

Day 10, Monday, 17 Dec 2001

Herding Behavior

Amazingly, we have topped day 9. It began as we went to Isiolo valley to do the 2 transects we hadn't been able to complete because of the presence of rhino and elephants. On the way, we found 2 spotted hyena and a tawny eagle. We thought there might be a kill in the area, but we were unable to locate it. When we arrived at the site, we found 27 elephants, including 3 bulls and 8 calves. There were also 11 rhino there, including 1 calf. Mixed in were an eland and a GZ territorial male. We watched this spectacle for a bit from a range of 204 yards. No transects today!



During our afternoon of recording PZ herd behavior, we chanced upon a black rhino and her calf. As we sat in the jeep, Colleen heard strange sounds behind us. She looked just in time to be startled by the male black rhino running up behind us. He was as surprised as we were and veered off into the brush. While we were debating the wisdom of being between them, the female and her calf quickly crossed the road to join the male. From then, we only caught glimpses of them. Another amazing demonstration of a huge animal blending into a landscape with nothing large enough to hide them.

At the dam, we spotted a herd of eland which Tom estimated at 25 or so. Quite a sight!

Those of us in the rear of the truck decided to come up with some activities for future Earthwatch volunteers to tackle. Some suggestions were

- *zebra washing
- *measuring lunch packs (rulers for PZ, yardsticks for GZ)
- *night patrol for predators using a volunteer and a whistle which is listed as necessary equipment in the briefing
- *dung gathering for identification - the fresher the better

We can hardly wait to see what Bel has in store for us tomorrow!!