

ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE BIRD AND MAMMAL LISTS OF THE MOUNTAIN ZEBRA NATIONAL PARK

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The following account updates and amends various previous publications dealing with the birds and mammals of the Mountain Zebra National Park (MZNP). In the case of birds, Roberts' *Birds of South Africa* numbers are used.

Birds

Birds new to the MZNP not listed by Skead (1965, *Koedoe* 8: 1-40), Penzhorn & Bronkhorst (1976, *Koedoe* 19: 177-178) and Penzhorn (1977, *Koedoe* 20: 205-207) are as follows:

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| 52 | DARTER
SLANGHALSVOËL
A rare vagrant to Doornhoek dam. | <i>Anhinga rufa</i>
(Lacépède et Daudin), 1802 |
| 56 | GOLIATH HERON
REUSE-REIER
A single adult landed in front of Babylons Toren homestead on the 11th February 1980. | <i>Ardea goliath</i>
Cretzschmar, 1826 |
| 63 | GREEN-BACKED HERON
GROENRUG-REIER
Single bird seen for several months on the Wilgerboom river during 1979. | <i>Butorides striatus</i>
(Linnaeus), 1758 |
| 69 | NIGHT HERON
NAGREIER
Periodic visitor to the Doornhoek dam. | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
(Linnaeus), 1758 |
| 102 | RED-EYED POCHARD
BRUIN EEND
Common summer visitor to Doornhoek dam occurring in flocks of up to 14 individuals. Although some were in pairs there was no evidence of breeding. | <i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
(Weid), 1833 |

- 104 WHITE-BACKED DUCK *Thalassornis leuconotus*
 WITRUG-EEND Eyton, 1838
 Single bird seen on Doornhoek dam in September 1979.
- 115 HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*
 EUROPESE BOOMVALK Linnaeus, 1758
 Seen flying around Weltevrede during February 1981.
- 149 FISH EAGLE *Haliäetus vocifer*
 VISAREND (Daudin), 1800
 Immature bird recorded at Doornhoek dam during 1980.
- 156 RED-BREASTED SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter rufiventris*
 ROOIBORS-SPERWER A. Smith, 1830
 Breeding resident found in the *Acacia karroo* woodland and exotic tree plantations such as poplars and pines. Two known nest sites.
- 160 AFRICAN GOSHAWK *Accipiter tachiro*
 AFRIKAANSE SPERWER (Daudin), 1800
 Breeding resident found in the woodland areas, two nest sites known.
- 169 BLACK HARRIER *Circus maurus*
 WITKRUIS-VALK (Temminck), 1828
 Not uncommon on the open areas such as Rooiplaat, Grootmat and Kranskop ridge.
- 196 KURRICHANE BUTTON-QUAIL *Turnix sylvatica*
 BOSVELD-KWARTEL (Desfontaine), 1787
 Flushed from a grassy patch near Weltevrede during September 1981.
- 263 GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*
 GROENPOOT-RUITER (Gunnerus), 1767
 Rare visitor to Doornhoek dam.
- 269 AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*
 BONT ELSIE Linnaeus, 1758
 Pairs seen during the summer months at Doornhoek dam and various pans/dams on Rooiplaat.
- 270 STILT *Himantopus himantopus*
 ROOIPOOT-ELSIE (Linnaeus), 1758
 As for 269.
- 304 WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucoptera*
 WITVLERK-SWARTSWAEL (Temminck), 1815
 Single birds observed periodically over Doornhoek dam.

- 319 TAMBOURINE DOVE *Turtur tympanistria*
WITBORS-DUIFIE (Temminck and Knip), 1810
Rarely seen, observed in dense *Acacia karroo* along the Wilgerboom river.
- 346 GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO *Clamator glandarius*
GROOT GEVLEKTE KOEKOEK (Linnaeus), 1758
Seen on several occasions in the Babylons Toren homestead area during October to April 1979/1980.
- 359 BARN OWL *Tyto alba*
NONNETJIE-UIL (Scopoli), 1769
Uncommon in the area, one lives near Weltevrede homestead.
- 385 LITTLE SWIFT *Apus affinis*
KLEIN WINDSWAEL (Gray), 1852
Often seen feeding in noisy flocks near Weltevrede.
- 395 GIANT KINGFISHER *Megaceryle maxima*
REUSE-VISVANGER (Pallas), 1769
Periodic visitor to the area, feeds mainly on freshwater crabs and tadpoles while in the Park.
- 436 RED-FRONTED TINKER BARBET *Pogoniulus pusillus*
ROOIKOP-TINKER (Dumont), 1806
Common resident in the *Acacia karroo* woodland around Babylons Toren homestead.
- 441 SCALY-THROATED HONEYGUIDE *Indicator variegatus*
GEVLEKTEKEEL-HEUNINGWYSER Lesson, 1831
A rare vagrant to the MZNP, one single adult seen at close quarters in Fonteinkloof.
- 474 SPIKE-HEELED LARK *Certhilauda albofasciata*
VLAKVOËL Lafersnaye, 1836
Breeding resident on Rooiplaat, occurs in pairs or small parties of up to five birds.
- 559 CAPE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola rupestris*
KLIPWAGTER (Vieillot), 1818
Infrequently seen in broken country such as the top end of Weltevredekloof.
- 560 SENTINEL ROCK THRUSH *Monticola explorator*
LANGTOON-KLIPWAGTER (Vieillot), 1818
Also rare and inhabits more open areas than the previous species.
- 569 BUFF-STREAKED CHAT *Myrmecocichla bifasciata*
BERGKLIPWAGTER (Temminck), 1829
Recorded below Kranskop by Mr and Mrs G. Collett (*pers. comm.*).

