

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – FEBRUARY 2016

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

WEATHER SUMMARY – FEBRUARY

<i>TEMPERATURE</i>					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	42	33,9	Maximum	107,6	93,0
Minimum	21	23,8	Minimum	69,8	74,8
<i>RAINFALL</i>					
Millimeters		Inches		Days of rain	
5		0,20		2	

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF FEBRUARY 2016

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 5

1 ADULT FEMALE	13 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 ADULT FEMALE	8 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 ADULT FEMALES	5 YEARS 1 MONTH
2 ADULT MALES	4 YEARS 1 MONTH

MALA MALA, EYREFIELD

Males last seen with core pride: May, 2015. Last seen: January, 2016
(2 sightings)

During January, we had ten sightings of the Styx pride - including one sighting of the two young males. In February, there were only two sightings - both of which were made up of the three lionesses. The first sighting of which was in the lower reaches of the Mlowathi River, the second and last sighting of the Styx pride for February was close to the central parts of the Matshapiri river. The second consecutive month they have been seen quite far south on MalaMala, compared to months gone by. At this sighting, the lionesses had successfully captured a buffalo and were seen feeding on the carcass.

Is it possible they are slowly making their way further away from the Gowrie males in the north? Or perhaps they are scoping out the northern parts of MalaMala to establish themselves once more?

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 10

2 ADULT FEMALES	8 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	4 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	3 YEARS 9 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	3 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 CUBS	3 MONTHS
2 CUBS	2 MONTHS

MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD
(28 sightings)

28 sightings of the Eyrefield pride during February, a month which consisted of 29 days. This record number of sightings of any pride, or representatives thereof, will take some doing to break. The Eyrefield pride provided much entertainment during February, where yet again these lions, were viewed between Rattray's camps and West Street bridge - if not in, then in very close proximity to the Sand River.

The the cubs were viewed on 25 of the days, many of which included all four of the young ones who are becoming such a pleasure to watch as they are getting to an age where they spend a lot of their 'down time' stalking and wrestling one another, with the occasional trip back to the lionesses to suckle. The lionesses from the Eyrefield pride and their offspring were also seen in the company of the dominant Matshapiri males, on eleven occasions in the month. Five encounters, included watching these nine lions share two buffalo (of three) which had fallen victim to the lionesses, who over the last few months have honed their buffalo hunting skills to perfection.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 6

1 ADULT FEMALE	UNKNOWN AGE
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	5 YEARS 8 MONTHS
2 MALE CUBS	3 MONTHS
2 FEMALE CUBS	3 MONTHS

EASTERN FLOCKFIELD
(4 sightings)

Another successful month of viewing the Fourways pride, these six lions were seen on four separate occasions during February. The first and last sightings were on the fifth and 19th of the month, respectively, and both of which were of the pride as well as the Matshapiri males. These males have sired four cubs with the Fourways pride, the sexes of which have been confirmed: two males and two females.

All of the members of this pride are looking in the best of health, which is attributed to the fact that they - much like the Eyrefield pride have acquired the taste of buffalo. All six members of the Fourways pride were seen sharing a young buffalo in the second half of February, north of the Windmill.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALES

13 YEARS 6 MONTHS

1 ADULT FEMALE

4 YEARS 7 MONTHS

3 SUB-ADULT MALES

2 YEARS 8 MONTHS

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

2 YEARS 8 MONTHS

MARHTLY, MALAMALA

(21 sightings)

February's 21 sightings of the Marthly pride consisted of five of the seven members; the older, tailless, lioness and the four sub-adults. The two missing lionesses are still reportedly spending a majority of their time in the company of the Clarendon males, who will more than likely be father's soon as one of the females apparently showing signs of being pregnant.

The five members of the pride, were seen on 20 occasions between the Ngoboswan donga and on the bank of the Sand River directly opposite MalaMala main camp. To provide some perspective, on a majority of the sightings we had of the five members of the Marthly pride they were within one kilometre (0.6 miles) of the camp. This leaves one sighting to be mentioned, not only were they much further than the aforementioned distance from camp, they were well within the territory of the Fourways pride and Matshapiri males (close to the windmill) - and on a buffalo kill. We are uncertain if they were chased from the area or not, however the following day they were found yet again on the banks of the Sand River downstream from MalaMala main camp.

