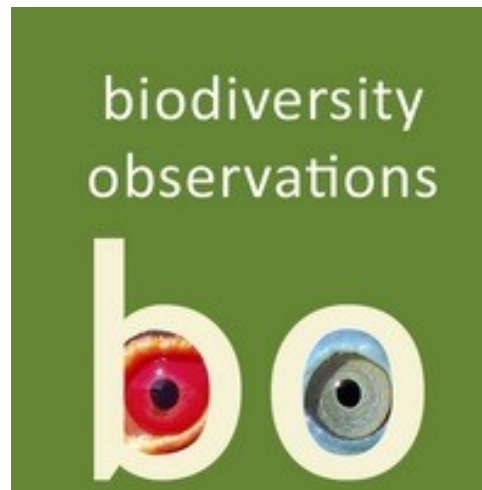


Mammals of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, Western Cape, South Africa

Mike Fraser



Fraser M 2021. Mammals of the Cape Of Good Hope Nature Reserve, Western Cape, South Africa. Biodiversity Observations
12: 15-46

12 May 2022

DOI: 10.15641/bo.1219

Species List

Mammals of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, Western Cape, South Africa

Mike Fraser

*East Cottar, Pitcox Cottages, Dunbar, East Lothian,
EH42 1RQ, UK*

mikeandlizfraser@btinternet.com

Abstract

The status of all the mammal species that have been recorded in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve (the southern section of the Table Mountain National Park) is described. A total of 76 species has been recorded, of which 56 occur or have occurred naturally, and 13 are now extinct. More than 20 species have been deliberately or accidentally introduced. The history and management of large, non-native herbivores released into the Reserve for public spectacle is described in the context of changing attitudes towards conservation priorities and visitor perceptions.

Introduction

The Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve is 7,750 ha in size and lies at the tip of the Cape Peninsula, 40 km south of Cape Town, South Africa (Fig 1 and 2). It was established in 1939 and incorporated into the Table Mountain National Park in 1998. The Reserve is managed by South African National Parks, which provides information for visitors [here](#).

The natural and unnatural history of the Reserve has been described by Fraser and McMahon (1994). Its birds are detailed in [Fraser \(2014\)](#) and updated in [Fraser \(2016\)](#). The latter also includes photographs of typical landscapes and habitats. The reptiles and amphibians of the Reserve are described in Fraser (2021). These publications and references therein should be consulted for details of the habitats, vegetation types, topography and climate of the area. Scientific names are given in the individual species accounts.

The present article is based on research that I completed just before I left South Africa in 1996. It can be seen, therefore, as primarily an historical account on which future descriptions and assessments of the Reserve's mammalian fauna can be based.

In this respect, I encourage those who visit the Reserve and are familiar with its wildlife to review the list so that it can be revised and updated and new findings made accessible. It would certainly be interesting and useful to see what changes have taken place over the intervening 25 years. The status of the large herbivores would be of particular concern in terms of their health and nutrition, as well as the population dynamics of some of the smaller species in relation to fire regime and the removal of the extensive thickets of non-native vegetation that would have provided food and shelter for many of them. The Chacma Baboons in the Reserve and on the Peninsula as a whole continue to pose challenges in terms of their interactions with people or, more fittingly, *vice versa*.

Attitudes towards large mammals at the Reserve have changed significantly over the years, such that the Cape of Good Hope is no longer seen as some sort of zoo-cum-tourist attraction holding species which, while nominally charismatic and attractive to visitors, are ecologically and historically out of place here. The function of the Reserve is the conservation of its coastal habitats and those of its terrestrial animals and plants (many of them rare or endemic) and ecosystem processes that form part of the Cape Floristic Region, together with the management of visitors to this geographically, historically, and scenically outstanding location.

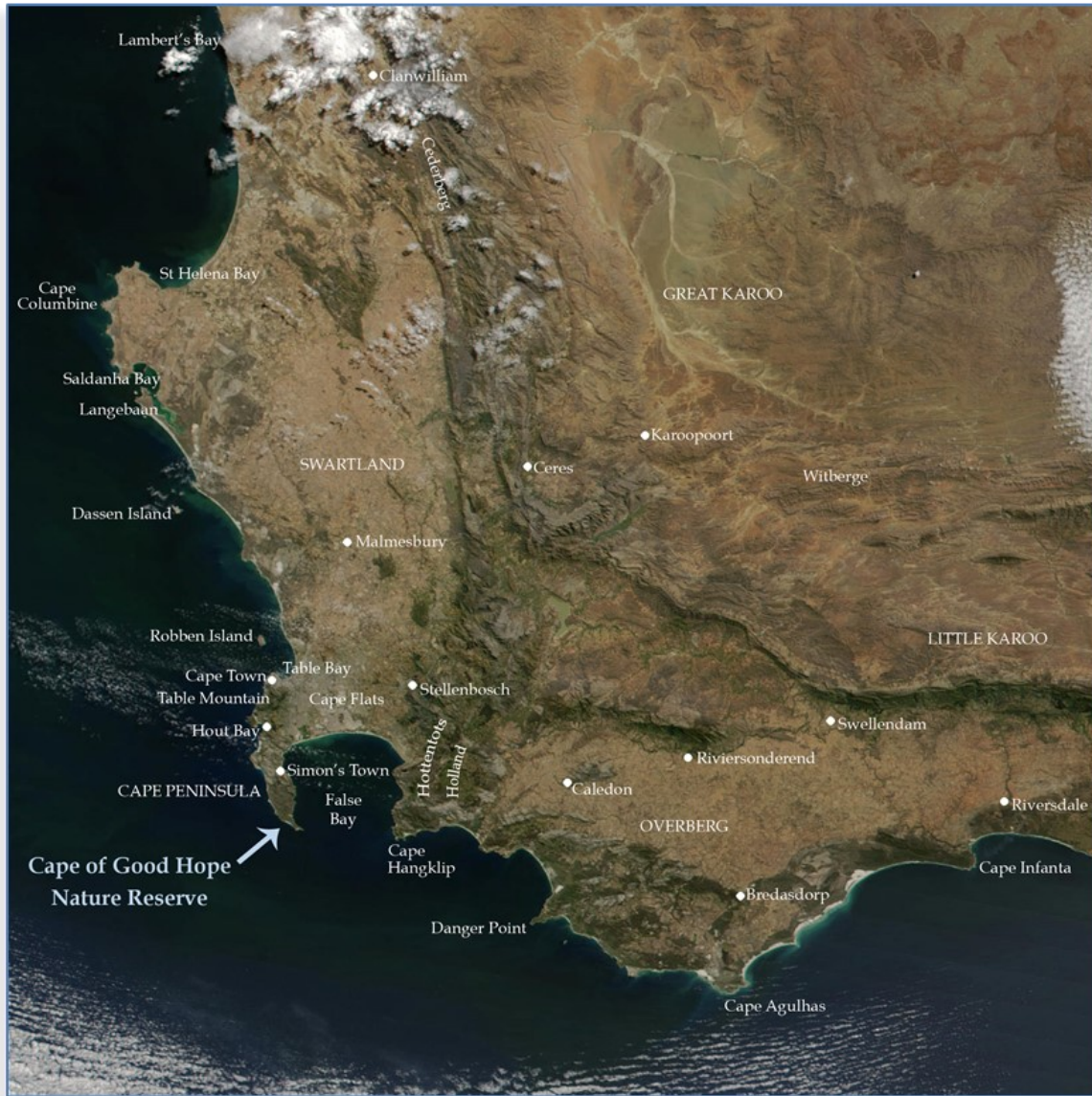


Figure 1 a, b. The Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve (a, left) lies at tip of the Cape Peninsula, the south-westernmost point of the African continent (b, above). Satellite image courtesy of NASA, nasaimages.org.

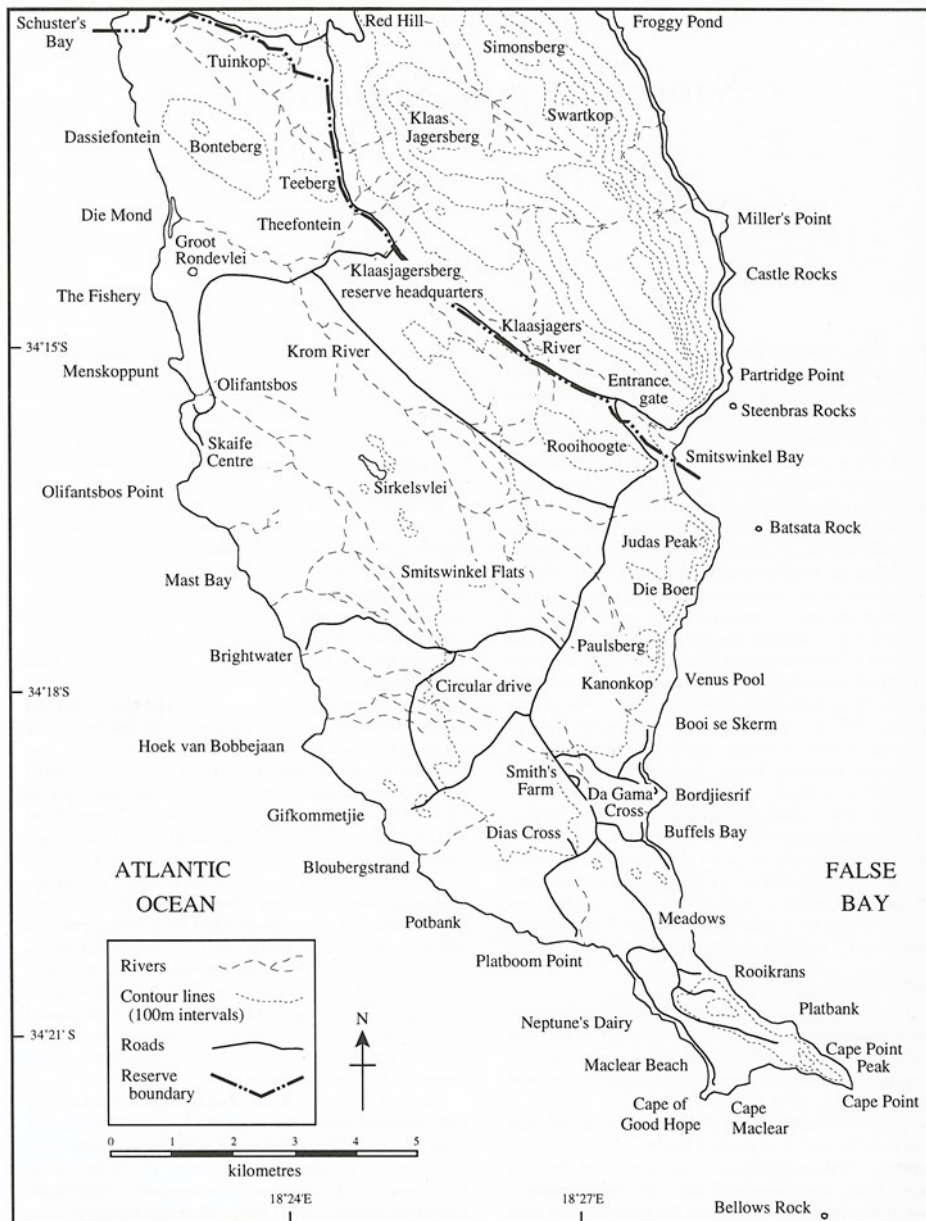


Figure 2 a, b. The Cape Peninsula and the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, with main place names (a, left). Satellite image (b, above), courtesy of NASA, nasaimages.org. Map from Fraser and McMahon 1994.

History of mammal management at the Reserve

Recounting his travels in South Africa in the pages of the Edinburgh-based 'Scotsman' newspaper in the early 1990s, a visiting journalist described the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve as a "game reserve" where "there are various kinds of deer, and zebra may be spotted". To which I would point out that there are certainly no deer, and the zebra may be striped but they are never spotted.

Journalists and tour guides long waxed lyrical about some sort of Kruger Park at the tip of the Peninsula, unrealistically and inaccurately raising the expectations of their readers and clients. Visitors to the Reserve in its early days, anticipating some sort of 'African Eden' teeming with game, then complained about the absence of "big and hairies", a scenario which concerned the authorities at the time. The introduction of large, non-native species was, therefore, carried out, at least in part, to satisfy the perceived demands of visitors. When it was quickly discovered that many of the large antelope were wholly unsuited for this habitat, even when it was transformed for their benefit, and died or had to be removed, the information fed to tourists and the general public lagged a long way behind the reality on the ground. For many subsequent years, therefore, visitors still expected to see a variety of large, conspicuous antelopes here. Meanwhile, ill-informed local tour guides and naïve travel writers, such as our Edinburgh correspondent, did little or nothing to dispel this ambition nor to promote the real natural assets of the Reserve – a relatively unspoilt landscape supporting unique and diverse fynbos vegetation, together with the birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates, as well as small mammals, that occur naturally within it.

The background to the introduction of the non-native antelope species and their subsequent all-but universal demise can be traced back to the early days of the Reserve and the sentiments that surrounded its establishment in 1939. By no stretch of the imagination could the area be considered pristine at this time. Almost three centuries of colonial occupation had taken their toll: the veld was degraded by cultivation, overgrazing and over-burning, and was extensively and chronically infested by extensive thickets and plantations of introduced non-native woody plants, mainly Australian wattles (*Acacia* spp). Two world wars had not helped as the area had been commandeered by

the defence force during and between the hostilities and military hardware in the form of barbed wire, shell cases and wrecked vehicles used for target practice littered the veld, and buildings and other infrastructure had fallen into disrepair.

A generally accepted aim of the Reserve's first owners (the Divisional Council of the Cape, as was) and managers was, therefore, restoration to its "natural state", a condition which resembled as closely as possible that which prevailed not just in the early twentieth century, but before the first European settlers arrived at the Cape in the mid-seventeenth century. This sounds straightforward in principle but, as very few people had any idea what such conditions were actually like, a certain amount of guesswork and inference was involved. The Reserve's fynbos (the globally-important, species-rich vegetation found only in the southern and south-western Cape) received some consideration, it seems, but the question of big mammals was much more hotly debated. Was the veld capable of sustaining the likes of large antelope, and of what species, or should the paying public be content with the slim chance of seeing just small buck - the Grysbok, Steenbok, Common Duiker, and Grey Rhebok, that were scattered around the Reserve when it was founded?

