

Day 12, Wednesday, 19 Dec 2001

Last Day

Well, Bel did it - she topped yesterday!

We started out to do herding behavior observations but we ran across a little rain. We stopped; we debated; we decided to continue on and see what the weather did. As we came to the next crossroads, we reported Cheetah (*Duma*) be-agreed to show us where, so off we found 3 adult males. They were lolled around in the tall grass for glimpses from time to time. Fi-the hill. All 3 marked the same faded into their surroundings.



As we met people in another truck who hind them. One of the men we went hunting cheetah. We shockingly beautiful as they a while giving us tantalizing nally, they sauntered off over large tree on the horizon and

When we arrived at the office to deliver our impromptu guide, Chege informed us that 5 lions (2 males, 3 females) had been located in the Isiolo valley. So, he jumped in and off we went in pursuit of lions. Along the way, we picked up a Masai escari (armed and on foot) who knew where the lions were. Following his directions we came back to that tricky little transect that had frustrated us for so long. And, there they were!

As with the cheetah, we had to go off road to get a closer view and Bel valiantly began the long climb up the side of a large hill (or small mountain depending on how you look at it). When we were sure we could go no further and had decided to descend, escari from across the valley radioed to tell us that we were very close and not to give up.

Giving the climb one last try, we came upon three of the lions. Unlike the cheetah, they were not in the mood to entertain. They did not tantalize us, but quickly melted away. The drive down the hill required us getting out of the back of the truck, leaving only Bel, the driver, and Colleen, riding shotgun. Of course, those of us finding ourselves on foot maintained a close proximity to our escari and the actual rifle!

Since the morning was basically over and we were much to excited to concentrate on behavior studies, we returned Chege to his office and proceeded to the gift shop. We had picked up some things for Leah, including some flour. While we were shopping, baboons helped themselves to some of it. One of the baboons was especially cheeky and wouldn't run off when we yelled. Many people came running because baboons will often attack rather than retreat. A few thrown stones (by us) and a final deposit of dung on the truck (by him) and he bounded away.



Colleen, Tom, Mary Locke, Samwell, Bel and Alison at the campfire.

As we were going home for lunch, we saw 13 elephants moving through Halvor's plain - quite a caravan in the sea of grass. At lunch, we gave up plans to do more field studies, opting instead for data entry and packing.

Chege and Edwin came to a traditional African supper of ugali and kale after a bonfire and gathering at lookout rocks on Anna's hill.

Additional sightings: Klaas's cuckoo, two separate sightings of hyena near Eagle crossing and Siriki hill.