



TANGANYIKA

Annual Report
of the
Game Department
1953



1-57 G. H. Wynne

1954
PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER
DAR ES SALAAM
Price Shs. 3/-

Hippo are numerous in the swampy lakes along the coastal belt between Dar es Salaam and the Rufiji. For the most part the residents are Muslims and do not eat hippo flesh. As a result there is little incentive for them to kill hippo and they resign themselves to accepting the annual toll hippo take of their crops.

In non-Muslim areas, for instance in Morogoro and Kilosa Districts, where half the population thrives on hippo meat, the position is entirely different and hippo are easily kept under control.

In Ulunga District 113 hippo were killed by Scouts in the defence of crops, as compared with forty-one in 1952. In most areas they do far more damage than elephant and in consequence game scouts are instructed to give more attention to them.

A game scout was posted temporarily to the Agricultural Department's experimental rice field at Lupiro on the Kilombero near Ifakara. Hippo did some damage to the crop early in the year, as also did elephant, waterbuck and hartebeest. The game scout was later replaced by night guards which resulted in a 90 per cent drop in damage done by hippo and almost 100 per cent drop in damage done by other game.

In the Mto-wa-Mbu area game did some damage to standing crops. The local land-owners did little to help themselves, though a few enclosed their fields with thorn hedges which proved most effective.

In the Central Range rhino have proved individually troublesome at times, mostly due to having to frequent water-holes used by humans. Forty-four rhino had to be shot on this score.

Around Urambo the only crop raiders of any note were wart hog which, as a result of a vigorous campaign during the dry season, appear to be under control.

4. MAN-EATERS AND STOCK-RAIDERS

There were no major outbreaks of man-eating or stock-raiding during the year.

In the Kisasi area a man was killed by a lion and although the killer could not be traced, no more trouble was experienced in this region. A few isolated cases were reported from the coastal districts. The game scout at Kisiju, in conjunction with the local inhabitants, organized a drive and six lions were killed. While damage by lion will be less as a result of this action, damage to crops by pigs, which abound in the area and are preyed on by lion, may be expected to increase.

Trouble was experienced on the Veterinary Department ranch at Kilangali, a few head of cattle being killed by lion, although greater loss was suffered when the cattle stampeded than from the number killed by lion. In the Mkata area, three lion attacked a herd of cattle in daylight. One was wounded by a stock inspector and finished off by a game scout.

Man-eating was reported from Songea, Tunduru, Kilwa, Lindi and Mikindani Districts. In each case the lions were killed either by the local inhabitants or, in Songea and Liwale, by game scouts.



Elephant digging for water in the Luwegu River, Selous Game Reserve. Note the calf suckling in the background.

(c) *Perissodactyla*:

- (i) *Rhino*.—A young rhino captured in 1953 was found to have a very heavy infestation of trypanosomes. Characteristic sores broke out all over the body and there appeared little hope for its recovery. However, by careful treatment and injections with Streptomycin the animal made a complete recovery.

Major Russell, honorary Game Ranger, estimates that there are still roughly 1,000 rhino around the Ngurdoto area in Arusha District. Rather more than in previous years had to be shot in and around cultivation in this area. Being such stupid animals, they often refuse to move when challenged by a shot past their ears.

A very light, battleship-grey, rhino was seen near Masaka, Manyoni District. This coloration was not due to mud. Unfortunately the eyes could not be seen, but the light coloration may have been due to partial albinism.

Rhino are rare in the Western Range. There are a few left on the Wembere river, and one chased a railway inspection car on the Nyahua mbuga. One was killed near Iigwa and another at Ulyankulu near the Igombe stream. There are still a few left along the Malagarasi river in Kasulu District.

- (ii) *Zebra*.—"I noted a partial albino zebra on the Serengeti during January, and observed them calving during January and November in the same area. The greatest concentrations that I saw during the long dry season—July to November—were in the Mara river area. Could they possibly be Serengeti animals?"—Mr. A. C. Brooks.

(f) *Artiodactyla*:

- (i) *Bushpig*.—Bushpig continued to wreak havoc among cultivation. Young ones, under a month old, were observed at Ligunga, Liwale, in June.
- (ii) *Warthog*.—"On the Serengeti I observed new-born young during January and February."—Mr. A. C. Brooks.
- (iii) *Hippopotamus*. In the Kilombero, where hippo are vermin, much indiscriminate shooting went on and resulted in many angry, wounded hippo which delighted in upsetting passing canoes. Where possible, the wounded ones were killed by game scouts.

"In the Rukwa, hippo have had a fairly miserable time. During the height of the drought about 106 remained in the Kisanku-Rungwa water course where the remaining mud holes were not sufficiently deep to allow them to keep their skin damp. As a result the skin became blistered and cracked. About fourteen sought refuge at Chemchem. The main herd of about 150 went to a large mud hole near Tumba where they could at least remain damp. A few dozen benefited by pools in the Rungwa village cultivation and at Ndido where they got into a bit of trouble with the villagers.



