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COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF KENYA

**GAME DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT,
1950**



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ANALYSIS OF LICENCES ISSUED

A. NUMBERS ISSUED

LICENCES	1937	1938	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Visitor's Full	27	20	—	—	11	41	63	45	65
Visitor's 14-day	24	27	2	—	1	9	21	28	27
Resident's Full	200	176	217	324	499	438	477	496	816
Resident's 14-day	77	97	42	63	90	92	101	116	188
Resident's Private Land	163	192	159	143	147	147	151	162	203
Bird	870	915	601	692	778	900	1,189	1,090	1,489
Elephant, 1st	88	41	67	150	271	128	159	116	190
Elephant, 2nd	13	5	7	24	100	16	15	8	12
Rhino	33	27	37	30	64	87	102	76	125
Giraffe	2	5	—	—	6	9	11	11	26
Ostrich	7	16	15	23	30	51	63	68	92

B. ISSUE BY RACES 1950

LICENCES	European	Indian	Goan	Arab and Somali	Native
Visitor's Full	64	1	—	—	—
Visitor's 14-day	27	—	—	—	—
Resident's Full	690	123	—	2	—
Resident's 14-day	181	5	2	—	—
Resident's Private Land	192	11	—	—	—
Bird	980	406	47	2	54
Elephant, 1st	170	20	—	—	—
Elephant, 2nd	11	—	—	—	—
Rhino	113	12	—	—	—
Giraffe	26	—	—	—	—
Ostrich	78	14	—	—	—

SALE OF TROPHIES AND SKINS

	1949	1950
Sale of ivory at Mombasa	19,545 lb.	25,458½ lb.
Average price of ivory	11/70 per lb.	15/40 per lb.
Sale of rhino horn at Mombasa	1,374 lb.	1,421 lb.
Average price of rhino horn	27/60 per lb.	30/80 per lb.
No. of certificates of legal possession for articles made of leopard skin	1,243	2,682
No. of certificates of legal possession for whole leopard skins	182 certificates for 918 skins, of which 433 skins came from neighbouring territories.	253 certificates for 658 skins, of which 254 skins came from neighbouring territories.
No. of sale permits for leopard skins	294 permits for 561 skins, of which 269 came from neighbouring territories.	287 permits for 544 skins, of which 157 came from neighbouring territories.
Sale permits issued for trophies other than leopard skins	553	205
Certificates of legal possession for trophies other than leopard skins	1,626	2,682
Permits to sell ivory and rhino horn	151	153
Certificates of legal possession for ivory and rhino horn	240	655

These figures reveal the large trade in leopard skins. It is probable that under 50 were shot on licences; the rest were presumably killed "in defence of property" or illegally obtained from Africans. Measures will be taken under the new Ordinance to preserve the leopard, one of the main predators of baboon and pig, and a beautiful animal, and to keep this trade within reasonable bounds. Leopard skins fetch anything from £8 to £20 each.

Over £1,000 worth of skins were sold at headquarters. These were mainly confiscated leopard skins and the skins of animals shot on control, mainly zebra, Zebra skins, if properly tanned, will fetch up to Sh. 50 each.

Mention must be made of the "crocodile industry" which has sprung up, mainly on Lake Rudolf where three concerns are functioning. Kenya has not got the same number of crocodiles as Uganda and Tanganyika, therefore a consistent crop could only be obtained in Lake Rudolf or in Lake Victoria.

Figures show that nearly 300 crocodiles per month are being obtained from Lake Rudolf. The Lake Victoria Fisheries Board has made rules regulating the industry in Lake Victoria but this Department has no information of any regular cropping in that lake. Two hunters made about £400 in six weeks approximately in the Upper Tana River, but they informed the Game Warden that this rate could not be maintained. Crocodiles are scarce in the middle and lower reaches of the Tana. Possibly this is due to the activities of the near-ambitious Pokomo and other tribes who inhabit its banks. Lake Rudolf can only provide a perennial crop and 1951 figures of catches will make interesting reading. Crocodile hides fetch anything up to Sh. 80 each. As they are not game animals no licence is required, so that this industry is tax free. There is no danger of the crocodile becoming extinct, but of course our old friend the balance of nature must not

within reasonable bounds and it is known that their main diet is the catfish, which in turn preys on the tilapia. However the situation is being closely watched and Kenya may have to introduce regulations similar to those in force in Tanganyika Territory and Uganda.

