south of Rattray's on MalaMala.

Whether or not the Bicycle crossing male made the second kill himself or not, is up for debate. Early on the morning of the 28th of August, a message was received from the staff at Rattray's camp that they could see a leopard in a tree with a kill. This male was to be identified as the Treehouse male, the Bicycle crossing male was located shortly afterwards. He was lying down in some nearby vegetation, making his presence known by giving a series of growls. What ensued afterwards was somewhat of a confrontation, but without any physical encounter. Once these two leopards had eyed each other out, and sized the other up, the Treehouse male skulked away and watched as the Bicycle crossing male ascended the tree and began feeding on the remains of the male impala. Did the Bicycle crossing male merely claim what was rightfully his, or use his size and confidence to plunder the quarry of the much younger, Treehouse male?

AIRSTRIP MALE

9 YEARS 2 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(13 sightings)

Once again, the Airstrip male was the individual leopard seen most frequently this month. He was viewed on 13 different days during the month, five of which were on the western bank around the northern parts of Kikilezihash. He is definitely trying to expand his territory and is making it well known to the currently dominant, Treehouse male. The Airstrip male clearly left his calling card in the territory of the Treehouse male who responded with a roar. These two did have an encounter that day, in a jackalberry tree, which both of them had been chased up by the Marthly prides at different times of the morning.

This was not the only interaction the Airstrip male had with other leopards during August, he was seen with the Kikilezi female, as well as her two offspring during the month. The first was with both of the daughters, and the second encounter was with the Kikilezi female herself and one of her daughters, with the 3:3 spot patterning.

CHARLESTON MALE

9 YEARS 2 MONTHS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

WEST STREET MALE**6 YEARS 4 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(1 sighting)

There was one confirmed sighting of the West Street male during August, where he was seen at the entrance of Sibuye drive. He gave everyone a good show as he moved through some interesting terrain, stopping and scoping out his next destination from atop a termite mound. He made the following process a little challenging as he headed straight towards a drainage line, eventually popping out in an open area at the junction of River road and 2nd turning Jakkalsdraai.

TREEHOUSE MALE**± 5 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA

(10 sightings)

If one were to entitle the month of August, for the Treehouse male leopard - perhaps 'interaction' would be an appropriate choice of word. Of the ten sightings of this male leopard, five included either leopards, lions or both. The first of which was on the second of the month, when he stole a bushbuck kill from the Tamboti female. His next encounter was with the Island female, who he was mating with midway through the month, north of Flockfield drift. In the last week of the month, the Treehouse male was chased up a jackalberry tree on the ridge line west of the northern parts of Kikilezihash, by the Marthly pride. While he was treed, the Airstrip male was chased up the same tree by the same lions. These two large male leopards hissed and growled at one another before the Airstrip male made a break for it at the first opportunity which presented itself.

The following day the Treehouse male was found south of Rattray's on MalaMala, with the remains of an adult male impala, in an apple leaf tree. This was soon lost to the Bicycle crossing male, and left the Treehouse male looking a bit sombre as he watched this dominant male ascend the tree and stake his claim to the carcass.

Tired of being the submissive individual during August, the Treehouse male took out his frustrations on the Dudley female who he was seen chasing around close to Flockfield boma crossing on the last day of the month. What will he get up to during September?

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE**± 9 YEARS 2 MONTHS**

NORTHERN EYREFIELD

(5 sightings)

The Tsebe rocks male was seen five times during August, three times in the first half of the month and twice in during the second. He was seen between Mlowathi dam and Wild dog rocks gowrie boundary road, and only as far south as the Nwana Nonantshemeni donga.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(0 sightings)

14 YEARS 8 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period

GOWRIE MALE
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

± 8 YEARS 0 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period

RIVER ROCKS MALE
(0 sightings)

6 YEARS 1 MONTH

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period

KIKILEZI FEMALE
2 FEMALE CUBS

13 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 YEAR 8 MONTHS

WESTERN MALA-MALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLI
(7 sightings of female, 7 sighting of female and cub(s), 17 sightings of cub(s) without female)

As with July, the Kikilezi female and/or her daughters were seen on almost 25 days during the month of August, in which they were seen 31 times. During these 31 sightings of one or more of this trio, there was a large amount of variability in comparison to what we have seen over the last few months: the kikilezi female was seen on her own, her daughters have been seen with their mother/each other/alone, different individuals have been seen on separate kills at the same time, the daughters of the Kikilezi female have been seen with their father (the Airstrip male), the three females were seen in the company of another (the Ostrich Koppies female). Not all of the interactions have been positive, as there is seemingly a growing tension between the two sisters, who have been seen hissing and snarling at one another on more than a few occasions.

