

N50/7/1

J.S. du Preez

9

Ecologist (Etosha),
P.O. OKAUKUEJO,
Via Cutjo.

12th March, 1973.

The Director,
Nature Conservation and Tourism,
P/B 13186,
WINDHOEK

AERIAL CENSUS: 12 - 19 FEBRUARY 1973

1. Attached please find the distribution maps.
2. This census was undertaken by Nature Conservator Reid and myself with M. de Jager as pilot.
3. General:

Up to the time of this census only occasional and widely scattered showers had fallen. The wet areas indicated on the map were the result of heavy showers during the period of the census and most of the animals were also concentrated in these areas. The area east of Dungaries had a flush of new grass but most of the surface water had already dried up, leaving only a few small rainwater pools. The Beiseb - Andoni was quite green and water abundant in the small pans. Grass growth was good, mostly on the Owambo side of the tarred road. The rest of the reserve was in poor condition: in some areas such as Charitsaub all grass had been removed and most of the shrubs occurring on this plain had been browsed down to their roots. Animal distribution was also closely correlated with rainfalls as most game quickly moved to areas where showers had fallen. The grazing on Andoni was very poor.

Few zebra foals were seen outside the Andoni area. Springbok lambs were plentiful as were wildebeest calves. No large herds of gemsbok were observed and very few new calves were seen.

2/

4. Totals:

	Feb. 1973	Oct. 1972	Difference
Zebra	5,281	8,468	- 3,187
Springbok	3,167	2,969	+ 198
Gemsbok	713	1719	- 1006
Wildebeest	2,737	3,078	- 341
Hartebeest	110	128	- 18
Elephant	292	686	- 394
Eland	52	224	- 172
Roan	-	114	
Impala	-	199	
Giraffe	206	451	- 255
Kudu	151	821	- 670
Rhino	22	31	- 9
Ostrich	359	468	- 109
Cheetah	4	-	
Lion	36	43	- 7

5. Reasons for difference:

Zebra: Reports have been received of large numbers of zebra in Owambo.

Springbok: Difficult to see in these arid conditions and possibly same as for zebra. Numerous lambs have boosted count.

Gemsbok: No herd formations, animals mostly single and widely spread through bush.

Wildebeest: Same as for zebra. Calves have boosted numbers.

Hartebeest: Difficult to see under trees covered with foliage.

Kudu: Same as for Hartebeest.

Elephant: Eastern elephants have moved out of reserve and some holds goes for 19th Latitude herds.

Eland: ?

Roan and Impala: No count was made of quarantine camps.


Giraffe: Widely spread and difficult to see (same as hartebeest)

Rhino: No count was made of Quarantine camps. None were seen around Halali and Ombi a - probably for same reason as Hartebeest.

6. It is suggested that during the next count (March) considerable time be spent flying over Owambo to determine if there are zebra still present there. As it has now started raining and large movements, both north and south of the pan, are taking place towards Grootvlakte - Okondeka, the next count should indicate what has happened.