III—CONSERVATION AND CONTROL

In a country like Kenya which is being rapidly developed, control and conservation are inseparable. The main task of the Game Department is the enforcement of the Game Laws and the control of wild animals where they interfere with the spread of the human race. It is acknowledged that human interests must come first, but so often the interests or rather enrichment of one or two individuals is preferred to the preservation of wild life. A formidable task awaits the Game Department and its sister organization, the Kenya National Parks, to convince the public by propaganda that the wild life is the Colony's best asset and a trust held on behalf of the whole world. Once wild animals disappear they can never be replaced.

In the cause of wild life preservation closest co-operation was kept with the National Parks Trustees, of whom the Game Warden is one *ex officio*. The Game Warden always discussed all major problems with the Director, Col. M. Cowie. The position in Kenya is unique in East Africa where all the game reserves are controlled by an organization which is not a Government Department, though of course it receives a Government subvention. Outside the Game Reserves and the National Parks, the importance of serving human interests and the development of new areas for use by humans and their livestock is undoubtedly resulting in the disappearance of game. To mention one of many examples, the Kaputei paddocking scheme for Masai cattle will mean the eventual removal of game between the Athi River and Simba, and no longer will the spectacle of game, as one awakes in the morning on the train from Mombasa, be possible until the Nairobi National Park is reached a few miles from the city.

In areas like Narok an attempt will be made in 1951 to interest the local African in game preservation. Already it is noted that a Chief has a Game Reserve in Northern Rhodesia for which he charges a fee to enter. Similarly in Masai an extra fee over and above the usual game licence will be charged according to a tariff for each animal shot, and these extra fees will be paid to the local African District Council. This scheme, if a success, may be extended to other areas, and the African may learn that game animals may be more profitable than a few cattle and small stock.

Capt. Keith Caldwell, who is on the Committee of the Empire Fauna Society, and one of the world's leading preservationists, is fortunately able to spend the winter months in East Africa. He is a strong link with world opinion for after all wild life is not ours to dispose of as we wish but it is a trust for the world. The outlook is gloomy but meanwhile we must do our best.

1950 was a year of exceptional drought, except in some areas in the Coast Province. In that stronghold of game, Marsabit Mountain, practically no rain fell after May. As a result game concentrated in the forest and animals like Greater Kudu which normally inhabit the lower grassy slopes were to be found among the forest trees. On the Lorian Plains at least a dozen dead elephants were found, to say nothing of camels and cattle and small stock of the tribesman dead from drought by the score. Down the Athi River game concentrated and fell an easy prey to the hunter and poacher. The Game Ranger at Makindu had a busy time as his report reveals. Curiously little elephant control in the Coast Province was needed, as rainfall in the hinterland attracted elephants from areas of cultivation. There was a considerable epidemic of rinderpest especially among buffalo in the Isiolo-Maralal-Nyeri-Nanyuki Districts. Mortality is always difficult to estimate especially in the affected areas on Mount Kenya and the Aberdares

game and one can only presume that the strain of rinderpest was a mild one or that animals are becoming immune, or recover. Several dead elephants were found in the Maralal and Isiolo Districts and it is fairly certain that they died of anthrax, which seems to be the commonest disease fatal to elephants.

However, mortality from lack of grazing or even water was probably much higher than from disease. If one travelled through Masailand, one noticed the dead carcasses of hartebeest and wildebeest interspersed among the carcasses of Masai cattle.