A popular perception of the pre-colonial south-western Cape was a somewhat dreamy, romantic notion of an "African paradise" of sweeping plains dotted with herds of game, and hippos and elephants cavorting in every waterhole. This was the scene that some people wanted to create at the Cape of Good Hope.

It is true that many large animals were present around what is now Cape Town when Europeans settled there permanently in 1652. Lion *Panthera leo*, Red Hartebeest and Hippopotamus are mentioned in van Riebeeck's diary (van Riebeeck 1952), which also records Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* on the lower slopes of Table Mountain. The last Cape Flats' elephant was shot in 1702 (Skead 1980). Nevertheless, it does not necessarily follow that these and other large herbivorous species also inhabited the very tip of the Peninsula in the area that would subsequently become the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. If they ever did, it is almost certain that they would not have been permanently resident there, they would have occurred predominantly in the more nutritious and relatively scarce strandveld

vegetation of the coastal strip, and they would have ranged widely up and down the Peninsula, and beyond, in search of good grazing and browsing in different seasons. The scrubby, notoriously nutrient poor and generally unpalatable fynbos at the tip of the Peninsula certainly contrasts with the once grassy, nutrient-rich and well-watered sandy plains of the Cape Flats beneath Table Mountain where the first settlers were concentrated and made their observations.

What is likely to be a reasonably accurate picture of wildlife at the Reserve in days gone by comes from James Holman (in Brock *et al* 1976), who visited the area in January 1829:

“Between the mountain ridge [above Simon’ Town] we passed today and Cape Point the plain is covered by an incredible number of ant-hills, and mole-hills, and there are a great variety of the Protea, Mimosa, bulbs, and beautiful heaths, which in conjunction with the adjoining mountain, give shelter and support to the roebucks, greybucks, klip-springers, eagles, wild-turkies, secretary birds, pheasants, partridges, curlews, hares, rock-rabbits, porcupines, tigers, wolves, jackals, baboons etc., as well as reptiles of various descriptions”.

In modern parlance, none of these creatures is unexpected. “Tigers” are Leopards, which certainly occurred on the Peninsula in the nineteenth century; “wolves” are probably hyaenas; and the “jackals” perhaps Black-backed of that ilk or Cape Foxes. There is no mention of any large game, only three small antelope species (“roebucks” were likely Grysbok or Steenbok). It is worth noting that our “observer”, Holman, was, in fact, blind, but those who described the scene to him appear to be honest and informed and not subject to exaggeration nor deception to impress visitors.

Despite such historical documentation, attempts to construct an historical picture on which to plan the stocking of the Reserve with large mammals were confounded by reports and advice which were conflicting, anecdotal and subjective. Accounts described, for example, the “Great herds of buck [which] roamed over what is now Smith’s Farm at the end of the nineteenth century”, but no mention was made of the species involved, nor are actual figures volunteered. It would seem that many such recollections had, like the angler’s fish that got away, increased in size over the years and with the retelling. Writing

in 1938, WF Auret stated that “In my father’s time there were also buffaloes, hence the name Buffels Bay”. This claim could easily have prompted the authorities to introduce them to the Reserve on the pretext of an historical claim to indigeneity. Buffalo never occurred on the Peninsula in historical times, however, and the “buffalo” of Buffels Bay would have been domestic or feral cattle.

On the other hand, the very arguments used by some opponents to the establishment of the Reserve (or, at least, a “game reserve”) were, ironically, probably more authentic. “Smith’s Farm is windswept, treeless and barren, and the veld is sour. Look at the cattle there. I think it would be a gross outrage to expect any animals to live there”, exclaimed Mr JB Lindley at a public meeting in 1929. A Mr James Johnson declared that: “What little grass grows in that sandy wilderness is sour and so short that to get one bite the animals must get bellyful of sand...a locust would starve to death if it could not get away from that desert. Cape Point is another Kalahari”.

Although an early decision was apparently taken to stock only animals that occurred historically on the Peninsula, a strong feeling upwelled among the authorities that what Cape Town needed was its own Kruger Park, and that the public demanded to see large animals if a nature reserve was to be deemed worthy of the name. Scenery and flowers, it seemed, should be free, but if visitors had to pay to come into a “nature reserve”, then something beyond sweeping views and pretty proteas was required for their money.

Such sentiments seemed to move the authorities more than the strong reservations expressed by many of those who had campaigned for the establishment of the Reserve and who had, all along, declared that a “game park” was not appropriate. “It is obvious that this little shank end of the Peninsula cannot be made a game reserve in the accepted sense of the term, and it seems, therefore, that the chief object should be to restore the flora which have been raped from the rest of the Peninsula”, wrote a correspondent to the *Cape Times* in 1946. This opinion was repeated time and again over the years. In a letter to the same newspaper in May 1958 in connection with the introduction of “big game”, the distinguished herpetologist Walter Rose wrote: “To the true naturalist size is immaterial, and the

life-history of a beetle may well be more wonderful than that of the hippopotamus.”

At the same time as Rose was penning his letter, the Works Committee of Divisional Council reported that “There are two opposing schools of thought on the Advisory Board. The one school wishes to maintain the flora in an undisturbed state. The other school is anxious to introduce as many animals as possible. The baboons have already caused a great deal of damage on the flora and further introductions of herbivores will affect the plants. It is for Council to decide which policy they intend to follow”.

Despite the persistent and impassioned pleas for the “flora”, the fynbos, of the Reserve to be given priority, a variety of large mammals was introduced in the 1940s, ‘50s and ‘60s. This move appeared to be a combined response to perceived public demand, the “game ranger” syndrome that pervaded professional nature conservation circles at the time, and the perception in some quarters of the Reserve as a glorified zoo and a dumping ground for any animals looking for a home. The introduced large species included Eland, Bontebok, two sorts of zebra, wildebeest, Springbok, and Fallow Deer, while smaller ones included hundreds of tortoises, a variety of native and non-native birds (including Peacocks *Pavo cristatus*), and North American bass *Micropterus* spp to Sirkelsvlei. To accommodate and contain the large animals and, to some degree perhaps, to placate the botanical contingent, a fence was erected across the width of the Reserve about one quarter of the way down it, confining the big mammals to the southern sector while the northern area was set aside as a nominal “floral reserve”.

Of all the introduced mammals, only the Eland had any historical claim to be here. “Eland” is the Dutch word for “elk” and, although used to describe any species of large antelope, the chances are high that today’s Eland was the animal seen and documented by early settlers on the Peninsula. The Bontebok earned its place in the Reserve on account of its extreme rarity and was introduced as part of a wider campaign to save it from extinction. The zebras were, in the one case, the wrong species (Burchell’s never occurred south of the Orange River) and, in the other, the wrong subspecies (Hartmann’s hails from Namibia) for the area. (It is also very doubtful if today’s

Cape Mountain Zebras (Fig 3) ever occurred naturally here either, but at least it does come that bit closer to the Peninsula than the others.) Black Wildebeest was a species of the north-eastern Cape and beyond; Blue Wildebeest was found naturally only north of the Orange River. The Springbok, historic denizen of the Karoo, was introduced because it was the South African emblem. We should be grateful that the national sports’ teams did not feature a giraffe on their jerseys. Fallow Deer is European in origin and it is difficult to find a reason for introducing a herd of these, although it would, perhaps, have been politically inexpedient to refuse the gift, coming as it did from Lady de Villiers Graaf, wife of the leader of the Unionist Party.



The fact that the Reserve was soon found to be patently unsuitable for these animals did not deter the authorities; rather, it seems to have become something of a challenge to try and sustain and increase their numbers and diversity. In December 1959, the Advisory Board even recommended that the Reserve staff “investigate the possibility of obtaining waste products from the Cape Town Market and for transporting thereof to the Nature Reserve for use as fodder for the animals”. Supplementary feeding was provided over the years in the form of hay and lucerne (alfalfa *Medicago sativa*), and it was reported that the animals “fell upon it ravenously” when it was put out for them.

Figure 3. Cape Mountain Zebras were introduced to the Reserve in 1986 in an attempt to bolster the species’ critically small global population - Photo by Mike Fraser.

Attempts were made to improve the grazing and bring game closer to the public roads by brush-cutting an area of fynbos by Circular Drive and ploughing, fertilising, liming and seeding it with alien pasture grasses and clovers. This was not successful. The area quickly became overgrazed and turned into a dustbowl in the dry summers. The Blue Wildebeest were the main cause of overgrazing and were removed, to be replaced by a small herd of Black Wildebeest. The latter struggled to survive and the last two became so weak that they were caught by hand. Many of the Bontebok were sickly and a number died. Autopsies indicated that they were heavily infested with parasites, a consequence of general poor health and too many animals concentrating in one spot, and suffered spontaneous bone fractures. Both conditions are also attributable to a chronic copper deficiency. Copper is one of the trace elements that is in notoriously short supply in fynbos soils and an attempt was, therefore, made to boost the amount available to the animals by adding copper sulphate and old shell-cases (of the ballistic variety) to the ponds (which had themselves been excavated from marshy seeps to provide water for the buck), and by providing salt licks. The latter, it seems, were ignored because the vegetation already contained so much salt from sea spray.

Despite these setbacks, advice on how to obtain and sustain the animals continued to be sought and was offered. A professor of dairy science proposed the introduction of Gemsbok *Oryx gazella*, Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*, Sable *Hippotragus niger*, Impala *Aepyceros melampus*, Nyala *Tragephalus angasii*, Warthog *Phacochoerus aethiopicus*, and Square-lipped (White) Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum*, amongst others. A forester, while regretting the unsuitability of indigenous tree species, recommended planting a series of 100 m-wide belts of *Eucalyptus* trees across the Peninsula to provide shade and shelter for the anticipated herds. A prominent and influential professional conservationist was adamant that if you looked after the animals, the plants would look after themselves.

A curious reluctance persisted on the part of the authorities to heed any contrary advice and criticism regarding the management of the Reserve. The Wildlife Society slammed the “veld improvement” programme as a “waste of time and energy”, and the Reserve staff were seriously concerned that alien animals were receiving preference

over the few indigenous buck and all the indigenous plants. A severe drought in 1970 exacerbated the situation and one of the rangers reported that the veld was being overgrazed to a point where long-term damage was not just likely, but inevitable. Any burnt areas were trampled and grazed to the extent that there were virtually no plants growing there at all, and the game had moved away from what had previously been their favoured habitat. Supporting evidence was provided by a botanist and a zoologist from the University of Cape Town, and both urged the appointment of a qualified ecologist to manage the Reserve.

No such appointment was forthcoming, however, and it was proposed as recently as 1971 that the whole of the southern section of the Reserve should be made into a full-blown “game park” with a variety of introduced large mammals sustained by imported fodder. It was argued that: “visitors expected to see animals and were not particularly interested in whether or not they were indigenous to the area”. That this resolution was, surprisingly, not adopted by the Advisory Board marked something of a turning point in their attitude and a measure of acceptance of the mounting criticism directed at them. In 1974, the fence across the Reserve was removed and animals were not replaced as their numbers dwindled.

The last large mammals to be introduced to the Reserve were nine Red Hartebeest from Namibia in 1977 and a small number of Cape Mountain Zebra from the Mountain Zebra National Park at Cradock in the eastern Cape in the late 1980s and early ‘90s. The hartebeest formerly had one of the widest distributions of any antelope in South Africa and was recorded near van Riebeeck’s “Fort of Good Hope”, now Cape Town, in 1652. Again, it is a grazing (as opposed to browsing) species, but has persisted at the Reserve in small numbers despite a shortage of suitable habitat. The zebras are members of an exceedingly rare breed and at least are indigenous to fynbos, if not the Peninsula.

The policy of essentially indiscriminate introductions and efforts to create a game park at the Cape of Good Hope officially came to an end in 1971, as recorded in the advisory board minutes of 19th July of that year, to wit: “It was Resolved to Recommend: That under no circumstances should a Game Park be established in the Cape of Good

Hope Nature Reserve”. Somewhat contrary to this, the minutes also: “Resolved to Recommend: That the supplementary feeding, as recommended in the report of the Director of Nature Conservation, should be carried out and that every effort be made to introduce the trace elements which the animals lack, by spraying not only the supplementary feed but also the natural pastures of buffalo grass [*Stenotaphrum secundatum*, an introduced, non-native species] which occur in the Reserve”. The game lobby were clearly still holding some sway, but the fynbos defenders must have been heartened by the former decision and celebrated the removal of the remaining animals, or at least that there would be no further introductions of inappropriate species.



Ironically, 1996 estimates put the populations of some of the remaining introduced species at their highest levels for over a decade. The Bontebok, in particular, appeared to be flourishing (Fig 4). This was likely a result of the large areas of temporarily suitable habitat and fresh regrowth created for them by recent fires. As the fynbos vegetation gets older and less palatable, the Bontebok could be expected to run into trouble again, but probably not before the vegetation was overgrazed and erosion had further set in along the coastal slopes down which the animals pass to reach the best pastures. There is thus a strong case for phasing them out from the Reserve altogether.

Figure 4. Bontebok never occurred naturally at the Reserve but were introduced in 1946 as a conservation measure - Photo by Mike Fraser.

The Eland also appeared to be thriving at this time but, again, veld management may have a negative effect on them as the clearing of alien vegetation (an essential measure for conserving fynbos) will have removed a favoured food source and shelter. Perhaps they, too, will die out or have to be removed as any quest for alternative feeding by any of the Reserve’s large mammals is prevented by the stock-proof northern boundary fence that traverses the Peninsula between Smitswinkel Bay and Scarborough.

