

Day 6, Thursday, 13 Dec 2001

Behavior Day

We began by going back to Isiolo Valley to do the 2 transects left from yesterday. Foiled again - there were rhinos and elephants present in the area!

We went on to practice behavior observation techniques only to discover that the stop watch and recording bits are a little tricky. However, keeping track of your designated zebra and holding up your binoculars for 30 minutes has its own brand of difficulty.

The activities we were watching for and calling out to our partner to record included graze, walk, stand, vigilant, lie down, mutual grooming, self grooming, and graze/walk. Interestingly, no fighting or playing, no defecation or urination were asked for but the computer spread sheet did have a category "sit." We wondered about that. Bel didn't have a clue since she inherited the data collection information. We also recorded a bite/step rate which looked something like this: BSBBSBSBSS- etc. This was done for 3 minutes. Tail swish rate was merely counted for 3 minutes. Our PZ had 125 in that time.



Everyday we saw many Reticulated Giraffes which are thriving here in Lewa Downs.

We saw an injured PZ foal. It had a large open gash on its left shoulder. After watching a while, it became apparent that she was also orphaned and the conclusion was that she had been injured in the fray when lions took her mother. The stallion herded her along with the group when they moved off, so we assume that 1 or more of the lactating females would allow her to nurse although we didn't see that behavior.

New sightings: white-headed buffalo weaver