

MAMMALS and AMPHIBIANS

seen in South Africa (RSA) 14 november - 13 december 2002

during a private birdwatching trip accompanied by Bengt Bengtsson and Anders Waldenström

report compiler **Stefan Lithner,**
Karlshamn, Sweden

Order of presentation according Duff & Lawson; Mammals of the World – a Checklist 2004.

The following shorts are used in this report: NP= National Park, GF= Game Farm, GDN= game drive at night

HARES

Smith's Red Rock Hare	<i>Pronolagus rupestris</i>	Langberg Guest Farm Kimberley. A hare of this species was flushed in the hills behind the farm at dawn. of 3/12.
Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	Benfontain GF 2/12 GDN ~30 ind.
Scrub (Scrapier) Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	Mkuzi 17/11 GDN 4 ind., Kruger NP 20/11 GDN 3 ind.

SQUIRRELS

South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>	Benfontain GF 2/12: 8 ind.
Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>	Kruger NP 20/11 3 ind, 21/11 4-5 ind.
Red-bellied Coast Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus palliatus</i>	S:t Lucia 17/11 2 ind.

SPRING HARE

Spring Hare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>	Kruger NP 20/11 GDN 5 ind., Benfontain GF 2/12: GDN some ind.
-------------	-------------------------	---

PORCUPINE

South African Porcupine *Hystrix africaeaustralis* Benfontaine GF 2/12 GDN: One female with two younger ones.

RATS n MICE

Four-striped Grass Mouse *Rhabdomys pumilo* Rob Guy's garden, Underberg 28/11 one or two ind. under RG's bird feeders and on the trunk on one of his oak-trees where he also puts bird food.

Sloggett's Ice Rat *Otomys sloggetti* Sani Pass 25/11 one ind. outside the pub.

Rock Rats

Aethomys

Wakkerstroom 23/11:

At least 39 specimen of the genus *Aethomys* were mounted on a barb-wire after having been poisoned by farmers. We do not know from how far these rats were collected. In our opinion at least two species were mounted here. Some were remarkably long tailed, with a tail-length of approximately 140% of head-body-length. Some of these extremely long tailed animals also showed a greyish tinge between their front legs.

According to Skinner, John D.; The Mammals of the Southern African Subregion, these features strongly indicate *A. namaquensis* (Namaqua Rock Rat).

Some of the larger, more robust, slightly more reddish without obvious greysih tinge on chest and between fore legs also showed tails seemingly intact, to be just somewhat longer than head-body length. According to Skinner these match *A. chrysophilus* (Red Vlei Rat). We are however aware of the existence of the latter species' sibling species *A. ineptus* (Tete Veld Rat), but not to what extent they co-exist in this area.

Bontebok NP 10/12:

Several ind. crossing the road through the park. Since their tail in most cases seemed rahter long; Advantage *A. namaquensi*.

MONKEYS

Chacma Baboon *Papio ursinus* Mkuzi 18/11 5 ind., Kruger NP 19 - 21/11 ~30 ind./day. Also observed 3/12 Kimberley-Witsand NP, Sir Lowry's Pass (Cape Town) 11/12.

Syke's Monkey *Cercopithecus albogularis* Cape Vidal 16/11 at least two ind.

Vervet Monkey *Chlorocebus pugerythrus* Cape Vidal 16/11, Kruger NP 20-21/11 a few/day

DOLPHINS

- Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphus* Buffelsbaai Cape of Good Hope NR 12/12:
about ten animals playing some 100 meters off the coast.
- Dusky Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* Sea trip from Simonstown (Cape Town)
7/12. Some animals of this species paid a visit to our boat about half an
hour (?) south of Cape of Good Hope.

FUR SEALS

- Cape Fur Seal *Arctocephalus pusillus* Lambert's Bay 5-6/12: ~50 ind., sea trip
from Simonstown (Cape Town) 7/12; some animals were playing around
the boat.

GENETS n CIVETS

- Common Genett (Smaller Spotted Genett) *Genetta genetta* Mkuzi 18/11 GDN; 1 ind.
- Blotched Genett (Greater spotted Genett) *Genetta tigrina* Mkuzi 18/11 GDN 1 ind,
Kruger NP 20/11 GDN 1 ind.

CATS

- Lion *Panthera leo* Kruger NP 19/11 one male resting next to
the main road.
- Leopard *Panthera pardus* Kruger NP 21/11 One ind. resting at a
waterhole about 75 meters from the main road.

MUNGOOSES

- Small Grey Mongoose *Herpestes pulverulentum* About 30 km east of Kimberley 1/12: 3 ind.,
Sandveld NP 1/12: 2 ind., Benfontaine GF 2/12: 2 ind.
- Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea* Kruger NP 20/11 GDN; 1 ind.
- Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus* Kruger NP 20/11 GDN; 1 ind.
- Suricate *Suricata suricata* Wakkerstroom 24/11: 1-2 ind., Sandveld
NP, Benfontaine GF 2/12: 1 ind., 1/12: 1 ind..
- Yellow Mongoose *Cynictis pencilata* Wakkerstroom 23/1: 1 ind.

