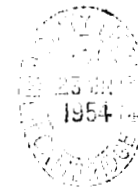


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COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF KENYA

**GAME DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
1952**



52 pp

1953

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LICENCES	B.—ISSUE BY RACES, 1952				
	European	Indian	Goan	Arab and Somali	Native
Visitor's Full .. .. .	87	2			
Visitor's 14-day .. .. .	31				
Visitor's Private Land .. .. .	3				
Resident's Full .. .. .	403	84	3	8	
Resident's 14-day .. .. .	100	3	1		
Resident's Private Land .. .. .	139	18			
Bird .. .. .	905	417	58	57	80
Elephant, 1st .. .. .	73	11			
Elephant, 2nd .. .. .	9	1			
Rhino .. .. .	109	12			
Giraffe .. .. .	14				
Leopard .. .. .	50				
Lion (Masai) .. .. .	46	1			
Cheetah (Masai) .. .. .	10				
Ostrich .. .. .	12	6			
Native Employee's .. .. .	9				
Colobus Monkey .. .. .	6				

Eighty-one registers of game animals hunted and killed or wounded were returned to the Game Warden.

List of Game Shot on Licence in 1952 according to Registers Returned to Game Warden

Elephant .. .. .	24	Lesser Kudu .. .. .	4
Rhino .. .. .	18	Greater Kudu .. .. .	2
Giraffe .. .. .	2	Bongo .. .. .	1
Leopard .. .. .	6	Eland .. .. .	6
Lion (Masai) .. .. .	5	Reedbuck .. .. .	15
Cheetah (Masai) .. .. .	5	Waterbuck .. .. .	23
Ostrich .. .. .	—	Duiker .. .. .	19
Colobus Monkey .. .. .	—	Oribi .. .. .	6
Lion .. .. .	5	Steinbuck .. .. .	6
Cheetah .. .. .	—	Klipspringer .. .. .	3
Serval Cat .. .. .	2	Grant's Gazelle .. .. .	29
Hippo .. .. .	1	Thomson's Gazelle .. .. .	81
Sable .. .. .	—	Gerenuk .. .. .	18
Oryx .. .. .	15	Impala .. .. .	84
Wildebeest .. .. .	24	Dikdik .. .. .	35
Hartebeest .. .. .	34	Common Zebra .. .. .	48
Topi .. .. .	16	Grevy's Zebra .. .. .	18
Hunter's Antelope .. .. .	3	Pigmy Antelope .. .. .	4
Buffalo .. .. .	27	Sitatunga .. .. .	1
Bushbuck .. .. .	99		

Figures speak generally for themselves. The revenue from licences increased slightly but the proceeds of the ivory and rhino sales at Mombasa decreased. The result is that expenditure for the first time exceeded revenue. Increase in expenditure was due mainly to two factors, Cost of Living Allowance and the ever increasing cost of transport. However, the increase in the number of visitor's licences should be noted, and these folk together with many other visitors including film companies who photograph only, bring to the Colony a very large unascertained revenue in the form of tourist trade.

The sale of trophies was very strictly regulated, and it can be said that the sale of leopard skins has been reduced to the minimum possible.

The crocodile continues to be hunted for his valuable skin but in Kenya he is now to be found in large numbers only in the inaccessible Lake Rudolf. Therefore in Kenya there can be no large regular trade in his skin as in neighbouring territories.

A study of the figures obtained from 81 registers reveals that many licence holders do not shoot their licences to the full.

### III—CONSERVATION AND CONTROL

In April the Game Warden attended a Conference at Tengeru in Tanganyika. There were present the Game Wardens of the British Colonies in East, Central and West Africa, Capt. Ritchie, former Game Warden of Kenya, Capt. Caldwell representing the Colonial Office, and Col. M. Cowie of the Royal National Parks of Kenya. The main items on the Agenda were:—

- (1) Implementation of resolutions passed at the Livingstone Conference.
- (2) Bringing the Articles of the 1933 Fauna Convention up to date.
- (3) Further conservation measures.

Kajiado plains. These sub-species probably meet in the Magadi area, and it is in this area also that the *defassa* and *elipsyprimus* waterbucks also intermingle. In the Nairobi National Park waterbuck bearing both characteristics may be seen.

The herd of Jackson's hartebeest in the Lambwe Valley may be the last survivors of Jackson's in Kenya, and even here their days are numbered. The sub-species *Kenya* is at present holding its own in the Rumuruti district and Lerogi area of Maralal. But here again his ultimate fate is uncertain as he is only found on private farms in Rumuruti, and Lerogi is earmarked for close grazing schemes for the Samburu.

The Game Warden again visited the habitat of the Situtunga in the Trans Nzoia, but this time failed to see any trace of them. However, on the edge of the Nyakatch marshes in Central Nyanza, recent tracks were seen on the edge of rice fields bordering the marshes.

Mr. Bartlett, in his report, says that the size of buffalo heads shot in the Mount Kenya forests on control average about 44 in. This may be rather a high figure, but there is no doubt that the buffalo on Mount Kenya have very fine heads like the rhino. Two buffalo heads shot on control at Naro Moru when the Game Warden was accompanying Mr. Bartlett were 48 in. and 43 in. respectively. The world's record was shot last year in Narok where many other very fine heads are continually being seen if not shot. A lot of buffalo are shot on control and they are very susceptible to disease. Nevertheless buffalo are holding their own and continue to provide many sportsmen with probably the most exciting form of big-game hunting.

Mention has been made earlier of the suggestion that certain animals, commonly regarded as vermin and therefore to be destroyed at sight, should be protected in certain areas where they can do no harm and where they constitute an attraction for the sightseer as well as contributing to the maintenance of the balance of nature. A photograph of a wild dog (No. 3) is shown in support of this contention. It would be extremely difficult to secure a photograph of a crocodile in Kenya unless one visited the remote parts of Lake Rudolf. Here again a villainous but attractive animal is being decimated. A photograph is shown of the rarer and smaller striped hyæna (*see* photograph 14) found dead in the middle of the Thika-Garissa road. Note the huge mane down the back; he is more like a large aard wolf than a small spotted hyæna. The striped hyæna is an unobtrusive animal and probably his main habitats are the more desert places of Masai and the bush country bordering the Northern Province.

Eland females still enjoy absolute protection and both sexes may be given protection in the Isiolo district. However, eland are starting to increase. Patterson's eland (the kind common to Kenya) has small horns in relation to the size of his body and cannot compare with the magnificent Derby or giant eland, as a visit to the Coryndon Museum will show.

Oribi are increasing in Narok, and in the Uasin Gishu district are enjoying absolute protection. The Trans Nzoia farmers have asked for similar protection to be extended in their area to this universally beloved little antelope. The oribi found to the west of the Rift Valley is called Cotton's oribi; the one in the Coast Province Haggard's. But to the ordinary sportsman there is no apparent difference, though comparison of a large number of specimens might reveal some small variation in colour.

Finally, how are elephant and rhino faring? (*See* photograph No. 4.) Figures are shown in continuation of the 1951 Report showing the total known number of demises of these two animals.

(1) <i>Elephant</i>	1950	1951	1952
Shot on control, confiscated, found ..	607	543	468
Shot on Licence .. .. .	202	160	94
Total deaths known .. .. .	809	703	562
(2) <i>Rhino</i>			
Shot on control, confiscated, found ..	260	291	166
Shot on Licence .. .. .	125	98	121
Total deaths known .. .. .	385	389	287

The Game Warden witnessed two elephants copulating, and this act was seen from Mudanda Rock in the East Tsavo National Park. There were a very large number of elephant in the area and the act caused an absolute uproar among the other elephants in the vicinity. It was noticed that the bull in question seemed to follow one particular cow among the large number present. Dr. Perry has stated in his Monograph on the Uganda elephant that it is the cow that comes on heat, not the bull as is popularly supposed. This supposition is corroborated to some extent by observations from Mudanda Rock. Very few African elephants have been kept in captivity, except possibly in the Belgian Congo. It is said that male Indian elephants in captivity undergo periods of extreme sexual excitement amounting to madness; maybe, but similar behaviour may be observed in all other male animals, e.g. domestic cattle, when kept from regular sexual intercourse. A photograph of a fine female elephant (*see* photograph No. 5) taken by Mr. Adamson, is shown. Mr. Adamson, accompanied by the Game Warden and his wife, were driving up a dried river bed at Barsaloi in the Maralal district. A herd of cows and calves was encountered on the bank at the side. Instead of moving off, the herd dashed wildly up the bank alongside the Land Rover for about 300 yards, when the Land Rover got slowly bogged in some loose sand. Fortunately all the herd except the one shown gradually walked off into the bush. This lady, however, remained in a threatening attitude for at least fifteen to twenty minutes, running up and down the bank trying to locate the intruder, which as a matter of fact lay immobile right under her nose, hastily abandoned by the occupants who hid in the opposite bank wondering if the Land Rover was going to be pulverized! Eventually she calmed down and moved off. The Game Warden found in the Customs a magnificent pair of seven foot female tusks which had been sent from Marsabit for sale. These tusks were rescued for exhibition. So it appears that "Mohamed", the living giant whose photograph was shown in the 1951 Report, has his female counterparts. Incidentally, an Honorary Game Warden says he has seen "Mohamed" accompanied by an elephant carrying even longer tusks! This, however, needs verification.

