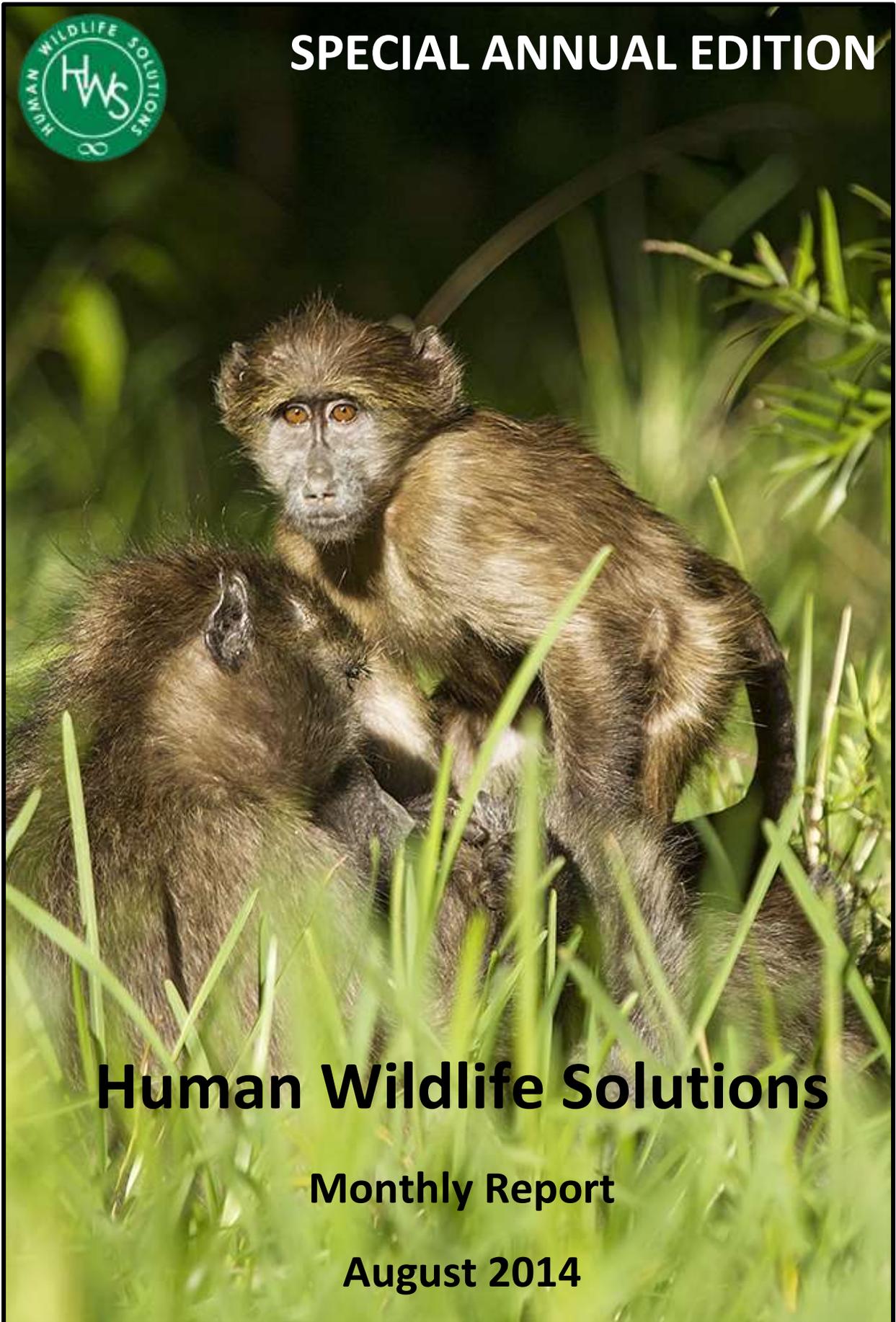




SPECIAL ANNUAL EDITION



Human Wildlife Solutions

Monthly Report

August 2014

Photograph: John de Jager

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page
A. REPORTING PERIOD	3
B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING	3
SOUTH EAST REGION	
1. Smitswinkel Troop	3
2. Waterfall Troop	4
3. Da Gama Troops (DG)	5
Births and Deaths	8
Recommendations	8
SOUTH WEST REGION	
1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB)	8
2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop	9
3. Slangkop Troop	10
Births and Deaths	11
Recommendations	11
NORTH REGION	
1. Tokai Main Troop (TMT)	12
2. Zwaanswyk Splinter Troop (ZST)	14
3. Constantia Troop	15
4. Mountain Troop	16
Births and Deaths	16
Recommendations	16
C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS	
Population Data	17
Hotline Data	18
Percentage Time Out of Town	20
Conclusion	23

A. INTRODUCTION

This month's report is considered a special edition because it covers not only the four-week period from 26 July to 24 August 2014, but also a summary of the data HWS has collected over the past two years since they took over the management of the urban baboons on the Cape Peninsula.

Now, towards the end of winter, there have been a few warm spells over the past month. As a result, the fynbos has started to grow again, and the baboons have found more nutritious food in the veld and are slowly reducing their pressure to raid which was so evident over the past winter months. The stress under which baboons are placed during the Cape winters is evident, not only by their increased raiding, but also by population data which indicates that more deaths are recorded during winter (16 deaths, May-August 2014) than in summer (11 deaths, January - April 2014).

There have been two other very noticeable occurrences this month. The first is that, despite constant maintenance, the Zwaanswyk electric fence suddenly started developing problems and, in certain sections, was quite frequently off for long periods. Once the baboons discovered this and rediscovered the wealth of food in terms of fruit trees, vegetable gardens and open bins that lay beyond the fence, they suddenly started pushing very hard to get into Zwaanswyk again. This resulted in a huge spike in hotline calls recorded, with 60 calls emanating from Zwaanswyk alone.

The second occurrence, is that there has been some fighting amongst the males in the Tokai Troop and as a result, one subordinate male (TK40) started behaving like a dispersing male and raiding throughout the urban area of Tokai. This male frequently took a female and her baby with him, and they alone accounted for another 34 hotline calls. The nett result is that more than half of our record hotline calls this month (183 calls), can be ascribed to these two events.

B. BABOON MANAGEMENT AND RAID REPORTING

South Eastern Region – Area Manager: Ziggy Rode

1. Smitswinkel Troop

It has been a very good month for the Smitswinkel Troop, which spent 0% of time in town and the residential area. This may be due to the recent rains and resultant plant growth and forage that is available to the baboons. Whenever they came down from the mountain, they moved to the coast quickly to forage.

This month, only two raiding attempts took place, both involving the old male, SWB1. The first incident took place on 18 August when tourists stopped at a viewpoint and left their car door open. He jumped into the car, but rangers were able to get him out before he had the opportunity to raid.

The second incident took place on 22 August when the troop slept above the Miller's Point area. The troop remained at the site except for SWB1 and an unknown female. These two ran towards the picnic site and were blocked, but then proceeded to the security hut, which they attempted to raid but they were chased out quickly.



SWB1 is currently in poor body condition - he is very thin and at times has trouble keeping up with the rest of the troop.

Two sub-adults that usually followed him when he went raiding, did not do so this month and HWS will be monitoring the situation closely. They will be ear-tagged over the next few weeks in order to facilitate this.

Fig.1. SWB1. This photograph was taken earlier during 2014 when his body condition was still relatively good.

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SE																														
BABOON TROOP: Smitswinkel		1 In urban area	4 Attacking pets	7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																										
MONTH: August 2014		2 Raid bins	5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																										
		3 Non malicious damage	6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																											
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL
SWB1	M																								5				5	2
SWB6	M																													0
Troop																														0
UnID Fem	F																											5	1	
SWBF8	F																													0
SWB9																														0
UNID Male	M																													0
SWB7	M																													0
	%																										HRS			
Troop	0.00																										0.00			
Individuals	0.07																										10			
Males	0.10																										5			
Roost:	AM	6	6	6	5	4	6	2	1	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	2	1	4	5	4	5	5	6	4	4	5	4		
Roost:	PM	6	6	5	4	6	3	1	1	1	5	5	5	5	5	6	1	4	4	5	4	5	6	3	4	4	5	4		
Roost Sites		1 Smits Caves		2 Partridge Point		3 Bluegums		4 Millers Point		5 Rocklands Farm																				
ID Features of Baboons		6 Castle Rock		7 SANParks		SWB1: Collar + blue & white tag, SWB6 = Red/Blue tags + collar																								
General remarks		Town/Urban area = Millers Point boat launching area, caravan park, Black Marlin, Castle Rock Houses, Smitswinkel Bay houses																												

Fig.2. Smitswinkel Troop Raid Sheet

2. Waterfall Troop

Management of the Waterfall Troop has become more difficult since January this year, when individuals in the troop discovered easy access to food at the South African Naval Ammunition Depot (SANAD). Several meetings involving HWS, the City of Cape Town, CapeNature and the S. A. Navy have taken place to try to resolve this issue.

From 29 July until approximately 2 August, the troop returned to the Waterfall Barracks and started to raid once again, as they had done previously. One of the main reasons that we need to prevent raiding at SANAD is that it could trigger the resumption of the troop's old raiding habits. Fortunately, rangers were able to herd the troop back up the mountain on 4 August.

During the recent cold and wet months, the troop moved to the cliff site just above the Red Hill Settlement (RHS), which is not unfamiliar to the baboons as they had slept there several months ago.