Though this Department has no Game Reserves under its control except the Southern Game Reserve, which will be degazetted in 1951, several individual animals are protected outside the reserves, either throughout the Colony or in certain areas. The Game Warden is always being asked how many lions are there in the Colony, are elephant increasing? It is great fun speculating on these matters and your guess is as good as mine. For instance there might be about 2,000 lions in Kenya, and their numbers thanks to protection in Masailand are not decreasing anyhow. Only 36 were shot on control and probably not more than 100 on licence, if as many. Outside Masailand the only place one can be certain of getting a lion is either the Northern Province or Embu area. In the Northern Province lions are extremely wary and to get one a hunt in the real sense is required. Not many sportsmen are willing to do this. The usual modern lion hunt consists of putting out a kill and returning in the morning by car, which is stopped nearby, a short journey on foot, and if the lion is not there a return to camp is made and another kill put out. Few sportsmen kill their lions after spooring. The Game Ranger, Narok's records shows that 1946-48 300 lions were shot in Narok district alone. Now in the 'fly' area alone, that is the country around the Talek and Mara Rivers, there are about 250, of which 35 are maned. It is proposed to keep these lions for photography only as they are much too tame to shoot. As the area is infected with sleeping sickness there are no resident Africans, therefore the lions help to keep the huge head of hooved beasts in reasonable numbers in that area and cannot prey on domestic beasts.

At a guess there may be 18,000 elephants in Kenya. Counts by the Forest Department show there are at least 1,000 on Mount Kenya and about 850 in the Aberdare National Park. About 190 were shot on licence and about 91 on control. In 1950 there was certainly very heavy mortality among the elephant population both from disease—anthrax—and drought. Even so the population is probably increasing slightly.

Rhino, 130 were shot on licence and 84 on control during 1950. Rhino is poached by the Wakamba. In certain places he is decreasing but in others increasing, especially in some of the impenetrable Kitui bush and in the forests. Therefore he is probably holding his own.

Leopard, the Department's biggest headache. A magnificent beast whose skin is unfortunately very valuable. About 50 were shot on licence and 250-300 "otherwise", generally "in defence of property". Anyhow it pays to have a sheep or a goat taken, value Sh. 20, for if you can catch the predator you can get £8-£15 for his skin. It is wonderful how this beast continues to survive; like the bushbuck he is ubiquitous, and everywhere he has a price on his head. Next year measures are to be taken to give the leopard greater protection in accordance with a resolution passed at the Fauna Conference at Livingstone. In Narok it is often possible to get a leopard on a kill by day and get a photograph. As in the case of lions, an area is being set aside where no shooting of leopards will be allowed and the sportsman may be able to get a lovely photograph of this handsome fellow on a kill.

Sable continued to be protected in the Shimba Hills near Mombasa and the visitor can be fairly certain of a glimpse of this fine antelope if he drives through Kwale into the hills. There are probably over 100 sable resident in this area.

These brutes are completely omnivorous. The writer remembers a baboon carrying off a native child in Marakwet. Mr. Bartlett also reports the killing of a black leopard in the Nyeri Forest. Another experienced sportsman affirms that he saw a black leopard in Narok District. Black Serval Cats are not uncommon in Kenya, but black leopards do not appear in any quantity south of Ethiopia.

Captain Salmon reports that a heifer buffalo was stung to death by bees in the Fort Hall District. Some Africans were driving the buffalo off their gardens and the buffalo in its flight knocked over a bee-hive, with fatal results.

Dr. Queeny, a millionaire American naturalist, took some excellent recordings of the voices of birds and beasts. He recorded and filmed the sequence of the Honey-Guide (Indicator), where the bird attracts the attention of a Derobo hunter, the trek to a bees' nest, the extraction of the honey by the Derobo, and the devouring of the grubs by the bird. How did this strange alliance between man and beast arise? The recording of the roaring of lions was relayed back to a pride; the lions became absolutely frantic, milled around and came for the offending apparatus which was hurriedly switched off.

Dr. McChesney Goodall, an American scientist from Sweden, collected the suprarenal glands of carnivora and antelopes. He was investigating the differences in glandular secretions between the hunter and hunted.

VI—HUNTING INDUSTRY

Mention has already been made of the tremendous increase in the number of game licences. Big game provides the biggest tourist attraction. Though 65 Visitor's Full Licences were taken out, quite a number came to photograph game only. The fact is, if everyone shot their licences to the full, game would cease to survive. Major Temple-Boreham in his report gives some interesting figures for Narok, which is easily the most popular shooting ground both for residents and visitors. His registers show that 3,428 head of game were shot in Narok district during 1950. It is the intention of this Department in future to call for more registers from licence holders to ascertain more accurately what game is in fact shot on licence every year.

