



Katja Buisson (3)

Lions and Pangolin

In October we were delighted to find a small pride of Lion that had discovered a Pangolin. As typically occurs in situations when a small prey animal is encountered, the adult Lioness ignored this rare mammal while a sub-adult male and three cubs chewed at the scales. The young cats had no success in prying open the armoured Pangolin and eventually abandoned it. When we next visited the spot, the Pangolin had gone so we presume it was none the worse for its ordeal.

Katja Buisson

Lions feed on White Rhino

A coalition of five young male Lions, known as the 'Castleton Males', were found feeding on a sub-adult White Rhino, aged five or six years. The carcass was lying in a donga and was already partially decomposed when the lions were discovered feeding on it. It was thus unclear if the lions had, in fact, killed the rhino, or if they had simply scavenged a rotting carcass. These males have on several occasions been seen to chase rhino and even to leap onto their backs, but without direct evidence it is impossible to say whether they succeeded in this case.

Darren Myers

Leopard feeds on Crocodile

While following a young female Leopard in January, she headed down towards the Sand River and paused to investigate some sort of excavation in the sand. She picked something up in her mouth, but soon dropped it and moved on. Returning after the game drive, it was discovered that it had been a Nile Crocodile nest, raided before the leopard discovered it. The nest still contained the bodies of four fully-formed youngsters and some eggshells. Tracks from the mother crocodile revealed her too late visit.

Natasha de Woronin

Leopard hoists Hippo

A young male Leopard (3:4 young male) that was under observation headed down to the edge of a dam and emerged, dragging the putrid carcass of a Hippo calf. The calf had not been killed by the leopard and was probably killed by a Hippo bull. The Leopard then hoisted the carcass into a nearby Tamboti tree and was feeding on it when two Lionesses and a young male Lion (Tsalala Pride) approached the area. One of the Lionesses was able to climb the Tamboti and after a short tug of war with the Leopard succeeded in pulling the carcass to the ground, where the young male Lion promptly stole it.

Darren Myers & Julius Ngwenya