



# The Bush Telegraph

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*“Nature gives purity to soul” – Kedar Dhepe*

Best wishes for the New Year, we trust that it is a great one so far!

After some very dry months after our October rains, the beginning of the year was looking rather dismal for the bush, with conditions being alarmingly dry with absolutely no ground cover. One automatically goes into a sort of panic mode knowing that the bulk of the rainy season is over and wondering how the wildlife will survive through winter.

Thankfully, February arrived with a lot more rain than we had been receiving, resulting in the bush making a slow road to recovery. We are having some occasional top-up rains keeping the bush going and therefore giving us hope that maybe winter won't be as extreme as we imagined.

However, a lot of the ground cover is inedible and there is not widespread grass cover.

The Phragmites in the riverbed, especially in front of Nyeleti, is thriving and there are areas that you can no longer see the river bed. We are slowly making our way towards Autumn and whilst most days are still in the high 30°C, the sun is already rising later and setting slightly earlier.



Photo: Dieter & Karin Burgert

Rainfall figures (mm)	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>2016:</b> Nyeleti	4	17.5	68
Nzumba	5	10	55
<b>2017:</b> Nyeleti	59	60.5	8
Nzumba	46	52	3.5
<b>2018:</b> Nyeleti	2.5	114	24.5
Nzumba	4	131	20



Photo: Shaun, Moriti Safaris

## GENERAL GAME SIGHTINGS



Photo: Andria Crabbia (left)



Photo: Brad Berrange (middle)

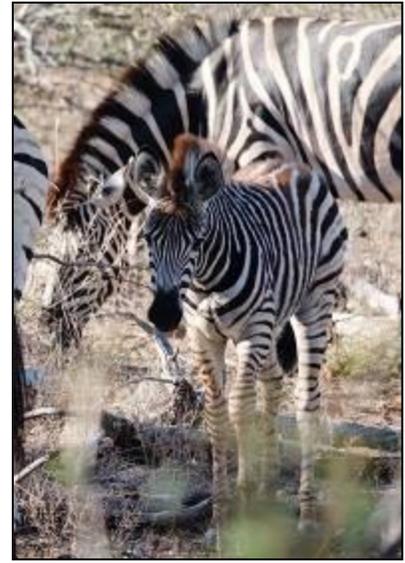


Photo: Pedro Guedes (right)

Our general game sightings continue to be good including a sighting of a tower of giraffe 17 strong with 2 males fighting. Towards end of March, with the slight increase in rainfall, we were seeing an increase in the size of the herds. We have had several frequent sightings of porcupine walking through Nyeleti. Some interesting sightings include an African Wild Cat successfully hunting, Springhares still between Kitara & Nyeleti, Honey Badgers and quite a few snake sightings including Black Mamba.

Photo: Julian, Julian Geerts Safaris

Photo: Oliver Lenger



Photo: Bob Reeve

Photo: Dieter & Karin Burgert



## BIRDING



Photo: Colin Jones



Photo: Matus family



Photo: Bob Reeve (far right)

Birding sightings have included a lot of awesome raptors & owls. The Woodlands Kingfisher, with their frequent calling, are a pleasure to photograph & capture those striking colours. With the burst of new grass & therefore grass seeds, we were pleased to see large flocks of Queleas fleeing across the horizon.

It's time already to say farewell to our migratory birds.

## BIG GAME SIGHTINGS



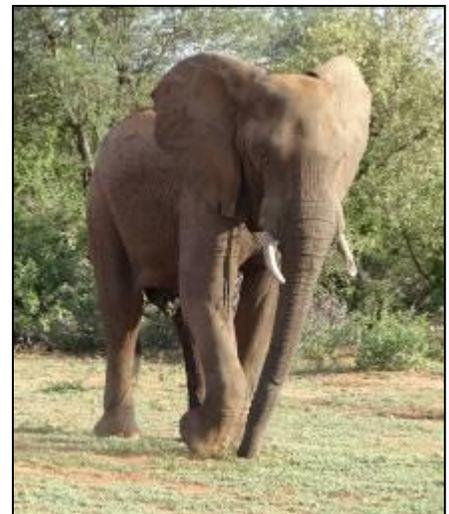
Photo: Pedro Guedes

Buffalo sightings have been frequent, with most of our guests enjoying a sighting more than once during their stay.

