



Nina Hanssen

Just what happened to Lake Nakuru flamingos?

By the time you read this column, I'll be back in Norway after three fabulous weeks in Kenya with my sons.

Our last stop on our Kenyan adventure was Nakuru. We visited Lake Nakuru National Park where we enjoyed the abundant wildlife, the hills, woods and grassland.

When my sons and I visited the park 13 years ago, we enjoyed a sea of pink flamingoes.

I have always been fascinated by this bird whose name originates from a Spanish word which means fire, in reference to the bright colour of its feathers. The strength of a flamingo's colour comes from its diet.

We drove around the park for a whole day. The boys were happy to see five lions, the special giraffes with the white socks and many other animals.

But for me, something was missing. Where were the flamingos?

After a three-hour drive, we spotted one pink flamingo on the shore and drove close to the lonely bird.

Was this the only one left of the wonderful birds? I was surprised since I have never seen a lonely Flamingo before.

Why did it not follow the flock? I know that when they are flying in a flock, flamingos can fly at 35 miles per hour. I also know that a flamingo can

live for up to 30 years. How long had this lonely bird been in Nakuru and where did it kind go?

I felt as if we were in the middle of a horror movie. The flamingo was, for me, the symbol of why we should care more about our environment.

I was also sad to see rubbish and old plastic bags in the park. Has the pollution in the neighbourhood scared the flamingos away?

In Nakuru, I saw hills of burning garbage, stinking sewage and signs of industrial pollution.

What do the authorities and politicians in Nakuru do to protect the lake and the flamingos?

After three weeks in Kenya, I know that tourism is still facing many challenges. There are so many beautiful places to visit and things to do in Kenya but the authorities should put more emphasis on cleaning up the parks, the cities and protect the precious wildlife.

I hope the politicians and the business community in Nakuru and at the national level will do something to make the flamingos return to the lake.

My sons and I will definitely return to Kenya. We hope that next time we will be able to experience a sea of pink flamingos.

—The writer lives in Oslo, Norway and used to live and work in Kenya.

Kamayl Matumona, 31, was jailed for 22 weeks after admitting taking the wallet from a parked car in Edgbaston, Birmingham, UK.

Sergeant Alan Lawless said: "We couldn't believe it when we saw the footage."

"He was so happy at getting his hands on someone else's cash that he did a little dance on the pavement."

"He may have felt like dancing at the time but he looked pretty miserable when we knocked at his door to arrest him."

"Matumona has an extensive criminal record, especially for car crime."

And when the footage was circulated on police systems an offender manager immediately identified him.

—SkyNews

#Tweets to the editor

For the second year running, Kenya Airways has announced massive losses. KOT reacted.

Arnoldie@arnoldie254: Kenya Airways @KenyaAirways should stop announcing their results and keep the losses to the themselves.

corazon KalliytheGentle: How can Kenya airways be making losses when their flights are the most expensive.

BUSHIE @bushiejohn: Why is Kenya Airways more expensive than the foreign airlines? I think that is a factor contributin 2 the losses #KQResults.

STEFAN MUTINDA@elovekidd:

So you are criticising Kenya airways are celebrating losses yet y'all were wa PEV. Am gone. #KQResults.

Jambo@karanjahpn: We are yet to figure out who is travelling for free at Kenya Airways.

Dennis de Menace@r_menace:

The profits made by Kenya Airways was expected since Last financial year massive loss had affected them#KQResults.

Unverified @Fmkmutuku: Kenya Airways was second on the list of losers with a loss of 7.37 percent at the price Sh4.40 per share.



TRUTH IS: When you are good to others, you are best to yourself.