KRUGER NATIONAL PARK



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

BIOLOGIST, 1958/1959

A. M. Brynard, M.Sc. (Biologist, K.N.P.), and U. de V. Pienaar, Ph.D. (Asst. Biologist, K.N.P.).



rocky cliffs along the entire length of the Levubu, at Gumbandevu and Mashikiri Poort, are all probably of this species.

SUPER-ORDER - MESAXONIA.

ORDER 11 - PERISSODACTYLA.

SUB-ORDER 1 — CERATOMORPHA.

Super-Family — Rhinocerotoidea.

Family — Rhinocerotidae.

The white rhinoceros (Diceros (Ceratotherium) simus simus. Burchell) disappeared from the Lowveld regions towards the latter part of the last century and the few which still wandered in the Pretoriuskop area were soon killed by hunters. The black rhinoceros (Diceros bicornis bicornis. Linnaeus) was more widely distributed and withstood the onslaughts for a longer period. In 1936 there were still lone specimens in the dense Nwatimiri bush, but these also disappeared gradually and it may be assumed at present that this kind has also become extinct in the Park, in spite of regular reports from tourists and Native Rangers to the contrary.

This section is still striving to bring about the re-introduction of both these species, into their old habitat and the fencing of the southern district, which is now in progress, is a step in the right direction.

SUB-ORDER 2 — HIPPOMORPHA.

Super-Family — Equoidea.

Family — Equidae.

1. Equus (Hippotigris) burchelli antiquorum (H. Smith) — Burchell's zebra. IE. burchelli transvaalensis (Ewart)].

A flourishing community which thrives everywhere and in regions, particularly in the north, is the most numerous of the larger mammal species. During the winter months large concentrations were again encountered in the vicinity of Nwashitsumbe and Pafuri. After the veldburning in February fairly large herds moved into the Klopperfontein-Masanje-Kowa-Kula areas and during the summer months, there was also a mass concentration in the Malitenga-Dothole strip. One day in July, a herd of 34 was counted at the Malopanyane windmill, and in March a herd of 50, including a considerable number of young foals was seen at the Dzombo experimental plots.

The March burns found great favour with the zebra population of the Pretoriuskop area and encouraging numbers are still being recorded here. During June a large herd left the burns at M and P and travelled eastwards over the hills near Stungwane.