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Behind The Scenes

Many of my treasures were collected on tracking forays outside the fence at Moholoho. Johann brought back the lower bill of a Yellow-billed Hornbill from just such a trip. I



I took this photo of a Yellow-billed Hornbill in Kruger National Park.

sketched two views of it in my journal. I didn't realize until I had it in my hands that the bill's edge is serrated ~ no doubt to help the hornbill hold onto things in its beak.

The bird that made this nest went north for the winter.



This tiny Paradise-flycatcher nest, with a cup barely 2½" across, fell out of the tree when its branch broke. The nest had bits of lichen glued to its surface for camouflage.



The single seed inside the Kiaat Bloodwood pod is eaten by Vervet Monkeys. I suspect the two notches by the stem were made by monkey teeth. The bristles on the central part are stiff, like cat whiskers.

The Eland horn tip below is being devoured by hungry larvae, which gnaw away at bones and horns on the veld. I think the light gray socklike item hanging from the hole (see arrow) once held a pupating larva.



This eland horn is about 6" long. It will probably be completely consumed within a few months.