This was not the quarry these lions were able to capture during February, as they were successful in capturing a kudu bull, as well as a buffalo cow and calf. The last two were both on the same day. The sub-adults of this pride are learning invaluable life lessons from the older lioness, which will serve them well in the years to come. Anecdotal, at this stage, but the sub-adult lioness is clearly an individual who is practicing the most as she is often the first of the youngsters to notice prey and make any moves. Her brothers are still quite happy to rely on the older lioness and their sister for instructions.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 5

1 ADULT FEMALE

11 YEARS 1 MONTH

2 ADULT MALES

4 YEARS 9 MONTHS

2 MALE CUBS

± 11 MONTHS

CHARLESTON

(0 sightings of the female; 0 of the two male cubs; 0 of the two males)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride. The lioness and her sons have been spending most of their time on the southern banks of the Sand River and southwards from there - this could possibly be due to the increased number of sightings of the lions in the area (to be discussed later). The two males from the pride, have fathered a little of cubs some ways south and west of MalaMala, where they seem to have settled for now.

MATSHAPIRI PRIDE = 3

2 ADULT MALES

±5 YEARS 10 MONTHS

1 ADULT FEMALE

±3 YEARS 10 MONTHS

FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

DOMINANT OVER THE EYREFIELD AND FOURWAYS PRIDES

First encounter: April 2015

(18 sightings)

Encountered as often as the month prior, the Matshapiri pride were viewed on 18 occasions during February. The lioness of the pride was seen four times, three of which she was seen in the company of the males, and once she was seen alone - although close to the two males, who were with the Eyrefield pride. This young lionesses has already experienced the wrath of the Eyrefield pride and has clearly learnt her lesson, maintaining a safe distance at all times - even if that means a semi-solitary lifestyle.

Of the 17 occasions these males were seen in February, which were spread throughout their vast territory, these males were seen as follows: alone (4), with their sister (3), with the Fourways pride (2) and with the Eyrefield pride (8). It appears they favour spending time with the Eyrefield pride, however there are a number of possible theories surrounding the males' apparent preference.

The focus, per se, should not be on the Matshapiri males favouring the Eyrefield pride, but more than likely the area in which this pride have chosen to reside, in and around the the western parts of the Matshapiri males' territory, hugging the banks of the Sand River. This part of their territory has fairly easy access to water, thus attracts a bounty of prey species. As this is so, this area will more than likely come under threat of invasion sooner, if left unattended for too long. On the other hand, it could be that we mainly view the Matshapiri males in this area as their patrolling routes and favoured areas, where they spend the parts of the month we do not view them, within their territory are still in the process of being identified - by the lions and rangers, alike.

TJELLAHANGA PRIDE=9

2 ADULT FEMALES

UNKNOWN AGES

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

± 4 YEARS 1 MONTH

6 SUB-ADULT MALES

± 4 YEARS 1 MONTH

EASTERN CHARLESTON, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride.

JAKKALSDRAAI MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

5 YEARS 7 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride.

CLARENDON MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

±11 YEARS 2 MONTHS

MARTHLY

(1 sighting)

Possibly a combination between: spending a majority of their time with two of the Marthly lionesses, protecting their new territory to which lies somewhat to the west of MalaMala main camp and their proactive approach at preventing any unwanted attention being drawn toward themselves (namely from the Gowrie males) - the Clarendon males were seen on one, brief, occasion during February.

These two, impressive, males were seen within the second half of the month around Matumi Rocks. An area they are fairly familiar with and have been successful on numerous occasions in terms of hunting. They are both looking well, and in good condition. Hopefully they can maintain this, as if their matings have been successful with the two Marthly lionesses, they should be fathers by the end of the first quarter of 2016.

GOWRIE MALES = 5

1 ADULT MALE

± 5 YEARS 4 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE

± 4 YEARS 10 MONTHS

3 ADULT MALES

± 4 YEARS 4 MONTHS

EYREFIELD, MALAMALA - DOMINANT OVER THE STYX PRIDE

First encounter: September 2015

(1 sighting)

February was the lowest number of recorded sightings of the Gowrie males of any month, since they were first viewed in September, 2015. Three of these males were viewed on the second of the month at Mlowathi dam.