That the early management of the Reserve foundered on the rocks of suspect ecological advice and the demands, perceived or otherwise, of an ill-informed public was not necessarily nor entirely the Advisory Board’s fault. Nevertheless, its failure to appoint an ecologist to the Reserve staff, and the absence of a qualified ecologist or botanist from the Board were inexcusable. As early as 1939, the Cape Point Preservation Society stressed the need “to ensure that whatever public body assumes control of the area will appoint a properly constituted board of trustees or management on which zoologists and botanists shall be represented”. Unfortunately, for many years the Advisory Board comprised local celebrities, dignitaries and bureaucrats who, although largely well-meaning, simply did not have the biological expertise nor understanding necessary to make decisions regarding appropriate management and conservation of the Reserve. It was not until the 1980s that a qualified ecologist was appointed to its ranks.

It is my intention to report on past management, not to judge it. Hind-sight is a fine thing, of course, and it is easy to see now that the Reserve was inappropriately managed. In defence of the authorities, it is only fair to point out that an awareness of fynbos and an appreciation of its exceptional, global conservation importance by both scientist and layman have extended beyond an enthusiastic and informed minority only relatively recently. With the establishment of the Fynbos Biome Research Project in 1977 and the intensive research carried out under its auspices and that of other institutions since then, we now enjoy an infinitely better understanding of the structure, functioning and requirements of fynbos and what can and cannot survive or thrive in it. Not so long ago, the only academic course for would-be nature conservation officers was based in Pretoria where the emphasis was, not unnaturally, on the management of big game. Now local academic institutions offer courses in conservation that are tailored to

local needs as well as wider ones, and which use local examples to teach ecology and demonstrate the requirements of the indigenous fauna and flora of the south-western Cape. It has, nevertheless, taken a long time for the community to respond to the feelings expressed in a letter to the *Cape Times* in January 1947 which urged: "By all means let us have a manager for Cape Point - the best we can get and quickly - but for the future, unless in our schools potential manager conservators with a love for their work are educated and trained, the deterioration of our plant life will continue"

This "plant life", the fynbos, is now recognised as being unsuitable for large, resident, grazing animals. Fynbos plants are characterised by high levels of tannins that make them unpalatable to and indigestible by herbivores. They also contain very low levels of the nutrients (a consequence of the infertile soils in which they grow) that would be required to support permanent populations of large, unselective grazers such as wildebeest. Fynbos is also fire dependent and burns naturally (or, more likely nowadays, accidentally or as part of veld management) as soon as there is enough fuel, usually when the vegetation is 10 or more years old. Extensive fires will, therefore, mean that there is even less food available until sufficient regrowth has occurred.

For these reasons, fynbos is occupied naturally by small numbers of non-herding, diminutive buck, such as Grysbok and Steenbok, whose neat muzzles allow them to choose those parts of the plant, such as buds and flowers, which are relatively nutritious. And being small, they don't need the vast quantities of vegetation that a herd of wildebeest would engulf. Moreover, the Reserve displays exceptional botanical richness, supporting some 1,040 indigenous species, of which at least 13 taxa are endemic (Taylor 1984, Fraser and McMahon 1994). The conservation of these, together with the Reserve's rich coastal and marine resources and its unspoilt landscape, and the management of visitors who come to enjoy them are now the primary objectives.

Times have changed, and attitudes with them, but it is to be regretted that the energy and resources expended on bringing in the buck over two or three decades was not spent on investigating why there are no large, herding animals in fynbos, *sensu stricto*, and ensuring that the

public did not expect to see such animals here. The promotion of the Reserve's natural inhabitants attractions continues to be necessary as, unfortunately, the image of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve as a "game park" is still perpetuated in some quarters.

Species accounts

The following list describes all the mammal species that have been recorded at the Reserve. Many of these are no longer present but are included for interest and historical completeness. Nomenclature and numbers in brackets after the scientific names follow Smithers (1983).

Shrews Family Soricidae

Forest Shrew *Myosorex varius* (003). Status uncertain; probably locally common. Shows a distinct preference for vleis and marshy areas (Langley 1974a). Feeds intermittently throughout the day, but is most active at night.

Reddish-grey Musk Shrew *Crocidura cyanea* (010). Status uncertain; probably rare. Recorded very occasionally on the plateau above Skaife, and may occur in similar rocky habitat elsewhere. Despite its name, this species is variable in colour; those at the Reserve are very grey.

Greater Musk Shrew *Crocidura flavescens* (012). Status uncertain; probably common but localised. Restricted to marshy areas and rank vegetation around vleis and on streambanks. Active throughout the day and night. The largest shrew found in southern Africa, measuring up to 18cm from snout to tail tip and weighing up to 40g.

Golden moles Family Chrysochloridae

Cape Golden Mole *Chrysochloris asiatica* (021). Locally common. Most abundant in gardens and formerly cultivated ground at Klaasjagersberg, but also found in sandy soil at the coast and in the lawns at picnic sites. The subsurface runs that trail out along and across the sandy beaches, even into the intertidal (at low tide!), have been attributed to this species, and it is assumed that they are foraging for the sandhoppers *Talorchestia* that are abundant in this habitat.

Cape Golden Mole is endemic to the south-western Cape and was the first golden mole species to be scientifically described. An unfortunate error of provenance, however, resulted in Linnaeus giving it the scientific epithet *asiatica*.

Fruit bats Family Pteropodidae

Egyptian Fruit Bat *Rousettus aegyptiacus* (046). Status uncertain; probably uncommon visitor. This species has been reported from Klaasjagersberg where it presumably visits fruiting trees such as the introduced date palms *Phoenix* and figs *Ficus*. Elsewhere on the Reserve it might be expected to visit the date palms at the Homestead and, perhaps, fruiting shrubs in coastal thicket.

Vesper bats Family Vespertilionidae

Cape Serotine Bat *Eptesicus capensis* (086). Status uncertain; probably common. Bats mistnetted at Skaife Centre (under whose roof they roost) have been identified as Cape Serotines. The majority of the many bats seen around Klaasjagersberg at dusk are probably this species. One has been recorded there roosting under the loose bark of an *Acacia saligna* tree (B Dyer).

Horseshoe bats Family Rhinolophidae

Cape Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus capensis* (106). Status uncertain; probably common. Recorded only with certainty from Klaasjagersberg but, as a typical cave-dwelling species, is likely to occur around the coastal cliffs and escarpment and forage over the thicket and beaches within striking distance of their roosts.

Baboons Family Cercopithecidae

Chacma Baboon *Papio ursinus* (180). Common resident and visitor. Baboons may be seen anywhere within the Reserve between early morning and late afternoon, when they head for their night-time roost.

Five troops occur here with an average size of 35-40 and totalling about 190 animals. In the 1990s, this figure comprised at any one time some 25 adult males, 70 adult females and 95 subadults. The troops' home-ranges are centred at Olifantsbos, Gifkommetjie, Cape

Point, Buffels Bay and Bordjiesrif. Two troops based outside the Reserve occasionally make sorties into the northern sector. The Olifantsbos troop has a home-range of 3,700 ha and utilises five cliff roost sites. Most young are born in July-November following a six-month gestation.

Baboons have been recorded eating parts of 114 species of plants, ranging from bulbs and roots to seeds and nectar (Davidge 1976a,b, 1977, 1978; Wright 1991). Crabs, shellfish and sandhoppers caught in the intertidal zones are eaten by baboons at the Reserve (Fig 5), but altogether this seafood comprises less than 5% of their diet (Davidge 1976a). The Reserve's baboons are often said to be unique in being the only non-human primate to forage in the intertidal zone. They are not, however, alone in this habit as a few other species, in-



Figure 5. The Reserve's Chacma Baboons obtain additional protein by foraging for shellfish and other marine invertebrates in the rocky intertidal - Photo by John Graham.

cluding south-east Asian macaques *Macaca* sp also forage in the intertidal, in their case mangrove swamps. The baboons' *almost* unique habit of intertidal feeding on the Reserve has been the subject of more recent research that shows that this is largely opportunistic rather than a major source of dietary protein ([Lewis 2014](#)).

Baboons are problematic animals only when they come into some form of conflict with people. Unfortunately, many are permitted or encouraged to do so by irresponsible visitors. Some baboons become "rogues" and have to be destroyed when they pose a danger to the public (which is very real – the males, in particular, are bold and aggressive and their canine teeth can be longer than those of a Leopard). PLEASE DO NOT APPROACH OR FEED THEM.

The status and challenges posed by and facing the Peninsula's baboon troops, including those at the Reserve, are usefully addressed in the report from a workshop in 2009 that considered the animals' position and conflicts in a rapidly urbanising setting ([Anon 2009](#)).

Hares and rabbits Family Leporidae

Cape Hare *Lepus capensis* (122). Status uncertain; may have become extinct, re-introduced in 1995. Reported to be quite plentiful in the early twentieth century but had become scarce by the time the Reserve was established in 1939. One killed by a car in the Meadows area in April 1961 was apparently sufficiently rare to merit recording. Were it not for a single sighting near Sirkelsvlei in the mid-1980s it might have been concluded that the species had disappeared entirely. The reasons for its decline and possible extinction are unclear, although the gradual restoration of fynbos in place of overgrazed and overburnt pastures (which were encouraged to favour, initially, domestic livestock and, later, introduced buck) may be important as the Cape Hare's diet comprises mainly short grass. Six were captured on the Cape Flats near Cape Town and introduced to the Reserve in early 1995 where they have since ranged widely (R Ernstzen).

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (128). Rare alien visitor. Escapees from the nearby Red Hill Farmyard were seen at the Wildschutsbrand picnic site on the Reserve's northern boundary in May 1994 (R Ernstzen). As they have done elsewhere in mainland South Africa,

local predators will most likely, and hopefully, prevent the rabbits from establishing a feral population.

Molerats Family Bathyergidae

Cape Dune Molerat *Bathyergus suillus* (129). Locally common. The large heaps of soil thrown up by this prodigious tunneller indicate that it is confined to disturbed, grassy areas along the coastal belt and the soft, formerly cultivated, alluvium of the Krom River Valley from Klaasjagersberg to Die Mond. In these areas the molerats are likely to feed mainly on the stolons of Buffalo Grass and other grasses. When lining their nest chambers they may venture from their burrows for a metre or so to gather suitable vegetation, an activity that renders them vulnerable to predation: they have been caught by African Fish-Eagles *Haliaeetus vocifer* at Die Mond and Olifantsbos. They are also a favoured prey species of the Common Molesnake *Pseudaspis cana* which enters their burrows to catch them

[Common Molerat *Cryptomys hottentotus* (132). Unconfirmed. Included on some species lists in Reserve files, but not known to occur on the Peninsula and presumably included in error.]

Cape Molerat *Georychus capensis* (133). Status unknown; probably locally common. Likely to have a similar distribution to the Cape Dune Molerat but may be more limited to formerly cultivated areas or the gardens at Klaasjagersberg.

Porcupine Family Hystricidae

Porcupine *Hystrix africae australis* (134). Uncommon but widespread. Nocturnal and thus rarely seen, although an occasional individual may emerge in the late afternoon or one or two may be discovered lying up in daytime shelters such as small caves (there is a well-used den at Gifkommetjie). The presence of porcupines is most typically evident from dropped quills. These may be found anywhere in the Reserve, often along well-worn paths or next to the numerous small holes which the porcupines excavate while foraging for underground bulbs, tubers and roots, their preferred food.

Many "nuisance" porcupines have been released at the Reserve after being trapped in local gardens or smallholdings where they can damage vegetables and other cultivated plants.

Squirrels Family Sciuridae

Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* (146). Uncommon localised alien. Introduced to the Cape Peninsula (from North America via England) by Cecil Rhodes, sometime in the 1890s. Has since established itself in alien plantations, parks and gardens in and around Cape Town. It is not known when it first reached the Reserve, or if any were deliberately introduced, but it is now established on the northern boundary at Perdekloof and Klaasjagersberg. The Grey Squirrel is unlikely to spread into the tree-less fynbos, but it may cause some damage by eating seeds from proteaceous shrubs growing near the pines and gums in which it occurs.

Rats and mice Families Cricetidae and Muridae

Laminate Vlei Rat *Otomys laminatus* (152). Status uncertain; probably uncommon and localised. An isolated, relict population occurs on the Cape Peninsula and specimens were collected in “restio-dominated fynbos” at the Reserve in 1995 (P Taylor, CH Langley). This rare and enigmatic species is otherwise found only in the Drakensberg and in parts of Kwazulu-Natal and Transkei.

Saunders' Vlei Rat *Otomys karoensis (saundersiae)* (155). Status uncertain; probably rare and localised. Of the 368 rodents caught by Langley (1974a) five (1.4%) were this species, all from areas around vleis and marshes. None has been recorded with certainty since. Differs from the Vlei Rat (below) in that the row of cheekteeth does not exceed 8.8 mm, a feature that is unlikely to aid identification in the field.

Vlei Rat *Otomys irroratus* (156). Locally common. Prefers seepage areas and damp, dense vegetation around vleis and streams, but also found in extensive areas of Restionaceous Tussock Marsh which may dry out in summer. Evident from its narrow runs and small feeding platforms of chewed restios, often littered with droppings. Probably as common as the Striped Mouse (below) and, like it, diurnal and reasonably easy to see in the appropriate habitat. This or Saunders' Vlei Rat were the most abundant of 10 mammal species found in Spotted Eagle Owl *Bubo africanus* pellets (Langley 1974a).

Cape Spiny Mouse *Acomys subspinosus* (161). Locally common. Live-trapping as part of long-term research at the Reserve has shown that this species is confined to cliffs and rocky outcrops, but is relatively common within this habitat (Langley 1974a; JUM Jarvis). Forages at night and feeds mainly on large restio seeds. Called “Spiny” because its hairs are just that.

Striped Mouse *Rhabdomys pumilio* (163). Common; locally abundant. Probably one of the most numerous mammals at the Reserve and, being diurnal and generally quite confiding, the easiest to see of the small species. Occurs in a wide variety of habitats but is absent from cliffs and scarce in rocky areas and inland fynbos. Most often encountered in alien *Acacia cyclops* thickets (presumably attracted by the abundance of seeds), the margins of vleis, and disturbed areas around human habitation including the Cape Point visitor facilities. Its recolonisation of burnt fynbos is regulated by the rate and extent of the recovery of vegetation cover; in the early post-fire stages it is found most commonly in marshy areas where vegetation regrowth is quickest. Breeds in summer.

