



# Game Report



A silhouetted juvenile martial eagle by Ranger Pieter van Wyk

MalaMala Game Reserve  
September 2021

*It's all about the wildlife!*

| THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY |        |         |                 |              |         |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------------|---------|
| Temperature                 |        |         |                 |              |         |
| Celsius (°C)                |        |         | Fahrenheit (°F) |              |         |
|                             | Actual | Average |                 | Actual       | Average |
| Maximum                     | 36     | 28      | Maximum         | 97           | 83      |
| Minimum                     | 10     | 15      | Minimum         | 50           | 59      |
| Rainfall                    |        |         |                 |              |         |
| Millimetres                 |        | Inches  |                 | Days of rain |         |
| 6                           |        | 0.24    |                 | 1            |         |

| TOTAL SIGHTINGS  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Lion             | 114 |
| Leopard          | 106 |
| Elephant         | 241 |
| Buffalo          | 33  |
| Cheetah          | 5   |
| Cape Hunting Dog | 17  |

*Sightings are tallied by day and not by drive. E.g., an individual leopard seen during the morning and afternoon drive on the same day is regarded as a single sighting.*

| KILL STATS       |   |
|------------------|---|
| Lion             | 1 warthog, 2 impala, 3 buffalo, 2 zebra, 1 kudu           |
| Leopard          | 22 impala, 4 bushbuck, 1 nyala, 1 tree squirrel, 1 baboon |
| Cheetah          | 1 impala  |
| Cape Hunting Dog | 2 impala, 1 nyala, 1 scrub hare                           |

*\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS*

### **LION PRIDES**

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#### **THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 30**

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 3 ADULT FEMALES     | ± 8 YEARS 6 MONTHS |
| 3 ADULT FEMALES     | ± 8 YEARS 3 MONTHS |
| 6 SUB ADULT FEMALES | ± 3 YEARS 1 MONTH  |
| 5 SUB ADULT MALES   | ± 3 YEARS 1 MONTH  |
| 1 SUB ADULT FEMALE  | 2 YEARS 4 MONTHS   |
| 1 SUB ADULT MALE    | 2 YEARS 4 MONTHS   |
| 3 CUBS              | 6 MONTHS           |
| 4 CUBS              | 4 MONTHS           |
| 4 CUBS              | 2 MONTHS           |

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

(61 sightings)

The Kambula pride is becoming a challenge to keep track of. As the pride expands, different groupings of members of this pride have been seen spending time together. The most stable grouping of this pride is the three lionesses and their 11 cubs. These lions spend the majority of their time along the banks of the Sand River between Rattray's Camp and Confluence Crossing. We watched as the three lionesses caught an impala ram north of Styx Rocks on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The lionesses and their cubs had a young kudu kill north of Confluence Crossing on the 24<sup>th</sup>. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, all 14 of these lions were on a zebra kill south of Styx Rocks. By the end of the month, the lionesses had moved their cubs to Styx Rocks.

The grouping that includes the subadults and the mother of the two younger sub-adults do not often move as one cluster. Different members of this grouping are found in different groups across their territory regularly. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the adult lionesses, four sub-adult males and 5 sub-adult females had a close encounter with the Island female and her cub at West Street bridge. The lions came within a few meters of the two leopards before they noticed the lions and fled to the treetops for safety.

The following day this group of lions trailed a herd of buffalo from West Street to Matshapiri Open Area. As has been the case with this pride, it seemed the lions had no real intent to hunt the buffalo, until a herd of elephants chased the lions. In the confusion, the lions seized the opportunity and managed to bring down three buffalo calves. Maybe times are changing as this prides ability to hunt buffalo appears to be increasing. The adult lioness and all sub-adults were at Charleston North Crossing on the 19<sup>th</sup> when they caught wind of a kill the Inyathini male leopard had upstream in the Kapen River. The majority of the lions surrounded the tree, while one sub-adult female lion climbed the tree and proceeded to feed on the pilfered kill.

The third constant 'split' of the pride is the two lionesses that are spending the bulk of their time in the area of Marthly and around MalaMala Camp. They continue to spend time with the Northern Avoca males, and like last month, they were mating with these two males again this month. These two lionesses and the two Northern Avoca males had an impala kill east of Elephant Rock Lookout on the 10th. The two lionesses stole an impala kill from the Piccadilly female and her cub on the 16<sup>th</sup>, west of Bicycle Crossing.

**THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 23**

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 ADULT FEMALE      | ± 9 YEARS 3 MONTHS |
| 2 ADULT FEMALES     | ± 8 YEARS 9 MONTHS |
| 1 ADULT FEMALE      | ± 8 YEARS 6 MONTHS |
| 3 ADULT FEMALES     | ± 5 YEARS 4 MONTHS |
| 1 ADULT FEMALE      | ± 5 YEARS 2 MONTHS |
| 2 SUB ADULT FEMALES | ± 2 YEARS 2 MONTHS |
| 5 SUB ADULT MALES   | ± 2 YEARS 2 MONTHS |
| 1 MALE CUB          | 1 YEAR 9 MONTHS    |
| 7 CUBS              | ± 5 MONTHS         |

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

(14 sightings)

The three lionesses and their seven cubs made up the bulk of the sightings of this pride for the month as they are frequently spending time in northern Eyrefield, mainly between the Mlowathi River and the old borehole in Eyrefield. These pride members were seen in ten of the 14 sightings and had the Northern Avoca males for company in three of the sightings. They had a zebra foal kill north of Senegal Bush on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Three of the other sightings were of two lionesses and five sub-adults. They were southwest of Matshapiri Dam on the 20<sup>th</sup>. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, they were seen, well-fed, at Matshapiri Dam. In all likelihood, they'd made a buffalo kill over the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> as a herd had been in the area the previous day. A sub-adult male was alone on the 24<sup>th</sup>, northwest of the old borehole in Eyrefield.

**THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 2**

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 ADULT FEMALE     | 8 YEARS 3 MONTHS |
| 1 SUB ADULT FEMALE | 2 YEARS 6 MONTHS |

*MARTHLY*

(0 sightings)

Yet another month passes without a sighting of this mother and daughter pair.

**THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 14**

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2 ADULT FEMALES | ± 8 YEARS 2 MONTHS |
| 2 ADULT FEMALES | ± 4 YEARS 2 MONTHS |
| 1 FEMALE CUB    | 1 YEAR 9 MONTHS    |
| 3 CUBS          | 1 YEAR 2 MONTHS    |
| 3 CUBS          | 2 MONTHS           |
| 3 CUBS          | 1 MONTH            |

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

(5 Sightings)

Sightings of the Sand River pride have become more regular in the southern parts of MalaMala Game Reserve. Historically their territory has been along the Sand River, into the Kruger National Park. Occasionally they were seen on Toulon and the Southern parts of Charleston. In the last year, they have settled down along the Sand River between KK Crossing and Charleston Rock and are the most commonly seen pride of lions in the south.

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, three adult lionesses and three of the oldest cubs were on Toulon. The four lionesses and the four older cubs were at Flat Rocks on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Three of the lionesses and the four cubs were at Flat Rocks on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The four lionesses from this pride were west of Rocky Crossing on the 27<sup>th</sup>. One lioness and the four youngest cubs were on Charleston Rock on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20**

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 7 ADULT FEMALES | UNKOWN AGES        |
| 6 ADULT FEMALES | ± 5 YEARS 8 MONTHS |
| 7 CUBS          | ± 1 YEAR 1 MONTH   |

*EASTERN EYREFIELD*

(1 Sighting)

One lioness was seen on the Gowrie Boundary north of Clarendon Dam on the 1<sup>st</sup> with a warthog kill.

## MALE LIONS

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### THE GOWRIE MALES = 2

1 ADULT MALE ± 10 YEARS 9 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE ± 9 YEARS 9 MONTHS

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Kambula and Marthly prides.*

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in September 2015.*

(24 sightings)

24 sightings of the Gowrie males were recorded this month. Nine more than the Northern Avoca males who have been seen more frequently in recent months. Of the 24 sightings, only 11 were of both members of the coalition.

The first two sightings of the Gowrie males for the month were both on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. One male was seen at Cuckoo pan, while the other was at elephant slide crossing with a lioness from the Kambula pride. They reunited at buffalo pans on the 4<sup>th</sup>. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, the younger of the two males was found in the Sand River at the Confluence with the Rock Drift Donga, sporting a superficial puncture wound in the centre of his forehead. Both males were seen on the 13<sup>th</sup>, however, they were not together. One of the males was around West Street while his brother was further north at Kikilezihash Crossing. The following day both males were at Elephant Slide Crossing with members of the Kambula pride. Overnight one of the males moved north and was at West Street the following day while his brother remained with the members of the Kambula pride at Flockfield Pool.