HYAENAS

Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	Kruger NP 20/11 GDN 1 ind.. walking on the road.
Ardwolf	<i>Proteles cristata</i>	Benfontaine GF 2/12: GDN. One animal was followed for about ten (?) minutes while foraging on termites. It takes only limited numbers of termites from each mound during a visit.

JACKALS, FOXES n DOG

Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	Benfontaine GF 2/12: 1 ind..
---------------------	------------------------	------------------------------

MUSTELIDES

Honey Badger (Ratel)	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	Kruger NP 21/11: 1 ind.. crossed the road in the afternoon.
----------------------	---------------------------	---

HEDGEHOG

South African Hedgehog	<i>Atelerix frontalis</i>	One ind.. found dead (Run over by a vehicle) 3/12 on the road between Kimberley and Witsand.
------------------------	---------------------------	--

PIGS & HOGS

Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	Kruger NP 19/11 ~10 1 ind., 20/11 ~20 1 ind., 21/11 >15 1 ind..
----------------	-------------------------------	---

HIPPOES

Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Kruger NP 19/11 >10 ind., 20/11 ~30 ind., 21/11, ~20 ind.
--------------	-------------------------------	---

GIRAFFE

Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis giraffa</i>	Mkuzi 17/11 3 ind., Mkuzi 18/11 10-15 ind., Kruger NP 19/11 ~25 ind., Sandveld NP 1/12: 1 ind., Benfontaine GF 2/12: 2 ind.
---------	---------------------------------------	---

BOVIDES

Rhebuck	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>	De Hoop NP 10/12: ~40 ind.
Springbuck	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	Sandveld NP 1/12: 4 ind., Benfontaine GF 2/12 ~400 ind. , 3/12 Kimberley-Witsand some seen, 4/12 Witsand and road to Poffadder several ind., Cape Aughullas 10/12 ~15 ind.
Steinbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	Mkuzi 17/11: 2 ind., Benfontaine GF 2/12: 2 ind. ind.
Klippspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	Sir Lowry's Pass (Cape Town) 11/12: 1 female.
African buffalo	<i>Syncercus caffer</i>	Kruger NP 19/11: >100 ind., 21/11: ~100 ind.
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasi</i>	Cape Vidal 16/11 ~15 ind., Mkuzi 17/11 >50 ind., Mkuzi 18/11 >300 ind., Kruger NP 19/11 >20 ind., 20-21/11 2 ind.
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	S:t Lucia 17/11 one or two ind.
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	Cape Vidal 16/11: ~10 ind., all males, Mkuzi 17/11: 2 ind., Kruger NP 20/11: 4 ind, 21/11: 2 ind.
Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>	Cape Vidal 16/11: 2 ind.
Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>	Wakkerstroom 22/11: 2 ind., Benfontaine GF 2/12: 3 ind.
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	Kruger NP 19/11: ~15 ind., 21/11: ~10 ind.
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	Sandveld NP 30/11: 2 ind.
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>	Sandveld NP 30/11: 10 ind, 1/12: ~10 ind.
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	Benfontaine GF 2/12: ~15 ind.
White-tailed Gnu	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>	Benfontain GF 2/12: at least 3 ind.
Brindled Gnu	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	Cape Vidal 16/11: ~15 ind, Mkuzi 17/11: >100 ind, 18/11: 20-25 ind, Kruger NP 19/11: ~75 ind, Shongueni Dam 25/11: ~30 ind.
Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus l. lunatus</i>	Sandveld NP 1/12: a female with a very young calf (maximum 2 days old).

Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus dorcas phillipsi</i>	Wakkerstroom 23/11: ~10 ind., Underberg 28/11: ~20 ind., Benfontain GF 2/12: ~75 ind.
	<i>Damaliscus d. dorcas</i> (Bontebok)	Cape of Good Hope NP 9/12: 5 ind., De Hoop NP 10/12: ~50 ind., Bontebok NP 10/12: ~70 ind.
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Cape Vidal 16/11: 5 ind., Mkuzi 18/11: ~70 ind., Kruger NP 19/11: >100 ind., 20 n 21/11 >50 ind./day.
Natal Duiker (Red Duiker)	<i>Cephalophorus natalensis</i>	Mkuzi 18/11: one ind. crossing the dirt road less than 20 meters in front of the jeep.
Bush Duiker (Grey Duiker)	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	Mkuzi 17/11: 4 ind., Benfontaine GF 2/12: 5 ind., Witsand 3/12: 1 ind.

ZEBRAS

The species Plains Zebra or Common Zebra, *Equus burchelli* (Duff & Lawson, Zebra - The Living Relatives of the Horse; www.imh.org/imh/bw/zebra.html) or *Equus quagga* (Kingdon) is split up into four (Zebra) to six (Kingdon) subspecies or types. A number of types have been described as subspecies and given scientific names. Hitherto moderne techniques have not been able to assess to what extent these types really are distinct subspecies, or ever have been distinct subspecies. (T. Eberhardt, Swedish Threatened Species Unit, Uppsala, Sweden).