Striped Mouse is an important food source of local predators such as Caracal, Rock Kestrel *Falco rupicolus* and Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, and probably the most common prey of the Large-spotted Genet (Langley 1974a).

House Mouse *Mus musculus* (168). Alien; locally common. Found in and around human habitation, notably at Klaasjagersberg. Not known to occur in natural veld and probably colonised isolated buildings, such as the Cape Point lighthouse, by stowing-away in vehicles and supplies and not under its own steam.

Pygmy Mouse *Mus minutoides* (172). Common and widespread. A tiny, nocturnal species, weighing as little as 3 g, although 5 g or 6 g is more usual. Langley (1974a) recorded it in relatively small numbers (5-30% of his rodent catch) in all his study habitats, with an apparent preference for the margins of vleis in coastal dunes. Live-trapping at Skaife and on the slopes of Paulsberg has shown it to be relatively unfussy in its fine-scale choice of habitat and it is an early post-fire pioneer, sheltering under logs and boulders in the absence of vegetation. Occasionally enters buildings.

Verreaux's Mouse *Praomys (Myomyscus) verreauxii* (176). Locally common. Shows a distinct preference for rocky slopes and, in particular, cliffs. In the latter habitat it was one of only two rodent species recorded by Langley (1974a), where it comprised over 95% of the catch (the remainder being Pygmy Mice). Breeds in October-February (Gubb 1974).

Black or House Rat *Rattus rattus* (183). Alien; locally common. Commensal with humans and found in and around Klaasjagersberg, the lighthouse and other buildings at Cape Point, Perdekloof, and the Homestead.

Brown or Norwegian Rat *Rattus norvegicus* (184). Alien; status uncertain, probably locally common. Found at Klaasjagersberg by Langley (1974a). Rat tracks found on the beach at Skaife may be of this species as it is known to forage along the shore near human habitation elsewhere on the Peninsula (Smithers 1983).

[**Cape Gerbil *Tatera afra* (191). Unconfirmed.** Burrows found in grassy, sandy areas at Theefontein in April 1995 may belong to this species (CH Langley). It occurs in this type of habitat elsewhere on the Peninsula.]

Grey Climbing Mouse *Dendromus melanotis* (199). Status uncertain; probably uncommon but widespread. This species is associated with tall, shrubby and rank vegetation and may be anticipated in the older veld (i.e. absent in the early post-fire period). Langley (1974a) records it only from "Dune Fynbos" and in very low numbers. Its abundance varies from year to year, but the samples are too small to determine how much of this is due to genuine fluctuations in the population or to trap-shyness (JUM Jarvis).

Brant's Climbing Mouse *Dendromus mesomelas* (200). Status uncertain; probably rare. Not recorded in the small-mammal survey by Langley (1974a). Although appearing on old lists in Reserve files, the only unequivocal records are of singles caught near Olifantsbos in August 1985 (ME Schuman) and at Skaife in April 1995 (JUM Jarvis).

Krebs' Fat Mouse *Steatomys krebsii* (204). Locally common. Nocturnal; found in coastal dunes and dry fynbos. It was the second-most abundant rodent, after Striped Mouse, in "Upland and Lowland Mixed

Fynbos" (Langley 1974a). Their numbers vary from year to year, mainly in response to the age and seral stage of the vegetation. The species was particularly abundant in 1995 - "the year of the fat mouse"! (JUM Jarvis). At this time, the vegetation of the areas under study was four-years old.

Beaked whales Family Ziphiidae

Layard's Beaked Whale *Mesoplodon layardii* (210). Rare stranding. One came ashore somewhere on the Reserve's coastline, probably Buffels Bay, in 1865 (Moseley 1879). In 1873 its remains (a skull propped up in the sand and used for target practice) were shown to Henry Moseley, zoologist on HMS *Challenger's* scientific circumnavigation of the globe, by a local farmer, John McKellar. The whale had "yielded a very superior oil which fetched twice the price of ordinary [Southern Right Whale] oil". An extremely rare and poorly-known member of a somewhat bizarre group of marine mammals.

Southern Bottle-nosed Whale *Hyperoodon planifrons* (214). Rare summer visitor. A young Southern Bottle-nosed Whale that stranded just north of the boundary fence at Scarborough in early 1993 was accompanied by an adult. The latter lingered offshore before it was seen swimming south just off the Reserve coast (B Dyer). A poorly-known, southern hemisphere species with a circumpolar distribution. Occurs in summer in South African waters and occasionally strands.

Dolphins and killer whale Family Delphinidae

Risso's Dolphin *Grampus griseus* (218). Uncommon stranding. Typically a species of the open sea and all records from the Reserve have been of strandings at Buffels Bay: 12 on 27 May 1985 (six died, two were destroyed and four taken to deeper water); three on 17 June 1989 (two taken out to sea and one - a female containing a foetus - destroyed); six adults and a calf on 26 February 1990. Occurs throughout the world in tropical and temperate waters.

Orca or Killer Whale *Orcinus orca* (221). Uncommon visitor. Two pods of two and one of five have been seen off Rooikrans (B Rose), and singles were there on 29 January and 11 October 1994 (C Nortier). One off Cape Point on 20 May 1995 (B Dyer). There is a small population in False Bay centred on Seal Island where Cape Fur Seals

are the favoured prey. Occasional elsewhere near the Peninsula's False Bay coast, sometimes in pursuit of Common Dolphins, and appears to have become more frequent in recent years.

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis* (224). Abundant visitor. Occurs regularly throughout the year in small groups of a hundred or so off both coasts, but much more frequent (or, at least, conspicuous) in False Bay. In late summer and autumn, schools of up to 3,000 enter the bay in the morning and pursue their prey fish northwards. Both prey and predator may circle the bay once or twice during the day, but the dolphins appear always to leave the bay in the evening and may be seen cruising south past the Point at dusk. One school in May 1987 was estimated to be 2 km long and 1 km wide and must have contained many thousands of individuals (A Mecinski). Up to 300,000 Common Dolphins have been estimated in single schools elsewhere in its range (the species is found throughout the world; Smithers 1983). Common Dolphins occasionally associate with whales: 10 were seen swimming around a Southern Right Whale off Platboom on 24 September 1994 (C Nortier).

Striped Dolphin *Stenella coeruleoalba* (226). Rare stranding. One washed ashore at Gifkommetjie on 4 April 1981 (A Mecinski). This was the first record on South Africa's west coast of a species found in warm temperate and tropical waters.

Atlantic Ocean Bottlenosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* (229). Rare summer visitor. Schools of 8-20 seen on four occasions off Rooikrans in December-February in the early 1970s (B Rose). Typically found in very much smaller schools than the Common Dolphin and rarely seen from the shore in South Africa.

Dusky Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* (234). Uncommon visitor. A dolphin of cool-temperate inshore waters and seen occasionally from the Reserve's west coast in small schools, particularly off Cape Maclear. Rare off the east coast but occasionally enters False Bay in cold water (eg, 40 off Rooikrans in February 1994; B Rose).

Heaviside's Dolphin *Cephalorhynchus heavisidii* (235). Rare visitor. This small (1.3 m) and poorly-known species of dolphin is thought to occur primarily in the cold waters of the Benguela Current off the western coast of southern Africa. Has been recorded in recent years

in the northern part of False Bay (P Ryan) and off the west coast at Misty Cliffs (C Cohen). Both these locations are just north of the Reserve boundary. It was not until 19 January 2021 when the species could be officially added to the list when a pod of seven, including two calves, was seen close inshore off Scarborough and then swam south along the Reserve coast before heading north again.

Right whales Family Balaenidae

Pygmy Right Whale *Caperea marginata* (236). Rare stranding. One dead below the Meadows on 15 May 1993; its skull had been crushed, almost certainly by a ship. An extremely rare and enigmatic species, with less than 15 records from South Africa and fewer than 100 worldwide. The first local record was of one harpooned in False Bay in 1917.

Southern Right Whale *Balaena glacialis* (237). Uncommon breeding visitor. Exploited almost to the point of extinction in South African waters from the seventeenth century until 1935, when it was afforded legal protection. A whaling station at Buffels Bay from which Southern Rights were hunted was operational until the 1930s.

The species has since slowly increased in number and has become a major tourist attraction in the south-western Cape. Southern Rights may be seen from either coast of the Reserve but are much more common and easy to see in False Bay. A viewing site at Rooikrans allows an impressive, if somewhat distant, prospect of the animals which can be identified by the absence of a dorsal fin and the large callosities (growths) on their heads.

The whales spend the summer and autumn in Antarctic waters, returning to South Africa in May. The first arrivals are pregnant females which have mated the previous year and come back to give birth in shallow coastal waters. The remainder arrives a month or two later, and singles and pods of up to 10 display and mate off the Reserve's coast until October or November when they head back down south. Singles are occasionally seen in summer and a dead youngster was washed ashore at the Meadows on 7 March 1993. Right whales are so-called because they float after death and have high yields of good quality oil; they were thus considered the "right" whales to kill.

Rorquals Family Balaenopteridae

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* (238). Uncommon summer visitor. Formerly very rare, with one seen perhaps every three or four years, with courtship and probable mating sometimes observed.

A general recovery of the population in recent years, following a history of relentless hunting, is reflected in increased sightings from the Peninsula. In the 1990s, three or four were seen annually in late spring and summer from Rooikrans, Buffels Bay and, occasionally, Platboom. A recent and spectacular phenomenon further north off the Peninsula's west coast has been the feeding aggregations of scores of Humpback Whales, so the species is now likely to be much more common off the Reserve.

Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* (239). Rare visitor and stranding. A 3-4 month-old female (4.3 m long) was found dead at Mast Bay on 21 September 1981 (O von Kaschke). One seen from Rooikrans in March 1988 (B Rose). The smallest member of its family, the Minke is widely distributed globally.

Bryde's Whale *Balaenoptera edeni* (241). Uncommon visitor. There is a small, apparently resident, population in False Bay. Although the whales spend most of their time on the bay's east coast off Rooiels, they occur off the Reserve in winter and spring in association with feeding frenzies of seabirds in pursuit of prey fish. Pods of up to 15 have been seen off Cape Point in August-September feeding on shoals of post-spawning anchovy *Engraulis japonicus* (B Rose).

Cats Family Felidae

Leopard *Panthera pardus* (248). Extinct. Formerly widespread on the Peninsula, and present in the southern Peninsula until at least 1829 (Holman, in Brock *et al* 1976), and probably for some years after until they were exterminated. According to Green (1947), Leopard tracks were found at Smitswinkel Bay in 1936. No mention of the species is made, however, in the literature and correspondence of the late 1920s and '30s in which locals familiar with the area discuss the fate of the proposed Reserve and describe its wildlife. Certainly the species was extinct by the time the Reserve was established in 1939.

A Leopard skull found in a cave at the base of Cape Maclear in June 1995 (D Gibbs) appeared to be some hundreds of years old.

Caracal or African Lynx *Felis caracal* (250). Uncommon widespread resident. Predominantly nocturnal, but seen with perhaps surprising frequency during daylight, even in the middle of the day, and with little apparent fear of people or traffic (Fig 6). Day- and night-time observations have shown them to occur in all parts of the Reserve, even as far south as the Cape Point lighthouse, but to be perhaps slightly more common in the coastal belt. Small kittens seen with adults in April and August indicate a protracted breeding season.

Of the 16 Caracals killed in a predator-control operation in the 1960s designed to benefit the Reserve's antelope, none contained prey re-



Figure 6. The Lucky visitors may spot a Caracal on the prowl - Photo by John Graham.

mains bigger than a mouse (Middlemiss 1964). They have, however, been observed bringing down full-grown Steenbok.

Domestic Cat *Felis catus* (254). Uncommon introduced and localised alien. Domestic cats are kept at Klaasjagersberg and "wild" feral cats are occasionally recorded in the northern areas at or near human habitation and may occur elsewhere in the Reserve. Cats are likely to have a deleterious effect on the native fauna through direct predation of small birds, mammals and reptiles, or competition for food with indigenous carnivores.

Foxes and jackals Family Canidae

Cape Fox *Vulpes chama* (257). Status uncertain; probably rare resident but increasing. There have been so few observations of this species that it is difficult to assess its status and there may have been times when it was absent from the Reserve. Historically it was mentioned in the same breath as a number of other mammal species that are now common and easy to see, implying that the foxes were formerly conspicuous and relatively abundant. By 2017, however, the species had again become more numerous and/or conspicuous and could be seen with unprecedented regularity (J Buchmann). One with two cubs was seen in April 1995 (per A Booth), the only direct evidence of breeding here.

A few introductions of rehabilitated or live-trapped animals have taken place over the years, but probably amount to less than 10 animals. One of these was tagged and released at Olifantsbos and later killed by a car at Silvermine, 20 km to the north.

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas* (259). Extinct. Recorded from the area and the Peninsula as a whole in the last century (Brock *et al* 1976). It presumably was eradicated by stock-farmers and hunters. A "Red Jackal" listed among species occurring near the Point (Cape Argus, 30 January 1939) may refer to this species as it is called 'rooijakkals' in Afrikaans. If the sighting of the jackal is contemporaneous with the writing of the report, as is inferred, this constitutes the latest record for the southern Peninsula. A "silver jackal" seen near Brightwater in 1939 (Cape Argus, 17 February 1939) would have been a Cape Fox, which is often referred to in Afrikaans as the 'silwerjakkals'.

Domestic Dog *Canis familiaris* (-). Uncommon alien visitor and deliberate or accidental introduction. Stray or feral dogs are recorded quite often singly or in small packs. Attempts are always made to take these animals into care, but those that avoid capture (usually uncollared strays) invariably have to be destroyed as they pose a danger to wildlife (for example, three dogs at Olifantsbos attacked a Cape Clawless Otter). Although visitors are forbidden from bringing their pets into the Reserve, some still do. Unwanted dogs are also abandoned here from time to time.