They seemed to settle there for a while and, during this time, would come down from the cliff and into the dense stand of alien trees, spending most of the day there. However, RH2 and WF2 started raiding a farmhouse in the area, and also made several failed attempts to raid the settlement as rangers were able to block their efforts.

On 5 August, the Groot Olifantsbos Troop (GOB) moved close to the area but was driven back to the Reserve by the Waterfall Troop.

On 13 August, the entire troop attempted to raid the RHS, however rangers were very quick to respond and blocked entry. Although the sleep site is more sheltered for them during the cold and wet months, the presence of the baboons has led to more conflict with farmers and RHS residents. This situation will continue to be monitored closely.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
SE		1 In urban area										4 Attacking pets					7 Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food													
BABOON TROOP: Waterfall		2 Raid bins					5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle					8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																		
MONTH: September 2014		3 Non malicious damage					6 Raid occupied house or vehicle																							
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL
Troop							2	2	1																				3	
RH2	M				2					1																			2	
WF2	M				2					1																			2	
WFF3	F				2																								1	
WFF4	F																												0	
UnID Females	F																												0	
UnID Juveniles																													0	
UnID Male	M																												0	
WFF2	F																												0	
UnID Individuals																													0	
	%																											HRS		
Troop	0.3																											0.67		
Females/Individuals	1.5				150		10	70																					3.83	
Males	1.8				150		10	45	70																				4.58	
Roost:	AM	10	10	10	1	1	4	2	1	1	1	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9			
Roost:	PM	10	10	10	1	14	1	1	1	1	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9			
Roost Sites	1	Waterfall Cliff					2	Happy Valley Mnt					3	Signal School					4	Waterfall Barracks					5	Mountain Residents side				
	6	Admiral footpath					7	Not found					8	Happy Valley Home					9	Red Hill					10	SANDF				
	11	Mountain CoGHN					12	Gate 3 - Plateau Road					13	Rocklands farm					14	North peak										
ID Features of Baboons	WF2 - yellow&blue tag, RH2 - double yellow tags + collar, adult male																													
	WFF1 - three legs																													
General remarks	Italics - raiding on farms																													
	Naval Ammunition depot area indicated in red																													

Fig.3. Waterfall Troop Raid Sheet

3. Da Gama Troop

With the troop splitting into three parties for most of the month, it has been extremely difficult to keep them all out of town. What complicated matters further was that overall waste management in Da Gama Park had deteriorated severely, which may be due to baboon-proofing measures not being maintained for the past few months during which the baboons were not in the area.

DG1 continued to raid both occupied and unoccupied houses during the reporting period. A ranger was allocated to monitor his movements and, although fifteen incidents were attributed to DG1, many more raiding attempts were made by him but were blocked by rangers.



Fig.4. (a) Bins installed at the Navy flats by HWS (November 2012). (b) Current state of the bins with broken chains and locks.



Fig.5. (a) Bin locks provided by HWS (b) Most of these locks have been removed or stolen. HWS Field Managers have attempted to repair bins as a temporary measure.

DG10 continued his raiding activity and was euthanased on 1 August.

DG11 and DG12 continued to be the main culprits in further raiding activity throughout the month. Both of these males are young sub-adults that had previously followed DG10 and raided with him. DG11, being of similar age to DG10, took over leadership of the small raiding party and, during the period of merely one month, was involved in seventeen incidents of raiding and/or being in town.

However, following the euthanasia of DG10, the troop has been sleeping together as one unit again which greatly relieves pressure on the rangers in the mornings.

On 15 August, DG11 and SK3 led the troop into Scarborough where they spent five hours raiding bins in town and eating fruit from trees. They were eventually pushed out of the area and slept close to Scarborough. Subsequently, extra rangers have been put in position to prevent the troop from sleeping at the Scarborough-facing side of Grootkop.

The Da Gama Troop is a habitual raiding troop and will take every opportunity to raid. It has been shown during the past year that, regardless of which sleep site they use, if town or the residential

area is visible to them, they will attempt to go there unless rangers set up effective lines to prevent them from doing so.

Management strategy for the troop has therefore been highly adaptive and it is clear that at no point can one afford to be blasé when managing this troop. In addition, we constantly need to devise new strategies to prevent them from raiding.

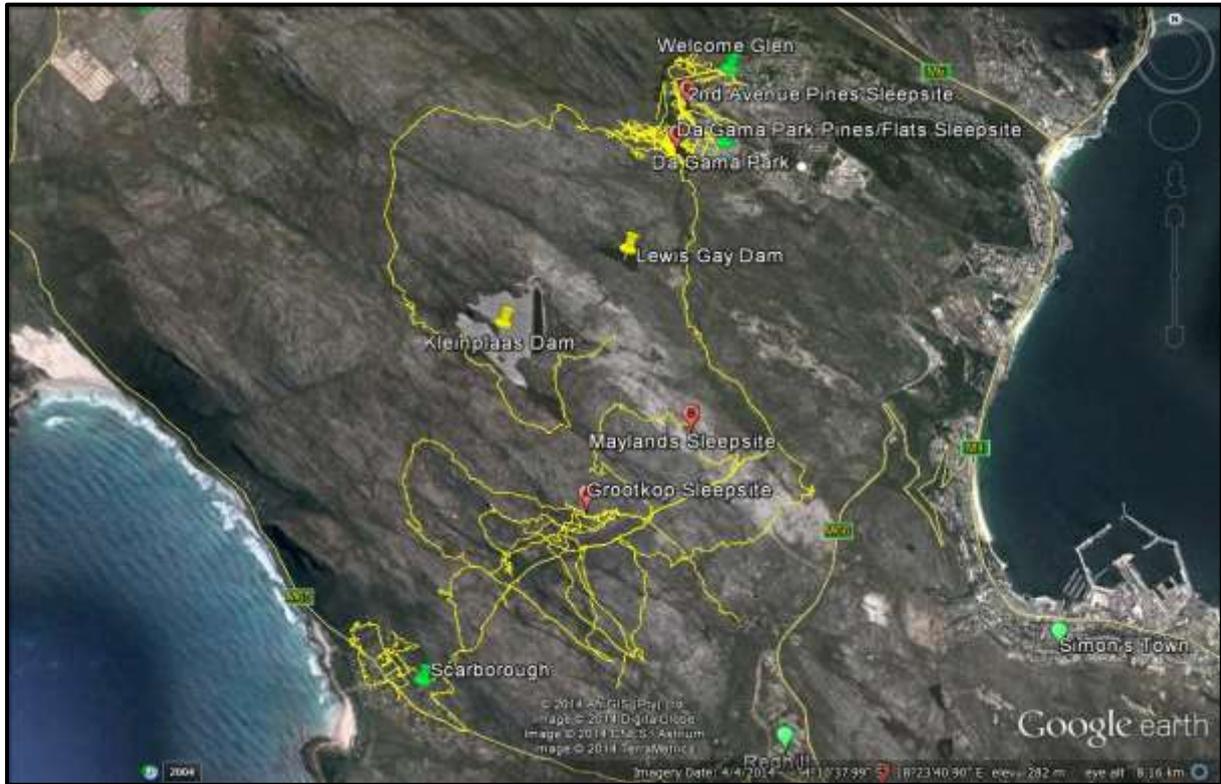


Fig.6. Movement patterns of the troop, which covered an extensive range during this reporting period.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																														
SOUTH EAST		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL								
BABOON TROOP:	Da Gama	In urban area	Raid bins	Non malicious damage	Attacking pets	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	Raid occupied house or vehicle	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	Nocturnal Raiding																						
MONTH:	August	2014																														
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL		
Troop		2	2																				2							3		
SK3	M		2						1	2	2	2	1				1	2								2	2	2		11		
DG1	M	6,6	6	2,6	8	1	5						1			5	2	2								2	6	1		15		
DG10	M	6,2					1																							3		
DG11	M	6	6		6		1	2	6	8	1	1	1				1	2							1	2	1	2	2	17		
DGF1	F										2	2														1				4		
DGF2	F																									1				1		
UnID Females	F				2	1	1			1	2	2,5	2	2,2				1								1	2	2	2	15		
UnID Female	F						1	5	1																					3		
UnID Male	M							1																					2	2		
UnID Juvs			6,6		7,6,6	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2,6	1				1	1							1	6	2		19		
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																								HRS						
Troop	3,2		240	80																											10,33	
Individuals	15,0		240	80	390	270	130	145	120	85	120	300	155				30	105								15	330		80		48,25	
Males	19,6	185	240	80	370	60	310	345	210	405	20	300	130				40	80	125							20	90	330	20	120		63,00
Roost:	AM	1,2,3,4	2	2	2,8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	22	20	17	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	2	2	2	2		
Roost:	PM	2	2	2,8	2,3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18	20	17	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	2	2	2	2		
Roost Sites		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22									
		Flats	Compass Bakery	Witsand	KL sleep site	16th Avenue, DG	Pines - Flats	Pines - Outspan	Slangkop	Maylands	16th Avenue, DG	Pines - Da Gama	Pines - Welcome Glen	Jacks Shop	Elsie's Peak	Rasta Camp	Sport Fields Stables	Rotary Camp	Ocean View	Grootkop	Scarborough											
ID Features of Baboons		DG1: Collar + blue & yellow tags; DG10: Collar + white tags SK3: Collar + green & yellow tags, DGF1: collar + blue & white tags																														
General remarks		26 - means that the Da Gama Troop slept just out of Scarborough																														

Fig.7. Da Gama Troop Raid Sheet

Births and Deaths

Two Births were recorded in the Smitswinkel Troop.

