

# New Bird and Mammal Records for the Tsitsikamma Coastal National Park

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The purpose of this paper is to document additional new bird and mammal species recorded in the Tsitsikamma Coastal National Park (TCNP). Skead & Liversidge (1967, *Koedoe* 10: 43 – 62) listed 204 bird species for the Tsitsikamma Coastal and Forest National Parks. Ten of these species, however, appeared to be included on the possibility of occurrence (Bower & Crawford 1983, *Koedoe*: 26 – 173). Robinson (1976, *Koedoe* 19: 175 – 176) and Bower & Crawford (1983) each added a further two new species. This brought the recorded and possible totals to 198 and 208 species respectively.

Marine mammal records for the TCNP are limited to those given by Robinson (1976, *Koedoe* 19: 145 – 152), documenting 11 species (9 cetaceans and 2 pinipedians).

## Birds

Two additional new species are reported in this study and referred to below. Bird numbers and nomenclature follows Maclean (1985, *Roberts' Birds of Southern Africa*, Cape Town: Trustees John Voelcker Bird Book Fund).

### Order Gruiformes Family Rallidae

218 *Sarothrura elegans* (A. Smith, 1839)

Buffspotted Flufftail  
Gevlekte Vleikuiken

It occurs in evergreen forests and adjoining thickets along the south-east of South Africa (Maclean 1985) and is present in the forests of the southern Cape. During the period 1983 – 1985 this species, which is seldom seen (Maclean 1985), was frequently heard calling at night from the forest area just south-west of the entrance gate to the Storms River Rest Camp. The bird has subsequently left the immediate vicinity, possibly due to increased building activity in this region. The above record complements that of Skead & Liversidge (1967), who noted *S. rufa* (Redchested Flufftail) in the marshy Groot River some 35 km west of Storms River.

Order Coraciiformes  
Family Bucerotidae

460 *Tockus alboterminatus* (Buttikofer, 1889)

Crowned Hornbill  
Gekroonde Neushoringvoël

Its general coastal distribution in South Africa is described by Maclean (1985). On two separate occasions in August 1983 single birds were observed in the indigenous forest just north-west of the Storms River Rest Camp. The above complements the possible record for *Bycanister bucinator* (Trumpeter Hornbill) given by Skead & Liversidge (1967).

Marine Mammals

An additional four new cetacean species were recorded in the park and these are listed below. The nomenclature, biological and distributional data follows Smithers (1983, *The Mammals of the Southern African Subregion*. Pretoria: The University of Pretoria).

Order Cetacea  
Suborder Odontoceti  
Family Delphinidae

*Grampus griseus* (G. Cuvier, 1812)

Risso's dolphin  
Risso-dolfyn

- A fresh carcass of an adult (2,9 m in length, from tip of jaw to notch in fluke) was found washed ashore on the beach at Elandsbos River Mouth on 7 September 1981. Along the south-east Cape coast, this species is normally found far off-shore and is therefore unlikely to be common in the coastal waters of the park, which extend 5,6 km seawards.

*Orcinus orca* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Killer whale  
Moordvis

The characteristic fin of this species was sighted off the coast just south of the park during the autumn of 1984. This species has a wide temperate distribution and is present in the offshore waters of the south-east coast of southern Africa. Only the odd vagrant would probably enter the park.

*Pseudorca crassidens* (Owen, 1846)

False killer whale  
Valsmoordvis

A fresh carcass of an adult (5,3 m in length) was found washed ashore near the Bloukrantz River Mouth on 14 August 1979. Stranding records for this species (Smithers 1983) suggests that it colonises the offshore waters of southern Africa and odd vagrants probably enter the park occasionally.

Suborder Mysticeti  
Family Balaenopteridae

*Balaenoptera edeni* Anderson, 1878

Bryde's whale  
Bryde-walvis

On 7 September 1983 a fresh carcass of an immature (7,3 m long) *B. edeni* was found close to the Storms River Mouth. Up to the late 1960s this species was regularly taken by whalers off the coast of the Cape Province. It is probably still fairly common in this region and the odd individual probably frequents the park.