- 573 MOCKING CHAT *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*
 DASSIEVOËL (Lafresnaye), 1836
 Single adult female collected at the Weltevrede research office during 1979.
 This appears to be the only record for the Cradock district.
- 629 FANTAIL CISTICOLA *Cisticola juncidus*
 LANDERY-TINKTINKIE (Rafinesque), 1810
 Fairly common on Rooiplaat.
- 639 WAILING CISTICOLA *Cisticola lais*
 HUILENDE TINKTINKIE (Hartlaub and Finsch), 1870
 A common resident of the higher lying areas, overlooked in the past.
- 646 LE VAILLANT'S CISTICOLA *Cisticola tinniens*
 VLEITINKTINKIE (Lichtenstein), 1842
 Not uncommon on Rooiplaat.
- 737 CAPE GLOSSY STARLING *Lamprocolius nitens*
 KLEIN GLANSSPREEU (Linnaeus), 1766
 An adult arrived at the Babylons Toren homestead in March 1981 and re-
 mained for several months.
- 787 SOUTHERN GREY-HEADED SPARROW *Passer diffusus*
 GRYSKOP-MOSSIE (A. Smith), 1836
 Breeding resident at Weltevrede.
- 833 BLUE-BILLED FIREFINCH *Lagonosticta rubricata*
 KAAPSE ROBBIN (Lichtenstein), 1823
 Quite common in the dense *Acacia karroo/Rhus* spp. complex along the
 Wilgerboom River near Babylons Toren.

Mammals

The small mammals of the MZNP are discussed in De Graaff & Nel (1970, *Koedoe* 13: 147-149), Nel & Pretorius (1971, *Koedoe* 14: 99-110) and De Graaff (1974, *Koedoe* 17: 173-183). Some are also included in *Mammals of the Kruger and other National Parks* by Labuschagne & Van der Merwe (1963). The following are amendments and additions to these works.

- FOREST SHREW *Myosorex varius*
 BOSSKEERBEK (Smuts, 1832)
 One specimens collected at Berghof by Botha and Clarke (lab. specimen) on
 1967.11.13.
- HOTTENTOT GOLDEN MOLE *Amblysomus hottentotus*
 HOTTENTOT-GOUEMOL (A. Smith, 1829)
 Fairly common, collected at Babylons Toren and Weltevrede.

CAPE HARE

Lepus capensis

VLAKHAAS

Linnaeus, 1758

De Graaff & Nel (1970) recorded the species. Nel & Pretorius (1971) however state this was probably wrongly identified. The species has since been collected and is not uncommon on Rooiplaat.

RED ROCK HARE

Pronolagus rupestris

ROOIHAAAS

(A. Smith, 1834)

Although Nel & Pretorius (1971) recorded *P. crassicaudatus* (greater red rock hare), we have only collected the much smaller *P. rupestris* (Smith's red rock hare). This species is common in all rocky areas and it is suspected that the former was wrongly identified.

WHITE-NAPED WEASEL

Poecilogale albinucha

SLANGMUIHOND

(Gray, 1864)

A single male was collected on Soetkop on the 1976.11.11.

WATER MONGOOSE

Atilax paludinosus

WATERMUIHOND

(G. Cuvier, 1829)

This is one of the most common small carnivores in the MZNP and why it has been overlooked in the past is not clear. The characteristic droppings and tracks are present throughout the MZNP where there is water.

SMALL-SPOTTED GENET

Genetta genetta

KLEINKOL-MUSKEJAATKAT

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Nel & Pretorius (1971) were unable to identify the genets in the MZNP, but the Small-spotted Genet has since been positively identified.

The large mammals of the MZNP, in particular their introduction are briefly discussed by Penzhorn (1971, *Koedoe* 14: 145-159). Penzhorn does not mention the presence of a small number of grey rhebuck *Pelea capreolus* in the Park; the last count revealed four adults in July 1979. The introduced reedbuck *Redunca arundinum* have all died. New additions to the Park which have come in on their own include bushpig *Potamochoerus porcus* (small number in Fonteinkloof), kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* (moved in 1978/1979, numbered about 14 in February 1980) and bushbuck *T. scriptus* (adult male seen south of Berghof, December 1979). The bushbuck record is the first for the Cradock district as it is not listed in Skead (1958, *Koedoe* 1: 19-59).

Two clawless otters *Aonyx capensis* were accidentally released on the 1979.07.15 at Babylons Toren when they escaped from a temporary cage. They were caught in the district and are still in the Park at present (April 1980). As they are a male and a female they may become established.

The lower jaw of a young hyaena was found on Springbokvlakte which provides proof that either *Hyaena brunnea* or *Crocuta crocuta* occurred in the past. Gemsbok *Oryx gazella* were removed from the MZNP during 1981 because they were not doing well.