Close co-operation was maintained with the East African Professional Hunters' Association, of which Mr. Philip Percival is the President. There is no shortage of professional hunters, but some of the younger ones get rather disillusioned when they find that the work consists mostly of disciplining and controlling an unruly client who wishes to break every law in order to get a record trophy in the shortest time.

Most visitors wish to shoot a lion. During 1950 lion were protected in Masai by a close season, as during the period 1946-8 over 300 had been shot. Therefore they were only obtainable in the Northern Province where they are extremely cunning and wary, in fact one has to hunt to get them. Most visitors and indeed most residents are rather shy, to put it mildly, of such hunting, so most visitors went to Tanganyika Territory where tame and easy lions of the Masai variety were obtainable.

The average weight of elephant tusks shot on licence by residents probably exceeded 70 lb. and those shot by visitors with the aid of professional hunters probably exceeded 80 lb. It was no longer possible to visit the middle Tana and get a 100-pounder in a few days, but anyone who was ready to spend a couple of weeks could make certain of an eighty-pounder, and not a few got hundred-pounders. No outstanding tusks however were reported. There are still large quantities of seventy-pounders, and with ivory at Sh. 17 per lb. anyone with patience and skill can make his licence and costs of the trip.

However for visitors a big game safari as now conducted remains a millionaire's pastime and such visitors come almost exclusively from the "new world". It is the hope of the Game Warden that ways will be found to make this sport less expensive and within the means of the "old world" sportsmen.

There is no doubt however that the visiting sportsman, unless he is accompanied by a reputable professional hunter, needs careful scrutiny by this Department before he is allowed a licence. No visitor's licences were in fact issued during the latter part of 1950 without the Game Warden's sanction.

Big game caused a number of fatalities. The main culprit was the elephant who is getting rather peeved at being shot at and wounded by tyros with eyes on the price of ivory rather than sport. About 40 were wounded in 1950. Lion is difficult to obtain and therefore causes few fatalities except among the Masai and the Samburu. However there is a story from the Isiolo area where a lion started to make a meal of the cook of a hunting party! There is a not unusual tale of extreme heroism by an African, in this case a Samburu woman, who beat off a lion attacking her child until warriors came and speared the lion. Rhino probably cause most near fatalities as they are naturally stubborn and ill-natured, and quite often the presence of a poisoned arrow head gingers them up a bit. However they are more easily turned and killed with a heavy rifle. The small and agile leopard generally claims victims, and in 1950 a very experienced hunter who relaxed his usual precautions and followed a wounded one into some grass with a heavy rifle instead of a shot gun, was badly mauled.

VII—CAPTURE OF WILD ANIMALS

Whether zoos are morally justifiable is a matter for argument and conviction, but the fact is that zoos give very great pleasure to millions of people, especially children. Persons, who would otherwise never come into contact with wild life, are enlisted in the cause of preservation and kind treatment of animals, to say nothing of other educational benefits. Let it be clearly stated that the capture of wild animals is never likely to cause the extinction of any species, in fact it is possible that in instances it has prevented extermination.

However the capture of wild animals is very strictly controlled. Only a few experienced trappers who employ humane methods of capture are allowed to function, and they are only allowed to send the animals to approved institutions. The present policy of the Game Department is to allow capture only in these areas where animals have to be removed as they clash with human interests. In fact extermination by shooting or poison is the alternative. The export of wild birds is only permitted in small quantities, and the following list of animals exported during 1950 reveals the relatively small dimensions of this industry:—