Six types are regarded as fairly well defined: Grant's- or Böhm's (Plains) Zebra (*E. burchelli boehmi*), Crawshay's (Plains) Zebra (*E. burchelli crawshayi*), Quagga (*E. Burchelli/quagga quagga*)*¹ and Buechell's Plains Zebra (*E. burchelli. burchelli*)*², Also a number of intermediate or variable populations have been given scientific names, of which, Selous's (Plains) Zebra (*E. burchelli selousi*) and Chapman's (Plains) Zebra also called Damara (Plains) Zebra (*E. burchelli antiquorum*) are probably the most well known.

The species' scientific name is still disputed. Kingdon 2001 is using *Equus quagga*, while Duff & Lawson 2004 are using the name *Equus burchelli*. Also its common name is discussed. The name Plains Zebra (Sw: stäppsebra) is becoming successively more frequent.

*¹ Extinct since 1872. This taxon is by Kingdon 2001 treated as a subspecies of Plains Zebra: *E. quagga quagga*, while Duff & Lawson is treating the taxon as a full species *Equus quagga*, using *E. burchelli* for the Plains Zebra.

*² According to many authors this type became extinct in wild 1910 and extinct in captivity 1918 (Berlin Zoo). Since the type becoming extinct in 1910-1918 has not been studied with moderne techniques and it looked very similar indeed to the type that inhabits parts of southern Africa today, the latter type still carries the name *E. b. burchelli* (e.g. Kingdon). Efforts to reconstruct types externally corresponding with *E. b. burchelli* and *E. (b/q.) quagga* by breeding is in progress in South Africa.

Out of the five types regarded to exist today, three can according to distribution maps be found in South Africa (RSA): *Equus b. selousi* (Selous's (Plains) Zebra), *Equus b. burchelli* (Burchell's Plains Zebra) and *Equus b. antiquorum* (Chapman's (Plains) Zebra or Damara (Plains) Zebra).

Today many populations of zebras in RSA are intermediates. We managed to find one population which externally corresponds with the description of Burchell's Plains Zebra to at least 95%, and one

population where at least several individuals externally matches Selous's (Plains) Zebra to at least 95%. Other populations seem to have been intermediates, at least to some extent.

Plains Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli burchelli</i> <i>Equus burchelli selousi</i>	Mtonzini NP 16/11: 3 ind. Kruger NP 19/11, however not all of the specimen corresponding with this subspecies to about 95% or more: ~50 ind., 20/11: ~75 ind., 21/11 >50 ind.
	<i>Equus burchelli ssp.</i>	Mkuzi 17/11: 5 ind., Hella Hella 28/11: ~30 ind., Kimberley-Witsand 3/12: 5-10 ind.
(Cape) Mountain zebra	<i>Equus zebra zebra</i>	Bontebok NP 10/12: 7 ind.

RHINOCERUS

Grass Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	Mkuzi 17/11: 1 male
------------------	----------------------------	---------------------

HYRAXES

Cape Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	Wakkerstroom 22/11: 4 ind., West Coast NP: 3 ind., Sir Lowry's Pass 11/12: 2 ind.
-----------------	--------------------------	---

ELEPHANT

African Bush Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Kruger NP: 19/11 2 ind, 20/11: >50 ind, 21/11: ~10 ind.
-----------------------	---------------------------	---

60 species of which two found killed were identified + one described but unidentified rat.

A M P H I B I A N S

Presented according to Baard, Ernst H. W.: Cape Tortoises – Their Identification and care, Cape Nature Conservation 1994.

Mountain Tortoise	<i>Gelochelone pardalis</i>	Mkuzi 18/11 and Kimberley Noitgedacht 2/12
Kalahari Tent Tortoise	<i>Psammobates oculifer</i>	Kimberley Benfontain GF 2/12
Bushmanland Tent Tortoise	<i>Psammobates tentorius verroxii</i>	Pofadder 5/12
Angulate Tortoise	<i>Chersina angulata</i>	Cape of Good Hope NP 12/12

Common Padloper	<i>Homopus aureolatus</i>	Aghullas Penninsula 11/12
Cape Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>	Kruger 20-21/11 Wakkerstroom 23-24/11
Serrated Hinged Terrapin	<i>Pelusous sinuatus</i>	Kruger 20/11
Savanna (Rock) Monitor	<i>Varanus exantheticus</i>	Witsand 3/12
Nile (Water) Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	Kruger NP 20/11

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Mr Tony Vain, Durban for participation and logistiscs during the eatern part of our trip, Mr Rob Guy, Underberg for his contributions around Underberg and Dr Mark Andersson, Kimberley for his excellent guiding around Kimberley and assistance in identifying rodents and tortoises.