Eight kills were recorded during August, the first of which was an impala, which was captured by one of the sub-adult females. Shortly thereafter, the Kikilezi female and her 2:2 spot pattern daughter were seen in close proximity to a duiker kill, in the Mlowathi River at lower Mlowathi crossing where they remained for three days in total. Over the same time, the 3:3 spot pattern daughter of the Kikilezi female had also captured a duiker, and was seen in the same river, near the shortcut between eastern and western side Mlowathi.

The 2:2 spot pattern daughter, shortly thereafter, proved her competence in the hunting department by capturing a female bushbuck east of the causeway, and was later joined by her sister. The two young leopardesses remained in the area for two days, before parting ways. Over the time they were on the kill, their mother was seen in Piccadilly triangle, where she captured a scrub hare as well as attacked a juvenile Bateleur (a bird of prey), all the while looking around and contact calling her daughters, with no response. Shortly after this incident, the Kikilezi female was seen together with her daughters on an impala kill,

which was hoisted in a tree in the drainage line system north of Campbell koppies, where they remained for three days. It was here where the Ostrich Koppies female was seen too, however there was no interaction as she moved off fairly quickly.

Less than a week after the last impala kill was done, the daughters of the Kikilezi female were found together, south and east of the sausage spot. They were both seen gnawing on the remains of a young female impala carcass. What will happen during September, will the sub-adult females spend even more time with their mother, share kills together, or perhaps spend more time individually?

TAMBOTI FEMALE **7 YEARS 11 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA
(7 sightings)

The Tamboti female and Treehouse male met up during August, but it was not for the purpose of mating - he stole her bushbuck kill on the second of the month, at Princess Alice Pans. She was successful shortly thereafter, and was seen with a female impala kill at Flockfield camp, where she remained for two days. The following four sightings of the Tamboti female were in and around her territory, throughout August.

ISLAND FEMALE **2 YEARS 6 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period

MLOWATHI FEMALE **8 YEARS 7 MONTHS**
DAUGHTER OF THE MLOWATHI FEMALE **±1 YEAR 9 MONTHS**
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings of the Mlowathi female, 0 sightings of the daughter of the Mlowathi female)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE **10 YEARS 8 MONTHS**
MALE CUB **1 YEAR 2 MONTHS**
EYREFIELD
(5 sightings of female, 1 sightings of female and cub, 2 sighting of cub without female)

August was a great month of viewing for the Ostrich Koppie female and her son. This female was seen on five occasions during the month, between Mlowathi and Matshapiri dam. On one of these encounters she was seen in the vicinity of the Kikilezi female and her two daughters, who were on an impala kill - needless to say, the Ostrich Koppies female moved off without any major interaction between these four leopards.

The Ostrich Koppies female was also seen with her son, in the Matshapiri river - about 300 meters (980 ft.) north of Matshapiri dam. They were seen with a fresh duiker kill, which lasted them the afternoon and evening. This was not the only kill which either of them were recorded being with during August, as the

young male was witnessed capturing, killing and eating a slender mongoose too. Another indicator that the son of the Ostrich Koppies female on his way to independence.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE **14 YEARS 10 MONTHS**

MALE CUB OF THE MATSHAPIRI FEMALE **±8 MONTHS**

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD

(1 sightings of the Matshapiri female; 0 sightings of the female and cub, 0 sightings of her cub)

The Matshapiri female was seen once during August, at Matshapiri dam. Clearly the dry weather has forced a number of animals to frequent areas where there is any source of water. Although she is approaching 15 years of age, this female is still looking good. We look forward to September, hopefully we will encounter her son, the one remaining offspring from her latest litter, who is easily identified by his shorter tail.