Four births were recorded in the Da Gama Troop.

DG 10, from the Da Gama Troop, was euthanased on 1 August.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SANAD: Baboon-proofing recommendations urgently need to be implemented, which includes the removal of fruit trees.

Smitswinkel Troop: Collaring of SWB1 and two sub-adults is urgently required to manage these animals pro-actively.

Waterfall Troop: In order to manage the troop effectively it is necessary to collar both WF2 and an adult female as RH2 is currently the only baboon with a collar and is not often in the same location as the troop. It would then be possible to manage WF2 and the troop far more effectively.

On-going education and law enforcement is needed in Da Gama Park and along the tourist routes.

Waste management needs urgent attention especially at the Da Gama Park flats where a new waste disposal system needs to be developed. Waste management at houses in Da Gama Park also needs to be addressed as it has deteriorated back to the same state as in 2012.

Red Hill: Waste management and education is needed at the Red Hill informal settlement and on the surrounding farms.

South Western Region – Area Manager: Nick Shaw

1. Groot Olifantsbos Troop

The GOB Troop remained at the Red Hill roost site for the first half of this reporting period. On 14 August, the troop moved away from this roost site and back to the Olifantsbos area. This occurred at almost the same time as during the previous year, which is also a good indication that the spring weather has brought an increase in available forage in the Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) Reserve.

The timing is fortuitous as, during the past month, GOB7 entered the Red Hill Settlement on three separate occasions. Each time the rangers were unable to stop him as he ran through private properties through which he could access and cross Red Hill Rd. The rangers followed GOB7 and were present when he exited Red Hill and no raids were reported. On the edge of the settlement are a number of vegetable gardens, which were most likely the target of the raids.

Since 14 August, the troop has not been seen in the Red Hill area and the telemetry signal suggests that they have been near Olifantsbos since then.

The battery of the GPS collar that was fitted on GOB7 a year ago has run flat, hence there is no GPS data point map this month.

2. Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop

The Misty Cliffs Troop spent the majority of the month in the CoGH Reserve. The increased availability of natural forage in the Reserve has made it possible to hold the troop there for longer periods. This has resulted in a dramatic reduction in raiding of Scarborough this month, with the exception of the two individuals GOB9 and MCF2 that repeatedly run for Scarborough, leaving the troop behind.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																														
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: Misty Cliffs		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
MONTH: August		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
YEAR: 2014		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal raiding																							
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
GOB9	M	2	2	2	1	2					2	2				2		2			2,6		2	2		2	2	2	1	17
MCF2	F	2	2	2		2																	2	2		2		2	1	9
MCF3	F	2	2	2		2																						2	1	6
Troop		2	2	2		2																						2	1	6
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																						HRS						
Troop	4.4	240	150	120		180																						150	40	14h40
Males & Females	10.5	240	150	120	60	180					45	60				105	180			45	300	120			270	50	150	40	35h15	
Roost:	AM	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	
		1	Misty Cliffs		2	CoGH Reserve		3												4				5						
		6			7			8												9				10						
ID Features of Baboons	GOB9 has a VHF collar and Pink/White tags																													
General remarks																														

Fig.8. Raid Sheet for Misty Cliffs Splinter Troop – August 2014

August Raids:

On 14 August, GOB9 raided an occupied house in Gemsbok Rd.

All other raids this month were of bins and unsecured compost bins.

Comments and Observations

Although the troop was prevented from entering Scarborough from the Reserve, GOB9 and MCF2 were persistent in their attempts to run for town. On a few days this month, these two spent as much as five hours hiding in properties in Scarborough. It was noted that the remainder of the troop did not seem interested in following these two when they broke away from the troop.

On 16 August, GOB9 and MCF2 did not return to the troop and instead made their way to the Misty Cliffs roost site and spent the night there. They both returned to the troop the following day. MCF2 was not in oestrus at the time and it is therefore likely that these two pair together for the sole purpose of raiding in town. MCF2 has a history of spending hours alone hiding in properties and GOB9 has learnt to do the same.

It is suspected that the properties where they hide are where they are fed by residents, but there is little proof to support this. A Scarborough Security employee reported seeing a resident hand-feeding MCF2 but the resident could not be positively identified.

The troop follows MCF3 when they are in the Reserve, and if this individual does not head for town the troop will settle down and forage along the coast all day.

3. Slangkop Troop

The Slangkop Troop has spent time at both the C2 and C3 roost sites this month. As weather conditions become warmer, the troop will spend more time at the C3 roost site.

The map below shows the movements of the troop this month.

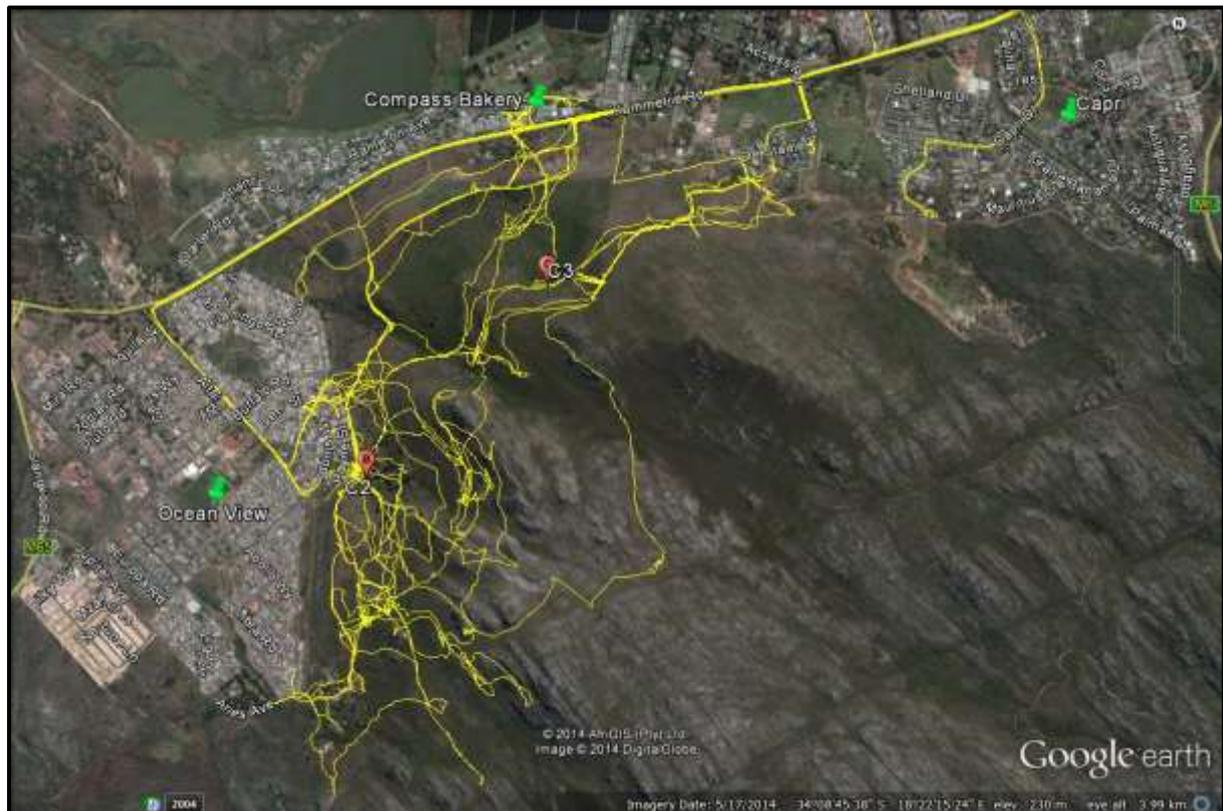


Fig.9. Data logger map for the Slangkop Troop – August 2014

August Raids:

All raids this month, with the exception of one, were of bins at Compass Bakery.

On 13 August, the troop entered Capri and raided bins in Jamaica Close. This was the only urban raid by the troop this month.

On 19 August, DG6 was involved in an altercation with a dog in Payne St, Ocean View (Detail below under Comments and Observations).

SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																												
BABOON TROOP: Slangkop		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																							
MONTH: August		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																							
YEAR: 2014		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																									
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	TOTAL
DG6	M	2	2	2	2						2			2	2					2							2,4			10
SKF1	F	2	2	2	2						2				2					2		2					2		2	10
SKF2	F	2	2	2	2						2				2					2										7
Troop			2	2	2						2									2										5
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												
		%																							HRS					
Troop		1.6	75	60	45						55									90										5h20
Males + Females		2.0	10	75	60	45					55			10	10					90		10					15	20		6h40
Roost:		AM	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	
Roost:		PM	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	
Roost Sites		1	Slangkop			2	Ocean View			3	Compass Bakery			4	Witsand			5												
		6				7				8				9				10												
ID Features of Baboons		DG6 has a yellow cable tie tag																												
General remarks																														

Fig.10. Raid Information Sheet for Slangkop Troop – August 2014

Comments and Observations

With the increase in naturally available forage this month, the troop has spent significantly more time in the mountains compared with previous months. This has helped considerably in reducing raiding of Compass Bakery. The troop was involved in one brief urban raid this month, although individuals were involved in raiding bins in Ocean View.

On two occasions this month, SKF1 headed to Compass Bakery alone but returned to the troop soon after.