The first flow of the river at the onset of the rains. Thin and with blistered skin, but happy at last this hippo prepares to plunge into the water. Rungwa River, Lake Rukwa Controlled Area.

Anthrax was confirmed in a Red Duiker belonging to the game ranger at Manyoni.

As recorded earlier, a few buffalo died in the Rukwa valley, but the cause was not ascertained.

Mortality was high in wildebeest, zebra and Thomson's gazelle in the Mara River area. Rinderpest was confirmed in the case of the wildebeest. This outbreak is thought to have originated in cattle brought in from the Lolgosen area of Kenya and was spread to the game at waterholes in the Mara Triangle.

4. CROCODILE INDUSTRY

This industry continued to flourish in all the permanent waters of the territory despite a drop in price of skins and a decline in numbers. As numbers have been reduced in "open" waters, a number of hunters have ventured into game reserves and controlled areas. Some have been caught but many have made a fine haul. In Lake Victoria a permit system was introduced by the High Commission which has done much to bring order into a chaotic situation.

"Crocodile hunting is a mixed blessing", says the game ranger, Eastern Range. "There is no doubt that previously crocodile infested rivers are now a lot safer and the annual toll of human lives is less. On the other hand, game animals along the rivers have suffered as a result of their shooting."

In the Ruvu Controlled Area, only three permits were issued, while in the Lake Rukwa Controlled Area only one permit was allowed.

The Elephant Control Officer at Mahenge writes: "The crocodile business got quite out of control when they were taken off the permit system. A horde of Rufiji invaded the Kilombero, having wiped out the crocodiles in their own country, and proceeded to do the same and kill off the game, in the Kilombero. To counter this, shooting crocodiles at night was prohibited and this caused most of the hunters to leave."

5. BREACHES OF THE GAME LAWS

A summary of convictions obtained in Subordinate Courts, but not in Native Courts, is given in Appendix VIII. Either because more people indulged in law-breaking, or because those who did were less careful than of yore, or because of intensified work by the staff of the department, more convictions were obtained than in 1952. Most convictions were obtained against Africans many of whom offend through ignorance. The position should be eased with the introduction of local game licences since the African hunters may be expected to understand the simple Native Authority game rules.

It is believed that ivory poaching and smuggling has continued. Though an officer was posted on the coast for two months specially to investigate leakages in ivory, few results were obtained, other than a list of suspects, as his presence soon became known—be it noted, through no fault of his own. Evidence obtained on the coast of Tanganyika, however, led to two arrests in Zanzibar.

Rhino horn, too, particularly after the phenomenal rise in price from Shs. 35/- per lb. to over Shs. 70/-, is the subject of illegal traffic. An Arab and an Abyssinian were caught by a game scout near Longido with nine horns. They were convicted and fined Shs. 300/- each. After the case had been heard,

the horns were stolen by the court messenger, but by the time he was arrested he had already disposed of them:

Common offences by the richer hunters are hunting from or near to a motor vehicle, and, judging by the number of wounded animals that may be seen in the more frequented hunting areas, wounding animals and not following them up. Game scouts operating on foot are of little use against motorized hunters, and it is extremely difficult for the game ranger to pin an offence on a particular party when there are two or three parties operating in one area. There is no doubt that small four-wheel-drive vehicles are the greatest modern danger to game. Not only do they enable hunters to penetrate areas they could not formerly have reached except on foot, but also they make for slack shooting by allowing a close approach by car and a shot from inside the car or immediately adjacent to it. Since game rarely associates man with a car, particularly if the approach is made up-wind, there is no longer the necessity for a careful and deliberate stalk before the hunter fires at the unsuspecting target. A good case exists for a ban on the use of four-wheel-drive vehicles for hunting.

In this connection, the Game Ranger, Southern Highlands Range, reports:

"Near my camp one evening, after stalking two European gentlemen trying to shoot guinea fowl, out of season, and bustard, protected in the range, I decided to meet them. After saying I thought the game shy and difficult to approach, I was given the 'low-down' on how to do it—just drive a Land-Rover across the plain until the animals tired and in this way giraffe could easily be shot. I thanked them for their help and noted the number of their car."

Hard work by the Game Ranger, Tanga Range, resulted in the recovery of twenty-six tusks weighing 490 lb. and thirty-nine rhino horns weighing 224½ lb.

The value of this haul to Government was over £1,100, equivalent to the game ranger's salary for twenty-three months.

The Game Ranger, Eastern Range, assisted by game scouts, a police corporal and a constable, by a series of surprise raids collected in one night 350 lb. of ivory and eight leopard skins, together with the poachers. The value of this haul amounted to about £320.

Hunting with snares, especially in Morogoro and Kilosa Districts, has started once again, following a lull of almost a year after a previous clean-up. So many snares have been confiscated, though not as many as in 1952, that poachers will have to curtail their activities if for no other reason than that wire is in short supply.

