

A **Serval** - the rarest of ruminant cats - was seen in the Nkonkoni open grassland, where **Canerats** (their favoured prey) are known to be common (RG, GL&GH:10/99); another **Serval** was seen on Old Link Road in the south (JC:11/99). A relaxed male **Caracal** was seen at about 6h30 near Mvubu Dam (TM:11/99). A pair of **Black-backed Jackals** stalked and attacked a **Warthog** piglet but after about 15 minutes the jackals were driven off by the family of hogs (AG:10/99). A **Large-spotted Genet** was observed to knock a scorpion off a tree, then eat it (VS:3/99), and another **Large-spotted Genet** fed on the ripe fruit of the Magic Guarri (*Euclea divinorum*) (TM:4/99). A pair of **Honey Badgers** were encountered on Madube cutline (RG:10/99). **White-tailed Mongoose** were seen mating at Bumbeni Dam; the male clasped the female's waist as she walked on (AK:11/99); a female **White-tailed Mongoose** with three youngsters were seen close to Forest Lodge; the family seemed unperturbed as they fed on insects attracted to the lights of our vehicle (GH:12/99).

Contributions by: Alastair Kilpin (AK), Ashwell Glasson (AG), Simon Naylor (SN), Tina Martin (TM), James Currie (JC), Russell Bergh (RB), Ross Goode (RG), Gavin Lautenbach (GL), Vanessa Strauss (VS) and Greg Higgs (GH).

Green-backed Heron Uses Grasshopper as Bait

An adult Green-backed Heron was seen to float a brown grasshopper on the surface of the Mzinene River, presumably as bait for a fish; the heron picked the insect up in its bill, dropped it in the water, then grabbed it again as it floated out of reach, and then repeated the process. We were not fortunate enough to see the heron succeed in capturing prey.

Alastair Kilpin & Karl Rosenberg

Lame Cattle Egret uses White Rhino as 'vehicle'

In mid-June, a Cattle Egret with an injured leg - distinguished from others by its distinct limp - was frequently seen in association with a group of White Rhino in an open area. The egret was seen to perch and ride on the back of a female rhino and its calf, having seemingly adapted its behaviour to compensate for its impaired mobility. On a number of occasions, the Cattle Egret was seen to flutter to the ground to feed each time a suitably-sized insect was disturbed by the rhino, and then launch itself back up onto the rhino which appeared unperturbed.

Karl Rosenberg & Colleen Cumming

Giant Kingfisher Pirates Fish from African Darter

In June, an African Darter was seen to catch a fish, possibly a bream, in Mvubu Dam. As it was attempting to swallow its prey, a Giant Kingfisher flew out from a nearby fig tree and dive-bombed the darter. The kingfisher managed to steal the fish literally out of the darter's mouth! The darter then resorted to diving for another fish while the kingfisher leisurely enjoyed the meal.

Ashwell Glasson