The cause of the acknowledged ill temper of rhinos may be in some measure connected with the sore that is invariably to be found behind the shoulders. In this place appears to be some gland that causes the rhino to rub and lacerate himself. It is not caused by fighting, nor is the sore confined to any sex or to the mature. Recently samples of matter found in these sores were taken from rhino shot on control. These samples are being analysed. The wonderful show of rhino that may be seen without fail in the Controlled Area near Makindu has already been mentioned. They are still very scarce in Narok, but elsewhere in the thick mountain forests and thick dry bush they may be holding their own despite being poached on a large scale.

#### V—POACHING

The provisions of section 32, Ordinance No. 18/51, as they stand made it impossible to secure a conviction for illegal possession of ivory. It is worth relating at length what did happen in one case. A Game Ranger inspected an African bus at Kibwezi and in the suitcase of a passenger found several pieces of sawn-up

## VIII—CAPTURE OF WILD ANIMALS

There is little to report under this head. Capture was confined to private land except where animals had to be removed from Crown land for control reasons. The East African Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals continued to scrutinize the export of wild animals.

A number of film companies came to Kenya to make pictures with the usual game sequences. There was the usual demand for "action" pictures which could only be obtained by breaking the law. Such demands were invariably refused and the co-operation of the approved trappers in seeing that the laws of humanity and sportsmanship were observed is gratefully acknowledged. However, the Game Department warmly welcomed the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Milotte, working for Walt Disney Pictures. Mr. Milotte's wonderful true life pictures "Beaver Valley" and "Seal Island" are well known. Mr. Milotte said he intends to make a stay of two years in East Africa regarding the life and habitats of African wild animals, and we can confidently expect something of exceptional interest and a wonderful spectacle. Mr. Milotte is receiving every help and co-operation both from this department and the Royal National Parks, and may others follow his example of patience and skill in recording nothing except wild life as it really lives and has its being.

*List of Animals Captured and Exported to Zoos*

Elephant .. .. .	None	Hartebeest .. .. .	2
Buffalo .. .. .	None	-Wildebeest .. .. .	None
Rhino .. .. .	5	Small Buck .. .. .	3
Giraffe .. .. .	10	Oryx .. .. .	5
Hippo .. .. .	1	Ostrich .. .. .	38
Lion .. .. .	2	Eland .. .. .	4
Leopard .. .. .	3	Other Large Antelope .. .. .	3
Cheetah .. .. .	7	Colobus Monkey .. .. .	None
Zebra .. .. .	51	Bird .. .. .	158
Hyrax .. .. .	10	Bat-eared Fox .. .. .	7
Serval Cat .. .. .	7	Oribi .. .. .	4
Lynx .. .. .	7	Blue Monkey .. .. .	1

## IX—LEGISLATION

Subsidiary legislation passed under the provisions of Ordinance 18/51—

- (1) Government Notice No. 74 of 11th January, 1952—Crocodyles come under provisions of Wild Animals Protection Ordinance in Isiolo District.
- (2) Government Notice No. 75 of 11th January, 1952—Isiolo Controlled Area.
- (3) Government Notice No. 76 of 11th January, 1952—Kwale Controlled Area.
- (4) Government Notice No. 77 of 11th January, 1952—Local Sanctuaries—addition to Schedule.
- (5) Government Notice No. 78 of 11th January, 1952—Close Seasons (Amendment) Notice.
- (6) Government Notice No. 189 of 16th February, 1952—Form of Dealer's Permit.

- (7) Government Notice No. 190 of 16th February, 1952—Close Season for Rhino and Oryx Beisa—Isiolo.
- (8) Government Notice No. 378 of 3rd April, 1952—Close Seasons Notice (Birds).
- (9) Government Notice No. 491 of 24th April, 1952—One Oryx Beisa may be hunted on licence, instead of three.
- (10) Government Notice No. 680 of 18th June, 1952—Maktau Controlled Area.
- (11) Government Notice No. 788 of 10th July, 1952—Masai-Machakos Controlled Area.
- (12) Proclamation No. 27 of 19th July, 1952—Southern Game Reserve no longer reserve.
- (13) Government Notice No. 1151 of 25th October, 1952—Lake Naivasha declared to be Controlled Area.

## X—ANNUAL REPORTS BY GAME RANGERS

Reports by the following are appended:—

- (1) G. A. G. Adamson, Game Ranger, Isiolo.
- (2) J. A. Hunter, Game Ranger, Makindu.
- (3) Capt. T. R. P. Salmon, Game Ranger, Kerugoya, and later Kapenguria.
- (4) F. G. Bartlett, Game Ranger, Nanyuki.
- (5) R. T. Elliott, Game Ranger, Nanyuki, and later Narok.
- (6) D. C. Bousfield, Game Ranger, Coast, Malindi.
- (7) Lt.-Col. R. A. F. Hurt, D.S.O., Game Ranger, Thomson's Falls.
- (8) Capt. D. R. P. Zaphiro, Game Ranger, Kajiado.

## (1) G. A. G. Adamson, Game Ranger, Northern Province—Annual Report, 1952

During the first quarter of the year I was stationed in the Coast Province where I took over temporarily from J. D. Bonham. It was an interesting experience and gave me the opportunity to gain some idea of the problems facing the Game Ranger, Coast. After seeing most of the country from Lunga-Lunga near the Tanganyika border to Kiunga near the Somalia border, I came to the conclusion that for one officer to try to cope with all the elephant control and at the same time with the large scale poaching and illegal trade in ivory, rhino horn and leopard skins, is a difficult task indeed.

Owing to the seasons, raids by elephants occur simultaneously at several points along the length of the coast. Obviously one officer cannot hope to be available at all places at the right moment. The situation therefore often develops where the Ranger arrives at the scene of a recent raid. He may camp there for three or four days waiting in vain for the elephants to reappear. As he cannot spare the time to sit guarding a few stalks of maize and a couple of coconut trees indefinitely, he must go out into the bush and hunt the elephants which it is hoped are the ones responsible for the damage. Even if they are right ones, I do not believe it does much good. My own experience has taught me that one elephant killed in a shamba is worth a dozen shot outside in the bush. When it becomes



(2) Grant's Gazelle (Roberts type)—Narok  
*[Photo by R. T. Elliott]*



(3) Wild Dog and Thomson's Gazelle—Narok  
*[Photo by R. T. Elliott]*



(4) Elephant and Rhino—Voi  
*[Photo by P. R. O. Bally]*



(5) Large Cow Elephant—Maralal  
*[Photo by G. A. G. Adamson]*

zebra foal, a Grevy's zebra and a common zebra. They had not been skinned, apparently just wantonly shot and left. I was not able to obtain any evidence to indicate who was responsible, but it is not unreasonable to suggest that it was this party for there were no other hunting parties in the area at the time. However, I searched their camp and found the skins of two immature lions and a quantity of biltong. Two members of the party were prosecuted for shooting the immature lions and all their biltong confiscated. They were fined Sh. 200 each.

A young Asian one morning opened fire with his .22 on an owl behind the Isio'o dukas. The bullets whistled perilously close to an elderly Somali who, regardless of the fire and boiling with wrath, charged and quite mistakenly assaulted one of the leading Indian shopkeepers. The Asian was fined for shooting in the township and for killing Royal Game. I did not hear what it cost him to mollify the shopkeeper!

