WILDLIFEDIRECT

Newsletter
Issue #9
July 17th, 2020

WILDLIFE WARRIORS KIDS

Hello Wildlife Warriors!
Stay connected to nature even when you are at home in this ninth edition of the weekly wild update.

Photo of a Pied Pierrot by Ashikoye Okoko

Have you ever stopped to appreciate the beauty of insects?! In this issue, we bring you the beautiful **butterflies!!!** Do you know how important butterflies are in ensuring we have a healthy environment? Please read on! We continue to give you tips on how to take the **BEST** photographs as you prepare for Season Two of the Nature's Treasures Photo Competition starting this August, wild jokes and much much more…

Stay with us on this fun filled adventure. Always remember to share with your family and friends.

KIDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY!

Photo by Jessica Nashipai (14)

During the First Season of Nature's Treasures Photo Competition, on the theme **Nocturnal Beings,** Jessica Nashipai submitted this well-composed image of a jumping spider about to attack a cricket.

The judges were very impressed by the composition of the image. Here is what Jessica had to say about her photo!

Get ready for season two of the Nature's Treasures Photo Competition starting this August!!!!

KIDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY!

Jessica Nashipai (14)

Q: How old are you?
A: 14
Q: Where did you take the photo?
A: In our compound at home.

Q: When did you take the photo?
A: On Sunday before the competition deadline for this theme.

Q: What inspired you to take this photo?
A: There is so much wildlife at night and they are pretty cool. I had heard about the competition and I wanted to enter.

Q: Did you use a phone or a camera?
A: I used my phone to take the photo.

Q: Do you have any tips for young photographers?
A: There is so much wildlife outside and when you just go out and look around, you will be surprised by what you see.

Get ready for season two of the Nature's Treasures Photo Competition starting this August!!!!

PHOTOGRAPHY TIP
BY USHA HARISH!

Eye Level Angles

An eye level shot refers to when the level of your camera is placed at the same height as the eyes of the subject in your frame.

Various ways could be to get yourself flat on the ground, get the vehicle at eye-level or Standing up!

This first photo, is not on eye level. The phot therefore has distractions.

Taking photographs at eye level, one gets a sense of empathy and feels connected.

The second photo is on eye level

USHA HARISH
PHOTOGRAPHY

UNDERSTANDING BUTTERFLIES!

Green Banded Swallowtail by Steve Collins

Butterflies are the adult flying stage of certain insects belonging to a group called Lepidoptera. Moths also belong to this group.

Like all other insects, butterflies have six legs and three main body parts, the head, the thorax and the abdomen. They also have two antennae and an external skeleton (exoskeleton).

There are 900 butterfly species in Kenya, 1,200 in Uganda and 1,400 in Tanzania.

UNDERSTANDING BUTTERFLIES!

The Evening Brown by Steve Collins

Butterflies and moths are important pollinators. They play a big role in the growth of flowers and plants.

All butterfly species have different colors and patterns on their wings. Some butterflies use their colors to blend in with their environment as a way of defending themselves from predators.

Some amazing butterflies even have different colors during the different seasons and this is unique to Africa.

Some male butterflies take chemicals (scent) from plants to attract female butterflies.

UNDERSTANDING BUTTERFLIES!

ACTIVITY

In the coming week, with the help of a friend/family member, go outside your house and try to find some butterflies.

Stop to watch it. What do you notice?

Write everything that you see on a note book starting with "I notice …"

See how many things you can list down that you notice including where you found it and what it was doing.