On a number of occasions we located tracks of male lions, in the areas which they patrol, indicating that they still frequent these areas. It is possible that they do not feel the need to spend too much time in/ around these areas, as for the time being there are no male coalitions in the immediate area which could come close to threatening their dominance.

Is it possible that their age (i.e. inexperience), coupled with the confidence (perhaps, over-confidence) they have with their coalitions' strength, may lead them down a pathway to complacency? Either way, interesting times lay ahead.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4
(0 sightings)

± 11 YEARS 4 MONTHS

There have officially been zero sightings of one, or more, of these once dominant males in 12 months, where three of them were seen in Piccadilly triangle in February 2015. Reports from the west, indicate these four males have settled down, a long ways west of their old territory. As a result, they will be removed from the main section of the game report from now on.

Other lions encountered

There were 13 sightings, of twelve unique individuals during February. These were made up of the following:

- A pride of 8: 2 adult males, 1 sub-adult male, and five females

This pride, known as the ‘Sand River pride’, were seen on seven occasions. During five of which, they were seen either capturing and/or feeding on four different buffalo (two bulls, a cow and a calf).

- 3 young males

These young males, which were seen last month were thought to be from the Eyrefield pride. Upon further investigations, we have found them to originate from a pride which resides north of our northern boundary the ‘Telamati’ pride. These three males were seen on five occasions on the southern parts of the property, one of which we found them feeding from the carcasses of a buffalo cow and calf.

- Unidentified lions: 1

A single young male has been seen around MalaMala over the last few months, and was seen in January close to the Rock Drift donga with a buffalo kill. He was seen once in February, at Charleston North crossing.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

February	41
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LEOPARDS:

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

14 YEARS 0 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD
(2 sightings)

The Bicycle crossing male is fourteen years of age this month, and still going strong. The first sighting we had of the Bicycle crossing male during February, was close to Kapen rocks - where he was seen patrolling his territory. The second, and last sighting, we had of this legendary male leopard was on Flockfield lookout - where he had successfully captured a buffalo calf during the last week the month. He was not seen in the area the next day, nor were there any remains of the carcass found. It is possible that the Bicycle crossing male's quarry was located by either the Eyrefield pride and/or Matshapiri males who were all in the general area, any of which would have jumped at such an easy meal.

AIRSTRIPE MALE

9 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY
(4 sightings)

The Airstrip male was seen on four occasions during February, the first two were around Marthly, where it appears he still feels comfortable/confident enough to make his presence known. The next two sightings were towards the end of the month, east of MalaMala main camp, much more stealthy and silent than the first couple.

February was the least number of sightings we have had of the airstrip male in some time, and we are noticing somewhat of a trend that the Airstrip male is spending less and less time in and around his, once vigilantly patrolled, territory. Perhaps he is spending the same amount of time there, but keeping his presence under the radar - is this possibly to prevent drawing unwanted attention to himself and coming into contact with the Treehouse male? Or has he identified a more suitable territory for himself, which is now free of any dominate males since the passing of both the Gowrie and Marthly male leopards?

WEST STREET MALE

6 YEARS 10 MONTHS

CHARLESTON
(2 sightings)

The first, of the two sightings, we had of the West street male during February was on the banks of the Tjellahanga River. At first he was thought to be a lioness, but upon further inspection was identified correctly. This is testament to this animals sheer size. One week later, he was seen for the last time during the month - resting in the shade of the riverine vegetation, along Sibuye drive.

TREEHOUSE MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(14 sightings)

± 6 YEARS 2 MONTHS

February was a big month for the Treehouse male, on MalaMala. This young gun is really making a name for himself, and has clearly 'rocked the boat' in terms of the previous established dominance in the area. We viewed him on 14 days during the month, the first of which was an absolutely incredible sighting - involving the Treehouse male, the remains of an impala carcass he had treed on the banks of the Ngoboswan donga, the Kikilezi female, a troop of baboons, three hyena and the Marthly pride.

He was next seen a few days later, with the Tamboti female. This couple remained together for the better part of the next week, where they were seen mating on numerous occasions and feeding off a shared impala kill - which the Treehouse male finished off. This entire process repeated itself a week later, when these two leopards were seen yet again in one another company - mating, and feeding off another impala carcass.