There was little game control done during the year. I shot one shamba-raiding elephant on the coast at Lunga-lunga after an exciting hunt. Two lions were shot at Garissa and a third wounded and lost, I am sorry to confess. My bad shooting was due to using a night sight on my rifle and failing to make allowance for the extra large size of sight, which caused my shot to go low and hit the lion in the paw. I spent two days looking for the wounded animal in the thick Tana bush, but without avail. A big maneless lion was killed on the Galana Gof between Muddo Gashi and Garbatu'a, part of a pride of five which had been causing considerable trouble. This lion was hunted for two hours backwards and forwards along a thickly bushed lugga until I finally came on it unawares from behind. I shot it in the behind, whereupon it promptly turned and came for me. I managed to stop it at about ten feet. There is a rather gruesome tale to tell of an old Meru and his two womenfolk on the Kinna. They had come down from the hills with maize to sell to the Boran. They made their trade and started back with a goat. The sun went down. The women suggested taking shelter for the night at the nearest Boran boma. The old Meru, however, was determined to press on. At length he began to feel tired and complained of feeling ill and could go no further. The women climbed a tree and the old man stretched himself out underneath together with his precious goat. Some time in the early hours a lion appeared and seized the old man and devoured him before the horrified gaze of his womenfolk. Presently more lions appeared and finished off the goat. The women dared not make a sound for fear the lions might come up the tree after them. By morning all that was left of the poor old man were his blood-stained blanket and tobacco horn!

Some time after, I hunted these lions and eventually shot a lioness over a kill at night. She may or may not have been one of the Meru-eaters.

There is another story which I am afraid few will believe. An aged Turkana woman and her son were making their way towards my scouts' lines from a Somali village some three miles off. The son stopped, telling his mother to carry on along the path and he would catch her up in a few minutes. The old woman was half blind and in the gathering darkness took the wrong path. After going some way, she realized that she was lost. In the careless manner of her kind, she made herself comfortable at the foot of a tree and decided to spend the night as best she might. Her son hurried on to the scouts' lines expecting to find his mother. A search was made but, owing to the darkness, it was unavailing. The old woman under the tree fell asleep. Late at night she was aroused to find herself surrounded by elephants. A young bull stood over her and felt her with his trunk; she told it in Turkana to "get out". It backed away, and again approached and felt her over: again she told it to "be gone". It then tore off thorny branches and carefully covered the old woman under a great pile until she was completely imprisoned.

Then, to add insult to injury, urinated over her. An elderly cow, one of the spectators, shocked at such ungentlemanly behaviour, chased the bull and the others away. While the bull was engaged in covering up the woman, the rest of the elephants gathered around in a ring and created a tremendous uproar. Next morning a Turkana herding goats saw the pile of thorns and, hearing cries for help, released the old woman who was little the worse for her frightening experience. It is well known among natives that elephants will cover over the body of a human they have killed. Perhaps in this case the woman was so old that she smelled dead to the elephants!

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON GAME

There can be no doubt that elephants have steadily increased in numbers in the Samburu and Isiolo areas during the past ten years. Places seldom visited by elephants in the past have now become their regular haunts. The tendency seems to be to move to the south. This may be due to better protection afforded in the south rather than increase in numbers. Anthrax, which has been prevalent among elephants in the Samburu and Isiolo districts in the past, appears to have died down and no cases came to my notice during the year. On the lower Tana anthrax broke out among cattle and spread to game during January. Near Witu eleven natives died as a result of eating an infected topi. There were reports of mortality among elephants and buffalo, but I am not in a position to say whether or not it was heavy.

Lions were as plentiful and as troublesome as ever and there were many complaints, particularly from Wajir. I do not think lions have increased in numbers; we hear more of them because tribesmen have become more ready to voice their complaints and less ready to hunt them themselves.

The poor old rhino is ever a source of anxiety and I fear that outside Samburu country their numbers are steadily declining. There are few areas of really dense bush where a rhino can feel tolerably safe from poachers. The Kinna used to be one of their strongholds, but in recent years it has been increasingly invaded by Boran who now go well inside Meru District. Boran and rhino just do not "go" together. I feel that it is very necessary to continue the prohibition on the shooting of rhino south of the Uaso Nyiro for some years to come. I would further advocate that not more than one rhino licence per person be allowed north of the Uaso.

At present, apart from rhino, there are only two other animals which are in need of special protection. These are eland and oryx. I consider they, together with rhino, should be given immunity for at least five years south of the Uaso.

Other animals, such as Grant's gerenuk, Grevy's zebra, common zebra, greater and lesser kudu, giraffe, buffalo, etc., are holding their own, in spite of opinions to the contrary. There is one exception and that is Coke's hartebeest. A few small herds used to be seen in the vicinity of Maji ya Chumbi; now there are hardly any left. In their case legislation would be of little help. They just happen to be a species which apparently does not thrive in this area. (Probably in this area in former years Jackson's hartebeest sub-species *Kenya* intermingled with Coke's. W.H.H.)

May I close my report with a little comic relief:—

A certain officer of a somewhat nervous disposition, whose duties compelled him, much against his inclinations, to camp near an elephant highway, one night was startled out of his fitful slumbers by the rumblings of elephants close by. He leapt out of bed, clutched his rifle in one hand and torch in the other, and rushed out of his tent. The exertion proved too much for his pyjama strings and he

suddenly found himself hobbled. In overcoming this difficulty he dropped his rifle. Picking up the rifle, the pyjamas once more settled around his ankles. From this disadvantageous position he fired shots over the elephants' heads. It is possible that his aim was not of the best! Two elephants were found dead not far off, but by the time I inspected the carcasses they were too decayed to be able to tell the cause of death.

(2) J. A. Hunter, Game Ranger, Makindu—Annual Report, 1952

Despite insufficient rainfall in the Makindu and adjoining areas the game position generally in the controlled area is most satisfactory.

Some game animals are on the increase with a grand show of young stock.

Elephants have suddenly appeared in the triangle between the Kiboko and Makindu Rivers and other previously unfrequented places. Lesser Kudu I am pleased to say are increasing, while considerable herds of fringe-eared oryx are an added attraction. Waterbuck are very numerous, especially along the Kiboko River.

Near the lava belt in the Makindu Controlled Area I came on the outcome of a clash twixt an elephant and rhino. Dusk was falling when I saw a rhino bull move towards an anthill with unsteady gait: much of the beast was blood-smeared while a large piece of the hide flapped to and fro with each stride. At the time I suspected an encounter between two rhinos, but I revisited the place next morning to glean more facts. The rhino had gone—back-tracking the spoor into the lava flow disclosed the scene of a fight between an elephant and rhino. Doubtless the rhino's hide was torn from its body by the elephant's tusk. Clods of red earth caked with blood, brick hard, remained where the struggle lasted ending in the rhino's defeat. No sign of hovering vultures or hyena spoor was seen, so doubtless the injured rhino recovered.

Considerable numbers of people are now resident at Makindu and they shot regularly in the vicinity. As a result restrictions on shooting were imposed in the vicinity of Makindu as game will not tolerate being shot up regularly and persistently.

Elephants, good ivory carriers, have taken up residence in the heavy bush between Kibwezi and Makindu.

Poaching of antelopes by gin and noose was carried on to an alarming extent by Teita natives in the Bura-Maktau areas. Many hundreds of these snares were collected. Scouts constantly patrol the district: this persistence is now bearing fruit and damping the ardour of the meat-seeking poachers.

Throughout the year there has been the usual spate of raiding elephants causing damage to crops in the Teita and Lake Jipe areas. The main offenders are elephant bulls; in contrast the cows of the species strangely enough are law-abiding in that area.

Game preservation in the area which I patrol is producing good results so that the future for game augurs well in this area.

(3) Capt. T. R. P. Salmon, Game Ranger, Kerugoya and later Kapenguria—  
Annual Report, 1952

EMBU

The grazing conditions were good and the game is well spread out through the district. Breeding has been plentiful among the antelopes, also among the buffalo and rhino. One must remember that the area available to game animals in this

district is small. However, one does find a variety that is astonishing considering that the area is surrounded by an agricultural people. Six elephants had to be shot in the forest: they had caused considerable damage to young plantations.

