



(Photo by Saitoti Ole Kuwai)

Wildlife Report

For the month of January, Two Thousand and Fourteen

Don't be surprised on your journey from the airstrip to Mara River Tented Camp if you see a herd of elephants on the way. There is a group of resident bulls who spend most of their time along the banks of the Mara River and are often seen from the road about a half a kilometre from camp.



(Previous photo by Adas Anthony)



(Photo by Saitoti Ole Kuwai)

Resident gnus (Photos by Adas Anthony)

The migration left the Lamai area at the end of November last year, so I was surprised when guide Adas Anthony showed me photos he took in January of wildebeest cows and their brand new calves, including one that had just been born mere minutes before he approached the sighting.

Curious to know the reason for this unusual occurrence, I began asking him many questions. Had some of the migration still not passed through? Was there a break-away herd making their way south later than usual? Did the mothers stay behind because they knew they were going to have calves earlier?

But it was none of those reasons. The real reason was simple, as Adas said to me, "Of course you know that there are resident wildebeest in Lamai! Resident wildebeest are not only in Lamai but throughout the Serengeti and Tanzania." I did in fact know this, but with Lamai's location right on the Mara River and its famous reputation as a migration hot-spot, it is hard to remember that not all wildebeest in the Serengeti migrate.





Grey crowned cranes

(Photo by Adas Anthony)

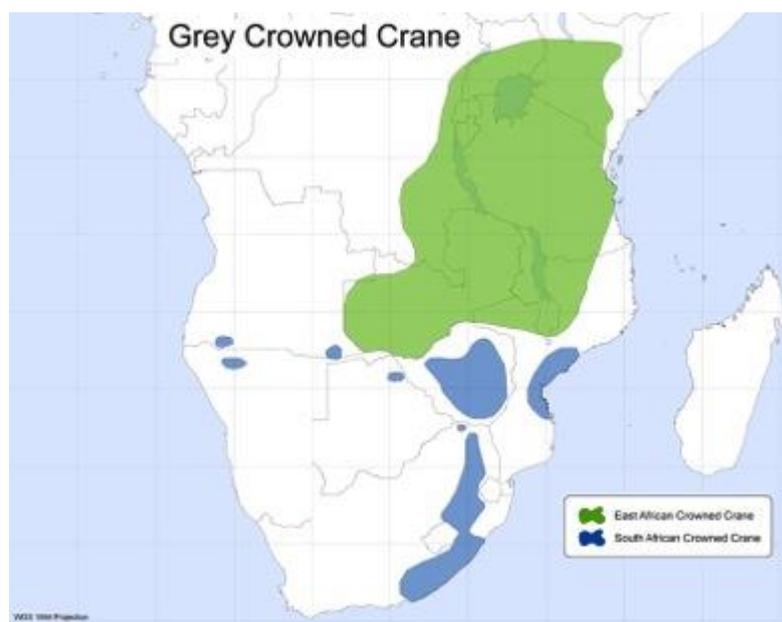
Adas got a good shot of two beautiful grey crowned cranes near a group of cattle egrets.

Unlike many birds where the colouration between male and female differs (with the female having more subtle tones and the male brighter colours) male and female grey crowned cranes share the same colouration. Their name is a little misleading, as their most noticeable feature is the golden crowns upon their heads.

Grey crowned cranes can be found from the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, through to Uganda and Kenya and from Kenya stretching down to south eastern South Africa.

These regal birds are most abundant in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

They nest in wetland areas, making Lamai a great spot for hatching their young.



(Map from savingcranes.org)

King of beasts

The northern Serengeti seems to have lots of big strong lions. These full-maned beasts provide safari-goers and guides with the most incredible photo opportunities. Here's a selection of some of the guides' best lion photographs from January:



(Photo by Saitoti Ole Kuwai)



(Photo by Adas Anthony)



(Photo by Mishi Mtili)

Sightings report

Lion:	21 sightings
Leopard:	2 sightings
Cheetah:	13 sightings
Elephant:	13 sightings
Buffalo	5 sightings
Rhino:	1 sighting

Special sightings:

Pride of 24 lions one kilometre from camp.

A bat-eared fox east of the camp.

Journey of 30 giraffe near Boundary Drainage.



By Lizzie Hamrick
Singita Lamai
Serengeti
Tanzania
Thirty-first of January 2014