On 19 August, DG6 and a juvenile went into the back yard of a house in Payne St, Ocean View where two dogs attacked and killed the juvenile baboon. DG6 went to the defence of the juvenile and attacked one of the dogs, which resulted in injury to the dog's head.

Births and Deaths

One death, and one birth were recorded in the Slangkop Troop this month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GOB Troop: The movements of the troop must continue to be monitored through telemetry in the absence of a working GPS collar. The last couple of months, when the troop has been in the Red Hill area, they have been in close proximity to people and houses. It is imperative that, during the summer months, the troop is kept away from the area in order to reduce the negative effect this has had on the raiding behaviour of the troop, and GOB7 in particular.

Misty Cliffs Troop: During the winter months, the troop spent a considerable amount of time in Scarborough raiding municipal bins, compost bins and houses. The summer months ahead will provide the opportunity to reduce raiding by holding the troop in the CoGH Reserve. Currently, the only two individuals still insistent on raiding in town do not seem to exert much influence on the rest

of the troop, but this will need to be monitored closely. As far as possible, the ranger team must try to manage these individuals and prevent them from breaking the line, but the main priority is to prevent the troop from crossing the fence into Scarborough.

Slangkop Troop: The troop has begun spending more time in the mountains, which will reduce the chances of them crossing Kommetjie Rd to raid Compass Bakery. This last month, SKF1 broke away from the troop to raid the Bakery on her own but this was because the troop was not high up in the mountain. As the natural forage becomes more plentiful, the team should encourage the troop to forage higher up in order to reduce the likelihood that individuals will leave the troop to raid.

Northern Region – Area Manager: Robyn Khoury

1. Tokai Troop

The Tokai Troop has spent most of this month in the lower lying areas of Tokai Plantation however, on warm and dry days, rangers have been able to push them into the higher sections of the plantation, around levels two and three. To a large extent, rangers have let the troop forage in the lower lying sections while attempting to hold the urban lines and prevent raiding within the surrounding non-urban areas. This allows the troop access to lower lying forage, which is highly sought after during winter.

The intermittent days of warmer weather this month have allowed plants to begin their spring growth and therefore provided more natural forage for the baboons. This plant growth will increase during the following months, especially in the upper and more natural sections of Tokai Plantation.



Fig.11. Tracking data for the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops.

During August, no births, deaths or serious injuries were reported for the Tokai Troop.

2. Zwaanswyk Troop

The Zwaanswyk Troop was difficult to manage this month, and, as the Zwaanswyk fence was malfunctioning, containing the baboons in the Tokai Plantation proved problematic.

On 5 August, the horse gate on Zwaanswyk Close malfunctioned and was left open, which resulted in the troop entering and running into Zwaanswyk Road. It took several rangers almost an entire day to find the troop in the suburb and return them to the upper reaches of the Tokai Forest.

This breach into Zwaanswyk gave the baboons the opportunity to recognise that there are rich food rewards over the fence, as the properties hold a wealth of fruit trees and animal feed. At this time of year, when forage is naturally low, this offers a considerable incentive for the baboons to keep pushing into Zwaanswyk, which is what occurred during the following weeks. HWS rangers kept the troop out of the area for the rest of the month, however small groups of individual raiders broke the line and headed into Zwaanswyk on an almost-daily basis as the fence malfunction continued to allow easy access into Zwaanswyk.

In addition, when the fence is operational, another option remains for the baboons to run down the fence line and past the hut at the bottom of Zwaanswyk Road, hence circumventing the fence. To prevent this, HWS has a ranger permanently posted at the hut and this appears to be blocking the majority of these attempts.

When the baboons have been in Zwaanswyk, there have been a few serious raids and instances of baboons entering houses however, although rangers have coaxed the individuals out and over the fence on every occasion, they have often been denied access into properties which has resulted in the baboons finding refuge for hours within the area.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																														
NORTH		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening/attack/stealing food from per																									
BABOON TROOP:	Zwaanswyk Trp	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																									
MONTH: July - August	YEAR:2014	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																									
BABOON ID	Sex	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Total		
Untagged Adult Male	M						5	1						1		2	1		1		1		1	2		2			1	13		
TKF 7 (Red)	F						1									5														2		
Sub adult	M							1		5			1				2													4		
Un-ID fem	F									5				1	1	1	1		1		1				1	2		2		1	13	
Un-ID Juvenile								1						1	1		5													4		
The Troop												1																		1	1	
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																										HRS				
Troop	2.2												420																		7.00	
Individuals	5.9									20				180	180	180	60		100							40		120	150		45	18.92
Males	0.6																									75						1.92
Roost:	AM	1								1	1	4	8	1	8	1	1	1	2	1	4	4	8	1	1	1	2	4	4	4	2	2
Roost:	PM	11								1	1	4	8	1	8	1	1	1	2	1	4	4	8	1	1	1	2	4	4	4	2	1
Roost Sites	1	Tea Garden			2	Upper Tea Garden			3	Level 1 Tokai Clearing			4	Level 1 Zwk Blue Gums			5	Level 2 Stream														
	6	Lower Guest House			7	Upper Guest House			8	Manor House			9	Tokai bridge Blue Gums			10	Level 2 Pines														
	11	Other			12				13				14				15															
ID Features of Baboons																																
General remarks																																

Fig.13. Raid sheet for the Zwaanswyk Troop. Bold and italics indicate raids that took place in the non-urban areas.

This month has seen a surge in raiding by both the Tokai and Zwaanswyk Troops, which has resulted in a spike in Hotline calls. The majority of these calls are from Zwaanswyk residents who have called the hotline to report movement, behaviour and give updates on the baboons present in the area. It has not been unusual to get five or six calls, within a few minutes of each other, to report the same baboons being present in Zwaanswyk, and then to receive regular updates thereafter. The increase in hotline calls should be interpreted with this in mind.

3. Constantia

The Constantia Troop has been pleasantly quiet this month, which has been fortunate given the demands from the Tokai Troop. The troop spent the majority of its time on Groot Constantia foraging on the natural farm vegetation, and on the barley growing between the vineyard rows.

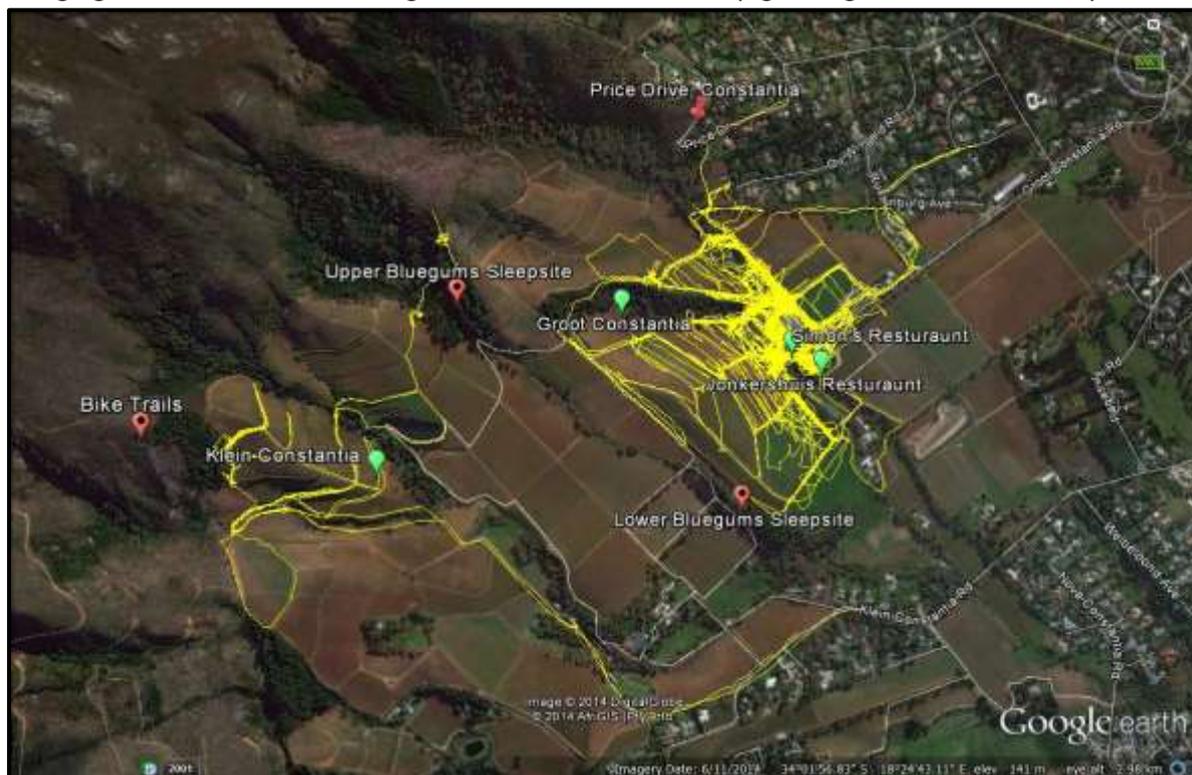


Fig.14. Tracking data for baboon rangers following the Constantia Troop.

The restaurants on Groot Constantia continue to be raided by males, particularly CON5, who has found it a very profitable practice. This includes stealing food directly off tables, which are generally unoccupied. However, CON5 also enters the kitchen and steals food, which is recorded as a higher category raid (category 6). HWS rangers endeavour to prevent these raids whenever possible.