The forest above Embu, thence to Meru, has been little disturbed and should remain for many years a stronghold and refuge for forest-loving animals.

MERU

Twenty-two elephant, ten buffalo and one lion were shot on control. All the elephant were shot in forest areas. The buffalo come from the Mbeu swamp and maraud the neighbouring cultivations at night. The lion, a confirmed cattle killer, accounted for many head of cattle before he was finally shot. Unlike their neighbours, the Kamba, the Meru do little to help themselves with either man or cattle-killing lions. Buffalo have increased considerably in the Mbeu swamp area. Here as in Embu the resident mountain elephant population is increasing and their area of food is decreasing as each year the Forest Department add to their plantations. The real attraction to the elephant and buffalo is of course the maize and other attractive foods, i.e. peas, potatoes, etc., which are planted between the rows of young trees; this proves too great a temptation. I have watched with interest elephant in a field of peas. No agricultural implement that I know of has the efficiency in dealing with that tangled, clinging crop as an elephant's trunk; it combines the uses of the cutter, elevator, press and conveyor. It force feeds about a sack of green peas with every thrust of its trunk, in fact it is a perfect "self-propelled combine harvester". You may follow the trail of this machine for miles through the forest; it leaves in its wake a trail of compressed dehydrated peas mixed with other compressed fibrous materials. These are eagerly sought after by the forest guinea fowl, and whilst following up the spoor you may see the guinea fowl scratching and standing on these large stringy droppings.

FORT HALL

A few elephant were shot in defence of crops.

KITUI

I had a busy season in this district, especially in combating the illicit ivory traffic. Whilst each successive season brings in more information on the subject we have now, I think, knowledge of some of the illicit buyers on the Island of Mombasa. Also we have considerably lessened the output of black market ivory by the arrest of conveyors and by the placing of inspection posts and roving patrols. Constant searching of taxis in all parts of the district was carried out and on several occasions ivory was found. One lot of ivory which we followed down to Mombasa was taken direct to an Asian ivory merchant. Although the Police identified the ivory as being the ivory conveyed without a permit of legal possession, the Asian got away on some legal technicality. It is difficult to get the big man behind this illicit trade. The following is briefly how the illicit trade is carried out.

The elephant is killed either by a bullet of some hunter or by the poisoned arrow of an African. Wounded elephant when lost are generally found dead by Africans herding cattle or honey hunting; they often combine the two. They go on a safari collecting their honey and at the same time shoot an elephant or rhino. After finding the dead elephant the finder gets in touch with another African who is most likely a small trader in skins or poultry to Mombasa. He provides the finder with a hacksaw blade, also a stick cut to the length the ivory should be cut in. After the tusk has been cut up a rendezvous is arranged where the price is arranged. The finder may get fifty cents or a shilling per pound with a promise of some sugar if the deal comes to a successful completion. The carrier then sets off to

Mombasa or other place on the coast. On arrival at his destination he parks the ivory at some friend's house or other suitable hiding place, and then sallies forth to the town where he contacts the known black market buyers and fixes a price. After agreement the buyer does not himself collect the ivory; he sends a third party either by car or on foot with the vendor. Should this prove to be a trap then the third party takes the blame if he is caught en route with the ivory: the merchant pays all legal expenses and himself stays in the background. On one of these occasions the African conveyer hid the ivory in a railway *landi*. From here it was collected by an Asian in a small Ford van which was then driven to the bazaar area. A narrow passageway led to the rear of the ivory merchant's premises. The ivory was taken up to the first storey by means of a *kikapu* let down on a string from a window. One reason for illicit trade in ivory from the Kitui district is the shortage of sugar; practically all the money made from the sale of ivory returns to the district in the form of sugar. Sugar it seems can be bought in quantity at Mombasa on the black market.

Twelve elephant and eight rhino were killed in defence of cultivation and waterholes in the Kitui district. Water is a problem in this area; much hard work has been done by the Akamba themselves in building dams. These dams are constructed by hand, and a herd of elephant in one drinking bout can seriously damage the dam wall which has taken many months to build.

With the assistance of Chief Mwantuku of Ikutha I successfully rounded up a gang of poachers, six in number. They had been living a Robin Hood existence for over seven years, all experts with the bow and arrow. Their weapons were most lethal, the bows six feet and the arrows a good three feet long and liberally covered with poison. These men were desperate characters and would shoot on the slightest provocation. Great credit is due to the chief's askaris and the game scouts concerned that there were no casualties on either side. All six men were convicted at Kitui.

One African we knew was involved in the illicit ivory traffic we caught after long, patient watching. He used to get on to a Kibwezi-bound taxi at Kitui, but his luggage was never heavy enough to excite suspicion. Finally, Game Scout Mathembe boarded the bus at the same time. When the bus stopped at Mutomo, some sixty miles from Kitui, he seized two boxes which needed some considerable exertion to lift on to the bus. At the next stop, Ikutha, Mathembe searched the boxes and found seventy pounds of ivory. The African agent admitted having already accomplished successfully three previous *safaris* to Mombasa with ivory.

#### GENERAL

East African Power and Lighting are embarking on the Seven Forks Scheme. Although there is a lot of game in this area I do not think there will be any worry about the game being shot out as there is plenty of unoccupied ground and it is all thick bush country. Two game scouts have been attached to the survey party who have been doing the preliminary survey.

Rostermans are opening up a large graphite deposit in the Kitui district between Mutomo and Kandziko. Bird life will be affected here and a close season may have to be imposed. Game scouts throughout Meru, Embu and Kitui districts did excellent work throughout the year.

#### TRANS NZOIA

I arrived at Kapenguria on the thirteenth of October. My first *safari* was on the seventeenth which was to Sirisia on Mount Elgon near the Uganda border where elephant were damaging maize *shambas*. We shot two.

In the Lugari area I visited the farmers who were complaining of damage done to crops by Thomas' cob and I have made arrangements to be in the area when the crops are in the danger stage, which will be the end of March to the middle of April.

There is a lot of damage done to crops by baboon and pig. We shall have to endeavour to poison the baboon and I think snare the pig. I have made arrangements with the Production Committee to train what scouts I can and put them at different points, which they select, to work on groups of farms. The scouts will work in pairs; they will, where baboons are found, feed them prior to my coming and then put out poison when I arrive. Each pair of scouts should have at least one hundred snares which will be set in the pig runs near the *shambas* which are being damaged. Owing to the present political situation it is not advisable to issue firearms.

#### (4) F. G. Bartlett, Game Ranger, Nanyuki—Annual Report, 1952

The rainfall in the Nyeri, Nanyuki, Marania and Mukogoda areas has been comparatively poor this year. Elephant have not given as much trouble as last year, due to the lack of heavy rain.

On the moorlands of Mount Kenya I saw a white jackal; the fur seemed much longer than that of the jackals at lower altitudes, due probably to the colder climate. The jackal was seen at about 13,000 feet. Its main diet no doubt was the rats, birds and moles that live up there.

This year I had the best dog pack that I have ever had for hunting buffalo. Previously I had two dog packs wiped out with distemper. Thanks to the Veterinary Department's co-operation in giving free supplies of distemper vaccine, my present dog pack has remained free of the disease. I saved three of my best dogs from death from leopard wounds by using penicillin injections.

Due to good police work by three of my scouts, three poachers on the Aberdares were arrested and convicted. The poachers got six months, three months and three months respectively, thus breaking up a gang of poachers who had done untold damage to game in that area for many months. We also confiscated their dog pack, spears, *simis*, one dozen traps, as well as a shot gun stolen from a nearby farm.

I carried out experiments using different poisons for baboon. I had no luck whatever using strychnine. But with the co-operation of a farmer in the Nanyuki district we tried arsenic and maize and succeeded in wiping out almost a whole pack of baboon. I am convinced that strychnine, being very bitter, is detected by baboons.

When the *Mau Mau* mutilated stock at Timau I was called in by the farmers to help to put the more badly mutilated animals out of their misery. It was one of the most distasteful jobs I have ever had to do.

After seeing the successful results of an electric fence round a tree plantation at the Nanyuki Forest Station, in keeping out game, I am convinced that electric fences are of great use where game is a nuisance to cultivation. I have also seen electric fences used round wheat and barley fields, with very good results. Electric fences do not keep all game out; I have found that occasionally game does penetrate through once, but seldom repeats the visit. On numerous occasions, as late as 10 or 11 o'clock in the morning, buffalo and elephant have been found still inside the fence, being afraid to come out.