6. GUN CLUBS

There are several active gun clubs with shooting rights over various dams and swamps. Reports of the activities of clubs are given below:

(a) *Nzega Gun Club*.—1953 was the first active year of the Nzega Gun Club. There was no formal membership at the beginning of the year, but by the end of 1953, the membership had risen to eighteen, including fourteen Europeans, one Indian, two Arabs and one African. All races are aware that they may apply for membership, but with notable exceptions, little enthusiasm has so far been shown by non-Europeans.

DETAILS OF ANIMALS CAPTURED, 1953

A.—MAMMALS			
Species	Number Captured	Species	Number Captured
1. <i>Primates</i> :		4. <i>Proisodactyla</i> :	
Monkeys	79	Zebra	33
Baboons	2	Rhino	19
1. <i>Carnivora</i> :		5. <i>Artiodactyla</i> :	
Jackal	1	Bushpig... ..	1
Genet	5	Warthog	1
Civet	1	Hippo	3
Mongoose	1	Giraffe	21
Aardwolf	2	Fland	20
Hyena	8	Buffalo	5
Wild Cat	1	Duiker	1
Caracal	2	Reedbuck	1
Serval	4	Oryx	2
Leopard	2	Wildebeest	28
Lion	2	Suni	2
Cheetah	6	Dikdik	1
3. <i>Proboscidea</i> :		Thomson's Gazelle	5
Elephant	7		
B.—BIRDS			
1. <i>Struthioniformes</i> :		6. <i>Gruiformes</i> :	
Ostrich	64	Coot	2
2. <i>Ciconiiformes</i> :		Crowned Crane	12
Marabou Stork	1	Greater Bustard	8
3. <i>Anseriformes</i> :		7. <i>Charadriiformes</i> :	
Egyptian Goose	2	Dove	10
4. <i>Falconiformes</i> :		8. <i>Cuculiformes</i> :	
Secretary Bird	11	Cuckoo	2
Vulture	1	Go-away Bird	3
Kite	1	Love-bird	9,062
5. <i>Galliformes</i> :		9. <i>Coraciiformes</i> :	
Francolin	22	Ground Hornbill	3
Guinea Fowl	38	10. <i>Passeriformes</i> :	
		Starling	7
		Finch	39
C.—REPTILES			
Python	4		

NOTES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

1. *Insectivora*.—Specimens of the four-toed elephant shrew, *Petrodromus*, caught at Mbatl, Kilwa District, on 2, 3 and 4 July, 1953, had embryos or were suckling young.

2. *Chiroptera*.—Little has been recorded of the breeding seasons of bats in Tanganyika so the following data from the Southern Range are of particular interest:

Scotophilus? Three females caught at Mkangalawe, Liwale, on 28.11.53, were gravid.

Pipistrellus? A female taken at Tandamange, Liwale, on 19.12.53 was suckling a youngster.

Tadarida? A female captured at Mkundi, Liwale, on 22.12.53, was suckling a youngster.

The following new records for the Rukwa valley are given by Mr. L. D. E. F. Vesey-Fitzgerald:

Eidolon helvum, *Nycteris capensis*, *Lavia frons* and *Rhinolophus fumigatus*.

Omitted from Swynnerton & Hayman's checklist of Tanganyika mammals (1951) is:

Kerivoula argentata Tomes, 1861, *P.Z.S.*, p. 32, from Otjoro, South-west Africa. It has been recorded from Old Shinyanga.

3. *Primates*.—*Galago senegalensis*. A new-born youngster was taken at Mikangalawe, Liwale, on 29.11.53.

Omitted from Swynnerton & Hayman's (1951) checklist is:

Galago demidovii thomasi Elliot, 1907, *Ann. Mag. N.H.* 20: 189, from Beni, Semliki valley, eastern Belgian Congo. It has been recorded from Madehani.

4. *Carnivora*.—*Mongoose*. Two new records for Tanganyika, if the identifications made by the Museum of Comparative Zoology are correct, both from the Southern Province, are:

Herpestes sanguineus cauii (A. Smith).

1836. *Ichneumon cauii* A. Smith, *Rept. Exped. Explor. C. Africa*, 42. Kurri-chaine, Marico District, Western Transvaal.

Herpestes sanguineus ignitus (Roberts).

1913. *Mungos ignitus* Roberts, *Ann. Transv. Mus.* 4: 76. Malava, Boror, north of the Zambezi, Portuguese East Africa.

Lesser Mongoose (*Herpestes* sp.).—They are found throughout Tanganyika in one form or another. Writing of the Southern Range representatives of this attractive animal, the Senior Game Ranger says that "though they are mainly nocturnal, they are partially diurnal in habit and may be seen on the move during the mornings and evenings. If disturbed, they take refuge in holes and advantage is taken of this habit when collecting them. Once down the hole, they are either dug out or, if the hole is too large for this, we put a fish trap—'ngonyo'—baited with a live chicken placed in a separate compartment outside the hole and return next morning to inspect it. The animal's method of killing chickens by biting off the heads is very characteristic. They are usually solitary.