It was also reported that CON5 had approached a person on Groot Constantia and stole a bag from them. This is very concerning behaviour as it demonstrates an increasing lack of fear for humans. This individual will be monitored closely during the following months to try to prevent this behaviour becoming habit.

This month, houses in Price Drive, Bellair Drive, and Ou Wingerd Road have been visited by individual males, in particular CON2, CON7 and TK15. On all of these occasions, the offenders were returned back to the troop as quickly as possible although, quite often, individuals that had left the troop, were found on their way back to the troop before the rangers reached them.

One birth was recorded on 19 August.

C. GENERAL COMMENTS ON ALL BABOON TROOPS

Population Data

Population Data for the Ten Managed Troops on the Cape Peninsula							
TROOP	Total End Dec 2012	Total End Dec 2013	August Births	August Deaths	Total Births 2014	Total Deaths 2014	TOTAL CURRENT POPULATION
Da Gama Troop	54	44	4	1	5	4	45
Smitswinkel Bay	23	21	2		5	3	23
Waterfall	28	30			0	1	29
Groot Olifantsbos	19	19			0	0	19
Misty Cliffs Splinter	18	17			0	1	16
Slangkop	33	40	1	1	2	2	40
SUB TOTAL	175	171	7	2	12	11	172
Zwaanswyk	25	30			1	3	28
Tokai	61	70			9	7	72
Mountain	33	44			3	0	47
Constantia	60	72	1		3	6	69
SUB TOTAL	179	216	1	0	16	16	216
TOTAL	354	387	8	2	28	27	388

Fig.16. Population data for the ten managed troops on the Cape Peninsula.

Although there were noticeably more births (8) than deaths (2) recorded this month, the general population trend that was suggested in the July monthly report, viz. that the managed population of the peninsula baboons seems to be stabilizing, still seems to be holding true (Fig. 17).

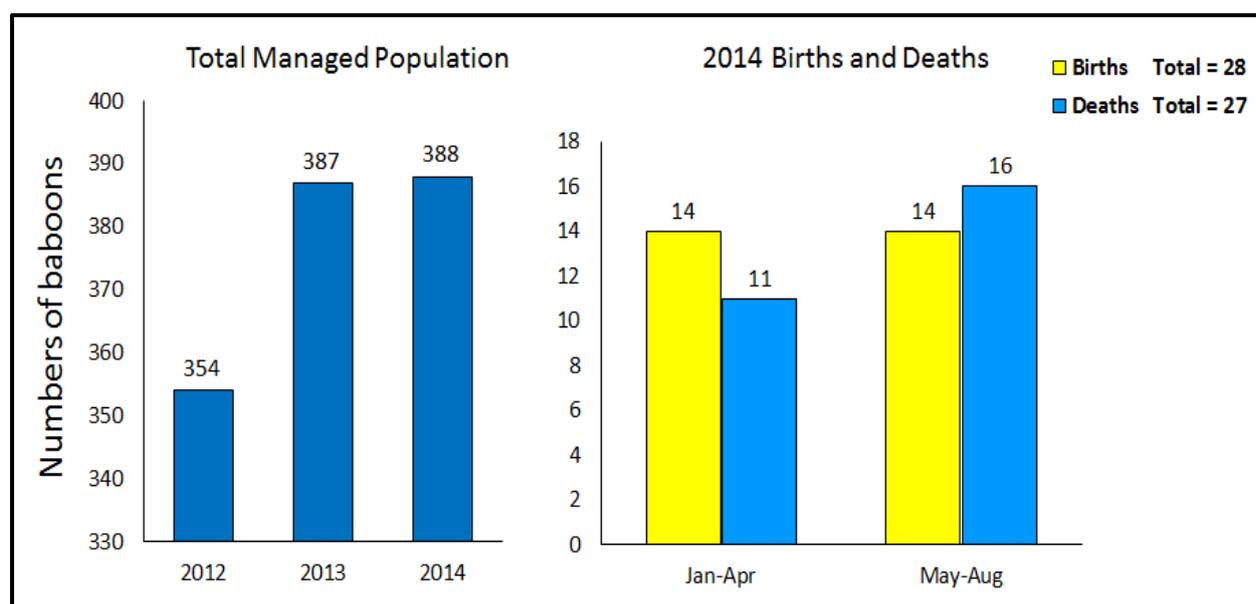


Fig.17. Total population figures 2012 - 2014, and birth and death rates for summer and winter of 2014.

The population of managed baboons increased by 34 during 2013, but this year to-date, the population has remained stable and is currently only one more than that at the end of December 2013. Thus, the number of births and deaths this year differs only by one.

Baboons are not seasonal breeders and this year there has been an equal number of births recorded for the four months each of summer and winter. In terms of deaths however, there does seem to be a bit of a seasonal trend with more deaths recorded during winter (16) than during summer (11). This point is discussed later under seasonal raiding patterns.

Hotline Data

This month, HWS received its all-time record number of hotline calls. There was a total of 183 calls, with 146 reporting raids in managed areas. This is approximately double our monthly average (See Fig. 19), with 94 (64%) calls being made in response to two relatively minor occurrences.

These were namely; (i) the electricity supply to the Zwaanswyk fence was intermittently faulty along a few sections; and (ii) a subordinate male in the Tokai troop, TK40, that was harassed by the alpha male and, as a result, starting to show dispersing behaviour into the adjacent urban areas.

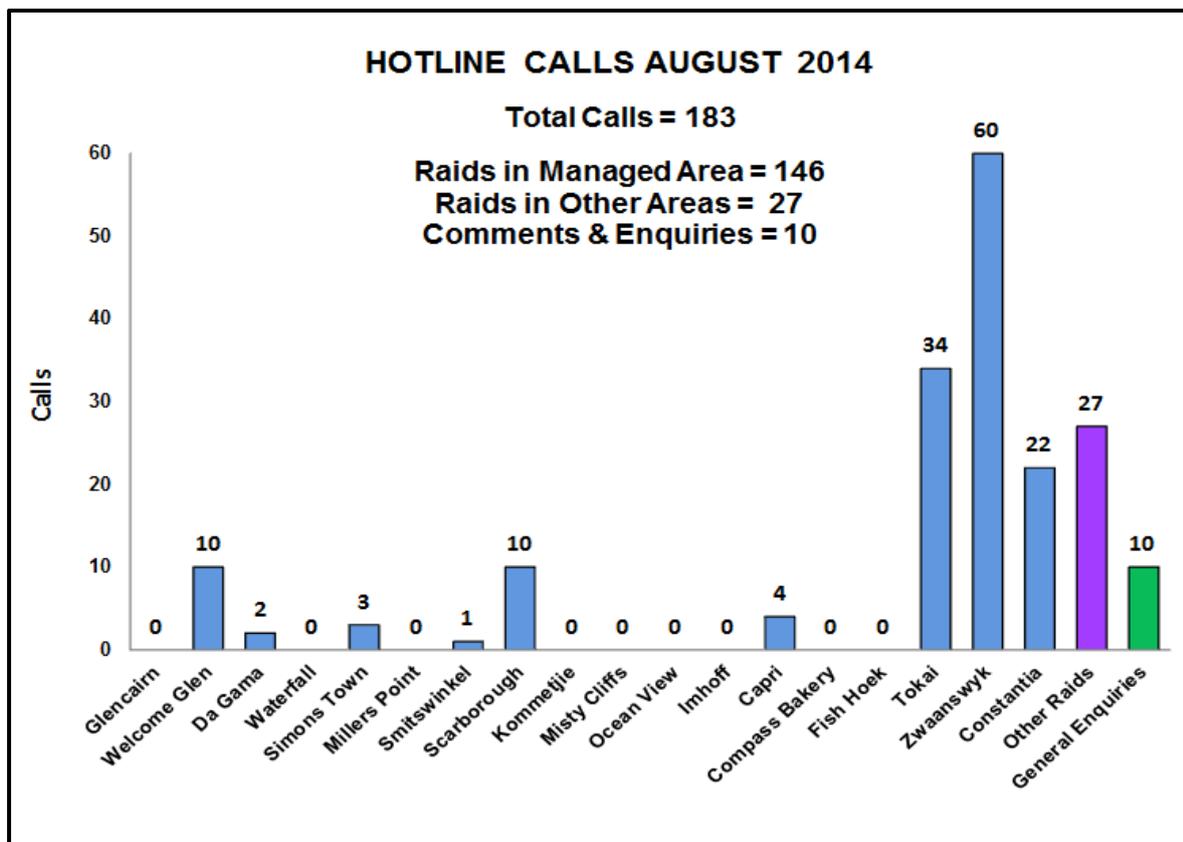


Fig.18. Hotline calls summary per urban area.

A summary of all the hotline calls made in response to baboon raids in the managed areas over the past three years is given in Fig.19. (over page). It is noticeable that, since August 2012 when intense management with paintball markers and bear bangers began when HWS commenced managing the baboons, there has been a marked decrease in hotline calls, with current calls on average being less than half they were before the introduction of paintball markers. Another very noticeable feature, is that the total numbers of calls made over the past two years are remarkably similar (876 vs 894).