The Treehouse male is clearly feeling more and more confident as the months go by - his once tentative, exploratory missions to the eastern bank of the Sand River are a thing of the past. Half of our encounters with this leopard were on the eastern bank, where he was seen between West Street bridge and Piccadilly triangle - the latter is one of the core areas within the Airstrip male's territory, or is it? Has the Treehouse male been successful in making his intentions known, and incorporating this expanse of land into his own?

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE
NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

± 9 YEARS 8 MONTHS

After somewhat of an absence, the Tslebe rocks male was seen during February - one week before the end of the month. He was spotted in the Mlowathi River, just downstream of the dam, looking as good as ever.

ACCIPITER MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(1 sighting)

± 5 YEARS 6 MONTHS

This is the first official entry for the recently named - Accipiter male, who was seen on one occasion during February. Easily identified by his 1:1 spot pattern, we assume this male ventured onto the property from the Kruger National park - staking his claim to the southern parts of the Matshapiri river.

Although he is still fairly uncommonly seen, evidence of his presence in the area described above indicates he does in fact spend a fair amount of time in the area. Initially, quite weary of vehicles - the months of careful driving around him, one vehicle sightings and overall respect for his space, are now paying off. Affording many people, wonderful opportunities to spend time with this male leopard.

KIKILEZI FEMALE**14 YEARS 4 MONTHS****2 FEMALE SUB-ADULT DAUGHTERS****2 YEARS 2 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

(4 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and DOK(s), 6 sightings of DOK(s) without female)

DOKF = daughter(s) of the Kikilezi female

The trends observed in January, continue into February. The Kikilezi female's lifestyle continues in a semi-nomadic fashion, while her daughter with the 3:3 spot pattern's is becoming more settled in her mothers old stomping ground.

The Kikilezi female, who is approaching 14 and a half years if age, is definitely showing signs that the challenges faced over the last few months are taking their toll on her. This ageing legend, was seen on four occasions in February, the first of which did not end up working out in her favour. Instead of scoring an easy meal by scavenging the seemingly abandoned remains of an impala carcass - the Kikilezi female received a disciplining session from the Treehouse male. The captor, owner and protector of the recently discovered impala carcass. She was afforded, and jumped at, a brief window of opportunity to escape his ongoings, thanks to the arrival of some ever-hopeful hyena, barking baboons and approaching lions. The next three sightings of this leopardess, were spread between Bicycle crossing and Flockfield boma crossing - all within close proximity to the Sand River.

Both of her daughters are just over two years in age, and while there was not one confirmed sighting of the 2:2 spot pattern DOKF during February - the 3:3 spot pattern daughter is filling the role once maintained by her mother, with great ease. Her intimate knowledge of the area has worked in her favour, and more than likely will continue to do so. She was seen on six different occasions, between the Mlowathi river, Piccadilly triangle and Campbell Koppies.

Both the 3:3 DOKF and the Treehouse male were seen around Piccadilly triangle on the 25th of the month. Although they were not seen together, it is only a matter of time before they paths cross - if they haven't already done so. As this young leopardess is not his offspring, holds a territory within his ever expanding domain, he could potentially choose her as a mate one day. At this stage in her life, she is more than likely not ready for this , physically - her best option for survival are to avoid him at all costs until she is, as for now she is merely another mouth to feed in the area. Something the Treehouse male does not take to kindly to, as demonstrated earlier in the month with the Kikilezi female.

TAMBOTI FEMALE**8 YEARS 5 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

(10 sightings)

If any more evidence was needed that the Tamboti female's last litter was unsuccessful, her almost week long mating bout with the Treehouse male during the first week of February confirmed all suspicions. The Tamboti female was seen on ten days during the month, six of which were with the Treehouse male during which they mated and shared two separate impala kills. Over and above being seen with this male, she was seen close to another female leopard, around the southern parts of the bottom track which leads through the Tamboti thickets - there was no fighting, but the Tamboti female clearly exudes dominance as

the second leopard was watched as she fled from the area. An area which she was still active in patrolling and making her presence known throughout the month.

ISLAND FEMALE **3 YEARS 0 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA
(7 sightings)

A few things stood out about the sightings of the Island female during February. Firstly, there were seven of them - which is more than double the amount we have seen her in the three months prior. The Island female was also located, on two occasions, in the Matshapiri river between Drum and Donald's crossing - an area quite some distance from where she is usually seen. These two sightings were a week apart, the second of which included seeing her with an impala lamb kill. Indicating she is beginning to explore beyond the boundaries of her mother's core territory - a very big, and exciting step.

