

# Tourist photographs Australian scene of croc versus croc

December 4 2015, byRod McGuirk

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In this Oct. 26, 2015 photo, a large crocodile flings a smaller crocodile through the air before eating it at Catfish Waterhole in the Rinyirru National Park in Australia's Queensland state. Tourist Sandra Bell was poised to photograph a sedate scene of two crocodiles sunning themselves at the edge of an Australian waterhole when the picture unexpectedly exploded into violence. (Sandra Bell via AP)

Tourist Sandra Bell was poised to photograph a sedate scene of two crocodiles sunning themselves at the edge of an Australian waterhole when the picture unexpectedly exploded into violence.

Bell was startled but managed to snap around 20 graphic photos as a 5-meter (16-foot) estuarine croc tore apart and devoured a far lighter 2.5-meter (8-foot) croc over 15 minutes.

"It was super amazing but pretty terrifying as well," Bell said on Friday. "It looked like it was pretty much dead pretty quickly."

She later said an expert's opinion that the croc appeared long dead before the attack could be correct. Bell said she didn't detect much movement when she first saw the smaller croc partially submerged.

The extraordinary pictures were taken on Oct. 26 at Catfish Waterhole in the Rinyirru National Park, where Bell had been camping with her 14-year-old son in north Queensland state. The mother and son, from Shark Bay in Western Australia, were on a yearlong vacation driving around the country.

Without warning, the large croc suddenly clamped its jaws around the other's tail and flung the smaller croc's entire body repeatedly through the air and into the water.

Although Bell was 30 meters (100 feet) away from the action on the opposite bank, she found herself backing away through fear as she continued to take photos.

"I had no idea how forceful and powerful it was," she said. "There were waves and splashes going everywhere and you could hear the little one getting thumped into the water."



In this Oct. 26, 2015, a large crocodile, left, flings a smaller crocodile through the air before eating it at Catfish Waterhole in the Rinyirru National Park in Australia's Queensland state. Tourist Sandra Bell was poised to photograph a sedate scene of two crocodiles sunning themselves at the edge of an Australian waterhole when the picture unexpectedly exploded into violence. (Sandra Bell via AP)

Crocodile expert Grahame Webb said the pale color of the smaller croc in some photos suggested it was decomposing. He suspected it had been killed by a croc before Bell reached the scene.

The violent throwing of the smaller croc was an attempt to tear away body parts to swallow, Webb said.

Cannibalism was common among [crocs](#) although humans rarely witness such attacks in the Australian wilderness, he said.





In this Oct. 26, 2015 photo, a large crocodile begins to eat a smaller crocodile after a brief battle with the smaller reptile at Catfish Waterhole in the Rinyirru National Park in Australia's Queensland state. Tourist Sandra Bell was poised to photograph a sedate scene of two crocodiles sunning themselves at the edge of an Australian waterhole when the picture unexpectedly exploded into violence. (Sandra Bell via AP)

While birds and fish preyed on hatchlings, the only predator a larger croc feared was another croc.

"Once a croc gets to 1-to-2 years old, its survival depends on how many big crocs are around," Webb said.

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Citation: Tourist photographs Australian scene of croc versus croc (2015, December 4) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-12-tourist-australian-scene-croc.html>

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