On the 20<sup>th</sup>, the younger of the two males pulled a kudu carcass out of the hippo pool on the Island south of the Causeway. That same male was seen again on the kudu kill on the 21<sup>st</sup>. This is the furthest north a Gowrie male has been seen for some time.

Both males were at Elephant Slide Crossing on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, they were at Styx rocks trailing a herd of Buffalo. On the final day of the month, both males were with the members of the Kambula pride at Styx rocks.

### THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES ± 8 YEARS 7 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Sand River Pride.*

(2 Sightings)

The two sightings of these two males were on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> when they were around Rocky Crossing and the lower reaches of the Tjellahanga River.

### **THE TORCHWOOD MALE = 1**

1 ADULT MALE

± 5 YEARS 8 MONTHS

*NOMADIC*

(0 sightings)

September marks the 4<sup>th</sup> month that the Torchwood male has not been seen on MalaMala. We have received reports that he has linked up with another young male lion in the Timbavati region. Therefore, we are removing him from the *Male Lions* section of our Game Report. Should he be seen on MalaMala again, he'll feature under the *Other Lions Seen* section.

### **THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2**

2 ADULT MALES

± 8 YEARS 3 MONTHS

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

*Dominant over the Nkuhuma pride.*

*First encountered in late 2019.*

(15 sightings)

The Northern Avoca males were viewed 15 times this month. Eight of the sightings were of both males together. The remaining seven sightings featured only one of the two from this coalition.

On the 9<sup>th</sup>, both males were just south of Mlowathi Pans. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, the two males were seen east of Elephant Rock, sharing an impala kill with two lionesses from the Kambula Pride. From there, the four lions moved west and were at Marthly Crossing the following day. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, only one male was with the two lionesses from the Kambula pride around Rhino pens. Both males were with a lioness from the Kambula pride on the 14<sup>th</sup> south of Kigelia crossing. Overnight the males split up, and one male was observed mating with a Kambula lioness at Elephant Rock while his brother had moved north and was with members of the Nkuhuma pride east of Mlowathi Dam. One of the males was at Mlowathi Springs on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Both males were together on the 17<sup>th</sup>, north of Campbell Koppies. The two males linked up with two lionesses from the Kambula pride just east of Mlowathi Pans, where they were seen mating on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Three separate sightings were had between the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>, each showcasing only one of the two members. On the final day of the month, both males were seen north of Stwise.

#### **Other Lions Encountered:**

- The **TWO MALES** from the Kruger National Park were trailing a herd of buffalo in Clarendon on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The four **NDHZENGA MALES** were all together south of Verreaux's Crossing on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

|                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED | <b>71 (26 Cubs)</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|

## LEOPARDS

### **FEMALE LEOPARDS:**

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**THE ISLAND FEMALE  
FEMALE CUB**

8 YEARS 9 MONTHS  
1 YEAR 2 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

*Daughter of the Tamboti female<sup>†</sup>, independent first quarter of 2015*

(26 sightings; 3 of female, 15 of female and cub, 8 of the cub)

The duo of Island female and cub were seen 26 times this month. Of the 26 sightings, the Island female and cub were observed with 9 different kills.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Island female and cub had an impala kill at entrance Flockfield Lookout. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the female was north of Buffalo pans while her cub was south of Donald's Crossing. The Island female was in the Matshapiri River south of Drum Crossing on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Both the Island female and cub were east of West Street on the 5<sup>th</sup>. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, they were found with an impala kill on the eastern bank of the Sand River west of Buffalo Pans. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, both the Island female and cub had a close encounter with members of the Kambula pride who chased the leopards up two separate trees. Between the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>, only the cub of the Island female was seen in various parts of the Island females territory. The Island female and cub had an adult female impala kill on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> south of White Cloth Open Area. Both the Island female and cub were found with an impala kill at the Confluence of the Ngoboswan Donga and the Sand River on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, they had an unwelcome visitor in the form of the Maxim's male, the cub of the Island female killed a baby baboon on this day. The Island female and cub were viewed separately from the 21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> in varying parts of the females territory. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, the Island female and cub had a bushbuck kill south of the Ngoboswan breakfast spot. The cub continued honing her hunting skills and made a tree squirrel kill at the giraffe bones on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The female and cub had an impala kill track south of west street on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**THE PICCADILLY FEMALE  
FEMALE CUB**

7 YEARS 9 MONTHS  
1 YEAR 6 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female<sup>†</sup>, independent first quarter of 2016.*

(1 sighting, 1 sighting of the female and cub)

The only sighting of this female and her cub was on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The two leopards had an Impala kill on the northern bank of the Sand River, just west of Bicycle Crossing. However, their meal was short-lived as two lionesses from the Kambula Pride stole the kill from them, despite it being hoisted in a sausage tree.