Otters, polecats, Honey Badger Family Mustelidae

Cape Clawless Otter *Aonyx capensis* (260). Uncommon resident and visitor. Rarely seen, but tracks on the shore demonstrate that the species visits at least every sandy beach. There is some evidence that it has become more common on the Peninsula in recent years. This is borne out by increased sightings at the Reserve, although this might also reflect an increasing tolerance of people. These have generally been of one or two otters, but there were six together off Platboom in broad daylight on 6 April and four at Olifantsbos Bay on a late afternoon in October 1995 (R Ernstzen) (Fig 7).

Honey Badger or Ratel *Mellivora capensis* (262). Accidental alien introduction. One rescued from military property (where it had been shot and injured by security guards) near Simon's Town escaped into the Reserve from its temporary enclosure at Klaasjagersberg on 1 July 1988; it was not seen again. There is no other unequivocal record, even historical, from the Peninsula (Skead 1980, Hallinan 1988).

Striped Polecat or Zorilla *Ictonyx striatus* (264). Status uncertain; probably rare resident. This distinctive species has been recorded in traps (one caught during "problem animal" control operations in the 1960s) and as a road casualty (one in 1993). There have been only two sightings of live animals: a somnolent juvenile near Sirkelsvlei in 1968 only awoke after being picked up and carried half-way back to Klaasjagersberg (CH Langley); one seen on a night drive near the Homestead in 1993 (R Ernstzen).



Figure 7. Cape Clawless Otters at Olifantsbos. In recent years, this charismatic species has become more numerous and easier to see at the Reserve and elsewhere on the Cape Peninsula - Photo by John Graham.

Genets and mongooses Family Viverridae

[Small-spotted Genet *Genetta genetta* (267). Unconfirmed. Although this species occurs on some old Reserve checklists and in Willis-Smith (1985), the current consensus is that it has not, in fact, occurred here and has been included on these lists by default or mistake.]

Large-spotted Genet *Genetta tigrina* (268). Locally common. Very rarely seen by day (one used to snooze under a bush near Skaife and was not worried by onlookers), but often observed after dark scavenging around habitation and picnic sites, and seen on night-drives. Spoor indicate that it is most common on the coastal strip, particularly near marshes and vleis, and rarer in inland fynbos.

[Yellow Mongoose *Cynictis penicillata* (272). Unconfirmed. Mentioned in a selection of mammals to be found at the Reserve by Steele (1989), but not known to occur here nor anywhere else on the Peninsula and presumably included in error.]

Cape Grey or Small Grey Mongoose *Galerella pulverulenta* (275). Common and widespread. The most frequently-seen carnivore at the Reserve, a combined consequence of its relative abundance and the fact that it is diurnal. Occurs in all habitats but most often encountered running across roads and scavenging around picnic sites.

Water Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus* (278). Uncommon and localised. This dark, shaggy mongoose is confined to the shore and fresh-water. It is rarely, if ever, seen by visitors but known (from live-trapping or spoor) from streams and seasonal pans at Die Mond, Olifantsbos Bay, Skaife, Brightwater and the Homestead. It probably also occurs at suitable habitat elsewhere in the Reserve, particularly along the coast. Prey remains have included frogs and it is an important predator of African Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini* eggs (Langley 1974b).

Fur seals Family Otariidae

Cape Fur Seal *Arctocephalus pusillus* (281). Common to abundant visitor. Fur Seals occasionally come ashore to loaf, and ones and twos may be seen on rocks anywhere along the Reserve's coast. They are much more numerous at sea in groups of 10-20 swimming below the Cape Point viewing sites and in many thousands which speed through False Bay in pursuit of prey fish. The seals are invariably accompanied by seabirds but do not seem to form mixed schools with the dolphins which also hunt in this way. During the "sardine run" of the summer of 1994-95 thousands of seals fed close to the shore off the west coast and many hauled out along undisturbed stretches of beach. The nearest breeding colony is at Seal Island in the north of False Bay.

Subantarctic Fur Seal *Arctocephalus tropicalis* (283). Rare vagrant from subantarctic. Three records: adult males at Pappiesbank on 21 September 1977 ("died of natural causes while attacking a ranger"), and at Gifkommetjie on 20 September 1992 and found ailing five days later at Misty Cliffs just north of the Reserve (H

Oosthuizen); one at Buffels Bay on 3 June 2018 (J Graham) (Fig 8). Subantarctic Fur Seal has been recorded over 100 times in South Africa. Their exact provenance is unknown, but their nearest breeding grounds are at the south Atlantic and Indian Ocean islands of Tristan da Cunha, Gough, Prince Edward and Amsterdam.



Figure 8. This Subantarctic Fur Seal at Buffels Bay in June, 2018 was the third record for the Reserve - Photo by John Graham.

True seals Family Phocidae

Southern Elephant Seal *Mirounga leonina* (284). Rare vagrant from subantarctic. Recorded twice at sea and 10 times ashore (one of which was also subsequently seen at sea). Four of the latter were tagged and one had distinguishing marks allowing follow-up sightings to be documented. Singles were seen swimming past Rooikrans on two occasions in the early 1960s (B Rose). The following details of shore records are from H Oosthuizen, Best et al (1988) and Reserve files: Male at Buffels Bay on 1 October 1968; one, probably adult fe-

male, at Platboom on 25 November 1974 (first seen at Simon's Town on 18-27 September); moulting 2.4 m immature at Smitswinkel Bay on 7-13 December 1979, hauled out at Simon's Town on 18 December, remaining there until 3 January 1980; immature female on Dias Beach in March 1982 seen later swimming off Rooikrans; 4.3 m moulting male on Dias Beach from 5 April-6 May 1983; male at Cape Point 4-6 June 1988; one ashore at Buffels Bay on 20 January 1988 was held in captivity at Klaasjagersberg until it was released at Olifantsbos (P Stewart) on 22 April, after which it was resighted (tag ML64) near Alexandra Bay, 650 km to the north on 8 November 1988; immature at Neptune's Dairy for much of February 1994.

The Cape Point individual of June 1988 (tag ML63) first appeared at Llandudno near Cape Town on 1 November 1987, leaving on 13 January 1988. It reappeared 70 km southeast at Betty's Bay in February, thence 40 km west to the Reserve. From 8-14 September it was ashore at Ysterfontein, 130 km north, and from 24 December until 5 February it moulted at Struisbaai, 90 km east, coming ashore the following summer at nearby Gansbaai from 19 January-1 February when its tag was removed by a tourist.

In September 2012, a female elephant seal hauled out at Olifantsbos and, at the beginning of November, gave birth to a pup (T Hardaker, SA Rare Bird News), a quite remarkable record. The subsequent fate of mother and offspring is unrecorded. A male hauled out on the rocks at the Cape of Good Hope car park on 20 April 2018, remaining there until at least 22 April (J Boyce, SA Rare Birds News).

There have been fewer than 150 records of elephant seals in South Africa. There are breeding populations at the Prince Edward Islands and (a small one) at Gough Island, but evidence from ocean drift and tagging suggests that these come from the considerably more distant (almost 5,000 km) island of South Georgia.

Leopard Seal *Hydrurga leptonyx* (286). Rare vagrant from Antarctic. One found ashore at Bordjiesrif on 26 August 1994 (C Nortier) was the second record for the south-western Cape (the first was at Hout Bay in 1969) and the fifth for Africa (Fig 9). It was in poor condition and was destroyed the following day. It proved to be an immature about a year old, 2 m long and weighing 82 kg. It was heavily infested



Figure 9. This Leopard Seal at Bordjiesrif in August 1994 was only the fifth record for continental Africa - Photo by Mike Fraser.

with parasites and had goose barnacles *Lepas* sp attached to its hind flippers. Leopard Seals seldom range north of the Antarctic pack ice, where they feed principally on penguins and other seals. The species was first recorded in South Africa in 1946, and remains a rare vagrant to the region. In the past 20 years there have been only eight records (including two in the south-western Cape), probably involving four mobile animals (T Hardaker, SA Rare Bird News).

Elephant Family Elephantidae

[African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* (289). Unconfirmed. Olifantsbos, on the Reserve's west coast, means "Elephant Bush" and may be taken to indicate that elephants occurred in the southern Peninsula in historical times. There is, however, no unequivocal evidence for this, although they occurred on the Cape Flats until 1702 (Skead 1973). In the absence of any better explanation, 'Olifantsbos' is thought to refer to the hummocky White Milkwood *Sideroxylon inerme*

bushes which, from a distance and with a modicum of imagination, could have resembled a herd of elephants. Another theory, but one for which there seems to be similarly scant evidence, is that a rock-painting of an elephant in a cave above Olifantsbos Bay gave the place its name. This, again, would not necessarily mean that elephants ever frequented this very spot as the indigenous peoples who would have used the cave as a shelter and painted any such picture, were itinerant hunter-gatherers. No trace of the painting has been found today.]

Dassie Family Procaviidae

Rock Dassie or Hyrax *Procavia capensis* (290). Common localised resident. Lives in small colonies on cliffs and the larger rocky outcrops anywhere along the coast. Most active and conspicuous on warm days when they emerge from small caves or cavities amongst the boulders to bask in the sun. Those at the Cape of Good Hope are habituated to visitors and are relatively easy to observe. The only attempt to enumerate the Reserve's population was made in 1969 when 320 were counted (Millar 1970). It is difficult to judge the accuracy of such a count. Anecdotal reports suggest that the population experiences fluctuations and may become locally extinct in some years. Immigration to re-establish or bolster the population under such circumstances is possible and evidence of movements is provided by occasional sightings of dassies in open areas devoid of rocks well away from their preferred habitat.

Preyed upon by Verreaux's Eagles *Aquila verreauxii*. The dassie is a taxonomically curious animal whose nearest relatives are reputed to be the elephant and Dugong *Dugong dugon*. Its crystallised urine was once claimed to have medicinal properties and was sold as "hyracium".

Horse and zebras Family Equidae

Horse *Equus caballus* (-). Introduced alien; extinct. Kept by farmers since the area was first settled in the early nineteenth century. Thousands of remounts were grazed here in the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902. Mules were also used for transport. There were still "wild horses" roaming around Sirkelsvlei in 1952 and elsewhere in the Reserve until at least 1964. Their fate is unknown and they presumably

died out or were removed. Horses were formerly kept at Klaasjagersberg by the wardening staff for patrolling the Reserve, a practice that was discontinued in 1987.

Cape Mountain Zebra *Equus zebra* (297). Introduced alien; rare. Two males and three females were introduced in 1986 (Pieterse 1987). This has not proved a very successful venture and although a few foals have been born, their survival rate has been very low. By 1995 the population comprised six animals, four of which were found singly or in twos between Circular Drive and Dias Beacon, with two stallions at Perdekloof. In early 2017 only four remained (J Buchmann). Hrabar and Kerley (2015) recommend that the remaining animals should be removed from the Table Mountain National Park as, after 30 years, the population has performed poorly and is not viable.

There is no historical record of Cape Mountain Zebra from the Peninsula and those few animals that survived human persecution into the twentieth century persisted only in the grassy mountain fynbos of the southern Cape. By 1945 the total population there had fallen to 15 individuals and only a concerted effort by conservationists and private landowners saved it from extinction. As related by Pringle (1982), this fate was not one which would have overly concerned the Minister of Lands, General Jan Kemp, who, on being approached for funds to buy land for a Mountain Zebra Reserve in 1936, categorically refused to help, dismissing the zebras as “just a lot of donkeys in football jerseys”.

By the 1950s, fewer than 80 remained but today the zebra has, remarkably, been downgraded to ‘Least Concern’ on the Red Data List (Hrabar *et al* 2016). Their numbers are now put at some 1,714, although their population remains highly fragmented and they are at risk from loss of genetic diversity and genetic drift. Following various assessments of their taxonomy, which elevated them to species level and then back to subspecies over the years, it has now been established that Cape Mountain and Hartmann’s Mountain Zebra are conspecific (Moodley and Harley 2005).

Red-winged Starlings *Onychognathus morio* have been seen removing ticks *Acari* from zebra and Eland here, filling the niche of oxpeckers *Buphagus* spp further north in the country (L Fraser, Fraser 1990, Mangold 1988).

Hartmann's Mountain Zebra *Equus zebra hartmannae* (297). Introduced alien; now extinct. A subspecies of Cape Mountain Zebra, four were introduced from Namibia in 1974 and eight from Oudtshoorn (southern Cape) in 1980. These did not flourish and the few survivors were removed in 1986 and replaced with Cape Mountain Zebra.

Burchell's Zebra *Equus burchelli* (298). Introduced alien; now extinct. Six introduced from Natal in 1966. In 1974 these were replaced with Hartmann’s Mountain Zebra as the latter was more closely related to the Cape Mountain Zebra, a taxon considered to be indigenous to the area but so rare that none was available for introduction at the time.

Hippopotamus Family Hippopotamidae

[Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* (302). Unconfirmed. Jorgen Schuster, one of the first farmers to settle on the area now the Reserve, was granted rights in 1783 to graze stock and kill game “excluding partridges, pheasants, eland and hippopotamus” (Cairns 1976). These were general conditions that applied throughout the region, including those areas where hippos did occur, and cannot be taken to imply that the species was present in historical times in the area. Its occurrence is well documented in the seventeenth century from the Cape Flats, where it is commemorated in Zeekoevlei (“Sea cow [=hippo] lake”), and in the area now Cape Town, but there is no evidence that hippos were ever found at the Reserve. The lower reaches of the Krom River and Die Mond might be considered the only very remotely historically suitable habitat here for itinerant hippos.]

Deer Family Cervidae

European Fallow Deer *Cervus dama* (304). Introduced alien; now extinct. Four males and 16 females were introduced in 1941. The herd persisted until the mid-1960s, by which time all that remained were a few skeletons (including the skulls of two stags with antlers interlocked) dotted around the veld. Four were kept in a paddock at the Homestead in 1965 but their fate is unrecorded. An offer of more animals, from a farm in Somerset West, in 1968 was refused by the Advisory Board on the grounds that the deer “were not indigenous animals”.