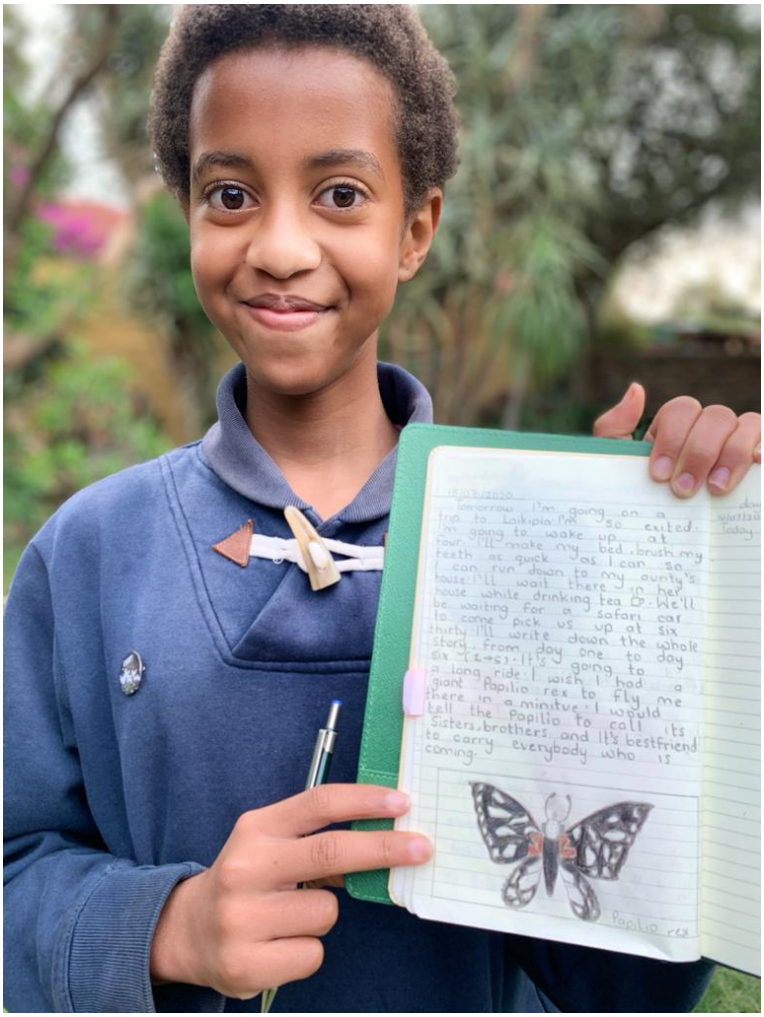
UNDERSTANDING BUTTERFLIES!

ACTIVITY

Look harder, what do you wonder about this butterfly? **For example - why does it have those colors? I wonder, what does it eat?**

Write everything down starting with "I wonder... "

Then look carefully, what does it remind you of?



June Mwangi (12)

Write it down starting with "It reminds me of..."

Now draw your butterfly and send us your drawing and observations.

Send your drawing to us on 0746 511 787 and we will share it in the next issue!

THREATS TO BUTTERFLIES!

Gold Banded Forester

The major threats to butterflies are those that affect the plants and trees that they depend on for survival known as host-plants.

These threats include;

- Deforestation and clearing of Indigenous vegetation for development or agriculture.
- Invasion by other plants into an area leading to loss of local plants that butterflies depended on for food.
- Climate change and pollution are also a great threat to butterflies.

Coastal Swordtail

African Monarch

Photos by Ashikoye Okoko

TEACHERS CORNER!

Meet Mr. Mtengo Kaviha Mtengo, the Head Teacher at Mwarandinda Primary School in Kilifi County.

Q: How long have you been a teacher? Have you always wanted to be one?

A: I worked in the tourism industry for 2 years before joining the teaching profession. I have been a teacher for 28 years and I love interacting with students, imparting knowledge, skills and the desired attitudes in them.

Q: You are very passionate about conserving the environment. Why is that?

A: Conserving the environment has been my focus for as long as I can remember. Our country is threatened by a number of environmental issues and we need to take action. I have voluntarily engaged students and community members in environmental activities to empower them to be smart custodians of the environment.

...TEACHERS CORNER

Q: Tell us a little about the Wildlife Warriors Kids Club at Mwarandinda Primary School.

Our club is a vibrant team of passionate boys and girls who love environmental conservation. Since we started the club 2 years ago, we have had a lot of success.

We have been able to install water harvesting facilities, organic farming using the drip irrigation system connected to a water source and we excavated a farm pond which collects the run off water.

In collaboration with WildlifeDirect we managed to get sponsorship for citrus fruits, passion fruits, indigenous trees from the Chandaria Foundation.

Q: You have a butterfly project in your school. Why did you settle on the butterflies?

A: The butterfly rearing project came as a result of participation in a proposal writing competition on the theme *'How you can help wildlife'* organized by Minara Foundation through the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya where our school was ranked number two with a prize of Ksh. 400,000.

...TEACHERS CORNER

Why we chose butterfly rearing?

Our school is adjacent to the Arabuko Sokoke Forest where the indigenous trees are being destroyed by charcoal burning and wood carving businesses. This has led to shrinking of the forest cover which then exerts a lot of pressure to both the endemic and rare butterflies. We want to introduce butterfly farming to the children as a way of conserving these butterflies and also as an alternate business to burning charcoal in the community.

The project will boost a **healthy environment and natural habitat for the butterflies. We intend to plant indigenous trees** which are food plants for butterflies and rear **pupae** for sale and release the butterflies to the wild.

We want to change the attitude of the people living near the forest some of whom are loggers, to see the value of the indigenous trees.

Q: What encouragement can you give the youth?

A: During this period please keep yourself busy with revising the work you covered in school and you can start a tree nursery at home, be active outdoors. Take care of the environment.

REMEMBER LAST WEEK'S PRIMATE PUZZLE?