This year I shot more buffalo than in any previous year due to the fact that I had to carry out large scale control on a farm where the buffalo had got too numerous and thus had to be thinned down to a reasonable figure. I shot a very good bull buffalo in the Nanyuki district with a 49½ in. spread. Most buffalo in this area seem to average about 44 in. [A very high average indeed. W.H.H.] I met quite a few wounded buffalo bulls which charged me and were extremely vicious. I had two very close escapes from being trampled. Three bulls had been wounded with soft nose bullets. Hunting with dogs is not as safe as a lot of people are inclined to believe. It is a very dangerous occupation, but the use of a dog pack makes one surer of getting a buffalo in thick bush and it saves a lot of time and expense. Shoulder shots on a buffalo charging very seldom put the beast down. My experience has proved this many times. The only certainty of dropping the animal is a head shot, which is an extremely difficult target as the head swings up and down with the buffalo's running motion.

I had a hectic time shooting elephant bulls raiding *shambas* at night. The elephant were coming out of the National Park near Tree Tops. Everything seemed to be in favour of the elephant:—

- (1) Thick National Park forest bounded the *shambas*.
- (2) The elephants came at night.
- (3) I was not allowed to follow the raiders into the National Park, except if wounded.
- (4) I had to approach the elephant in darkness, without a torch switched on, relying on my hearing to judge when I was about 20 yards from the elephant and then I switched my torch onto the elephant. I had to make sure of my shot in order to drop the animal before it reached the boundary, which in most cases was only a matter of 50 to 100 yards away.

I will now discuss the different areas in turn.

#### NANYUKI FOREST STATION

This area was one of my busiest areas. Buffalo caused nearly all the trouble. The main culprits were lone bulls damaging the young trees in the plantations. I had to shoot up one particular heard of cows rather heavily as they have been my headache for the last couple of years. Their normal hideout was the thick bamboo, where I would rather leave them alone as hunting in this thick bamboo is suicide to the hunter. The bamboo level is just above the plantations. I caught the herd out below one day—my first real chance for the last three years. So I gave them a beating: I seldom have to shoot the herd up like this; it is generally a case of shooting old bulls. However, the breeding herds are definitely on the increase.

#### NANYUKI, ONTULILI, TIMAU AND LOLDAIKA HILLS

Once again buffalo were the main animals I had to deal with. On Mr. Hinde's farm I shot sixty-two in a couple of months. I estimate he had about 250 head of buffalo when I started shooting. Eventually the herds split up and scattered onto the neighbouring farms. I carried out a baboon campaign on Mr. Webb's farm. We had best results using arsenic and maize to poison them with. Hyena were reduced as well.

#### NYERI DISTRICT

Elephant were the main culprits, coming out of National Parks. I had to deal with some above Fort Hall. On the Aberdares we succeeded in breaking up a gang of poachers using dogs and traps.

#### MUKOGODO (DOL DOL)

Elephant gave a lot of trouble in the Siebo Valley. One native and a few head of stock were killed by elephant. The elephant took possession of the waterholes and would not let cattle water. I went down and found the main herd had left. But I shot one out of a small herd. This particular elephant chased my Land Rover in a sand river bed. I had a few uncomfortable moments! In the valley I saw a large herd of buffalo.

#### MARANIA

Lion gave most of the trouble and in January we (Rodney Elliott, Game Ranger, and myself) shot ten. Elliott and myself had to work very hard to get the culprits, who were very well educated in knowing not come back to kills. The farmer was very grateful and pleased to see the last of them.

#### THEGO, NYERI STATION

Hyena gave trouble on Capt. O'Hagan's farm in attacking cattle. We managed to poison about seven.

#### NARO MORU

Two buffalo bulls did quite a lot of damage to plantations and *shambas*. I shot both in very thick bamboo above the plantations.

#### NGARE NDARE

A lioness killed some stock on Mr. Powys' farm. I sat up in a pit and shot her.

#### RAGATI FOREST AREA

Two game scouts did all the control work in the area. I handed over the area to Mr. Howarth, the Forester, for supervision. He took over the scouts about the middle of the year. Game activity in this area seems to have decreased this year, possibly largely due to most of the game moving higher up owing to persistent control measures. In 1950 game suffered heavily from rinderpest in this area.

Game Shot on Control

ANIMALS	Nanyuki Forest Stn.	Nanyuki, Ontulili, Timau, Loldaika Hills	Nyeri District	Mukogodo (Dol Dol)	Marania	Thego, Nyeri Station	Naro Moru	Ngare Ndare	Ragati Forest	Total	Remarks
Elephant .. ..	—	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	4	12	Males, 25 lb. av.
Rhino .. .. .	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	5 Males.
Buffalo .. .. .	49	74	6	—	3	4	2	—	2	140	65 Males, 75 Females.
Lion .. .. .	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	5	2 Males, 3 Females.
Leopard .. .. .	2	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	8	6 Males, 2 Females.
Zebra .. .. .	—	20	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	25	
Waterbuck .. .	1	13	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	21	
Giant Forest Hog	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Baboon .. .. .	—	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	
Hyena .. .. .	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	
<b>TOTAL HEAD ..</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>288</b>	

## (5) R. T. Elliott, Game Ranger, Nanyuki and Narok—Annual Report, 1952

## GENERAL

The first two months of the year were spent in the Mount Kenya Aberdares district, and the remainder in the Narok (Masai) district. Major E. W. Temple-Boreham, M.C., went on home leave in April, and I took over from him with effect from 1st April, 1952.

## GAME—GENERAL

The greater part of Narok district has been unfortunate in that the short rains failed almost completely. As a result areas that were burnt off in September, remained black and grassless. Fortunately water remained in gullies at various points and a fair head of game remained. Most of the game left the Loita Plains and Hills and went down to the fly country. What game remained was in a bad condition and deaths were numerous.

*Lion*.—These fine animals continue to increase and give great pleasure to the numerous *safaris* to the area. Many *safaris* now come solely to photograph them. It is rare to drive through the fly country without seeing them. Two prides of fifteen and fourteen were seen recently. The great majority of these lion now realize that a human being in a motor-car is not something to be feared. This year Masai sheep, with their shepherds, have passed through from Talek to the Mara, and the reaction of the lions on seeing these has been to make themselves scarce for no reports of lion killing these sheep have reached me. Provided game is plentiful and the sheep are properly herded, lion will not molest them even though the flocks are driven through in their vicinity.

*Leopard*.—A few leopard have been seen, but on the whole they remain shy. Time will show whether they, like the lion, will become a feature of the district. I believe it will eventually be possible to get a fair number educated not to fear a vehicle. Even now there are a few leopard here and there who realise this fact and will allow vehicles to approach within a fairly close distance. Leopards are still far from numerous in the fly district but outside in the cattle country they appear more numerous.

*Cheetah*.—Cheetah are continuing to increase in the fly country but are shy and difficult to photograph. Outside the fly country they are few and far between. Fortunately few *safaris* now hunt them. At least one sportsman is unlikely to wish to hunt one again! He shot the male of a pair of cheetah, near his camp. The female haunted the area for several days after, calling for its mate. The bond between a pair of these animals is a strong one. I am glad to be able to report that subsequently this bereaved lady found another mate. I will do my best to see that she keeps him!

*Elephant*.—Plentiful at times. Only one has been shot by sportsmen in this district this year.

*Rhino*.—Their increase is very slow. Very few are seen in the fly country though they now have complete protection. It would seem that they had reached a dangerously low level due to having been shot in large numbers before they were afforded protection.

*Giraffe*.—Very numerous over most of the fly country and increasingly confiding.

*Buffalo*.—Fairly numerous overall, and some very large breeding herds have been seen. On the whole they are shy of appearing outside the bush in daylight though there are exceptions.

*Eland*.—These animals have benefited beyond belief from the regulation "bulls only" on licence and now are fairly frequently seen though still shy. They are yet far from numerous but are definitely on the increase.

*Roan*.—Though the total protection of these animals has been in force only two years the effect is being seen already, and on a *safari* with the Game Warden over thirty different beasts were counted in three days in the Mara National Reserve.