Fallow Deer are native to the eastern Mediterranean and Middle East but have been imported to many countries as ornamentals. They were introduced to Cape Town, probably from England, in the mid-nineteenth century.

Antelopes, buffalo and Ox Family Bovidae

Black Wildebeest *Connochaetes gnou* (305). Introduced alien; now extinct. Attempts to introduce this species to the Reserve met with little success. A report on file of a herd of Black Wildebeest in the Reserve in early 1965 serves only to confuse, as there is no record of any introduction earlier than 1966, and that involved a single male. Later reports also are at variance with each other. It does appear, however, that one or two introduced in 1967 died on arrival and nine introduced in 1970 or 1971 had dwindled to two by 1974.

A grazing species of the open plains and grasslands of the northern and north-eastern parts of South Africa, Black Wildebeest is completely unsuited to fynbos. Two wildebeest that died in June 1971 were found to be emaciated, suffering from copper deficiency, a high parasite burden and poor dentition. These afflictions presumably were common to the rest of the herd and led to the species dying out at the Reserve by 1975.

Blue Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus* (306). Introduced alien; now extinct. Six delivered in 1951 all died on arrival; five were introduced in 1952 and 20 in 1966. By 1970 the estimated population of 47 was suffering from a lack of food brought about by prolonged drought and overburning and overgrazing of the vegetation. These animals died or were removed by June of that year. A grazing species of savanna woodland, the Blue Wildebeest's natural range never extended much further south than the Kalahari.

Red Hartebeest *Alcelaphus buselaphus* (308). Introduced; uncommon. Four were introduced in 1944, two in 1960 (both died) and eight in 1966. Ten introduced from Namibia in June 1977 "after a 12 year absence" (implying that all the others had soon died out) experienced mixed fortunes, but had increased slowly to 28 by 1994 and to 43 by 2017 (J Buchmann). Formerly restricted to the northern sector, small groups may now be seen throughout the Reserve. Calving takes place in summer.

Red Hartebeest has been extirpated from most of its range in South Africa but at one time it had a wide distribution (perhaps the largest of any southern African antelope) from Cape Town north to Angola. It has an historical claim to being at the Reserve by virtue of its remains having been found here in stone-age middens (Marean 1985). Nevertheless, fynbos proper is unsuited to a permanent, confined population, and the hartebeest probably depend to a large extent upon newly-burnt vegetation and grasses (mainly alien) in coastal and disturbed areas.

Bontebok *Damaliscus pygargus pygargus* (309). Introduced alien; common and widespread. The subspecific scientific epithet *pygargus* is included to distinguish this buck from the Blesbok *D p philipsi* as the two are considered to be the same species.

Bontebok were introduced to the Reserve originally in 1946 when six animals were imported from the Bontebok National Park at Bredasdorp, partly as public spectacle but also to establish an alternative population as a safeguard against others being stricken with disease or otherwise dying out.

Bontebok is not known to have occurred naturally on the Peninsula, historically being found as far west only as Caledon, living in grassy areas that were soon overgrazed by domestic stock or ploughed up following European colonisation. Although travellers in the seventeenth century recorded herds of 1,000 it had been reduced to less than 30 individuals by 1837. It was rescued from extinction only by the sympathetic intervention of farmers in the Bredasdorp district who set aside land for the last animals (Smithers 1983). Its numbers have since increased but it remains one of the rarest antelopes in southern Africa. On this basis there is some justification for maintaining a small, genetically pure population at the Reserve from which surplus animals can be removed to establish or supplement herds elsewhere. Measures to ensure the purity of sold or translocated stock have been enforced for a number of years (Fabricius 1989).

In the early 1970s the Reserve numbers were low and decreasing, heavily infested with parasites and suffering from chronic nutritional imbalances and trace-element deficiencies, notably copper (Zumpt and Heine 1978, Willis-Smith 1985). Their poor physical condition did not depress fertility, however, and the population subsequently in-

creased. A peak count of 282 was made in October 1983. The carrying capacity of the Reserve is unknown but unlikely to be this high in an area of very limited natural grass cover. Animals deemed to be surplus are captured for translocation to game farms and other reserves (eg 153 were translocated in 1985).

In 1996, the Reserve's Bontebok population was 181 (R Ernstzen), a figure that runs somewhat contrary to the historical trend of animals in bad health and with high mortality. In 2017 there were 114 (J Buchmann). In 2014, the global (*ie* South African) wild population within its natural range was about 900 so the Reserve remains a relatively important location for genetically-pure stock. It is classified as Vulnerable under IUCN criteria (Radloff *et al* 2016).

Bontebok may be seen almost anywhere in the Reserve's coastal or central plains, but avoid the steeper and rockier hillsides. They prefer newly-burnt veld, old dunes, and the lawns at the Homestead. A small herd is permanently ensconced on old artificial pastures at Klaasjagersberg. They occur singly (territorial males) or in herds of up to 40 (females or bachelor males). Lambing takes place mainly in August and September.

Common or Grey Duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia* (313). Status uncertain; probably uncommon. Conventional vehicle or on-foot game counts rarely put the population of duikers at more than 15 as the species was seen infrequently and appeared to be confined to the north of the Reserve, notably the Krom River Valley and Die Mond areas. Night-drives have, however, shown it to be more common and widespread than was previously appreciated, with sightings from the central Smitswinkel Flats and as far south as Bordjiesrif.

Springbok *Antidorcas marsupialis* (314). Introduced alien; now extinct. A species of arid grasslands that never occurred naturally on the Peninsula or in fynbos as a whole. Eight were introduced to the Reserve in 1954, nine in 1967 and 11 in 1966. Reserve records differ as to the success of the animals and how large the population actually grew: the herd's maximum size is variously reported as 60 in 1970 and 131 in 1972, while one account states that a self-sustaining population never established and had to be periodically boosted with new blood. Numbers were subsequently reduced to between 20 and 40 to

alleviate grazing pressure. By 1985 there were only seven left; these remaining animals were subsequently removed.

Klipspringer *Oreotragus oreotragus* (315). Reintroduced after historical extinction. Noted near the Point in 1829 (Brock *et al* 1976, p 109) and occurred on the Peninsula until about 1930 when the last one was seen on Table Mountain (Skead 1980). A sighting of two there in 1972 (P Slingsby) was unexpected, but it does not appear that these constituted a viable population. It was apparently never common historically and likely became extinct through hunting for food and for its tough, springy hair (an adaptation to its rocky lifestyle) which provided the perfect stuffing for saddles.

Natural recolonisation of the Peninsula by Klipspringer from the Hottentots Holland and other mountain ranges to the east and north-east of Cape Town has long-since been rendered virtually impossible due to the loss of the natural habitat of the Cape Flats and environs, across which any potential colonist would have to travel. The species has, therefore, been considered a suitable candidate for re-introduction to the Reserve for some time and an attempt to secure some for this purpose was first made in 1967. This proved unsuccessful, as the species was impossible to obtain-on-demand, despite the assurances of one advisory-board member that he "knew a farmer who had devised a successful method for [their] capture". The species' reintroduction was again urged the following year by Dr SH Skaife, but nothing came of this either.

Finally, in June 1999, 10 pairs of Klipspringer were captured in the Boland Mountains and released into the Reserve, followed by three males and six females a month later. In 2004, a further three females were introduced (Stadler *et al* 2006). Despite some being lost to dogs and natural predators and, perhaps, escaping through the boundary fence, they have successfully consolidated their population. In the 2004 aerial census, 22 were detected.

A number of Klipspringer were also released on the hills above Simons Town, just to the north of the Reserve in October 2004. Further north on the Peninsula, a further total of 19 animals was reintroduced to Table Mountain in 2003 and 2005. This followed the necessary removal of the majority of Himalayan Tahr *Hemitragus jemlahicus*, a species of Indian goat that escaped from Groot Schuur zoo in 1936

and established a thriving population on the mountain slopes. Their numbers increased to over 1,000 and became highly damaging to the indigenous fynbos vegetation and caused severe soil erosion.

Radio-tracking has indicated that most of the Klipspringers remain fairly close to their release sites. It may be, however, that fences, roads and other hazards notwithstanding, the three Peninsula groups may eventually expand and mix to form a thriving whole-Peninsula population, of which the Reserve ones will represent an important component.

Steenbok *Raphicerus campestris* (318). Uncommon but widespread. The most frequently-seen of the four small antelopes (the others being Common Duiker, Grysbok and Grey Rhebok), but there is no one spot or time at which a visitor could be guaranteed to see one. Although relatively more conspicuous than the Grysbok, it appears always to have been the less common of the two (see below) (Fig 10).

The Reserve population has been put at 25 but it is accepted that this probably underestimates the number of this tiny (about 50 cm at the shoulder) and rather inconspicuous species. Formerly reported as much more abundant: 200 were estimated as occurring in the Brightwater area alone in the 1950s although such a high figure may be the consequence of romanticised memories. Introductions have taken place over the years, usually of single rehabilitated or rescued animals; for example, 32 were released here in 1969 having been removed from Cape Town airport and areas around the city scheduled for development.

Steenbok are selective grazers and browsers that occur in all vegetation types, appearing to prefer young or middle-aged fynbos with a few shrubs. They are solitary, for the most part, but sometimes seen in pairs. The male has short, sharp horns; youngsters and females are hornless.

Grysbok *Raphicerus melanotis* (319). Uncommon but widespread. Distinguished from the similarly-sized Steenbok by its small ears, russet (not white) rump, grizzled coat and habit of crashing unceremoniously through the undergrowth if disturbed, rather than



Figure 10. Not an easy species to see, this Steenbok lingers amongst the restios in the late afternoon sunshine - Photo by Mike Fraser.

bounding off elegantly. (The more heavily-built Common Duiker is also a crasher not a bounder).

Grysbok are nocturnal and rather shy, so their numbers at the Reserve are difficult to determine. They may occasionally be seen singly or, rarely, in pairs towards dusk, but are generally encountered only when flushed from their daytime lairs in thick bush or restios. It would appear that, historically, this species was more numerous. On 30 June 1905, for example, a shooting party accounted for 36 Grysbok in one day, but no Steenbok (Cape Times, 1 March 1939). In early 1939, a hunter with a pointer dog flushed 27 Grysbok on “the Hares’ Farm” (Brightwater), in contrast to only two Steenbok (Cape Argus, 17 February 1939). The 1994 game count put the Reserve population at 15, a figure that is probably conservative. Conversely, an estimate of 500 in the Brightwater area in 1953 is likely to be something of an

exaggeration, especially if there were 200 Steenbok there as well (see above).

Grey Rhebok *Pelea capreolus* (324). Uncommon but widespread.

A rather inconspicuous species that forms small, territorial herds, each with a dominant ram. In 1983-85 there were six herds, with home ranges of 150-225 ha (average 175 ha), at Die Mond, Skaife, Brightwater, the Homestead, Circular Drive, and Perdekloof. Each of these home ranges included a variety of vegetation types although the animals favoured the coastal vegetation within these territories (Clark 1987a).

The “herds of buck” which were claimed in some quarters to have roamed the area now the Reserve in the early years of the twentieth century may have referred to this species as it was the only herding, or semi-herding, antelope present at the time (there being no introduced species, such as Bontebok, and Eland being long extinct). Even then, rhebok herds are not generally very large and typically comprise 2-7 females and their young, defended by one male; non-territorial males are usually solitary (Taylor and Skinner 2006).

Although such reports of rhebok, if such they were, must be viewed with circumspection, there were estimated to be 50-60 on the Reserve in 1966 and herds of up to 29 were seen in the early 1980s. The Reserve population appears to have declined significantly thereafter (D Clark) for unknown reasons. While an apparent decline could, in part, be accounted for by changes in the distribution of the animals (notably away from the roads) or observer variability, there were apparently fewer than 30 animals in total in 1994. In 1996 only three were seen on the annual aerial game count, although further observations suggested a Reserve population of 20 at most (R Ernstzen). An assessment of the species' status at the Reserve and the reasons for its decline here are warranted.

This local trend is paralleled by a national decline that has seen the species' population fall by an estimated 20% over three generations in 1999-2014. This has been tentatively attributed to increased hunting (mainly snaring and with dogs), predation (not least by farm and feral dogs) and rural settlement expansion. It is now classified as Near Threatened (Taylor *et al* 2016).

In October 2004, eight female and three male Grey Rhebok from the Groot Winterhoek mountains and Theewaterkloof were relocated to the Reserve to bolster its declining population (Stadler 2006).

Grey Rhebok is a selective grazer and occasional browser at the Reserve, eating the parts of at least 77 plant species (Clark 1987b). Lambing takes place mainly in October and November; a high infant mortality rate has been attributed to the dominant male killing most male lambs in their first few months (Gubb 1976).

Sheep *Ovis aries* (-). Introduced alien; now extinct. Sheep were brought to the Cape by prehistoric pastoralists about 1,600 years ago. The remains of sheep dating from between 1,200 and 1,400 years have been found in a stone-age cave shelter at Smitswinkel Bay (Marean 1985). In the nineteenth century, sheep were among the livestock put out to graze and their bleached bones and horns may still be found in the veld. The last animals were kept in the 1950s in areas that had not yet been incorporated into the Reserve. In May 1992, many sheep carcasses were found washed up on the shore at Die Mond, having presumably died in transit on a passing ship and been thrown overboard. With them on the beach was a dead Great White Shark *Carcharodon carcharias*; it had presumably died of a surfeit.

[Southern Savannah Buffalo *Synercus caffer caffer* (328). Unconfirmed. The name Buffels Bay means ‘Buffalo Bay’ and would imply that the species once occurred here, paralleling the African Elephants at Olifantsbos. This was claimed by WF Auret in a letter to the Cape Argus of 22 July 1938. He wrote: “In my father’s time there were also buffaloes, hence the name Buffels Bay. They simply disappeared, no doubt, because [they were] unable to migrate to Somerset Strand”. The species was, however, never recorded historically further west than Caledon (Skead 1980) or, alternatively, Swellendam (Smithers 1983), where it was seen 200 years ago. The Cape of Good Hope “buffels” were certainly feral cattle. It is known that in the nineteenth century, cattle from the Cape Town area were seasonally herded to fresh pastures at the Strand in the south-east corner of the Cape Flats.]