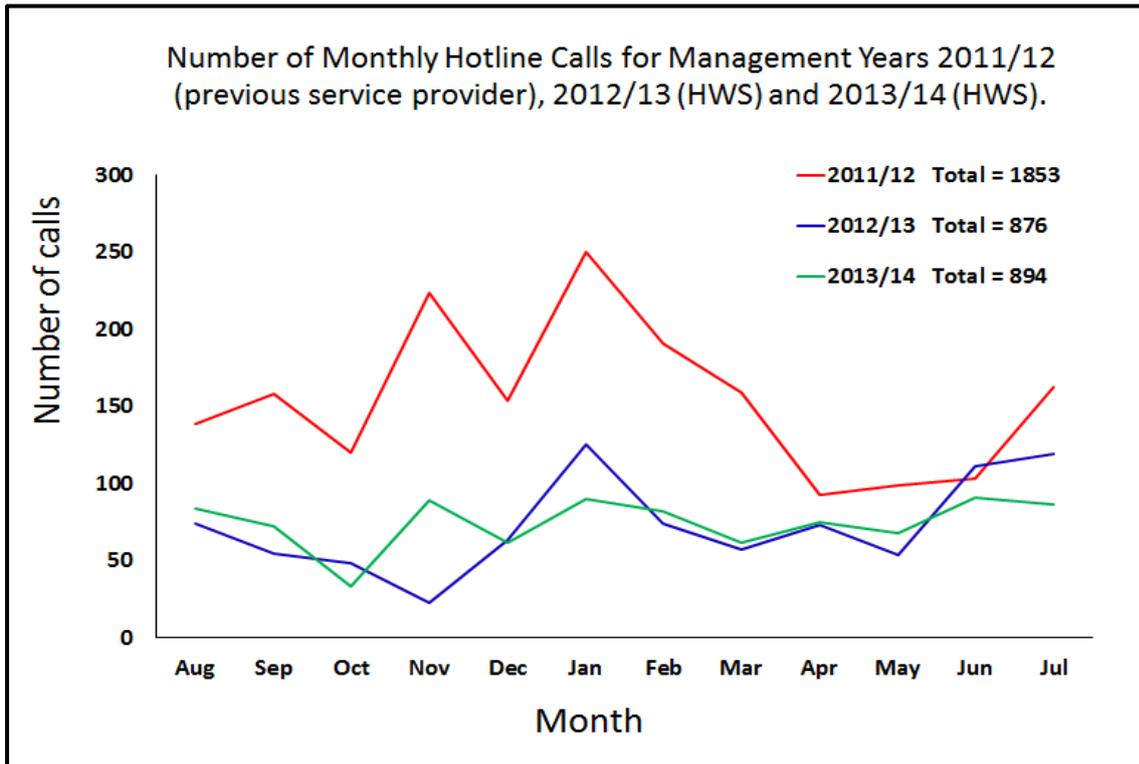


Fig.19. Hotline Calls over three management years from August 2011 to July 2014.

Despite receiving a record number of hotline calls over the past month, the types of raids reported are more encouraging with 87% of calls just reporting baboons being in the urban area (Fig. 20). This pattern was true for both Zwaanswyk and Tokai. As usual, raids of occupied houses were the next highest recorded type of raid (6.8%), and this is presumably because raids into occupied premises are almost invariably reported.

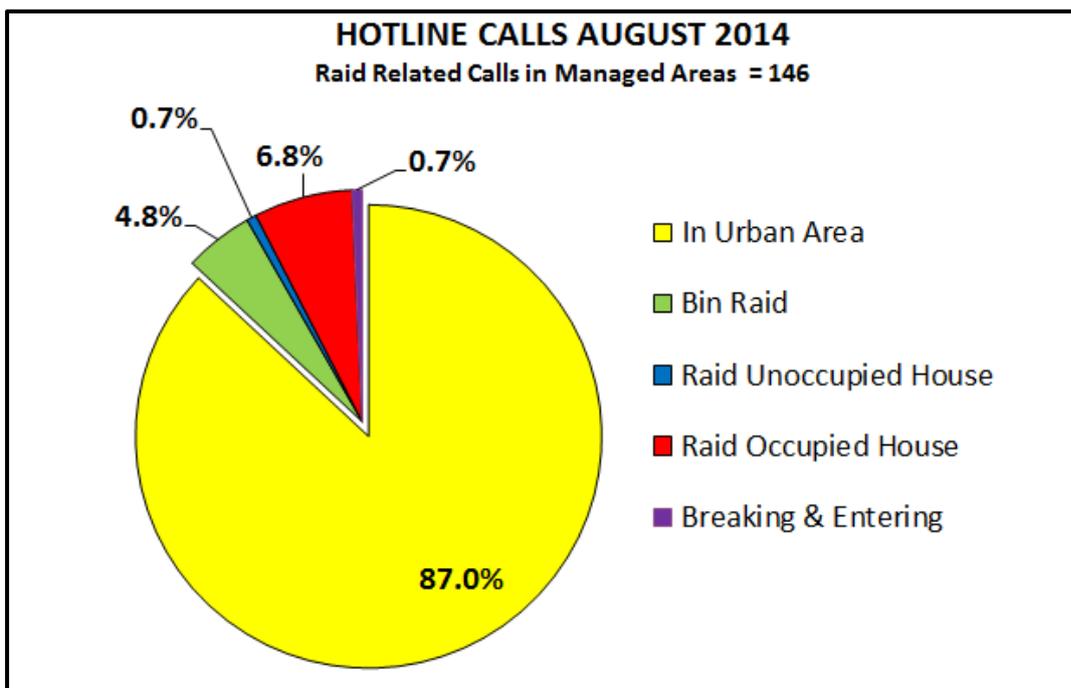


Fig.20. Composition of Raid-related hotline calls.

Percentage Time out of Town

This month, with the weather warming up and plants starting to grow again, there has been an increase in the amount of time the baboon troops spent out of the urban area. Although the average percentage increase over all the troops was not large (98.2 – 98.8%), there was quite a substantial increase for the Misty Cliffs Troop, where the percentage time out of town increased from 88 – 96%. This can be attributed largely to the troop being returned to the CoGH reserve and sleeping at the Bonteberg sleep site instead of Misty Cliffs.

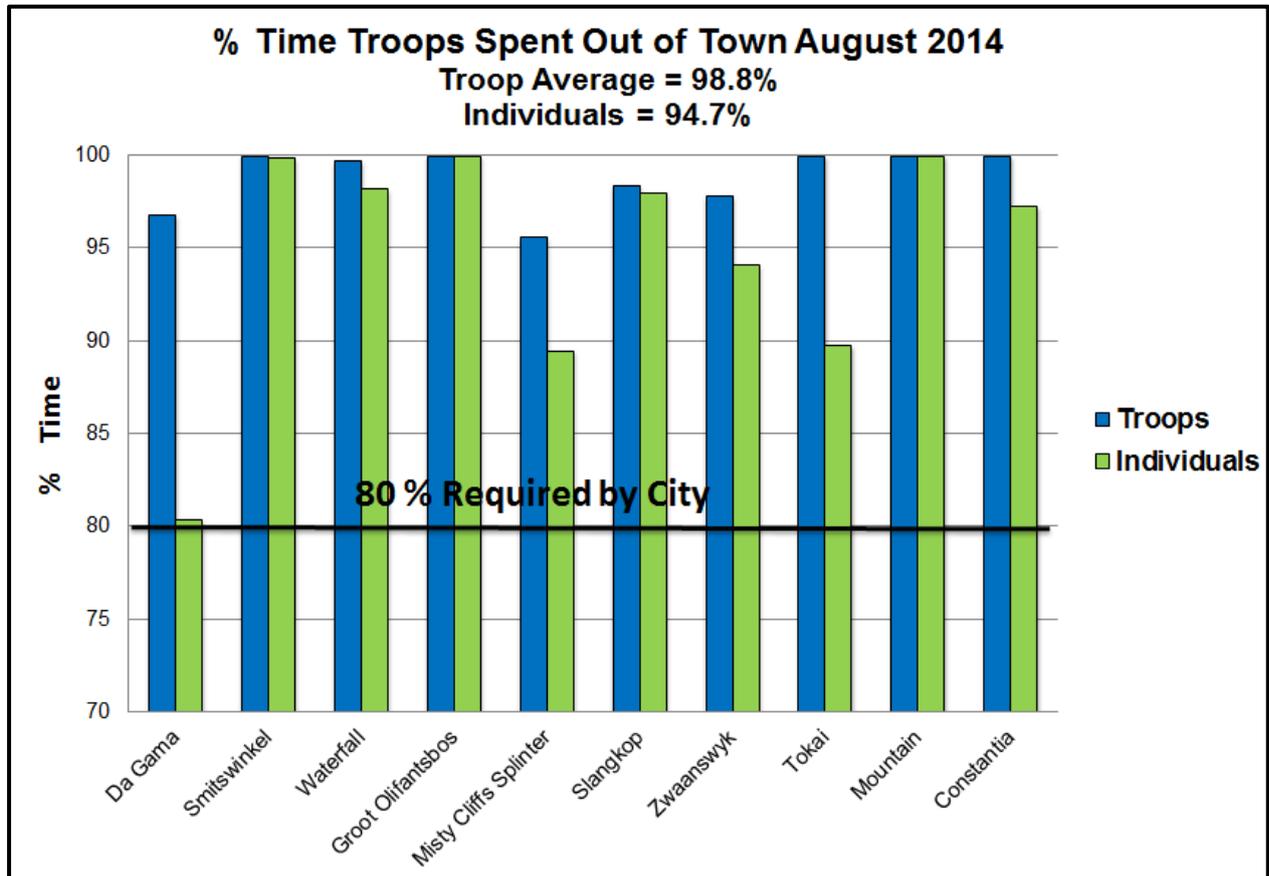


Fig.21. Percentage time troops spent out of town during August 2014.