The next challenge she may face, would be coming into contact with the Emsagweni female - a much older, larger and more experienced leopardess, who may not take too kindly to the new arrival.

MLOWATHI FEMALE **9 YEARS 1 MONTH**
DAUGHTER OF THE MLOWATHI FEMALE **±3 YEARS 3 MONTHS**
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

There was one confirmed, albeit brief, sighting of the Mlowathi female during February. Keeping true to her namesake, she was seen in the northern parts of the Mlowathi River during the last week of the month.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE **11 YEARS 2 MONTHS**
SON OF THE OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE **1 YEAR 8 MONTHS**
EYREFIELD
(0 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and son, 7 sightings of son)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period, of the Ostrich Koppies female. The last time she was seen five times in September, 2015. The first of which they were seen sharing a duiker kill, they were seen together once more. After this, he was seen alone quite some ways east of Campbell Koppies, where he remained for a few days. His mother was seen on three more occasions that month - we have to now ask if that was the last we have seen of her?

The son of the Ostrich Koppies female was seen on seven occasions during February - the most he has been since, since his mothers disappearance. Although he is too young to claim a territory, he was seen on all occasions between West Street Bridge and Pat's drift - all locations adjacent the Matshapiri River.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE **15 YEARS 4 MONTHS**
MALE CUB OF THE MATSHAPIRI FEMALE **± 1 YEAR 2 MONTHS**
EASTERN MALAMALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

DUDLEY FEMALE **17 YEARS 4 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

EMSAGWENI FEMALE **6 YEARS 2 MONTHS**
CUBS (2) **±1 MONTH**
MALAMALA
(2 sightings)

A few less sightings than in the months previously, the Emsagweni female was seen twice in the last week of the month. Our first encounter with her, was in the Matshapiri River - south of Matshapiri waterhole. She was not alone, and was seen with two cubs - less than a month old.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE **11 YEARS 10 MONTHS**
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

LOOKOUT FEMALE **6 YEARS 0 MONTHS**
CUB **± 2 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(4 sightings of the Lookout female, 1 sighting of the Lookout female and cub)

Another introduction to a recently named leopard on MalaMala - the Lookout female. Initially seen around the southern parts of the Kapen River, and mating with the Bicycle crossing male, in mid-2013. More recently she has been viewed further north of where she was seen originally, easily identified by her 3:3 spot pattern, yellow-green eyes and affinity for the areas between Flockfield lookout and Dudley lookout.

The Lookout female is estimated to be around six years of age, and was viewed on four days during February. On one occasion she was seen high tailing it from an area, upon the realisation that the Tamboti female was around. Another highlight was seeing her with a single cub, on two occasions around Styx waterhole.

Other leopards encountered:

- **No ID males:** (3 sightings)
 - There were three male leopards seen, during an equal number of sightings, in February:
 - One was a young male, around West Street bridge - based on location, and the views we could get of him, this individual was more than likely the son of the Ostrich Koppies female
 - Two sightings of two males, one at Charleston north and one at Styx crossing - unfortunately these individuals were unable to be identified but based on the areas in which these sightings took place, it is more than likely the case that these individuals are one in the same - the Bicycle crossing male.
- **Females:** (5 sightings)
 - Toulon female and cub: seen once, around Flat rocks
 - No ID individuals:
 - There were four sightings of four unidentified female leopards during February
 - One was on the periphery of MalaMala main camp - her identify was not confirmed but it was more than likely the Island female.
 - One was at Charleston north with a cub - this could have possibly been the Lookout female and her offspring.
 - Two were around Clarendon open area

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

February	25
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CHEETAH

The similarity between cheetah sightings in January and February, are the total number of individuals - three. Where February differs, is that there were almost four times the number of sightings - with cheetah being seen at 13 sightings on eleven days of the month. This means that on a couple of the days included two, completely separate cheetah sightings. A big highlight for the month.