Ox *Bos taurus* (-). Introduced alien; now extinct. Cattle were kept by local farmers for milk, meat and as draught animals. The last herd

was maintained at Olifantsbos until the mid-1950s. It would appear that the animals did not do well, and no “ox or cow could live at Cape Point longer than a year”. One of the main perceived reasons for this was that: “when the first rains fall a certain kind of grass appears, and as soon as an ox or a cow eats it, it dies” (Cape Argus, 22 July 1938). This apparently persuaded John McKellar of Buffelsfontein to switch from cattle to horses (which seemed to thrive) and Ostriches *Struthio camelus* in the 1850s.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* (332). Accidental introduction.

One which has frequented the west-coast Milkwood thickets at Gifkommetjie and Platboom since May, 2015 is thought to have escaped from an animal park at nearby Noordhoek. This medium-sized antelope occurs naturally no nearer than Bredasdorp and is typically associated with riverine scrub. It is as well for this individual that the species is naturally solitary.

Eland *Taurotragus oryx* (333). Formerly occurred; now reintroduced. Uncommon. Eland bones have been found in Late Stone Age middens at Bonteberg and Smitswinkel Bay, the latter dated at 1,175 years old (Maggs and Speed 1967, Marean 1985). The species became extinct on the Peninsula at some time following the arrival of Europeans in 1652, although it was still conspicuous enough for the southern portion of a map of the Peninsula to be labelled “The eland grazing grounds” in 1750.

Three Eland (one cow and two bulls) were introduced to the Reserve in 1946 from the Groote Schuur Estate in Cape Town, three in 1948, and 12 from Prieska in the northern Cape in 1962/63. Only after the last date did the herd consolidate and start to increase, reaching 62 in 1971 and 83 in 1976. Small numbers are culled periodically to limit the size of the herd, which in 1994 stood at 59. In 2017 the game count detected 97 (J Buchmann).

Eland tend to lie up amongst dense scrub during the day (dense stands of *Acacia cyclops* were favoured before they were cleared) and are active between roughly 16h00 and 10h00. They leave their daytime resting areas towards dusk and move to their feeding areas mainly after dark. Eland are rarely seen by the casual visitor, although walkers may encounter them in the central part of the Reserve towards Sirkelsvlei, in the steep valley on the east coast near Kanon-

kop and on the limestone outcrop between Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope. They also frequent the Bulrush *Typha capensis* patches in the Buffels River valley.

Eland are browsers and some 50% of their diet at the Reserve comprised the wattles *Acacia cyclops* and *A saligna* (Maltby 1979). Their numbers may, therefore, dwindle, their health deteriorate, and more pressure may be exerted on the natural vegetation with the necessary removal of this alien vegetation.

Potential additions to the Reserve list

Future additions to the Reserve’s mammal list are likely to be restricted to bats, small rodents, and cetaceans. Cape Gerbil is a possibility (and may well occur here); other species are harder to forecast and may require more than just a keen eye to detect. One relatively recent addition, Lamine Vlei Rat, is so similar in external appearance to the other two vlei rat (*Otomys*) species that occur here, that it was discovered only by DNA testing (P Taylor). A larger potential addition is Leopard. This species has been extinct on the Cape Peninsula since the early nineteenth century but could feasibly make it back across the Cape Flats along the coast. The species is widespread in the mountains of the south-western Cape but occurs at low population densities and with very large home ranges. An estimated 1,000 may live in the region (<https://capeleopard.org.za/>).

Another group that certainly would pay dividends from more investigation is bats. Of the dozen or so species that have been recorded in the south-western Cape, only three have been positively identified at the Reserve. A strategically-placed mistnet could well add a couple of species in an evening: Tomb Bat *Taphozous mauritanus*, Little Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida pumila*, Schreibers’ Long-fingered Bat *Miniopterus schreibersii* and Temminck’s Hairy Bat *Myotis tricolor* are a few of the potential additions to the Reserve list. Most of these are woodland and forest-edge species, preferring to feed amongst or near trees or tall shrubs. This would limit their occurrence here and, being such a windy place, it is also unlikely that they would occur very far from the shelter of the strandveld thicket along the coastal strip or the alien trees at Klaasjagersberg.

The sharp-eyed observer (most likely a seabirder or angler) has the chance to add a cetacean to the list: the likes of Long-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala melaena* and Pygmy Killer Whale *Feresa attenuata* can be expected to crop up before too long as both have occurred elsewhere along the Peninsula's coast, albeit rarely. On a bigger scale, Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus*, which once constituted about half the catch of South Africa's whaling industry and are consequently very rare today, might put in an appearance before long as the population recovers.

About the only new seal that has a realistic chance of turning up is Crabeater *Lobodon carcinophagus*, an Antarctic species that has been recorded once on a False Bay beach. Weddell Seal *Leptonychotes weddelli* has the most southerly distribution of any mammal has strayed beyond the pack-ice as far as Uruguay, and to Marion Island in the southern Indian Ocean, but has yet to be recorded farther north. Although a Reserve record of this or Crabeater is not quite beyond the realms of possibility, with four seals already on the Reserve list, probably more than any other site in Africa, we can't really complain if another species is a long time in coming.

Acknowledgements

I thank all those named in the text for their observations, in particular members of the Reserve staff and the late Barrie Rose. The former provided useful observations and information and allowed access to records in the Klaasjagersberg files. I especially thank Derek Clark, Roy Ernstzen, Howard Langley, Adam Mecinski and the late Gerald Wright for the help and support during our time living at the Reserve and in many subsequent visits. Carl Nortier deserves special mention for finding that Leopard Seal! Justin Buchmann very kindly provided game-count figures and other recent observations. Any meaningful accounts of the shrews and rodents would have been almost impossible without the work of Prof Jenny Jarvis and a succession of her zoology students from UCT with whom we enjoyed field courses at Olfantsbos. Many thanks to John Graham for generously providing his excellent photos to add to my ancient transparencies. I am grateful to Coleen Moloney for her input to earlier versions of this article and to

Les Underhill for facilitating its publication. Most of all, I thank my wife, Liz, for being an indispensable part of our time in the Cape.

References

- Abbott CW 1969.** A report on the Cape Point Nature Reserve and its Eland herd. Unpubl report to Divisional Council of the Cape.
- Anon 2009.** Proceedings of Baboon Expert Workshop, 2 July 2009. Cape Nature/City of Cape Town/South African National Parks.
- Basson GM 1983.** Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Divisional Council of the Cape Chairman's Report 1982-1983: 141-143.
- Beaumont P 1963.** The Bonteberg Shelter – a progress report. Journal of the Science Society.
- Benkenstein H 1982.** Human impact on the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Research Report No. 26, Dept of Environmental Studies, Univ of Cape Town.
- Best PB 1971.** Stalked barnacles *Conchoderma auritum* on an elephant seal: elephant seals on the South African on the South African coast. Zoologica Africana 6: 181-185.
- Binckes GD 1969.** Proposals for the development of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Thesis annexure to 'A Development plan for the amenities of the Cape Metropolitan region'. Cape Town: Univ. of Cape Town.
- Birss C, Peel M, Power J, Relton R 2016.** A conservation assessment of *Oreotragus oreotragus*. In: Child MF, Roxburgh L, Do Linh San E, Raimondo D, Davies-Mostert HT (eds). The Red List of Mammals of South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho. South African National Biodiversity Institute and Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa.
- Brock BB, Brock BG, Willis HG. 1976.** Historical Simon's Town. AA Balkema for the Simon's Town Historical Society, Cape Town.
- Burton-Moor E 1979.** An observational study and census of "O" troop of Chacma Baboons in Cape Point Nature Reserve. Unpubl report, Dept of Psychology, Univ of Cape Town.

Cairns M 1976. The wealthy Jurgen Schuster of Schuster's Bay, 1691 - 1758. Simon's Town Historical Society Bulletin 9: 1-7.

Cape Peninsula Nature Area Management Committee 1987. A Footpath Plan for the Cape Peninsula Nature Area. Cape Peninsula Nature Area Management Committee, Cape Town.

Child MF, Roxburgh L, Do Linh San E, Raimondo D, Davies-Mostert HT (eds) 2016. The Red List of Mammals of South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho. South African National Biodiversity Institute and Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa.

Clark DL 1981. Some foodplants utilized by game in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl report to Divisional Council of the Cape.

Clark DL 1985. Alien plant control by official bodies in smaller nature reserves in the fynbos biome. In: Macdonald IAW, Jarman ML, Beeston P. (eds). Management of invasive plants in the fynbos biome. South African National Scientific Programmes Report 111: 1-140.

Clark DL 1987a. Observations on the feeding ecology of *Pelea capreolus* (Grey Rhebok) in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl report to Divisional Council of the Cape.

Clark DL 1987b. Observations on the home range of *Pelea capreolus*. Unpubl. report to Divisional Council of the Cape.

Cowling RM, MacDonald IAW, Simmons, MT 1996. The Cape Peninsula, South Africa: physiographical, biological and historical background to an extraordinary hot-spot of biodiversity. Biodiversity and Conservation 5: 527-550.

Cropper C 1991. Utilization of burns by large ungulates in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl report, Cape Technikon, Cape Town.

Davidge C 1976a. Activity patterns of baboons (*Papio ursinus*) at Cape Point. Unpubl MSc thesis, Dept of Zoology, Univ. of Cape Town.

Davidge C 1976b. A troop of baboons. African Wildlife 30: 22-24.

Davidge C 1977. Baboons as dispersal agents for *Acacia cyclops*. Zoologica Africana 12: 249-250.

Davidge C 1978. Ecology of baboons (*Papio ursinus*) at Cape Point. Zoologica Africana 13: 329-350.

Fabricius C 1989. Keeping Bontebok pure. Farmer's Weekly June 30 1989: 56.

Fletemeyer JR 1974. Studying the unique Chacma Baboon colonies of the Cape Peninsula. Unpubl report, FitzPatrick Institute, Univ of Cape Town.

Fraser M 2014. Birds of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, South-Western Cape, South Africa. Ornithological Observations 2014 5:139-247.

Fraser M 2016. Birds of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve (updated edition). The Singing Magpie Press, Dunbar, Scotland.

Fraser M 2021. Reptiles and Amphibians of the Cape of Good Hope Nature reserve, South-Western Cape, South Africa. Biodiversity Observations.

Fraser MW 1990. Foods of Redwinged Starlings and the potential for avian dispersal of *Acacia cyclops* at the Cape of Good Hope Nature reserve. South African Journal of Ecology 1: 73-76.

Fraser M, McMahon L 1994. Between Two Shores - Flora and Fauna of the Cape of Good Hope. David Philip Publishers, Cape Town.

Gerber PJ 1971. Preliminary report regarding the eland *Taurotragus oryx* in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl report to Divisional Council of the Cape.

Green LG 1947. Tavern of the Seas. Howard Timmins, Cape Town

Gubb AA 1974. An autecological study of a Muridae: *Praomys verreauxii* in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and near vicinity. Unpubl report, Dept of Zoology, Univ of Cape Town.

Hallinan J 1988. Honey Badger in the Cape Peninsula. *African Wildlife* 42: 339.

Hall KRL 1959. Observations on the nest site and nesting behaviour of the Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini* in the Cape Peninsula. *Ostrich* 30: 143-154.

Hall KRL 1962a. Social vigilance behaviour of the chacma baboon *Papio ursinus*. *Behaviour* 16: 261-264.

Hall KRL 1962b. Numerical data, maintenance activities and locomotion of the wild chacma baboon *Papio ursinus*. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society, London* 339: 283-327.

Hall KRL 1962c. The sexual, agonistic and derived social behaviour patterns of the wild chacma baboon. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society, London* 139: 283-327.

Hall KRL 1962d. The social behaviour of wild baboons. *New Scientist* 7: 601-603.

Hall KRL 1963. Variations in the ecology of the Chacma Baboon. *Symposium of the Zoological Society of London* 10: 1-28.

Hall KRL 1966. Distribution and adaptations of baboons. *Symposium of the Zoological Society of London* 17: 49-73.

Hey DA 1995. A Nature Conservationist looks back. Cape Nature Conservation, Cape Town.

Holmes PM 1990a. Dispersal and predation of alien *Acacia* seeds: effects of season and invading stand density. *South African Journal of Botany* 56: 428-434.

Holmes PM 1990b. Dispersal and predation in alien *Acacia*. *Oecologia* 83: 288-290.

Hrabar H, Birss C, Peinke D, King S, Novellie P, Kerley G, Child MF 2016. A conservation assessment of *Equus zebra zebra*. In Child MF, Roxburgh L, Do Linh San E, Raimondo D, Davies-Mostert HT (eds). *The Red List of Mammals of South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho*. South African National Biodiversity Institute and Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa.

Hrabar H, Kerley GI 2013. Conservation goals for the Cape mountain zebra *Equus zebra zebra* - security in numbers? *Oryx* 47:403-409.

Hrabar H, Kerley G 2015. Cape Mountain Zebra 2014/15 status report. Centre for African Conservation Ecology Report 63.

Kinloch RG 1967. Report on a visit to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve [for predator control evaluation]. Unpubl report, Dept of Nature and Environmental Conservation, Cape Town.

Langley CH 1972. Bontebok *Damaliscus dorcas dorcas* in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl report to Divisional Council of the Cape, Cape Town.

Langley CH 1974. A survey of rodents occurring in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, with particular reference to habitat and vegetation types. Unpubl. thesis, Certificate in Field Ecology, Univ of Zimbabwe.

Langley CH 1986. A Cape Grey Mongoose attacks Grysbok lambs. *African Wildlife* 40: 203.