**THE NKOVENI FEMALE**  
**2 CUBS**

9 YEARS 1 MONTH  
8 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

*Daughter of the Mashaba female, independent early 2014.*

*Mother of the Plaque Rock female.*

(16 sightings, 2 of female, 14 of female and cubs)

The Nkoveni female was seen 16 times in September. With two growing cubs, it is of no surprise that 11 of the 16 sightings were centred around feeding activities.

On the first of the month, the Nkoveni female and cubs had a bushbuck kill on the southern bank of the Sand River west of Stone's Drift. They remained at this position on the 2<sup>nd</sup> though they had finished off the remains of the kill. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, the Nkoveni female and cubs were at bicycle crossing. The female must have made a kill during the course of the night as they were found on an impala kill in front of room one at MalaMala Camp on the 6<sup>th</sup>. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, the female and cubs had an impala kill west of the Old Airstrip. The female and cubs had another impala kill west of MalaMala Camp on the 18<sup>th</sup>. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the female and cubs were found with a bushbuck kill on the Lawns of Sable Camp and, later that day, and an impala kill on the Island south of the Causeway. They were seen again with an impala kill on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, the female had a bushbuck kill west of the Causeway. The cubs joined their mother on the bushbuck kill the following day. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, the female and cubs were at Stones Drift. The last sighting of the month was shared with her eldest daughter, the Plaque Rock female. It is unclear who made the kill, but the pair were seen sharing an impala kill south of the parking bay.

**THE LOOKOUT FEMALE**

± 11 YEARS 8 MONTHS

NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

*Mother of the Kapen female & Son of the Lookout female.*

(1 sighting)

The only sighting of the Lookout female was on the 1<sup>st</sup> when she was seen at Styx Crossing. Safely assuming that her son has reached independence, the question now is, when will the Lookout female have her next litter of cubs? In the months that follow, both Kapen Rocks and Styx Rocks will be the best places to start looking for any signs of a new litter of cubs. The Lookout female has used both sets of rocks as den sites previously and has had great success in these locations.

**THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE**

11 YEARS 9 MONTHS

NORTH/EASTERN MALAMALA AND EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female, independent first quarter of 2012.**Mother of the Ngoboswan and Eyrefield Males.*

(2 sightings)

The Emsagweni female was seen drinking at Buffalo Bush Dam on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The second sighting of this female was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> when she was seen around Wild Dog Rocks Open Area, where she briefly took interest in a female cheetah that was unaware of her. However, the cheetah moved away from the leopard, and there was no interaction between the two species.

**THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE**

3 YEARS 6 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

*Daughter of the Nkoveni female, independent last quarter of 2019.*

(2 sightings)

The Plaque Rock female was in the Sand River west of Bicycle Crossing on the 6<sup>th</sup>. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, she was sharing an impala kill with her mother, south of the Parking Bay.

**THE KAPEN FEMALE**

3 YEARS 5 MONTHS

SOUTHERN FLOCKFIELD

*Daughter of the Lookout female, independent first quarter of 2019.*

(0 sightings)

The Kapen female appears to be covering a lot of area and isn't seen regularly anymore. This month we did not see this female leopard.

**THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE**

3 YEARS 8 MONTHS

CENTRAL &amp; WESTERN EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.*

(2 sightings)

There was a lot of concern about this young female last month when she was seen with a bad injury to her back right leg. However, the two sightings of her this month, at Mlowathi Pans on the 5<sup>th</sup> and Campbell Koppies on the 30<sup>th</sup>, indicate her leg is healing as she walks with more ease and can put weight onto that leg.

**THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE**

5 YEARS 6 MONTHS

**2 CUBS**

2 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female<sup>†</sup>, orphaned on May 22nd, 2017.*

(12 sightings)

Viewing of this new mother was good this month, with 12 sightings of the Three Rivers female between the Ngoboswan Donga and Rattray's Camp. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, she was south of Princess Alice Pans. A couple of days later, on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, she was on the Sand River's western bank south of West Street. The following day she was at the Old Wildebeest Crossing. For three days (7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>), this female enjoyed an impala kill west of West Street. From this kill, she would go west, but we could never follow her to her cubs. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, she was at Flockfield Tower. The Three Rivers female was in the Sand River at Kikilezihash Crossing on the 14<sup>th</sup>. 10 days passed with no sighting of this female before she was seen at Princess Alice Pans on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The following day she had an impala kill south of Flockfield Tower. She was on the southern parts of the Airstrip on the 28<sup>th</sup> and the final sighting of the month was on the 30<sup>th</sup> when she had an impala ram kill at Kikilezihash Crossing.

**THE SIBUYE FEMALE**

7 YEARS 8 MONTHS

**2 CUBS**

3 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female<sup>†</sup>, independent first quarter of 2016.**Mother of the Tlebe Rocks female, Langa female & Xaxa male.*

(0 sightings)

This month, there was no sighting of this female leopard as she is keeping her new litter of cubs north of the Gowrie Boundary.

**MALE LEOPARDS**

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**THE ACCIPITER MALE**

± 11 YEARS 1 MONTH

EASTERN &amp; CENTRAL MALAMALA &amp; FLOCKFIELD

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

(2 sightings)

The Accipiter male was only seen twice this month. The first sighting was east of Matshapiri Open Area Crossing on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the second sighting was at the Giraffe Bones on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**THE MAXIM'S MALE**

± 7 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD &amp; MALAMALA

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.  
(7 sightings)

The Maxim's male has started to spend more time in the vicinity of MalaMala Camp as he continues to expand his territory north. The first sighting of this male was on the 9<sup>th</sup> when he was in familiar territory at the old Flockfield Camp. Almost ten days later, on the 17<sup>th</sup>, he had an impala kill in the Sand River just west of Bicycle Crossing. He still had the kill on the 18<sup>th</sup>. From here, he moved south and was on the eastern ramp of the Causeway on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The following day, he'd come across the Island female and her cub with their impala kill at the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot. The male stole their kill after chasing the cub and female out of the immediate area. A week later, he was near the Causeway on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The final sighting of the month of this male was on the 30<sup>th</sup> when he had an impala kill on Rhino Pens.

**THE NGOBOSWAN MALE**

3 YEARS 10 MONTHS

NOMADIC (Marthly and western Eyrefield)

*Son of the Emsagweni female, independent late 2019.*  
(7 sightings)

The Ngoboswan male was first seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> when he was in the Mlowathi River south of Mlowathi Pans. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, he had minimal remains of an impala kill north of Campbell Koppies. While feeding, a second leopard entered the area, and the Ngoboswan male descended the tree and chased the second leopard. Due to the dense bushwillow thicket in the area, we could not see who the second leopard was. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, he was on the southern parts of Rhino Pens. From here, he moved west and was east of Stwise the following day. He spent a few days in Marthly and was seen at Manyeleti Crossing on the 13<sup>th</sup>. A week later, he was at lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The final sighting for the month was on the 29<sup>th</sup> when he had an impala kill northwest of Lower Mlowathi Crossing.

**THE EYREFIELD MALE**

3 YEARS 10 MONTHS

NOMADIC (Eastern Eyrefield and eastern MalaMala)

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent late 2019.  
(1 sighting)

We only had one sighting of this young male this month when he was north of Matshapiri Dam on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**THE SPLIT ROCK MALE**

7 YEARS 3 MONTHS

CHARLESTON

*Son of the Ostrich Koppies female, independent latter half of 2015.*

(0 sightings)

The Split Rock Male was not seen this month.

