

LIVEWEIGHTS OF SOME MAMMALS FROM HLUHLUWE GAME RESERVE, ZULULAND

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by  
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Liveweight measurements are required for the calculation and comparison of the biomass and value of game animals as meat producers. Because of the variability in weight of each species throughout Africa, calculations should only be made with locally collected information.

The following data were collected from specimens obtained during game control operations and natural deaths in Hluhluwe Game Reserve, Zululand.

Adult and immature animals were separated on their dentition. All female weights are exclusive of the conceptus.

All weights are given in pounds.

	No. in sample	Range	Mean
Black Rhinoceros	Male 8	1563-2254	1882.5
	Female 6	1586-2500	1953.3
Burchell's Zebra	Male 10	529-705	608.2
	Female 7	559-692	617.6
Warthog	Male 36	114-229	168.8
	Female 66	88-152	114.4
Waterbuck	Male -	-	-
	Female 4	409-425	415.0
Impala	Male 134	104-167	132.9
	Female 78	87-118	100.4
Blue Wildebeest	Male 98	392-648	521.9
	Female 95	312-556	418.9
Bushbuck	Male 1	-	100.0
	Female 2	69-75	72.0
Nyala	Male 22	151-314	231.0
	Female 75	99-178	138.5
African Buffalo	Male 14	1046-1895	1466.6
	Female -	-	-

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF NATURAL HISTORY INTEREST

1. Bats

St. Lucia Estuary (June): Little Free-tailed Bat: *Tadarida pumila*:  
Observation by: Ranger M. G. Behr.

Several bat species are recorded transporting their young when out feeding and this *Tadarida* can now join the list. On the evening of 28th June, the customary large numbers of these bats were emerging from the roof of the office. One was captured and it was found to be a female with twin youngsters, one harboured against the mother's side under each wing.

2. Parental Care

(a) Hluhluwe Game Reserve (February): Zebra *Equus burchelli* and Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta*:  
Observation by: Ranger P. M. Hitchins.

Came upon a small herd of zebra, consisting of four adults, one immature and one small foal, just as one of the adults was in the act of chasing away a sub adult hyaena. The zebra consistently used its fore feet for striking at the predator.

(b) Mkuzi Game Reserve (February): Impala *Aepyceros melampus* and Black-backed jackal *Canis mesomelas*.  
Observation by: Ranger M. G. Behr.

A jackal was watched approaching a small juvenile impala. The predator actually got as far as sinking its teeth into the rump of the antelope before it was heavily butted in the side by two large impala females, both of which then chased the jackal right away from the vicinity.

3. Timely Veterinary Aid

(a) Umfolozi Game Reserve (March): Square-lipped (White) Rhinoceros: *Ceratotherium simum simum*:  
Observation by: Veterinary Research Officer M. E. Keep.

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Whilst demonstrating rhino capture to a film company an animal was observed with a snare round its front leg, dragging several yards of wire behind it. The animal was therefore immobilized and the snare removed; fortunately it had not been in place very long and had not damaged the tissues. When released the rhino walked away quite happily and sound on all four legs.

(b) Umfolozi Game Reserve (March):

The very next day an adult male was observed with a snare around its neck. This rhino was also darted whereupon it was found that the wire noose had cut into the skin and subcutaneous tissues. The wound was also very septic. The snare was removed, necrotic tissue cut away and