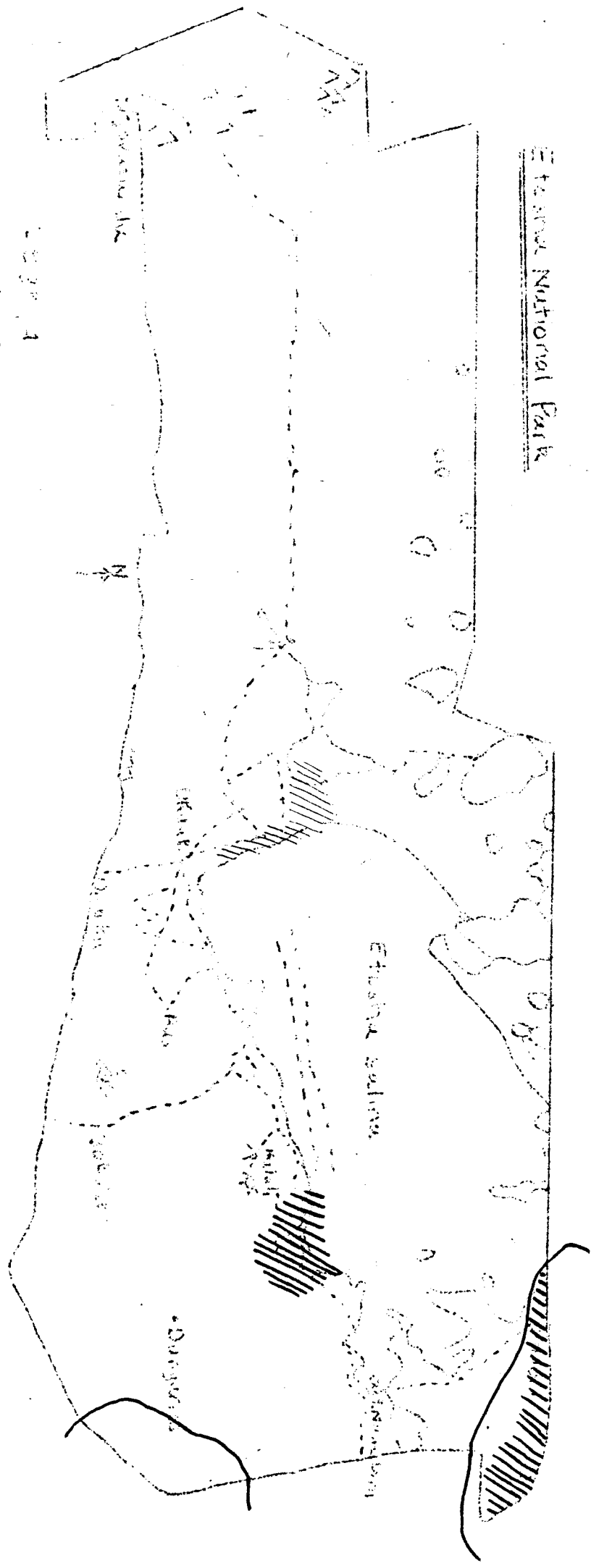
J.S. DU PREEZ

Wet Areas = // // // //

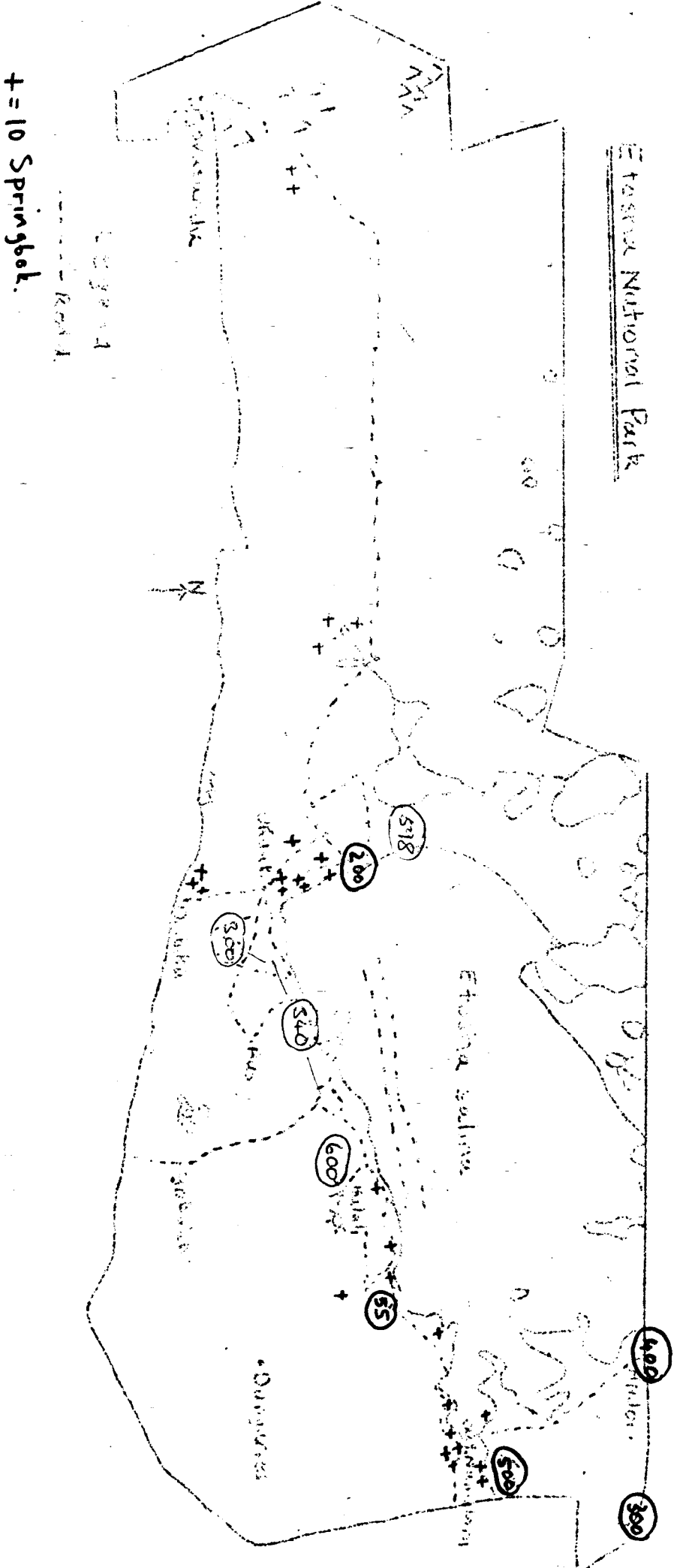
New grass areas = 

12-19 Feb. 1973

Etanod National Park

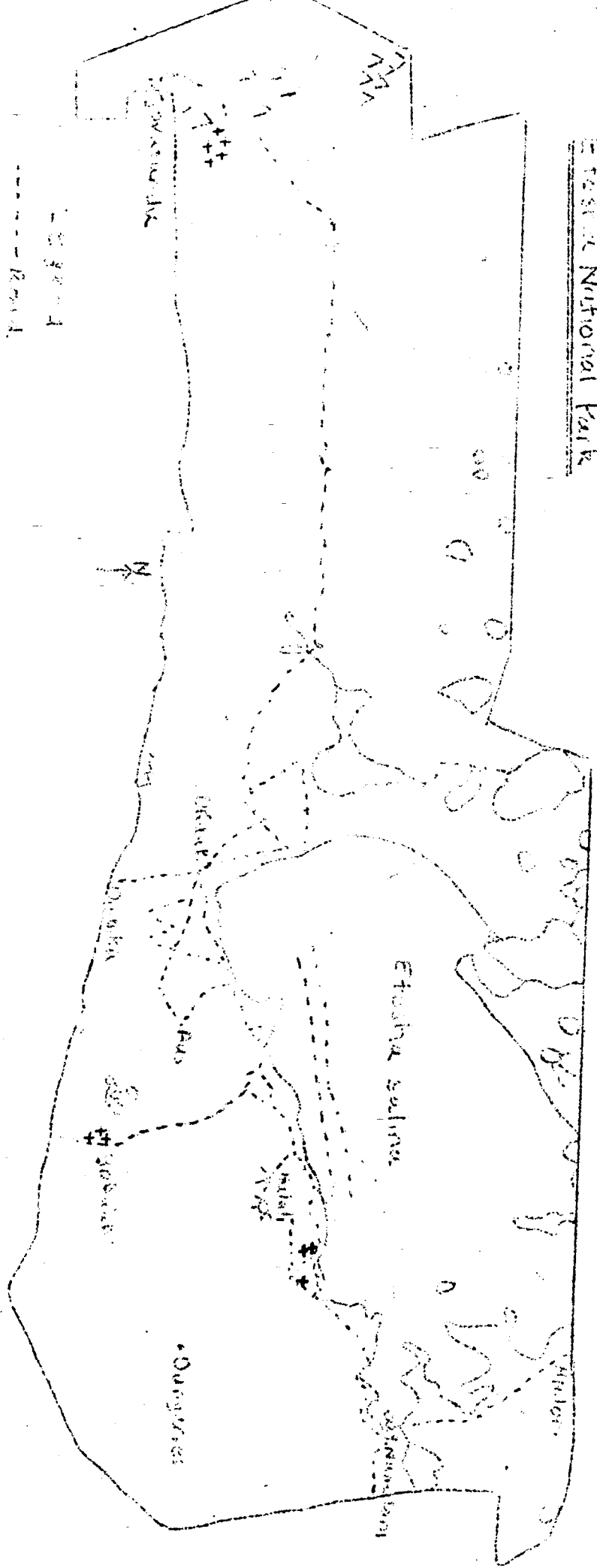


Distribution of Springsbok: 12-19 Feb. 1973



Distribution of Hartbeest: 12-1960-1973

Etosha National Park



+ = 10 Hartbeest.

Distribution of Elephant, Eland & Rhino: 12-19 Feb. 1973.