Common plains antelopes are plentiful over all the fly country. Grant's gazelle seem to have benefited greatly from the high tariff put on their heads and have increased.

## CONTROL MEASURES

Stock-killing lion and leopard killed during 1952:—

By Game Department	.. .. .	Lion 13	Leopard 5
By Masai	.. .. .	Lion 2	Leopard 6

*Elephant*.—On the Masai-Watende border some raided *shambas*. Two were shot and the rest were moved on by firing shots with a Very pistol.

*Hyena*.—A considerable number were poisoned during the course of a year in the cattle country.

*Baboons* killed sheep in one area.

*Wild Pig*.—Scouts were again sent to the Sotik farms to assist. Good results were obtained.

*Hippo*.—Complaints were made in South Nyanza, but no hippo shot as little damage was actually done—mainly desire for meat by the locals.

*Disease*.—None observed.

*Control Posts* are of great use and a further one is to be built at the site of the new bridge being constructed over the Mara River.

## GENERAL COMMENT

The overall position is very satisfactory and is likely to improve as the game benefits from the various recent protective measures that have yet to show their full effects.

*Wild Dog*.—I should like to see these given complete protection in the fly country where they are a spectacular attraction.

*Wart Hog*.—Restricted shooting of these in fly country only is recommended as they provide in their tusks a good trophy.

*Hyena*.—Should be protected in fly area. All and sundry "brass off" on sight from all ranges at them. They are far from numerous and wild, and like wild dogs are a great attraction for the photographer and sightseer.

## NATURE NOTES

*Leopard kill*.—A male bushbuck was found freshly killed: it was interesting to note that no teeth marks were found on the kill. The nose of the bushbuck had been slightly clawed and one dew-claw had gone into the flank. The buck had its neck broken. A leopard killed a topi in one area. [Major Temple-Boreham obtained a photo of a leopard just after it had killed a topi. W.H.H.] A case of a leopard killing domestic cats was reported. Two leopard were heard fighting in the Aitong area and one was found dead at dawn, apparently killed by a swipe of the paw cutting the jugular vein. A leopard was seen stalking francolin, and early in the year one was noted to have "treed" some forest guinea fowl.

an additional officer to the coast, which after all supplies the gateway to the ivory trade. It would then be possible for one officer to concentrate solely on ivory while the other dealt with the control side. During the periods when no control is necessary both would combine on the former work.

Lamu district is doubtless the worst area (1,807 lbs. recovered). The exit of illegal ivory is a relatively simple matter either by dhow from the many creeks that lie between Kipini and Ras Kiamboni, or overland across the Somalia border by camel, donkey or pack ox.

Apart from the road Garsen-Lamu-Garissa and the track Buthei-Kiunga, road communications are non-existent.

During the year, short of proceeding by plane, dhow or via Garissa (close on 400 miles from Malindi), Lamu was cut off for just on eight months. There is no European Police Officer in Lamu district.

Apart from the Arabs and Bajuns on the immediate coastline, the resident population is Boni, without doubt the finest bowmen and game poachers in Kenya, if not Africa.

During the coming year the game scouts will be increased and it is hoped that a European Police Officer will be posted there.

#### THE DISTRICTS

*Kwaile.*—*Shamba* raiding by elephant proved the main source of trouble, 21 in all having to be shot. It is felt that some thinning out will be required here during the coming year.

The sable in the Shimba Hills show signs of increasing. What was previously the Sable Reserve has now been made a Controlled Area, no shooting whatever being permitted without permission of the Game Warden. It is regrettable from the aspect of game preservation that 60,000 acres of land adjoining this have been alienated for the settlement of non-local Africans. This is bound to have a detrimental effect upon the sable.

Commander D. E. Blunt, R.N. (Retd.), Honorary Game Warden, gave me great assistance in the carrying out of elephant control. In addition he spent a good deal of time in sitting up for various stock-killing lion. Thanks to his services I was able to devote practically my entire time elsewhere on the coast.

*Kilifi.*—Here too elephant proved a nuisance, a total of 16 having been shot as they raided cultivation. In November Commander Blunt performed another mission of mercy. This time he put down an elephant which had become bogged in a mangrove swamp at the head of the Kilifi creek.

A total of 445 lb. of ivory was recovered. I am deeply grateful for the assistance given to me by Mr. R. Hoskins, District Officer, and Mr. K. Smith, Honorary Game Warden.

*Malindi.*—A considerable amount of ivory was recovered and poachers convicted (1,451 lb. and 17 convictions). This to a great extent was due to the excellent co-operation and assistance I received at all times from Mr. R. G. Wilson, the District Officer, for which I cannot thank him enough.

During August I was able to come to grips with the resident Arabuko herd of elephant which for long has been the *bête noire* of the Forestry Department locally. The shooting of five sufficed to keep them out for the rest of the year.

*Kipini.*—In view of the general drought, elephant on the whole behaved extremely well on the Tana River. This was largely due to the efforts by the Administrative Officers stationed there in recent years to persuade the locals to make some effort to help themselves. Elsewhere it would seem that the landowners do nothing at all beyond sitting back and yelling loud and long for the "Bwana Game". Not so on the Tana. In July, September, and again in October, it was a common sight (more especially on the upper portion of the district) to see at night the villages practically deserted; men, women and children slept on the edges of their cultivation with large fires every so often, meantime beating *debbes* and *ngomas*, and cracking whips (made from plaited sansevieria) on the approach of elephant. And the elephant did not come in.

Two raiding elephant were shot within four miles of Kipini on October. At this time of the year their diet would appear to consist entirely of doum palm nuts. Judging by the fine condition of the elephant this must form an extremely nourishing form of diet. From one (a young bull) I was able to collect sufficient fat to fill three kerosene *debbes*; even so, only about a third of the total fat was taken, the elephant having fallen on its side. The second elephant was found to be in equally good condition.

Here, too, good results were obtained in dealing with poachers. A total of 758 lb. of ivory was recovered and 14 convictions obtained. The Department is extremely fortunate in that in charge of the district is Mr. G. H. Hilton-Brown who has our interests very much at heart. I am extremely grateful for his assistance.

*Lamu.*—The ivory problem has been mentioned. As it was, with the limited resources available a very considerable quantity of ivory was recovered (1,807 lb.). There were seven game convictions. The elephant control scout Shehe worked well doing what control was necessary.

During the year the Mudir of the Witu Sultanate was made an Honorary Game Warden. He is extremely "game" minded and with his past Police service should be invaluable to us in the future years. I cannot thank him enough for all the assistance he gave me.

(7) Lt.-Col. R. A. F. Hurt, D.S.O., Game Ranger—Annual Report, 1952

#### SETTLED AREAS

The area covered includes Nakuru, Rongai, Subukia, Gilgil, Naivasha, Thomson's Falls and Rumuruti. It is regrettable to record that game animals on private land are rapidly decreasing, whereas vermin such as baboons, bush pig and hyenas appear to be increasing. It is probably wrong to assume that hyenas are on the increase, but their depredations against stock are increasing in proportion to the decrease of the game animals which normally provide them with their natural food. Stock-killing hyenas are particularly difficult to deal with, as they will seldom return to a "kill" and take poison, and it has been found that the only effective method of killing them is with the aid of a gin trap. Unfortunately this method sometimes results in leopard being caught. There is no doubt that on private land the increase in the number of wild pig is directly attributable to the decrease in the number of leopards. It has been found that the best method of reducing bush pig is by hunting them with dogs, although the casualties inflicted on the dogs by these animals is even higher than those caused by buffalos.

In certain areas dogs have also proved useful in the destruction of baboons. This method was used several times on Lord Delamere's Estate at Elmenteita. Here the baboons may often be seen on the open plains, and the dogs are used to chase them into the high trees along the two rivers when they can be shot with comparative ease from below. It has been found that baboons in this area are not easy to poison, though they are more likely to take it during the dry weather when they are short of natural food. One successful poisoning was achieved on Mr. Dames' farm near Thomson's Falls. A number of fake maize cribs were constructed and baited with unpoisoned maize cobs. When the baboons were taking the cobs with confidence, the cribs were baited with cobs which had been boiled in washing blue; this resulted in the white maize becoming a yellow colour. When this bait was again being taken with confidence, the cribs were again baited with cobs boiled in arsenite of soda, which again made the maize a yellow colour. The baboons again took this poisoned bait readily and 30 out of a pack of 50 baboons were killed, and the remainder have not since returned.