4 Rhino.	2 Colobus Monkey.
10 Common Giraffe.	28 Ostrich.
15 Reticulated Giraffe.	20 Rock Hyrax.
23 Common Zebra.	40 Secretary Bird.
3 Grevy's Zebra.	20 Elephant Shrew.
1 Lion.	3 Mackinderi Owl.
4 Leopard.	1 Verreaux's Eagle.
21 Cheetah.	6 Common Vulture.
4 Grevy's Zebra.	4 Fish Eagle.
10 Oryx.	4 Marabou Stork.
8 Hippo.	24 Kavirodo Crane.
9 Hartbeest.	2 Egyptian Vulture.
8 Eland.	4 Egyptian Geese.
6 Thomson's Gazelle.	38 Common Guinea Fowl.
5 Grant's Gazelle.	18 Vulturine Guinea Fowl.
1 Waterbuck.	6 Nile Geese.
2 Common Quail.	6 Crested Crane.

DISEASE AMONG ANIMALS

Early in the year, there was a serious outbreak of rinderpest among the buffalo herds in the Lengishu hills and the mortality was heavy, probably at least 200 animals died between Donio Lengishu and the Uaso Nyiro. The buffalo in the Ngare Ndare valley also contracted the disease but with much less serious results, only a few deaths being reported. Eland in these areas also got the disease but again few deaths were reported. Greater Kudu in the Mukugodo Hills hardly suffered at all; apparently they have developed a high degree of immunity to rinderpest in these areas. During July reports came in of a bad outbreak among buffalo and eland on the Leroghi Plateau with heavy mortality.

Anthrax appeared among elephants south of the Uaso Nyiro. Hitherto the disease had confined itself to the country north of the river where it has been endemic for at least five years. Probably not more than a dozen elephants died of it south of the Uaso during the year. Bulls appear to be more susceptible than cows, perhaps because they usually have more open sores than the females. The incidence of the disease among elephants seems to fluctuate considerably from year to year. According to my observations, the stricken animal develops huge swellings in the limbs followed by great festering sores. This condition in an adult bull is likely to last for several weeks before it succumbs. As far as I know the disease is always fatal, once the sores and swellings have appeared. Ivory from such animals should be treated with the greatest caution. Tusks brought in by natives should on no account be handled or put into stores until inquiries have been made as to how the animal met its death. If anthrax is suspected, the tusks should be buried in a pit and the place enclosed by a thorn boma or fence. Inquiries have been made from various experts and apparently there is a somewhat complicated process known as the "Duckering Process" by which infected ivory can be sterilized. Until the necessary equipment has been obtained and some sort of plan worked out as to how the "duckering" is to be done at the various centres, it is best to leave infected ivory severely alone. I write this for the benefit of Administrative Officers who from time to time have ivory brought in to their bomas.

OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST

The close season for Guinea Fowl and Francolin in the Isiolo and Meru Districts has not proved much of a success as regards the protection of breeding birds. We have now had a chance to observe two seasons, 1949-50 and 1950-51. In both cases game birds started to breed at the beginning of April, that is to say, pairing started within a few days of the end of the close season. I consider that our object of affording breeding birds protection would be better served by having the close season from 1st April to 31st July. A certain amount of breeding does take place during and after the November rains and at other odd times, but I am convinced the main period would be covered by the months from April to July.

POACHING BY NATIVES

The most heavily poached areas in my beat were as follows:—

(a) The tract of sparsely populated country in the Meru district lying between the eastern foot of the Jombeni Hills and the Tana River. A lot of this area is thick bush without any roads, seldom visited by Administrative Officers, and ideally suited to the needs of the gangs of Wakamba poachers who come across the river and establish camps among the forests of Don palms, where they spend their days in brewing palm toddy and hunting game. The surplus of meat and beer is sold to the Meru; trophies such as ivory, rhino horn and leopard skins are either taken across the river and sold to Indian and Arab traders in Ukambani or sold to Somalis who are contacted in the neighbourhood of Kora and Melka Lone. These gentry require an organized force to cope with them as they are far too numerous and truculent to be dealt with by the few

fastened to the bare extremity. This in a short time kills the tree. Big areas of gaunt lifeless stems can be seen in many places. I do not see how this area can be properly controlled until roads are made. At present there is no direct road of access from Meru. A District Officer from Meru wishing to visit the area unexpectedly would have to travel via Isiolo and Garbatulla.