Langley CH, Giliomee JH. 1974. Behaviour of Bontebok (*Damaliscus d. dorcas*) in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. *Journal of the South African Wildlife Management Association* 4: 117-121.

Lee N, Odden, E 1984. Cape Point. Don Nelson, Cape Town.

Lewis M 2014. Behavioural and isotope ecology of marine-foraging chacma baboons (*Papio ursinus*) on the Cape Peninsula, South Africa. Unpubl PhD thesis, Dept of Biological sciences, Univ of Cape Town.

Lloyd JW 1981. Factors affecting the distribution and availability of baboons and other primates of the Cape Province. In: Klerk DE (ed). *The role of utilization of non-human primates in biomedical research in South Africa*. SAALAS Workshop Proceedings 14-47.

Lloyd JH 2001. State of Biodiversity: Western Cape Province, South Africa Mammals. In: *Western Cape State of Biodiversity 2000*. Cape-Nature, Cape Town.

Macdonald IAW, Clark DL, Taylor HC 1989. The history and effects of alien plant control in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, 1941-1987. *South African Journal of Botany* 55:56-75.

Maggs T, Speed E. 1967. Bonteberg Shelter. *South African Archaeological Bulletin* 22: 80-93.

Maltby JL 1979. Eland *Taurotragus oryx* at the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl report to Divisional Council of the Cape, Cape Town.

Mangold W 1988. Who needs oxpeckers? *Promerops* 186: 12.

McMahon L, Fraser M. 1988. A Fynbos Year. David Philip Publishers, Cape Town.

Middlemiss E 1961. Field studies of Baboons. Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve Annual Report 1961: 27-28.

Middlemiss E 1963. The distribution of *Acacia cyclops* in the Cape Peninsula by birds and other animals. *South African journal of Science* 59: 419-420.

Middlemiss JE 1964. Stomach contents of forty-five predatory mammals collected at the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl report to Divisional Council of the Cape, Cape Town.

Millar JCG 1970. The Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. A report and management plan. Unpubl report, Cape Dept of Nature and Environmental Conservation.

Millar JCG, Wood AdeB undated. Some notes on the Bontebok *Damaliscus dorcas dorcas* (Pallas). Unpubl report to Divisional Council of the Cape.

Moseley HN 1879. Notes by a Naturalist on the "Challenger," Being an Account of Various Observations Made During the Voyage of H.M.S. "Challenger" Round the World, in the Years 1872-1876. Macmillan and Co Ltd, London.

Oosthuizen WH, David JHM, Ross GJB 1988. New records of southern elephant seals *Mirounga leonina* L. on the coast of southern Africa. *South Afr J Marine Sci* 7: 75-86.

OvP Associates 1990. Conservation importance rating and management of the terrestrial vegetation of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve as an aid to development and management planning. Unpubl CSIR report EMA-C90115, Stellenbosch.

Petersen W 2015. Cape of Good Hope Wildlife Guide. Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group, Kommetjie, South Africa.

Pieterse C 1987. Breeding herd arrives at Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. *Custos* 16: 28.

Poggenpoel CA 1981. The excavation of Smitswinkelbaai Cave, Cape Peninsula. *South African Archaeological Bulletin* 36: 29-35.

Pringle JA 1982. The Conservationists and the Killers. TV Bulpin, Cape Town.

Prÿs-Jones RP, Clark DL, Foster K 1985. Stocking density of large herbivores in fynbos of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. 7th Annual Research Meeting of the Fynbos Biome Project 44.

Radloff FGT, Birss C, Cowell C, Peinke D, Dalton D, Kotze A, Kerley GIH, Child MF. 2016. A conservation assessment of *Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*. In: Child MF, Roxburgh L, Do Linh San E, Raimondo D, Davies-Mostert HT (eds). *The Red List of Mammals of South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho*. South African National Biodiversity Institute and Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa.

Rebelo AG, Holmes PM, Dorse C, Wood J 2011. Impacts of urbanization in a biodiversity hotspot: Conservation challenges in Metropolitan Cape Town. *South African Journal of Botany* 77: 20-35.

Ross GJB 1969. The Southern Elephant Seal *Mirounga leonina* on South African coasts. *Annals of the Cape Provincial Museum (Natural History)* 6: 137-139.

Skead CJ 1973. Zoo Historical Gazetteer. *Annals of the Cape Provincial Museum* 10: 1-259.

Skead CJ 1980. Historical mammal incidence in the Cape Province. I. The western and northern Cape. Dept of Nature and Environmental Conservation, Cape Provincial Administration, Cape Town.

Skead DM 1964. A preliminary study of the Bontebok *Damaliscus pygargus* in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl report to Divisional Council of the Cape, Cape Town.

Skinner JD, Smithers RHN. 1990. The Mammals of the Southern African subregion. Univ of Pretoria Press, Pretoria.

Smith AB 1993. Exploitation of marine mammals by prehistoric Cape herders. South African Journal of Science 89: 162-165.

Smithers RHN. 1983. The mammals of the southern African subregion. Univ of Pretoria Press, Pretoria.

Stadler JC, Zimmermann DE, Buchmaan J 2006. The re-introduction of Klipspringer (*Oreotragus oreotragus*) and Grey Rhebuck (*Pelea capreolus*) to Table Mountain National Park. Unpubl report to South African National Parks.

Stanford W 1954. Wildlife Protection in the Western Province. Cape Wildlife 11: 6-9.

Steele D 1989. Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Getaway August 1989 40-41.

Stuart CT 1981. Notes on the mammalian carnivores of the Cape Province, South Africa. Bontebok 1: 1-58.

Taylor A, Cowell C, Drouilly M, Schulze E, Avenant N, Birss C, Child MF 2016. A conservation assessment of *Pelea capreolus*. In Child MF, Roxburgh L, Do Linh San E, Raimondo D, Davies-Mostert HT (eds). The Red List of Mammals of South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho. SANBI and Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa.

Taylor HC 1959. Suggestions for the development of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl report to Divisional Council of the Cape.

Taylor HC 1970. Recommendations for the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl report to Divisional Council of the Cape.

Taylor HC 1984. An analysis of the flowering plants and ferns of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. South African Journal of Botany 51: 1-13.

Taylor WA, Skinner JD 2006. A review of the social organisation of mountain reedbuck, *Redunca fulvorufula*, and grey rhebok, *Pelea capreolus*, in relation to their ecology. Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa 61:8-10.

van der Merwe NJ 1962. The position of nature conservation in South Africa. Koedoe 4-5: 3-122.

van Riebeeck J 1952. Journal of Jan van Riebeeck 1651-1662 (3 vols; ed HB Thom). AA Balkema, van Riebeeck Society.

Willis-Smith G 1985. Conservation Plan for the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl report to the divisional Council of the Cape.

Wright MG 1991. Destruction and dispersal of *Leucadendron lauroleum* (Proteaceae) seeds by chacma baboons. Bontebok 7: 48.

Zumpt IF 1972. The status and health aspect of Bonteboks with special reference to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Unpubl ms 24/2, RVL Stellenbosch.

Zumpt IF, Heine EWP. 1978. Some veterinary aspects of Bonteboks in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. South African Journal of Wildlife Research 8: 131-134.

Table 1. Checklist and status of mammals at the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Columns: 1 = Naturally occurring; 2 = Introduced/escapee; 3 = Extinct; 4 = Unconfirmed.

Species (Smithers' number)	1	2	3	4
Forest Shrew <i>Myosorex varius</i> (003)	*			
Reddish-grey Musk Shrew <i>Crocidura cyanea</i> (010)	*			
Greater Musk Shrew <i>Crocidura flavescens</i> (012).	*			
Cape Golden Mole <i>Chrysochloris asiatica</i> (021).	*			
Egyptian Fruit Bat <i>Rousettus aegyptiacus</i> (046)	*			
Cape Serotine Bat <i>Eptesicus capensis</i> (086)	*			
Cape Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus capensis</i> (106).	*			
Chacma Baboon <i>Papio ursinus</i> (180)	*			
Cape Hare <i>Lepus capensis</i> (122)	*			
Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> (128).		*	*	
Cape Dune Molerat <i>Bathyergus suillus</i> (129)	*			
[Common Molerat <i>Cryptomys hottentotus</i> (132)]				*
Porcupine <i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i> (134)	*			
Grey Squirrel <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i> (146)		*		
Laminate Vlei Rat <i>Otomys laminatus</i> (152)	*			
Saunders' Vlei Rat <i>Otomys karoensis (saundersiae)</i> (155)	*			

Vlei Rat <i>Otomys irroratus</i> (156)	*			
Cape Spiny Mouse <i>Acomys subspinosus</i> (161)	*			
Striped Mouse <i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i> (163)	*			
House Mouse <i>Mus musculus</i> (168)		*		
Pygmy Mouse <i>Mus minutoides</i> (172)	*			
Verreaux's Mouse <i>Praomys (Myomyscus) verreauxii</i> (176)	*			
Black or House Rat <i>Rattus rattus</i> (183)		*		
Brown or Norwegian Rat <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> (184)		*		
[Cape Gerbil <i>Tatera afra</i> (191)]				*
Grey Climbing Mouse <i>Dendromus melanotis</i> (199)	*			
Brant's Climbing Mouse <i>Dendromus mesomelas</i> (200)	*			
Krebs' Fat Mouse <i>Steatomys krebsii</i> (204)	*			
Layard's Beaked Whale <i>Mesoplodon layardii</i> (210)	*			
Southern Bottlenose Whale <i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i> (214)	*			
Risso's Dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i> (218).	*			
Orca or Killer Whale <i>Orcinus orca</i> (221).	*			
Common Dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i> (224)	*			
Striped Dolphin <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> (226)	*			
Atlantic Ocean Bottlenose Dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (229)	*			
Dusky Dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i> (234)	*			
Heaviside's Dolphin <i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i> (235)	*			
Pygmy Right Whale <i>Caperea marginata</i> (236)	*			
Southern Right Whale <i>Balaena glacialis</i> (237)	*			

Humpback Whale <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> (238)	*			
Minke Whale <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> (239)	*			
Bryde's Whale <i>Balaenoptera edeni</i> (241)	*			
Leopard <i>Panthera pardus</i> (248)	*		*	
Caracal or African Lynx <i>Felis caracal</i> (250)	*			
Domestic Cat <i>Felis catus</i> (254)		*		
Cape Fox <i>Vulpes chama</i> (257)	*			
Black-backed Jackal <i>Canis mesomelas</i> (259)	*		*	
Domestic Dog <i>Canis familiaris</i> (-)		*		
Cape Clawless Otter <i>Aonyx capensis</i> (260)	*			
Honey Badger or Ratel <i>Mellivora capensis</i> (262)		*	*	
Striped Polecat or Zorilla <i>Ictonyx striatus</i> (264)	*			
[Small-spotted Genet <i>Genetta genetta</i> (267)]				*
Large-spotted Genet <i>Genetta tigrina</i> (268)	*			
[Yellow Mongoose <i>Cynictis penicillata</i> (272)]				*
Cape Grey or Small Grey Mongoose <i>Galerella pulverulenta</i> (275)	*			
Water Mongoose <i>Atilax paludinosus</i> (278)	*			
Cape Fur Seal <i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i> (281)	*			
Subantarctic Fur Seal <i>Arctocephalus tropicalis</i> (283)	*			
Southern Elephant Seal <i>Mirounga leonina</i> (284)	*			
Leopard Seal <i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i> (286)	*			
[African Elephant <i>Loxodonta africana</i> (289)]				*
Rock Dassie or Hyrax <i>Procavia capensis</i> (290)	*			


Horse <i>Equus caballus</i> (-)		*	*	
Cape Mountain Zebra <i>Equus zebra zebra</i> (297)		*		
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra <i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i> (297)		*	*	
Burchell's Zebra <i>Equus burchelli</i> (298)		*	*	
[Hippopotamus <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> (302)]				*
European Fallow Deer <i>Cervus dama</i> (304)		*	*	
Black Wildebeest <i>Connochaetes gnou</i> (305)		*	*	
Blue Wildebeest <i>Connochaetes taurinus</i> (306)		*	*	
Red Hartebeest <i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i> (308)	*?	*		
Bontebok <i>Damaliscus pygargus pygargus</i> (309)		*		
Common or Grey Duiker <i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i> (313)	*			
Springbok <i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i> (314)		*	*	
Klipspringer <i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i> (315)	*	*		
Steenbok <i>Raphicerus campestris</i> (318)	*			
Grysbok <i>Raphicerus melanotis</i> (319)	*			
Grey Rhebok <i>Pelea capreolus</i> (324)	*			
Sheep <i>Ovis aries</i> (-)		*	*	
[Buffalo <i>Synercus caffer</i> (328)]				*
Ox <i>Bos taurus</i> (-)		*	*	
Bushbuck <i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i> (332)		*		
Eland <i>Taurotragus oryx</i> (333)	*?	*		
Totals	56*	23	13	7
*excluding unconfirmed				

Biodiversity Observations

The scope of Biodiversity Observations includes papers describing observations about biodiversity in general, including animals, plants, algae and fungi. This includes observations of behaviour, breeding and flowering patterns, distributions and range extensions, foraging, food, movement, measurements, habitat and colouration/plumage variations. Biotic interactions such as pollination, fruit dispersal, herbivory and predation fall within the scope, as well as the use of indigenous and exotic species by humans. Observations of naturalised plants and animals will also be considered. Biodiversity Observations will also publish a variety of other interesting or relevant biodiversity material: reports of projects and conferences, annotated checklists for a site or region, specialist bibliographies, book reviews and any other appropriate material. Further details and guidelines to authors are on the journal website (<https://journals.uct.ac.za/index.php/BO/>).

ISSN 2219-0341

Editor: LG Underhill



Biodiversity Observations is powered by [Open Journal Systems \(OJS\)](#) and is hosted by the [University of Cape Town Libraries](#). OJS is an open source software application for managing and publishing scholarly journals. Developed and released by the [Public Knowledge Project](#) in 2001, it is the most widely used open source journal publishing platform in existence, with over 10,000 journals using it worldwide.