DUDLEY FEMALE **16 YEARS 11 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(6 sightings)

This older, but legendary leopardess, is still going strong. She is no longer dominant in any area, and as a result she has adopted a more nomadic, opportunistic lifestyle - it is always good to see her around. During the six sightings of this female during August, she was encountered on three occasions in the general area of West Street bridge during the first week of the month. She was not seen for almost two weeks, until she was located on the northern parts of Calabash drive, where she remained for almost a week before being seen on the last day of the month at Flockfield boma crossing. In this last sighting of this female leopard, she was seen with the Treehouse male. He was not too partial to her company and ended up chasing her around.

DAUGHTER OF THE DUDLEY FEMALE **2 YEARS 5 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

EMSAGWENI FEMALE **5 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

CUB OF THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE **±5 MONTHS**

MALA-MALA

(2 sightings of the Emsagweni female; 6 sightings of the female and cub, 0 sightings of her cub)

(8 sightings)

We were fortunate to see the Emsagweni female on her own on two occasions. One of which she was patrolling her territory, taking the opportunity to run in on a young bushbuck. This small antelope managed to get away, and the leopardess continued her patrolling eventually heading back in the general direction of Emsagwen waterhole. There were five spectacular sightings of this female, with her cub in tow - all of which were in and around the area of Emsagwen waterhole. We are sure she is denning in this general vicinity, as there are numerous, thickly vegetated drainage lines in the area for her to choose from.

On one very special occasion, the Emsagweni female was seen perched on a branch jutting out from the eastern bank of the Matshapiri river, south of the Accipiter donga. Upon further inspection, about 20% of a female impala carcass was seen. Shortly after this discovery she begun contact calling - and her cub revealed itself. Who eventually ascended the tree and fed off the carcass, an activity which quickly got boring for the young one who soon started exploring the canopy, as only a young leopard can.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE **11 YEARS 4 MONTH**
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
 (0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

Other leopards encountered:

- **No ID males:** (9 sightings)
 - There were nine sightings of eight unidentified male leopards in August:
 - One was in Two toes open area - we assume this to be the same male who has seen around Emsagwen waterhole. He is still a little skittish, but calming down around the presence of vehicles. This is the fifth month he has been seen.
 - One, large male was seen on two occasions, once at Trollip’s hippo pools and again at Beaumont’s camp - during which it was noted he had a few injuries.
 - An unidentified male and female were seen mating in the Hogvaal donga.
 - A young, unknown leopard was seen in the north eastern parts of the property, with an adult female impala kill which he fed off for one day - both he and the kill were gone the following morning.
 - There was a young leopard seen in Eyrefield, although his identify was not possible to attain - it is assumed he is the on of the Ostrich Koppies female.
 - The remaining leopards were seen between western Flockfield and the southern parts of Charleston.
- **No ID females:** (10 sightings)
 - There were ten sightings of ten unidentified female leopards in August:
 - These sightings stretched from the northern parts of Eyrefield to most extreme southern parts of Charleston.
 - One unknown female was seen mating with an unknown male in the Hogvaal donga - both of which headed off in the general direction of the Kruger National park.
 - One female spent a day in Ingwe donga, on an impala kill.
 - Two months in a row now, a female has been seen around south west Charleston with two cubs.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

August	35
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CHEETAH

August, as July, was a little quiet in terms of cheetah sightings - having three in total. What was exciting, was the amount of variability of where the three different individuals were seen. The two males from the coalition, which frequent Clarendon open area were seen close to Clarendon dam.

Another male was seen in eastern Flockfield at the junction of Borehole and Rock Drift road, and a single female on the shortcut between Tsebe rocks road and Old Borehole road.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

August	4
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

The first half of August followed suit from July, with daily sightings of cape hunting dogs from the pack with the older male, with the half tail. The puppies from alpha female's litter had been exploring more and more, and soon the the puppies from the beta female's litter were doing the same. The decision amongst the pack must have been reached that all of the puppies were old enough to leave the densite, and run with the adults. We were sad to see them go, but from reports the pack is doing well and there have been no recorded fatalities of any of the puppies. We look forward to seeing them again soon.