(b) The Uaso Nyiro River from Chandler's Falls to Saricho. Here we have a number of what one might call professional poachers, mostly Wata and Sakuye, who set large numbers of noose traps which catch anything from a giraffe to a gerenuk. They make a business of making and selling giraffe hide water buckets and selling leopard skins and other trophies. Apart from these die-hards there are the Boran "gentry" who organize hunts for sport and spear blooding with the more dangerous animals as their quarry. One cannot help but admire the courage of some of these youths. Often two men will tackle a bull elephant or a lion and often get hurt in the process, although usually the hunt consists of a band of a dozen or more accompanied by dogs. The hunt is in the nature of a sporting contest and it is a point of honour for every man to try and draw first blood. If these praiseworthy activities were confined to lions I would do everything to encourage them, even offer prizes. Unfortunately, elephants and rhino, being easier to find and hunt, suffer the most. They of course have the added incentive of the ivory and horn.

(2) Major E. W. Temple-Boreham, M.C., Game Ranger, Narok—
Annual Report, 1950

GAME GENERAL

The game country proper of this district (i.e. the fly area) has been fortunate during 1950 in having scattered local rain-storms over most months of the year. Consequently there has been plenty of grazing, and the bulk of the game has remained in the game country with little migration to the Loita Plains and Loita Hills of the cattle country.

LION

Lion have now been protected in this district since August, 1948. They continue to breed and thrive exceptionally well in all parts of the game country. These magnificent animals have responded to their protection extremely well and are increasing each year. Most of the lion in the game country are now very tame and it is possible to obtain excellent photographs of maned lions, whole family groups and even of lionesses with small cubs without disturbing them at all.

It has been noticed that lionesses living in the game country have larger litters of cubs than those living in the cattle country. Most litters of cubs in the game country appear to number three to four, and two lots of five cubs were seen during 1950. This is due no doubt to the numerous head of plains game in the game country, where a lioness does not have to go far or work very hard for her kills. Furthermore, all pregnant lionesses have been fed whenever an opportunity occurs.

It is estimated that there are now approximately 250 lion living permanently in the game country. Of this number there are about 35 good maned lions as compared with the very small figure of under 20 in 1948. Previous to this date, lion were being shot out at the rate of over 120 a year by "sportsmen" with game licences. The following figures show the number of lions killed during the period 1st June, 1946, to 31st July, 1948:—

June to December, 1946	..	..	..	..	94 lion
1947	..	..	..	..	123 lion
January to July, 1948	..	..	..	..	75 lion

292

N.B.—Total of 292 lion killed in 26 months.

A total of 24 lion were killed during the month of August, 1946.

APPENDIX A
GAME SHOT ON CONTROL

ANIMALS	Thomson's Falls	Kinangop	Solai	Rumuruti	Maralal	Naivasha	Njoro	Rongai	Sabatia	Elmenteita	Ngobit	Bahati Forest	Total	REMARKS
Elephant	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3 male—tusks 53lb., 48 lb.; 30 lb., 30 lb.; 26 lb., 25 lb.
Rhino	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1 male.
Hippo	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3 male, 1 female.
Buffalo	27	6	9	40	—	9	—	—	—	9	6	—	106	54 male, 52 female.
Leopard	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2 male.
Serval Cat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Civet Cat	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Hyena	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	1	—	—	15	
Jackal	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Baboons	3	—	—	21	—	5	—	—	32	125	—	—	186	
Forest Hog	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	
Bush Pig	3	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	9	
Wart Hog	1	—	—	6	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	12	
Porcupines	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	
Zebra	—	20	—	5	98	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	131	All common Zebra.
Waterbuck	2	—	—	6	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	10	
Bushbuck	11	—	—	8	—	4	20	—	10	—	—	—	53	
Reedbuck	4	—	—	13	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	22	All Bohor's.
Impala	—	—	—	1	1	1	12	14	—	—	—	—	29	
Hartebeest	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	All Coke's.
Duiker	—	—	—	5	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	
Ostrich	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	
Ant Bear	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Total Head	59	38	9	111	100	59	40	20	51	137	7	1	632	