Throughout the year there have been frequent complaints of damage done by buffalo, particularly in the Thomson's Falls and Rumuruti districts. In the Thomson's Falls area buffalo are chiefly troublesome during the rains, when they are forced down from the Forest Reserve in the Aberdares to the farms below by the bad weather, and where they cause considerable damage to cultivation. Apart from the damage done to crops by buffaloes most farmers consider them to be potential carriers of cattle disease, and for this reason alone will not tolerate them on their farms.

In the Rumuruti area, on the other hand, buffalo are chiefly active during the dry weather, when they move on to farms in search of grazing and water from the direction of the Uaso Nyiro River. Compared with 1951 this has been a very dry year and the recorded rainfall on many of the cattle ranches in the Rumuruti area has been as low as  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches. In this connexion it is interesting to note that out of 225 buffaloes killed in 1951, 81 were shot in Thomson's Falls district whilst only 27 were killed in Rumuruti district; whereas during 1952, out of a total of 74 buffaloes, only 10 were shot in the former district compared with 37 in the latter area. Although buffalo suffered considerably from rinderpest during 1951, there are still large herds in the Aberdares, and the comparatively small number killed in 1952 compared to 1951 is directly attributable to the weather conditions.

Elephant caused considerable damage to wheat crops in some areas and three were shot at Subukia, two in the Oi Arabel Valley near Rumuruti and one at Ngobit.

Lions were more numerous in the Rumuruti area than in previous years, but did comparatively little damage to stock.

Of the eight rhino shot on control during the year, seven were shot on farms in the Rumuruti district. Rhino are unpopular with most farmers because they chase their cattle and stock herds. One farmer asserts that if rhino are on his farm his cattle develop sores on their sides similar to those carried by most rhino; this theory is probably without foundation, but a farmer who has formed such an opinion will not readily change his mind without convincing proof. For the above reasons, the majority of farmers will not afford any protection to rhino. Major W. G. Edwards, M.C., Honorary Game Warden of Naibor, Rumuruti, who is one of the exceptions, had quite a startling experience with rhino early in November. Whilst travelling in his truck on his farm he surprised a cow rhino and calf, both of which immediately attacked, and battered the door and mudguards on the left of the car considerably. Major Edwards' companion, who had only arrived from England a short while before, was rather more than startled!

The manager of Ol Pejeta Estate, near Nanyuki, made frequent complaints of damage done to fences by reticulated giraffe during the year. The writer made a faunal survey of this ranch in June, 1952, and estimated that there were about 74 giraffe on this 55,000-acre estate; it is feared that the manager intends to reduce their numbers considerably in the near future.

Mr. V. W. Ryves, Honorary Game Warden, who has had two game scouts attached to him throughout the year until the commencement of the Emergency, has rendered valuable assistance in the control of game and vermin in the Subukia area.

Capt. J. P. K. Milton, whose farm is near Bahati Forest Reserve and who has suffered severe stock losses from hyena in the past, was permitted by the Game Warden to engage two game scouts early in the year. Although these scouts were unable to produce concrete proof of having killed any hyenas, their efforts were undoubtedly successful because Capt. Milton has suffered no further losses since the commencement of their activities.

#### CROWN LAND

Apart from the Forest Reserves, the only Crown Land in this area is that of the Samburu Reserve in Maralal district. In this latter area the game was exemplary in its behaviour and practically no control work had to be done. One small bull elephant with a broken tusk was indiscreet enough to chase the District Commissioner of Maralal when he was out for a walk, and had to be shot.

The Saburu Reserve provides an excellent example of the necessity for careful control measures for the preservation of game. In this Reserve, the District Commissioner started a system of grazing control in 1950 whereby certain areas were closed and opened to grazing by native stock in rotation. This system was not readily accepted by the Samburu and they complained, not unreasonably, that when an area was closed the game moved in and destroyed the grazing. The Samburu are also fully alive to the fact that most farmers are taking steps either to reduce or to exterminate the game animals on private land. It has therefore been necessary to take control measures in this Reserve in order to move the game from areas which are closed to grazing by native stock.

Major A. Y. S. Patrick, Honorary Game Warden, of the Veterinary Department, Maralal, rendered signal service in the protection of game in this area during the greater part of the year, until he was transferred to Narok in October, 1952. During the year a small game sanctuary was created in the area outside the National Reserve which adjoins Maralal township, and this was of particular benefit to a small pride of lions which frequents this neighbourhood.

It is gratifying to note that Jackson's hartebeest (sub-specie *Kenya*), which appeared to be nearing extinction a few years ago, are now rapidly on the increase since they have been afforded protection as Royal Game.

#### SAFARI PARTIES

Compared with 1951 there were comparatively few *safari* parties in the Maralal district during the year. It is probable that the increase in the price of first elephant licences was responsible for this. The following elephants and rhino were shot on licence during the year:—

May	Mrs. Wedd	.. .. .	Elephant	60 pounder	Maralal
May	Major A. Y. S. Patrick	.. .. .	Elephant	38 pounder	Maralal
May	Mr. Davies	.. .. .	Rhino (female)	—	Maralal
June	Mr. Fitzmaurice	.. .. .	Elephant	38 pounder	Maralal
Dec.	Mr. H. L. Julian	.. .. .	Rhino	19 in. horn	Maralal

In August the writer witnessed the catching of several grevy zebra from horseback by Mr. Cade of Kiambu. This method of catching game is considerably more humane than that of catching from motor-cars. The zebra did not appear to be unduly alarmed by the sound of a galloping horse, and settled down remarkably quickly when in captivity. On the other hand in areas where zebra have been caught from motor-cars the mere sound of a motor vehicle is sufficient to stampede the game. The grevy zebra caught by Mr. Cade were sent to a zoo in Florida, U.S.A.

#### CASES BROUGHT TO COURT

Number of persons charged.—17.

Convictions obtained.—17.

Acquittals.—Nil.

Pending.—Nil.

All of the above convictions except one were against Africans. The exception was a European who shot a "Kenya" hartebeest.

#### DISEASES AMONGST WILD ANIMALS

The buffalo in the Aberdares continued to suffer from rinderpest in the early part of the year. In my Annual Report for 1951 it was mentioned that the disease spread to buffalo in the Forest Reserve north of the Ngobit River in November, 1951. In January, 1952, about 20 dead buffalo were found in the Forest Reserve near Capt. W. Bain's farm on the west of the Aberdares; all of these were young animals. The disease appears to take its heaviest toll in the dry weather, when grazing is short. During the rains, when there is plenty of grazing and water the disease does not appear to have caused heavy mortality.

During January and February there were outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease amongst cattle in the Ngobit, Naivasha and Elmenteita areas. Wild animals were accused of spreading the disease by some farmers. This accusation may have some justification, but it must be borne in mind that even birds are thought to be capable of carrying the disease, and for this reason it would be wrong to try and check the spread of the disease by the extermination of the larger animals, when birds and the smaller mammals are likely to be equally blame-worthy.

#### OTHER MATTERS

*Hunting Dogs.*—In dealing with buffalo and wild pig, hunting dogs have again proved their worth. When on control work buffalo have to be dealt with in the thickest sort of country, and without the help of dogs to bay up buffalo in such areas hunting would not only prove to be extremely dangerous but more or less impossible. Unfortunately, when hunting buffalo the dogs will often run into a pack of baboons, which will often cause severe casualties to the dogs. As it has already been mentioned in this report, hunting with dogs has proved to be one of the most effective methods of dealing with bush pig.

*The Emergency.*—Since the declaration of the Emergency on 21st October, 1952, the writer has been employed for the greater part of the time on duties with the Kenya Police Reserve. Early in December all game scouts were enlisted as special policemen and have been employed as guards on isolated farms or on patrolling duties. During December, 1952, whilst on patrol work, three armed members of the *Mau Mau* were shot and killed by game scouts and many arrests were made. Since the commencement of the Emergency, therefore, it has been possible to carry out little or no control work.

*Bridge at Kampi-ya-Simba.*—The bridge at Kampi-ya-Simba, which was washed away by flood in December, 1951, was rebuilt at the joint expense of the Forest and Game Departments, and was completed in April, 1952. The new bridge has been built two feet higher than the old one and is of much stronger construction, and should be able to withstand any normal flood in the future.