This pack was not the only one seen on MalaMala during August, as another was located in south west Charleston at about the same time the half-tailed pack departed. The newest pack settled in a drainage line south of Trollip's access for a few days, providing us more wonderful sightings of these busy animals.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

August	45
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

The allure of the Sand River grows everyday, as the much needed rains have still not arrived. As this is the case, we continued to have excellent sightings of buffalo and elephant during August.

Cape buffalo were seen daily in August, with almost three sightings a day. The 89 sightings of these animals during the month consisted of 26 large herds, one of which was estimated to be around 730 in number. This herd was split up quite a bit, after an interaction with the Marthly pride, but soon rejoined and continued their search for food and water. In addition to this, there were 8 herds seen and 264 individuals.

The elephant sightings during August were a touch less than in July, however there was on average just more than six encounters with these animals per day - at a herd or individual level. 53 large herds were encountered, along with 125 smaller herds and 25 individual bulls.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

August kicked off to a great start with four ostriches being seen in the first week, two males and two females, around Clarendon open area. This was not the only ostrich sighting for the month, as two more were seen later on in the month.

Continuing with the bird theme, two trumpeter hornbills were seen near West Street bridge, who continued to call and ended up making their way into Rattray's camp for a bit before continuing their journey. A number of migratory birds have been spotted too, returning to the lowveld in time for spring, namely: Wahlberg's eagles and red-breasted swallows.

Other interesting sightings included: four honey badgers being seen on the same day at different locations on MalaMala, two porcupines, four different encounters with a sable antelope bull.

In addition to this, there is a new hyena densite on the property which has been discovered. There appears to be a couple of adults, the same number of sub-adults, and a few juveniles.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR JULY 2015

Lion	77
Leopard	125
Elephant	191
Buffalo	89
Cheetah	3
Cape Hunting Dog	13

MalaMala Kill Analysis**August 2015**

	Lions	Leopards	Cape hunting dog	Cheetah	Total
Impala	1	6	1		8
Duiker		5			5
Klipspringer					
Buffalo	4				4
Bushbuck		2			2
Warthog	1				1
Nyala	1	1			2
Waterbuck					
Wildebeest					
Kudu					
Giraffe					
Other		2			2
Total	7	16	1		24

August 2015

	LION		LEOPARD		ELEPHANT		BUFFALO	
	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings
1	15	3	2	2	3LH+6H	9	LH+10	3
2	3	1	5	5	7LH+2H+5	6	LH+H+10	5
3	5	2	6	5	LH+7H	8	LH+2	2
4	7	3	7	6	3LH+5H	8	LH+H+5	3
5	6	3	5	5	LH+6H	7	LH+10	4
6	2	1	5	5	LH+5H+1	7	LH+6	3
7	10	5	6	6	7H	7	LH+5	3
8	6	3	6	5	3LH+3H+1	7	LH+15	4
9	4	2	6	5	2LH+5H	7	LH+9	3
10	5	2	3	2	LH	1	LH+8	2
11	5	2	4	4	LH+8H	9	LH+7	3
12	4	2	5	3	LH+4H+3	7	LH+H+10	6
13	6	2	6	3	3LH+4H	7	LH+3	2
14	8	3	8	7	3LH+5H+2	10	LH+H+17	5
15	1	1	4	3	LH+7H	8	LH+10	3
16	5	3	6	6	2LH+8H	10	LH+5	2
17	3	1	9	7	2LH+6H+2	9	LH+H+8	3
18	6	2	9	5	3LH+1	4	LH+18	5
19	4	1	4	2	2LH+H	3	6	1
20	3	1	7	4	2H	2	H+6	3
21	11	4	2	2	5	5	LH+8	3
22	12	3	2	2	3LH+4H+2	9	H+6	2
23	5	1	6	4	5H	5	4	1
24	10	4	5	3	3LH	3	LH+H+3	3
25	16	4	3	2	LH+4H	5	LH	1
26	7	3	4	4	LH+3H	4	7	1
27	16	4	3	2	2LH+3H	5	LH	1
28	13	6	7	5	LH+9H+2	10	LH+30	5
29	12	2	3	2	3H	3	LH+9	3
30	2	1	4	4	LH+2H+1	4	LH+27	3
31	5	2	5	5	LH+H	2	LH	1
	217	77	157	125	53LH+125H+25	191	26LH+8H+264	89