These data have been summarised for all troops over the past year (Fig.22. over page). The relative trends between the troops are much the same as for August, with Misty Cliffs remaining the worst behaved troop with its annual average time out of town dropping down to 93%.

It is encouraging to note that the annual average time out of town for all troops was 98.8%. This is almost 19% above the tender mandate set by the City of Cape Town.

When these data are considered on a monthly basis, one can see that there is quite a clear seasonal trend, particularly for males / individuals (Fig.23). In spring and early summer, the baboons spend the greatest amount of time out of town, because this is when there is an abundance of natural food available in the fynbos. This drops off towards the end of summer as the hot and dry season reaches a peak and there is less food and water available in the fynbos. Then, with the arrival of winter when it is cold and wet and there is very little vegetation growth, the baboons tend to move down the mountain for shelter and to raid for human derived foods.

Thus, winter is the season when the baboons spend the most amount of time in town. It also appears to be the season when the old and infirm are most likely to die (see Fig. 17).

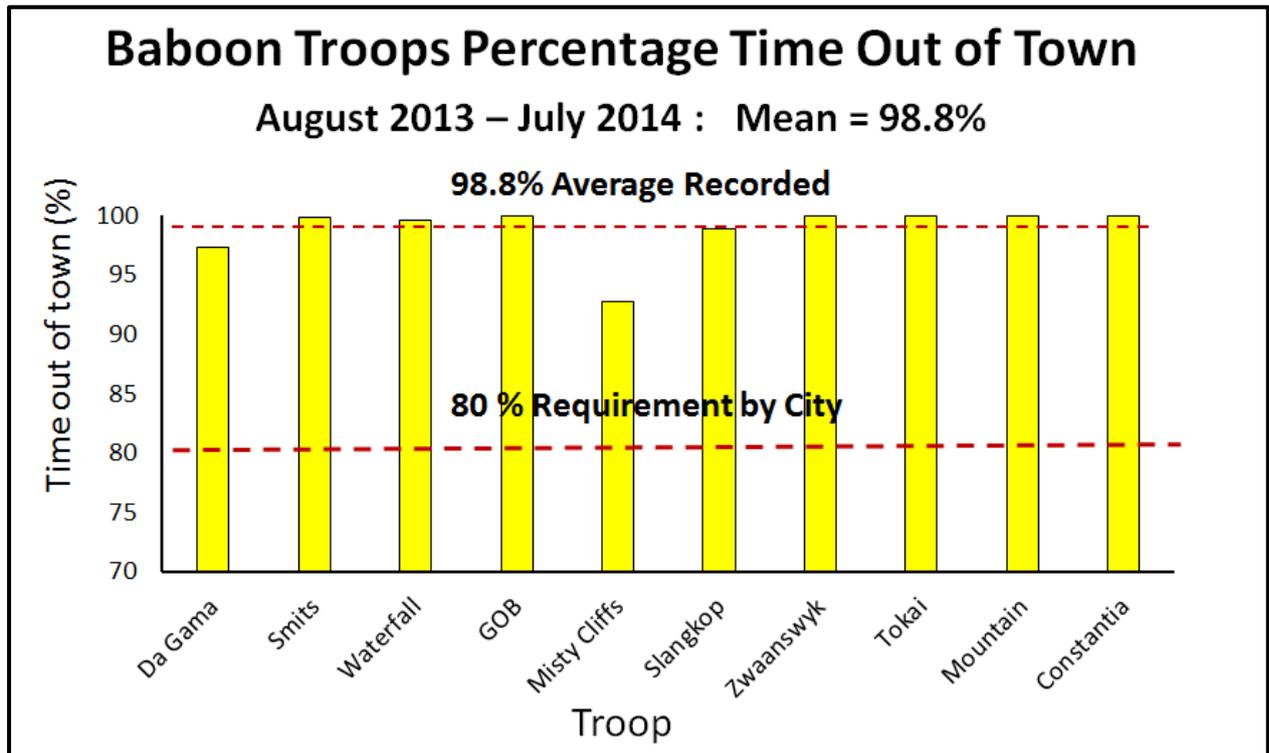


Fig.22. Percentage time the managed baboon troops spent out of town from August 2013 to July 2014

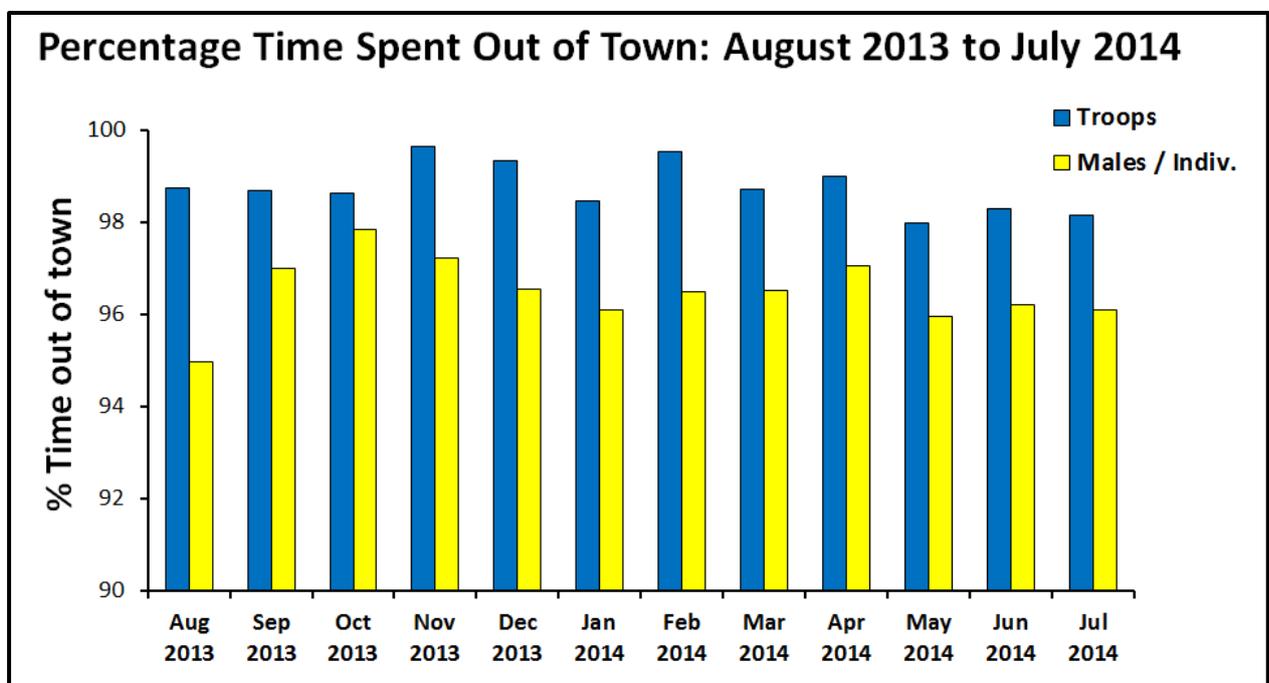


Fig.23. Percentage time troops and individuals spent out of town, from August 2013 to July 2014

This interpretation of the baboons’ seasonal raiding patterns is supported by the data in Fig.24, where all raids for troops and males / individuals are illustrated on a monthly basis over the past two years. Raids are further sub-divided into bin raids and assertive raids, where assertive raids are

defined as all raids into houses, or where baboons attacked or threatened people or their pets. There are three very noticeable trends evident in Fig.24.

The first trend, is that individuals raiding on their own (almost exclusively adult and sub-adult males) committed almost 10 times as many raids as troops (4392 vs 472 raids over two years). Secondly, individuals committed over 20 times more assertive raids than troops (also see Fig. 25). In summary therefore, adult males (individuals) raid much more frequently than troops, are much more aggressive than females, and are also inherently much more intimidating than females. The nett effect of all this is that, although troops of baboons may cause much more physical damage in terms of food lost or damage to furniture, individual males are likely to cause much more psychological damage in terms of trauma to residents in urban areas.