The numbers are still very low with majority of sightings being dagha boys. At the beginning of March, Werner saw an impressive breeding herd of 50 on our Balule property.



Photo: Susannah Clements  
Photo: Oliver Lenger (right)



Our elephant sightings were frequent at the beginning of the year, including some nice breeding herds. One such sighting of a herd of 60 elephant on our Olifants property seen by Werner. We went through a couple of weeks where there were no elephants, but with the additional rain, resulting in more food, we have seen an increase in the numbers, as well as frequency of sightings. With the Klaserie River flowing again, there are more frequent visitors to the river for water.

Photo: Bob Reeve

Photo: Dieter & Karin Burgert



At the beginning of the year, we found an active Hyena den site on our neighboring property, Thompsons. From the above picture from Bob Reeve, it was one of the most incredible sightings to see cubs so young. Soon thereafter, the clan of hyena moved from this den site and have not been located again. Other sightings have been quite frequent and varied in location. A rare sighting was seeing a clan of 15 on Thompsons Airstrip by Werner



Photo: Brad Berrange

We have gone through lengthy periods of time with not seeing lion on any of ours or neighboring properties. We have had 11 different sightings in the last 3 months. We believe that the Dundee Pride have moved off, we have only had one sighting of some of the pride. The Balule Pride was seen a couple of times. But then sightings have also included lions that we are not familiar with.

Photos: Don McCarty



We have enjoyed 9 different sightings of wild dog in the last quarter, the pack size ranging from 20 to 9. The pack of 20 are the Klaserie dogs and the pack of 9 are the Balule dogs. They have been seen around Thompsons property, van der Skyf cutline, Dundee and Nzumba.



Photo: Colin Jones (above)



Photo: Oliver Lenger (above middle)

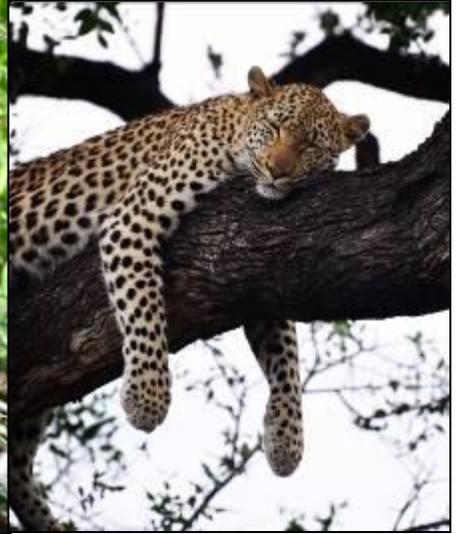


Photo: Susannah Clements (above right)

Photo: Don McCarty (below left)

Photo: Matus family (below right)

Photo: Julian, Julian Geerts Safaris (bottom left)

Photo: Bob Reeve (bottom right)



As you can tell from the number of photos sent by our guests, sightings of leopard have been exceptional – I just had to dedicate a full page to these “illusive” cats.

There have been 21 sightings of these spotted beauties over the last 3 months.

Areas seen are Thompsons, Bernitz, Kitara, Dundee pan (Balule), Nzumba area and Dundee.

There is a young female who is extremely relaxed on the Thompsons property.

Exceptional sightings included 1 male with a kill up a tree, 1 cub around 21 days old, a female with a duiker kill literally hanging by the duiker’s hide and a female hunting warthog in front of Kitara in the late afternoon.

So many fantastic photos – thank you everyone!

## GUESTBOOK PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE!!!

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Please write in our on-line guest book, your feedback is much appreciated!



For those of you who would like regular updates on exciting happenings and aren't already on our Facebook, please "like" our Klaserie Camps page. We look forward to seeing you there!



We are on Instagram, so for all the Instagramers out there, please follow us and keep up to date on the wonderful photos we share: klaseriecamps

### **Photos:**

Thank you, Don McCarty, Shaun (Moriti Safaris), Dieter & Karin, Julian (Julian Geerts Safaris), Colin Jones, Oliver Lenger, Susannah Clements, Andria Crabbia, Brad Berrange, Bob Reeve, Matus family, Pedro Guedes – for sharing your photos with us, much appreciated!

### **Written by:**

Lee-Anne Detert

### **Contact details:**

Website: [www.klaseriecamps.com](http://www.klaseriecamps.com)

Reservations: [klaseriecamps@rawifi.co.za](mailto:klaseriecamps@rawifi.co.za)