**Other Leopards Encountered:**

- The **HANYILE MALE** was mating with the Tengile female at KK Crossing on the 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The **TENGILE FEMALE** was mating with the Hanyile male on the 1<sup>st</sup> at KK Crossing. She had an impala kill at exit Calabash Drive on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. She was around Beaumont's Camp on the 25<sup>th</sup>. South of River Rocks with an impala kill on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The **INYATHINI MALE** was in the Tamboti Thickets on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Charleston North Crossing on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Flockfield Lookout on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Had a nyala kill on the Kapen River's eastern bank just north of its confluence with the Sand River on the 18<sup>th</sup> and had it stolen from him on the 19<sup>th</sup> by the bulk of the Kambula Pride.
- The "**MARTHLY NERVOUS MALE**" was seen again for the first time in several months. He had an impala kill hoisted in a marula tree midway along Emsagwen on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- A leopard was interacting with the Ngoboswan male north of Campbell Koppies on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The **FLAT ROCK MALE** was in the Sand River east of Elephant Rock Lookout on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- A NO ID male and female pair were at Flat Rocks on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The **SON OF THE FLOCKFIELD FEMALE** was southwest of Jakkalsdraai Open Area on the 8<sup>th</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, he was at Kapen Rocks, somewhat north of where we are used to seeing him.
- An Adult male was briefly seen some ways west of Verreaux's Crossing on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE** was on River Rocks on the 10<sup>th</sup> and at entrance Sibuye Drive on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The **2:1 NERVOUS YOUNG MALE** was in White Cloth Open Area on the 11<sup>th</sup>. He had an impala kill east of Maurice's Pan on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The **NANGA FEMALE** was north of the old borehole in Eyrefield on the 12<sup>th</sup>. South of Mlowathi Dam on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- NO ID female was on the eastern ramp of the Causeway on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The **SON OF THE LOOKOUT FEMALE** was north of Kapen Rocks on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- We were unable to identify two leopards in the reeds south of the Causeway on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- A no ID male and female were at Verreaux's Crossing on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The **Mlowathi Male** and an unidentified female were mating on the 29<sup>th</sup> south of the old borehole in Eyrefield.
- The **NCHILA MALE** was at Calabash Crossing on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED

**29 (4 cubs)**

## CHEETAH

We recorded **five sightings** of cheetah during the month. The first of the five sightings was an exciting one. On the 15<sup>th</sup> We watched as an adult female cheetah stalked and successfully caught a female impala east of Lion Rocks. The same female was seen again in Wilddog Rocks Open area on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the following day, she was hunting impala in Matshapiri Open Area.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, two sub-adult males were seen in central Toulon.

The final sighting for the month was on the 27<sup>th</sup> when an adult female was north of the Windmill.

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| TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED | <b>4</b> |
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## CAPE HUNTING DOGS

This month we enjoyed **17 sightings** of Cape hunting dogs, with the bulk of the sightings being of two packs. The Toulon pack was seen in eight sightings in Charleston, while the pack of 12, containing the female with the exposed canine, was viewed on at least six occasions. The remaining three sightings were more than likely of the pack of 12, but we couldn't be sure.

The **Toulon pack (14 Adults and 15 pups)** were first seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> near Pole in the road, where they moved the pups to a new den. They spent the next two weeks on the western bank of Charleston until the 18<sup>th</sup>, when they moved back south. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, we witnessed them catching a female nyala and young male impala in the same hunt west of Verreaux's Crossing. The last sighting of this pack was on the 29<sup>th</sup> when they were northwest of Beaumont's Camp.

The **pack of 12** moved throughout northern MalaMala from Charleston North Crossing to Clarendon Dam. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, they caught a scrub hare at Cuckoo Pan, and on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, they caught an impala in the Matshapiri River south of Matshapiri Open Area.

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| TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED | <b>≥41 (15 pups)</b> |
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## CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

This month we recorded **241 sightings of elephants** and **33 sightings of Cape buffalo**. With the dry season coming close to an end with rain expected next month, the landscape is becoming a dust bowl. Sightings of these two water dependant species are concentrated around the Sand River. The large herd of Cape buffalo that's spent time in northeastern Eyrefield have started to drink from the Sand River now that there isn't much water in the dams in the east of the reserve.

## Other sightings of interest

- **Hyena Den Site.** After the clan moved den sites last month, their new den site was found this month north of Campbell Koppies on the 9<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed good viewing of the four surviving cubs at this den for the remainder of the month.
- **Honey badgers** and **Cape porcupines** are still being viewed on a regular basis.
- **Black-backed** and **side-stripped jackals** were seen often.
- **African Wild Cats** were seen on several occasions.
- We Enjoyed **six sightings of Sable Bulls** this month. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, an adult bull and a sub-adult drank from the Sand River north of Rattay's Camp. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, another bull drank at West Street. On the 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, a bull drank at the Old Flockfield Boma Crossing. The bull we have seen before with a broken horn was seen drinking at Matshapiri Dam on the 27<sup>th</sup>.