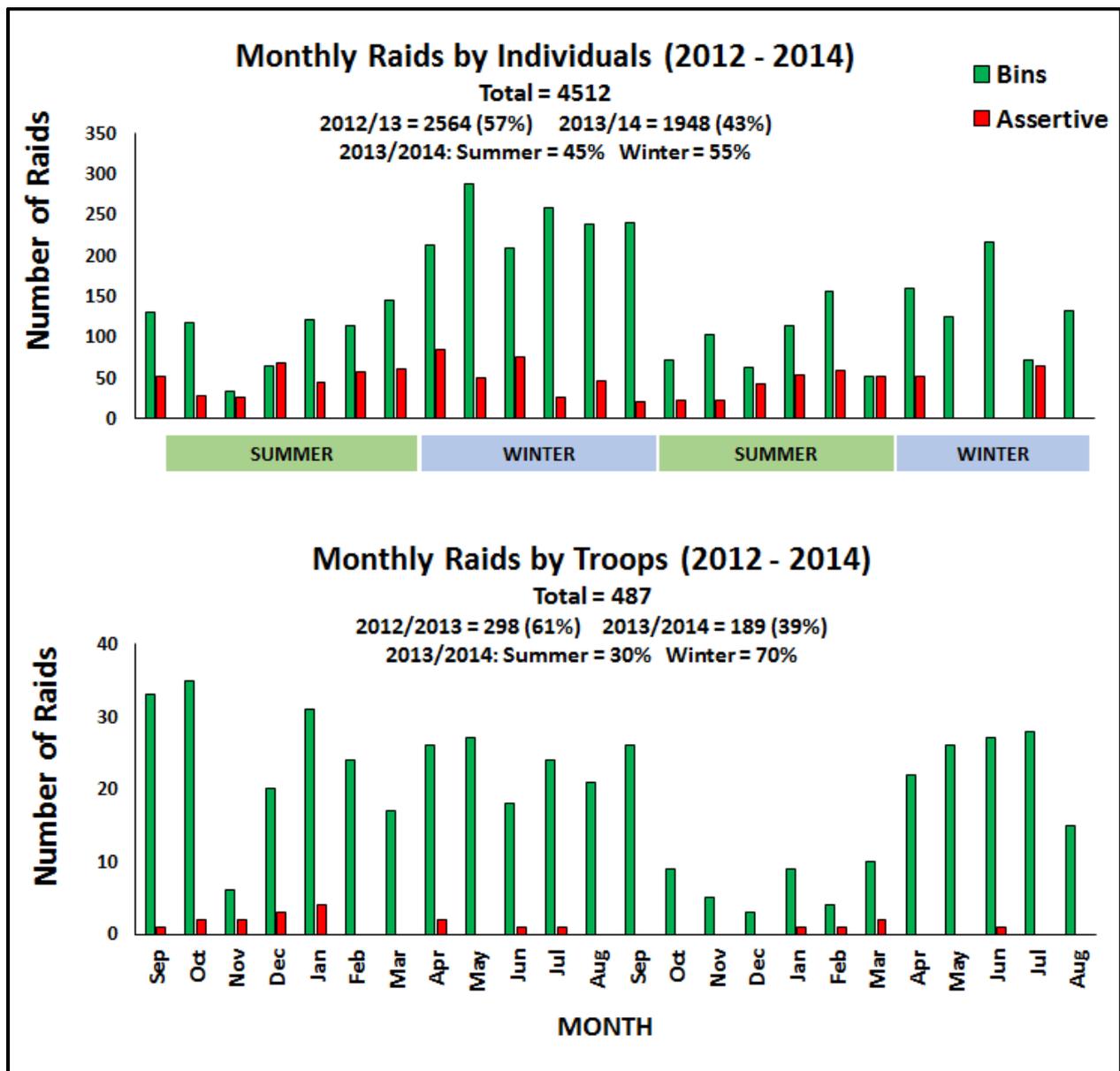


Fig.24. Raids by individuals (mostly males) and troops from September 2012 to August 2014. (Assertive raids are defined as those where baboons enter occupied or unoccupied houses, or attack or threaten people or their pets).

The third trend evident in Fig. 24, is the seasonal raiding pattern suggested in Fig. 23, namely that all baboons tended to raid significantly more in winter than in summer. This pattern is evident for both

individuals and troops, although is more pronounced for troops which committed only 30% of their raids in summer. The pattern was also more pronounced in the second year than in the first, when HWS was still very active in trying to bring the troops under control and train them not to raid town. Thus troops committed over 20% less bin raids in 2013/14 year compared to the previous 2012/13 year.

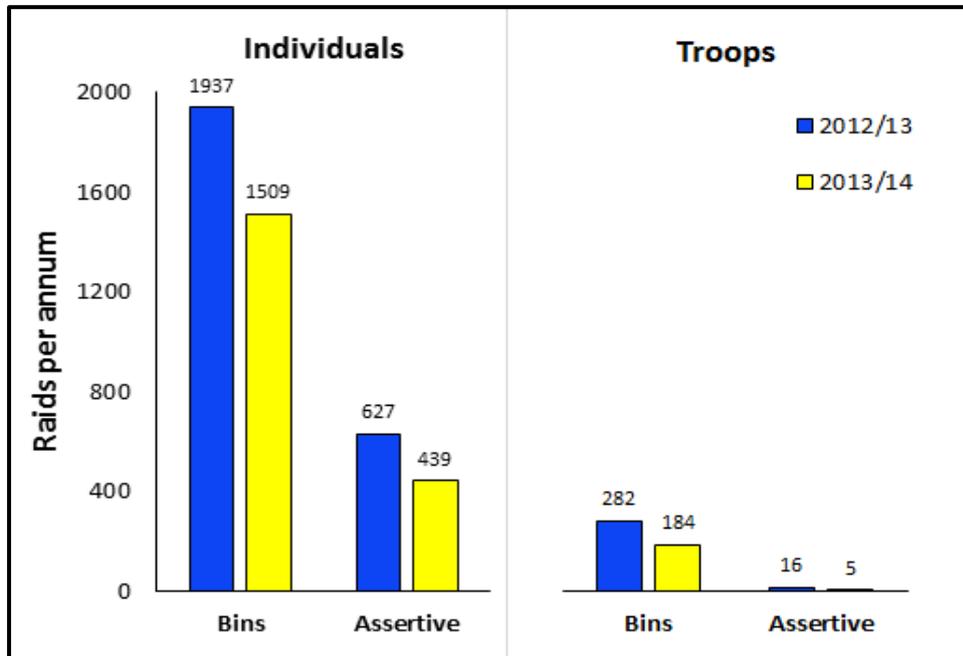


Fig.25. Comparison of raids by Individuals and Troops: 2012 to 2014.

The differences in raiding rates between the first two years of HWS managing the baboons are illustrated in Figure 25. It is evident that for every category, the number of raids recorded was always greater in the first 2012/13 year than it was in the following 2013/14 year. These data therefore strongly suggest that although the baboons have continued to raid and the number of hotline calls has stayed much the same for the past two years, the effects of HWS management are being felt by the baboons, and the incidents of all types of raids are progressively decreasing.

In summary therefore, there is a seasonal difference in raiding, with troops and individuals raiding less in summer than in winter when they are more stressed to find natural food. There is also an annual difference, with all baboons raiding more in 2012/13 than in 2013/14 when the baboons had been under aversive conditioning control for a year longer. HWS anticipate that this trend will continue, and are striving to make the decline in raids over the next year be even greater than that for the past two years.

There is one final trend that is evident, but less obvious, in Figure 24. This is that for individuals, assertive raids seem to remain more or less constant throughout the year and do not follow either the summer / winter pattern, or the 2012/13 vs 2013/14 pattern evident for all other raids. Bin and assertive raids by individuals are illustrated in Figure 26. Bin raids follow the normal pattern of being committed much more in winter than in summer. This pattern again corresponds to the availability of natural food. However, the pattern for assertive raids committed by individuals is very different from that for troops.

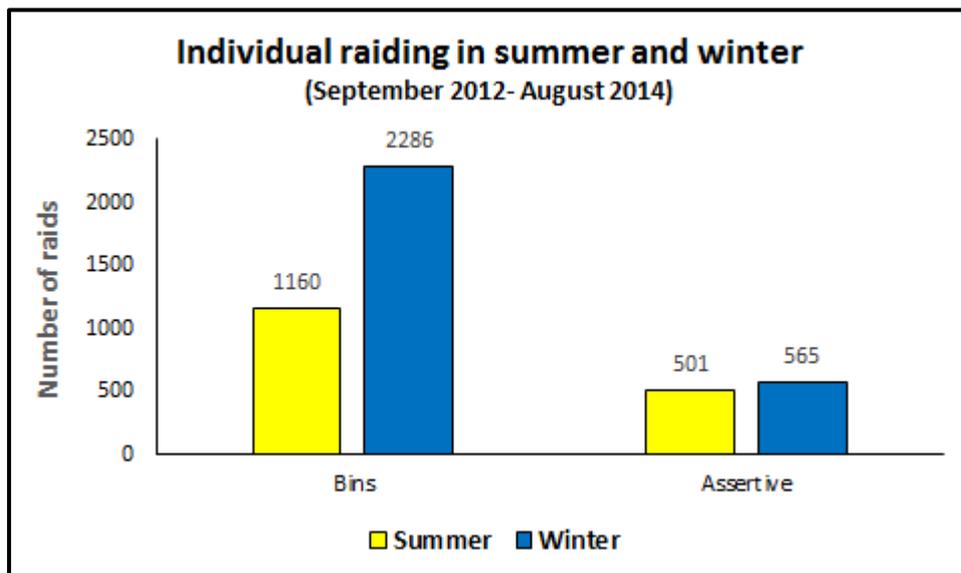


Fig.26. Comparison between bin and assertive raids during summer and winter.

It is very noticeable that there is no significant difference in the frequency of assertive raids committed by individuals in summer and winter. HWS' interpretation of this, is that there are two types of baboons that commit individual raids. There are those, which include males and a few females, which are not aggressive, but in times of food shortage leave the troop in order to raid for food found more easily from bins and fruit trees in town.

The other group of raiders are the aggressive males, which have little or no fear of humans (and often paintball markers), and have been raiding for so long, that they consider it almost a way of life. To them, raiding is a much quicker way of finding food both in summer and in winter. These baboons have no fear of humans to limit them going into houses, and therefore aim at the much quicker and richer rewards that may be obtained from raiding houses. Here, food is fresh and ready to be consumed by humans, as opposed to that in bins, which contain only reject food.

It is these highly aggressive baboons, which have very little fear of humans, which are periodically euthanased for excessive raiding. This trend of male baboons continually growing up into the house-raiding lifestyle, will only end when one can stop them from learning this behaviour from older baboons, which they follow into town as they grow up into adulthood.

Dr. Philip Richardson
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