A	C	Q	P	O	T	T	O
N	T	N	D	M	S	J	S
B	U	S	H	B	A	B	Y
V	A	C	W	A	D	V	K
X	U	M	Q	B	E	I	E
K	C	O	L	O	B	U	S
T	L	Z	N	O	W	P	B
Z	M	W	R	N	Y	O	A

HINT:
Their names start with the letters **P**, **C**, **B**, **S** and **B**

The other members of the primate family are:

- Potto
- Colobus
- Bushbaby
- Sykes
- Baboon

WILD JOKES!

Q: How do moths swim?
A: Using the butterfly stroke.

Q: What looks like half a butterfly?
A: The other half.

Q: How do you make a butterfly?
A: Throw it from the butter dish

Q: What do moths study in school?
A: *Mothematics*!

Q: What did the butterfly say when it got attacked?
A: I butter fly

Q: Why did Dad throw butter out the window?
A: He wanted to see butter-fly.

Wild jokes courtesy of Eric Sasia

MEET THE EXPERT!

Steve Collins and June Mwangi (12)

Steve Collins has spent years studying and doing research on butterflies and documenting his findings. He enjoys this so much so that he does not consider it a lot of hard work but his hobby!

Q: When did your interest in butterflies start?
A: Since I was 5 years old! My mother gave my little brother and I nets to go catch insects in the shamba in Nakuru and we would take time with every insect we caught. I found the butterflies very unique and wanted to learn more about them.

Q: Do butterflies have predators?
A: Yes, butterflies have a lot of predators. Birds, bats, lizards, frogs and many parasites. Different wasps and flies that can live in the caterpillar and viruses can wipe out colonies. Then in storage- all the storage pests, book lice, museum beetles and fungi can kill them.

…MEET THE EXPERT!

Q: What challenges do you face?
A: There is so much to do in the butterfly garden sometimes I feel like there aren't enough hours in a day. Not many people have taken to studying butterflies and this limits the information going out about these beautiful insects.

Q: What are your special moments as a butterfly expert?
A:Realizing that you are seeing something happen or a new butterfly that is new to science or not been reported before.

Q: How can we ensure that we save our butterflies?
A: Leave the indigenous trees and plants alone. Don't cut trees! Grow indigenous food plants and nectarine plants.

Q: Your advice for young people?
A: Learn as much as you can. Open your eyes to notice and observe what is around you and you might be surprised at just how much nature has to offer. It is also important that you learn a skillset that will set you apart.

ANIMAL OF THE WEEK!

THE MOCKER SWALLOWTAIL

FUN FACT

The Mocker swallowtail has more than 40 female forms

WILD QUIZ

How many butterfly species are found in Kenya?

Send your answer via SMS or WhatsApp to 0746 511787
The winner will be mentioned in the next issue!

ART FOR WILDLIFE!

Do you have a drawing, painting, essay or poem you would like to share with other kids? Please send a photo of your drawing and painting or a text/WhatsApp message with your poem /essay to 0746 511 787

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP BUTTERFLIES!

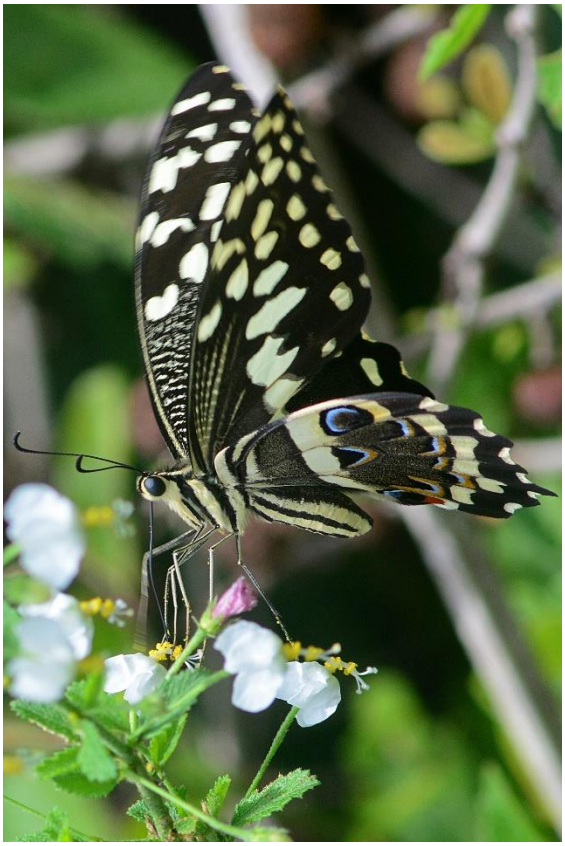
Diadem by Ashikoye Okoko

- Go out in the garden or forest when the sun is out and look around. what do you see?
- Can you see any butterflies? What color are they?
- Can you take a picture using a phone?
- Put out a piece of fruit and observe it for a few days and see what insects and butterflies come to eat the fruit.
- Write everything down.