The individuals which were seen were: the two member male coalition, which frequent Clarendon open area and the surrounds (7). The third individual was a younger female, seen on the eastern parts of Flockfield. Presumably she has entered the property from further east, namely the Kruger National park.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

February	3
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

The first and last sightings, of the seven occasions we encountered cape hunting dogs during February, were of the pack of three (two males and a female), which we have seen for the past few months. Both of the sightings of this pack, were between the Matshapiri and Kapen Rivers.

The remaining five sightings were of a much larger pack, those which denned on the property almost a year ago. The 13 members of the pack which we saw during February, spent their time in the north western parts of the property, successfully capturing a kudu calf on the sixth of the month.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

February	16
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

The sightings up to February, of both cape buffalo and elephant have been a daily feature. With the ongoing drought, and the Sand River being reduced to no more than a few pools - its allure for the animals is seemingly on the decline. Although we were still very fortunate with the number, and quality, of the sightings we had during the month, it is speculated that the larger animals are having to break into smaller units and disperse further to find the resources they require.

Cape buffalo were viewed on 114 occasions, over 28 days of February. During which a total of 267 bulls were seen and 52 herds, 15 of which included more than 500 individuals.

Elephants were seen on all days during the month, barring two. We viewed 38 individuals, 55 herds and 6 large herds (>50 individuals) - all spread out between 88 sightings.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

Three sightings of sable antelope during February, which ranged from seeing a single sable bull to watching a small herd of five, drinking from the Sand River. The interesting sightings did not stop here, we also had a great sighting of a honey badger as well as a number of opportunities to watch hyenas in large numbers. Besides the increased frequency of hyena sightings at Buffalo bush dam, four individuals claimed the remains of a kudu carcass, once the cape hunting dogs had satiated their hunger. 15 hyena of all ages and sizes were watched ravenously wolfing down all they could from the remains of a hippo, which had expired due to the dwindling available water.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS: FEBRUARY 2016	
LION	79
LEOPARD	72
ELEPHANT	88
BUFFALO	114
CHEETAH	13
CAPE HUNTING DOG	7

BIG 5 ANALYSIS: FEBRUARY 2016

DATE	LION		LEOPARD		ELEPHANT				BUFFALO			
	ANIMALS	SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS	SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS			SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS			SIGHTINGS
					LH	H	INDIV.		LH	H	INDIV.	
1	12	2	2	1							4	2
2	15	4	1	1		3		3		1	10	2
3	6	2	3	2			1	1	1	1		2
4	11	3	4	3		2	3	2			8	3
5	11	2	2	1		4	3	6			20	5
6	7	1	2	1		1	1	2			4	1
7	6	1	2	2		1	1	2			5	1
8	10	2	3	3		1	2	3			4	1
9	7	1	2	2		5		5			11	3
10	7	1	4	4		1	1	2			8	2
11	15	3	1	1	1		2	3			8	2
12	22	3	2	2		2		2		1	8	3
13	11	3	2	2		1		1		1	10	4
14	15	3	7	4		4	3	7	1	2	22	7
15	12	2	4	3		4	2	6	1	4	8	7
16	17	4	4	3		4	3	6	1	5	6	7
17	24	4	3	3		3	1	4	1	3	13	7
18	27	5	3	3	2	2	3	5	2	4	6	8
19	29	5	3	3	1	5	1	7	3	3	6	7
20	18	5	1	1	1	2	1	4	1	2	8	5
21	18	3	3	2		1	1	2	2	2	14	7
22	15	3	5	4		2		2	1	2	13	5
23	23	4	3	3		2	2	4	1	2	9	6
24	15	3	3	3		2		2		1	15	5
25	5	1	6	6		1		1				
26	14	3	5	3						2	3	3
27	9	1	3	3			1	1			6	1
28	20	3	1	1	1	1	2	3		1	20	5
29	12	2	2	2		1	4	2			18	3
TOTAL	413	79	86	72	6	55	38	88	15	37	267	114

KILL STATISTICS: FEBRUARY 2016

	LION	LEOPARD	CAPE HUNTING DOG	CHEETAH	OTHER	TOTAL
DUIKER		1				1
KLIPSPRINGER						0
WARTHOG						0
BUSHBUCK						0
IMPALA		4				4
NYALA						0
WATERBUCK						0
WILDEBEEST						0
KUDU	1		1			2
BUFFALO	20	1				21
GIRAFFE						0
OTHER						0
TOTAL	21	6	1	0	0	28