

BUSHtelegraph

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Come live the African Experience!!!



In search of elephants at Mabalingwe Nature Reserve.



Of late our herd of elephant has been somewhat scarce and sightings have been relatively few and far between. Why have they been missing in action so to speak and can one justify their current behavior. Well, we think we have a possible explanation.

Elephants are of course highly sociable animals and move around in herds. The females form the core herds whereas the males will usually form separate groups which link up with the females for mating purposes. The senior female is in charge of the herd and she will lead them on a day to day basis. In our case we have a mature bull that permanently walks with the females.

When females give birth they will usually separate from the herd and move deeper into the bush to better protect the calf.

This year has indeed been a very successful one for our gentle giants with three births in the latter half of last year. Some two weeks ago, to our great surprise, we discovered a brand new calf that was walking right next to the 'old girl' of the herd. This then was the eighteenth addition to the herd with a proud mom who is also the matriarch.

Herein lies a possible explanation. It is logical that the matriarch would have moved deeper into the bush, away from prying eyes, in order to give birth. The herd in turn would have followed her and tried to stay close to her thus making themselves less visible to game viewers.

Well readers, that is our theory and we are sticking to it.

It's a way of life!



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