

# Camp news

**July 2018**



In March we  
were enveloped  
in incredibly  
heavy rain.



For days we had massive  
storms and winds. The grassy  
plain in front of our camps  
became a flowing river. The  
entire area was flooded for  
several weeks.  
Many birds lost their nests.





The track between our camps  
became impassable.

(left)

The rain continued for  
several weeks so I  
abandoned my camp and  
moved in with Rob who was  
in a drier location.

My camp became flooded  
with water rushing past and  
under my tent.

(center)



. It was an exciting time!  
Several of the storms came with  
severe winds, so much so we  
thought our camps would blow  
away, but they didn't! Though  
several trees were torn down.

By mid April it had calmed down.

Now, July we are reaping the  
benefits as the underground water  
table is still high keeping the grass  
green and the water holes full.





In March and April we had wonderful insights into the business of nest building.

It is an extremely skilled job, with so many logistics to be worked out.

**Jamesons firefinch  
Collecting feathers  
(left)**

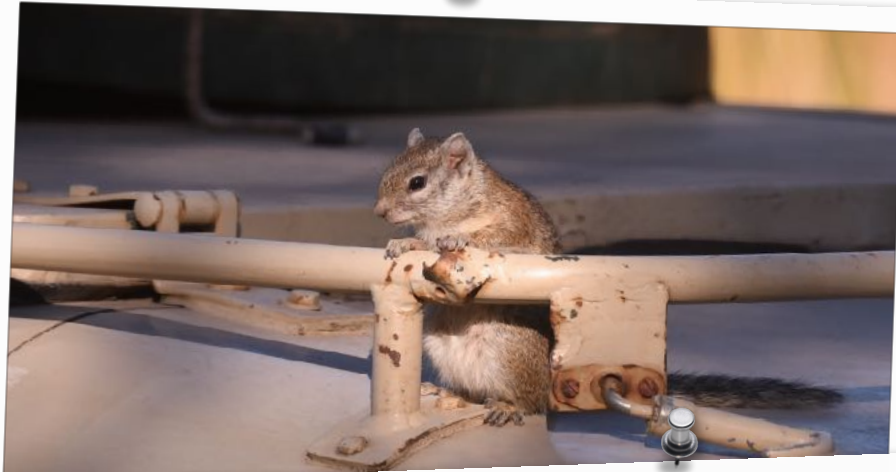


Each species has its own criteria and style, its a fascinating thing to watch. Once the nests are ready the birds become incredibly secretive so it is difficult to keep tabs on the actual process of incubating and feeding the young once they are hatched.

**Arrow-marked  
babbler finding the  
right sticks  
(left centre)**



**Marico sunbird  
collecting fluff for  
the interior of her  
delicate nest.  
(bottom left)**



Our squirrel family - we call  
The Squizzies continue to  
bring us tremendous joy.

They have a great fondness  
for sitting on the roof of my  
car. (left)



Every morning the little family  
(Mum, Dad and two sons) gather  
on this branch and groom each  
other in the warm sunshine. It is only  
feet away from our breakfast table.  
(above)



One day a chameleon stalked  
across the verandah. Mystified at  
this unusual looking creature the  
squirrels watched it carefully  
keeping their distance. .  
All day long we are enchanted by  
a never ending series of lively, and  
intimate family moments.



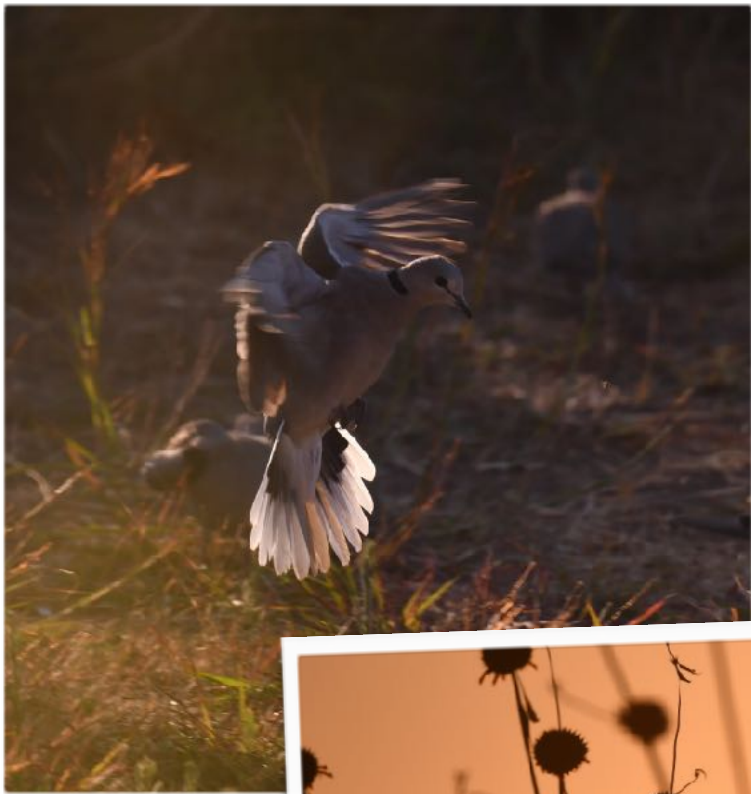


We were thrilled when, after 7 months of absence our little Tuftina, the young reed buck came bounding back into camp. We had feared the worst, so it was really special to see her alive and well and just as adorable. This time last year she was only a few days old.

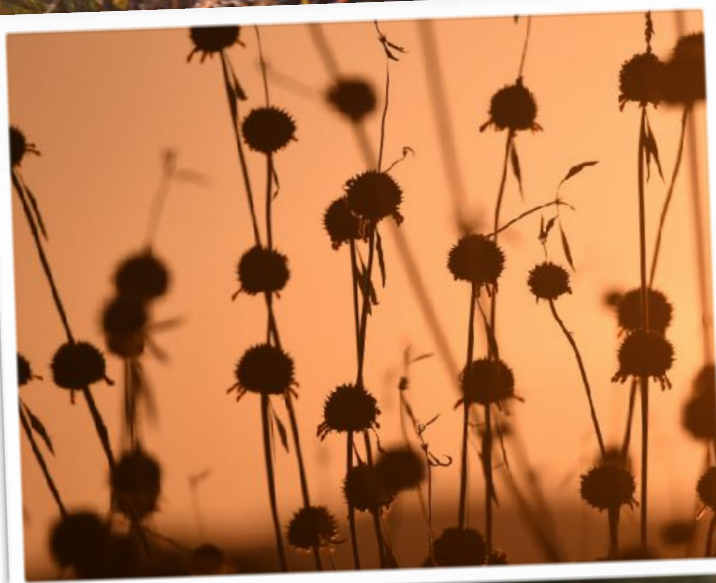
The black-lored Babblers  
feel more and more at  
home!  
They always join us at  
breakfast time!



The decorative leonotis  
flowers by the verandah are  
constantly active with many  
different sunbirds.  
This is a lovely male Marico  
sunbird.



At the end of each day Rob and I sit on my verandah and soak in the peace and tranquility that surrounds us. The gentle doves back lit by the sinking sun fly off for the night. The leonotis, become abstract shapes, dark silhouettes against the evening sky.



The other evening we were graced by a female leopard who sauntered along our path and walked right past us as we sat transfixed.

What perfection!

I will end here with this little quote.

“If we have no peace it is because we have forgotten we belong to each other”

Mother Teresa

