



KPSGA

NEWSLETTER

APRIL/MAY 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

Greetings from the Association. I hope you had a great Easter holiday, I also trust that you are all doing well over the quiet season. It has been a while since the release of our last newsletter and we have been waiting to launch our new website before we release this issue. To those who have not seen our new web-site it is up and running. We have tried to make this one more interactive than the previous one. Our facebook page is linked to the site and members can freely exchange information whenever necessary. I also encourage all our members to subscribe to the newsletter on our web-site so that it is sent to you immediately we have a new release. I would also like to request that members have a look at the new site and comment where necessary.

The Bronze and Silver-Level exams have been conducted on schedule, this year though the pass rate is still worrying especially at the Bronze-Level. The scheduled Gold-Level exam could not take place at the end of March/early April

due to an inadequate number of examiners. However, we have gone around this and conducted one this past weekend in Naivasha.

The coffee morning on the 7th April was very successful, with the members present requesting that they be run quite regularly. It is in our plan to have four similar forums in a year, and I would request that more members come for the workshops.

Otherwise, I do wish you all a happy season.

Regards,

Paul Kirui
KPSGA Chairman



B U S H N E W S

Rare bird sighting by Porini Amboseli (www.porini.com) Silver-Level guide Wilson Kasaine whilst escorting a bird-watching safari early January 2011. Wilson spotted a Black-eared Wheatear, only the fourth record ever of a sighting of this bird in Kenya! The Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* is found in Spain and migrates to Sudan in winter but rarely travels further south. See pictures below:-



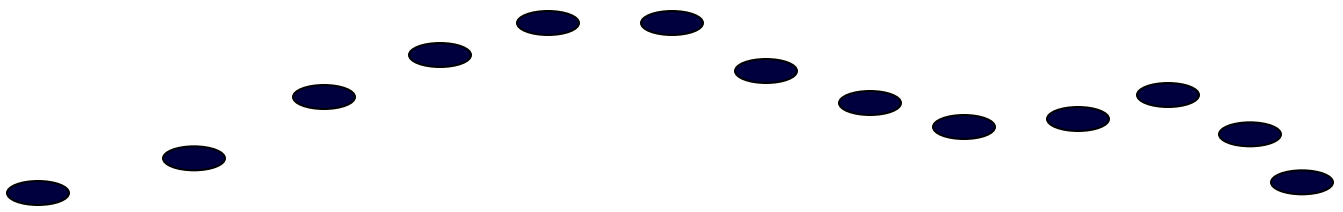
**Submitted by Mohanjeet Brar
Bronze-Level Member**

B U S H N E W S

This photo was taken near Rekeru in the Mara earlier March. It's a FEMALE impala with very strange horns! Thought it MIGHT be of interest. Not a very good photo I am afraid.



Hilary Mitchell
Bronze-Level Member

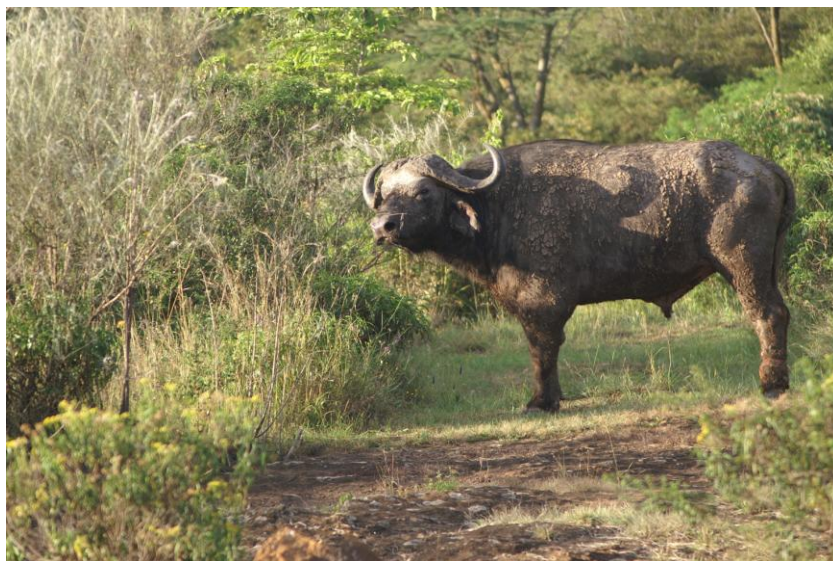


B U S H N E W S

Last year about this time I told a sorry story about our view of the National Park and the invasion of cattle. I am now happy to report with pictorial evidence that the situation is much better this year.



This Rhino has just chased another who was clearly wrongly in his/her territory; you will easily remember this tree in the background which appeared in my last year's letter.



Sadly this bull above buffalo arrived in our garden in June with a wire snare round his back left ankle.

B U S H N E W S



Remember this was last year now look at the difference below.



A nice contrast the City Towers and the wild one, that tree is a Balanites as far as I can tell from here, it is browsed frequently by giraffe hence the clear space under it. This

KPSGA GUIDES KNOW KENYA BETTER

B U S H N E W S

particular tree is a great favourite of the Superb Starlings which can be seen flying around near the giraffe and perching on top of the tree.



An unusual sight at the best of times and these are Indigenous Black Rhino not White that were recently introduced to the Nairobi Park. This photo was taken when it was almost dark, but due to the wonders of Digital photography shows them up.

It is good to see that the wildlife that survived the drought is now recovering well it just requires diligence on the part of those responsible to see that the “Bush Meat Trade” is kept at bay.

Clearly now that most of the Southern access is closed with fenced farming and human habitation that the Wildebeest that used to migrate in and out of the Park will I think become a thing of the Past. It will be interesting to see if this animal that has for centuries moved hundreds of miles from one grazing area to another can when limited by circumstances stay in one small area and continue to breed satisfactorily.

I believe that the Thompson’s Gazelle which used to migrate to the North of the Park, has adapted though in lesser numbers to its reduced territory. This area was first taken over as Sisal Plantations, and now houses thousands of workers from Nairobi and of course Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

It is indeed a pleasure to be able to comment on a positive matter such as this, long may it last. Nairobi National Park is one of the Wonders of the modern world and a great advantage to us all both for recreation and scientific reasons.

**Yours Truly,
Terry Mathews
Gold-Level Member**

B U S H M A T T E R S

USE OF HF RADIO



We all know that the use of radios in the field is very important but sometimes some of our members and others drivers abuse this

device. Talking about your affairs when in the field is very annoying especially if the rest of the world busy. Please let us be ethical polite note that even some client know our local languages. Let us be the best to achieve the best. Nice game drive!

**Simon Wanjohi
Silver-Level Member**



B U S H M A T T E R S



Whoever, has an unidentified insect can send a picture of it to Nature Kenya to this e-mail: insects.eanhs@gmail.com and they'll respond or get in touch with other entamologists there like Dino Martins regrding it.



E X A M D A T E S F O R 2 0 1 1

The exam dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

BRONZE-LEVEL:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 25 th May | 29 th June | 27 th July | 31 st August |
| 28 th September | 26 th October | 30 th November | |

SILVER-LEVEL:

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 19 th May | 22 nd September | 24 th November |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|