If you take a photo of a butterfly outdoors, please send the photo via WhatsApp to 0746 511 787 and we will help you identify it.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP BUTTERFLIES!

A Dotted Border Butterfly



Citrus Swallowtail

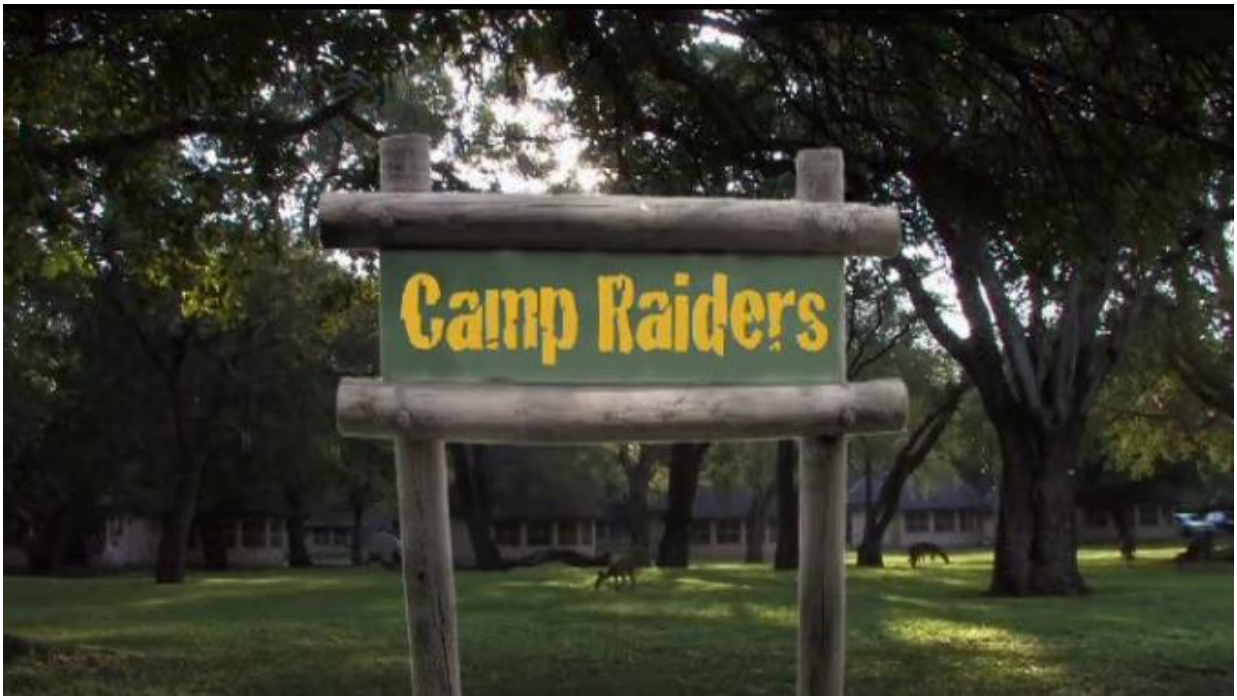
BUTTERFLIES THRIVE WHERE THERE ARE PLENTY OF FLOWERS AND FOOD PLANTS!!!

With the help of your parents, you can plant flowers and start your own garden and with time, you will be able to notice the different types of butterflies (and other insects) that visit your garden!!!

Photos by Ashikoye Okoko

Share with us what you have done this week to help butterflies by sending an SMS or WhatsApp text to
0746 511 787

THIS WEEK ON MY WILD AFRICA!



Most visitors to South Africa's National Park may not see a leopard or a lion chasing its prey. However, it is guaranteed that they will see **the stars of this show-The Trash Can Clan!**

This week, we follow the camp-dwelling animals at the Kruger National Park. Meet naughty squirrels stealing crumbs and the monkeys executing burglaries that have made the camps their territory!

You can't miss this!!! Tune in to Citizen TV this Sunday at 5.30 p.m.

Watch the film with your family and tell us what you learnt by sending an **SMS** or **WhatsApp message** to **0746 511787**

COMING UP… DON'T MISS!

Purple Tip Butterfly by Ashikoye Okoko

- Wildlife Warriors on Switch TV at 2:00pm on July 19th, 2020
- My Wild Africa on Citizen TV at 5:30pm on July 19th, 2020
- World Mangrove Day is on July 24th 2020
- International Tiger Day is on July 29th 2020

FOR PARENTS!

- Please tell us what you think of this newsletter by filling the second part of bit.ly/WWKIDS and we will get back to you.

- If you would love to support Wildlife Warriors Kids, please make a donation to:

PAYBILL NO. 600100

A/C NO. 0100003937598

Email us: info@wildlifedirect.org

Contact us on: +254 746 511 787

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