#### (8) Capt. D. R. P. Zaphiro, Game Ranger, Kajiado—Annual Report, 1953

##### KAJIADO CONTROLLED AREA

*The Need for Control.*—During the year the Kajiado district became a Controlled Area. On July 18th, 1952, the Southern Game Reserve was degazetted by Government Notice and ceased to exist. For fifty-two years it had played its part in the general conservation plan and was no doubt largely responsible for saving from extermination the few remaining herds of game that can be seen to-day around Nairobi. Nonetheless, during the last few years of its existence it was becoming increasingly clear to everyone concerned with game preservation that unless a Game Reserve is adequately policed its wild life is in far greater danger of extinction at the hands of poachers than if the area had been thrown open to parties of sportsmen hunting under some system of control. Such a system of controlled hunting had been operating in the Narok district for nearly a year. So successful and popular had it proved with everyone concerned that when the Southern Game Reserve was abolished the whole of the Masai Extra-Provincial District was proclaimed a Controlled Area. The writer, who had been posted to the Kajiado district in March, 1952, had previously been ordered to draw up a series of rules and regulations, similar to those in force at Narok but suitable for application in his own district.

*The Problems of Control.*—It was soon discovered that many problems exist in the Kajiado district which render it difficult to exercise any really efficient control over the area. Unlike the Narok district, which is poorly furnished with roads, the Kajiado Controlled Area can be entered from any point on the Kapiti Plains and by numerous district roads. To have built a control post on every one of these entries would clearly have been impossible. It was therefore decided to build five control posts to cover the main roads into the area and to rely on efficient policing by game scouts to prevent any illegal hunting. The main Arusha-Nairobi road also constitutes a problem. At any point along this road a car can be stopped and an animal quickly shot and concealed. It would obviously need more than the normal amount of good luck to apprehend anyone doing this along a hundred-mile stretch of road. Beyond making it illegal to shoot within a three-mile strip on either side of the road and placing notice boards en route informing the public of this rule there appears to be no real solution to this difficulty.

*Protection.*—Protection of certain places within the Controlled Area was found to be necessary for certain reasons. For instance, the district possesses a fine set of water-holes known to the Masai as Salengai. As this is the only water available for miles around it naturally attracts a large number of game birds and animals. Since, alas, there can be little doubt as to the manner in which some hunters obtain their trophies it is essential that the animals coming down to drink are afforded some measure of protection. Within a three-mile radius of the holes the shooting of game animals is now forbidden and game birds may be shot only according to a restricted number. Two other areas are also declared restricted or protected (which means briefly that a hunter in possession of a Controlled Area Permit may only be granted the right to hunt within these areas under certain conditions). Of these two regions the Emali-Loitokitok Protected area was declared to allow the game in the Amboseli National Reserve to migrate without hindrance.

A cow rhino with a two-day old calf gored a Masai at Salengai. The victim, who recovered, stated that "all women" were notably of uncertain temper after the pangs of childbirth.

A young Moran decided to see a rhino off which was daily in the habit of approaching his goats in a very menacing manner. He in turn was chased by the infuriated animal and tossed into the air. He descended on the back of the rhino and was carried several hundred yards before falling off. Badly shaken, though unhurt, he returned to his boma as a hero. His ride rapidly achieved notoriety and the unmarried girls saw to it that he received the deserts reserved for bravery. Yet alas, they now speak of him wistfully but without regret. Possibly he was more damaged by his ride than he cared to admit.

A Masai rhino on a visit to Tanganyika wandered, in the middle of the morning, into a crowded village near the border. Losing his head at the screams of frightened women he bolted along a path and ended up inside a vacant house. The door was promptly shut on him by a quick witted Wachagga and later he was speared to death as the only solution to a complete impasse. The resourceful owner of the house then opened the door and plied a brisk trade for the next few days.

#### NATURE NOTES

*Gazella granti*—Grant's Gazelle.—It would appear, without examination of skins, that there may be two if not three geographical races of the *Gazella granti* in the Kajiado district. The highland form *G. granti roosevelti* is the most typical and spreads from the Athi Plains to Kilimanjaro. On the flats around the Kimana swamps below Loitokitok, however, there appears to be an intermingling with a lighter form with more widely spread horns. This is possibly the true *G. granti granti*. In the Magadi Valley a further intermingling seems to occur with a form which is closely allied to the *G. g. robertsi* with its widely spread hooked-back horns. If these observations are correct then specimens of two different races can be seen running together in the same herd.

*Gorgon taurinus*—Wildebeest.—The Magadi Valley is also of interest as it contains the *G. t. albojubatus*, the wildebeest of the Athi Plains, and *G. t. mearnsi*, the wildebeest found on the Loita Plains. Around the S. Uaso Nyiro these two races have been seen by the writer grazing in herds that were separated by only a few miles. The *mearnsi* in this area occasionally displays a faint white chevron on its muzzle. [I believe the real difference between the two sub-species is the darker olive coat of the Narok wildebeest, while the Kajiado wildebeest has a lighter greyer coat. W.W.H.]

*Kobus defassa and ellipsiprymnus*—Waterbuck.—Both the *defassa* and the *ellipsiprymnus* waterbuck have been observed on the banks of the S. Uaso Nyiro. This must surely be the most eastern boundary of the *defassa*? [Yes, in the Nairobi National Park the waterbuck display characteristics of both sub-species. W.H.H.]

*Alcelaphus cokei*—Coke's Hartebeest.—What appears to be the *c. kongoni* race of the Coke's Hartebeest which is the form found on the Loita Plains, was observed half-way up the Nguruman Escarpment. Down below the S. Uaso Nyiro the typical race of *A. cokei cokei* is to be found.

#### GENERAL NOTES ON GAME IN THE DISTRICT

*Oryx*.—The most northern point of the *O. b. callotis* fringe-eared is noted as being Teroka. It has not yet been recorded from the Athi Plains. It is well in evidence at Olemi Boti and Salengai and westwards to Lake Natron.

*Gerenuk*.—This animals is often to be seen in twos and threes in the Kilimanjaro region. It has not been seen further north than Mashuru. It is not very abundant.

*Buffalo*.—These only occur on the Emali Hill at Sultan Hamud; in the Kimana Swamps, on Ol Donyo Erok at Namanga and on the banks of the South Uaso Nyiro. The buffalo at Namanga recently suffered an epizootic of rinderpest which was also noted amongst the cattle of that region by both the Tanganyika and Kenya veterinary authorities.

*Elephant*.—Elephant occur generally throughout the district south of Kajiado but contain very little heavy ivory.

*Hartlaub's Bustard*.—What looked very much like this black-bellied bustard was seen recently by the writer at Ol Tukai. The black lower back and rump was prominent. Since it was seen in the National Park this observation was not confirmed by the obvious method of obtaining the skin.

#### OTHER MATTERS

*Staff*.—The game staff have shown a high standard of discipline and smartness of appearance throughout the year. The establishment is still below strength and with twelve scouts permanently employed at control posts the task of adequately patrolling the district is not an easy one.

*Poachers*.—There is evidence of poaching by the Wakamba near Sultan Hamud and Emali. One or two have been brought to book but the Wakamba have always shown a notable disregard for punishment. Nothing short of a major and successful operation against them, together with the general outlawing—with heavy penalties—of poisoned arrows, will have any lasting effect on these charming but destructive gentry.

*Aid given to the Administration*.—Help was given to the Administration by the Game control posts during the recent Emergency. Since these covered nearly all the main routes to the Tanganyika border the problem of preventing the escape of wanted persons was considerably alleviated.

*Transport*.—Austin lorry O.H.M.S. 4551 has done good service throughout the year. This was entirely due to Driver Oleshuruwa who deserves congratulation for his skilful handling and maintenance. Mileage covered since March, 1952—6,393 miles.

#### THE FUTURE OF GAME IN THE KAJIADO DISTRICT

At present there seems little danger that the game in the district will have to be extirpated. As a cattle tribe the Masai have always lived fairly peacefully with the wild animals of the plains. Only the predators which interfere with their stocks are commonly damned. Wildebeest, which are liable to suffer from malignant catarrh, are also recognized as a source of danger. Control work based on common sense and recognition of the rights of the Masai to protection should deal with this problem as and when it arises.