

Oryx

The International Journal of Conservation

The original paper was published in the *Journal of the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire* (1903-1925 and 1926-1950) or in *Oryx*, the journal of Fauna and Flora International (from 1951).

The website of the journal is (from 2008):

<http://www.oryxthejournal.org/>

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The Society was founded in 1903 as the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire, and subsequently named the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society. Fauna & Flora International is conserving the planet's threatened species and ecosystems – with the people and communities who depend on them.

Oryx - The International Journal of Conservation, is now published quarterly by Cambridge University Press on behalf of Fauna & Flora International. It is a leading scientific journal of biodiversity conservation, conservation policy and sustainable use, with a particular interest in material that has the potential to improve conservation management and practice.

The website, <http://www.oryxthejournal.org/>, plays a vital role in the journal's capacity-building work. Amongst the site's many attributes is a compendium of sources of free software for researchers and details of how to access Oryx at reduced rates or for free in developing countries. The website also includes extracts from Oryx issues 10, 25 and 50 years ago, and a gallery of research photographs that provide a fascinating insight into the places, species and people described in the journal.

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another in the hope of extending the adoption of similar methods of conservation to Southern Asia and the South Pacific. This intention was frustrated by the outbreak of war; but it is the hope of the Society to procure the summoning of such a Conference at an early date after the resumption of peaceful conditions and gradually to bring the whole world into agreement upon a uniform system, with, of course, such local variations as varying conditions may prescribe, of the conservation of Nature for the benefit of the human race.

It is of hopeful augury for the realization of this ideal that the Government of the U.S.A. and of the South American Republics have recently agreed upon measures of conservation within their territories following fairly closely the lines of the African Convention. The American Convention is incomplete inasmuch as invitations to the Conference were not issued to Canada, Newfoundland, the British West Indies, Greenland, Honduras, the Dutch and French possessions in South America, and the Falkland Islands. The resulting Convention is not, therefore, by any means Pan-American, but the Fauna Society regard it hopefully as one more step in the right direction.

On the subject of wild life conservation, as on so many subjects of human interest, it is essential that the English-speaking nations should deliver the same message. That message cannot be better expressed than in the dictum of the famous American conservationist, the late William T. Hornaday. "The wild life of the world is not ours to dispose of as we please. We hold it *in trust* for the benefit of ourselves, and equal benefits to those who come after us. As honourable Guardians we have no right to waste and squander the heritage of our children and grandchildren. It is our duty to stay the hand that strives to apply the torch."

REPORT OF THE ZULULAND GAME RESERVES AND PARKS BOARD

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1943

The following paragraphs of the Board's report will interest members of the Society :—

EXTENSION OF HLUHLUWE RESERVE

Since the Board's last report there has been no change in the position so far as the Corridor is concerned. It is intended to fence the whole area to a point beyond the Black Umfolozi River, but this is, of course, out of the question for the time

being. Every effort is, however, being made to fence a portion of the Corridor adjoining the Hluhluwe Reserve. Fortunately the Board has been able to obtain a certain amount of fencing material, and the present position is that approximately 54 miles have been completed (including the Hluhluwe Reserve) leaving about 17 miles on the southern and western boundaries still to be fenced. When the 17 miles referred to is complete some 22,000 acres will be added to the Hluhluwe Reserve, making the total area fenced about 57,000 acres. It may be mentioned that the 22,000 acres referred to includes a large number of big game animals and about twenty White Rhino. The remaining portion of the Corridor includes few head of big game excepting a number of White Rhino. It is perhaps convenient at this stage to repeat that the fence has proved efficient and has remained unbroken with the exception of small portions spanning rivers which were washed away by floods but immediately replaced.

HLUHLUWE RESERVE

In the Board's last report the approximate game population was given in detail and additional protection has been given to the animals by the fencing of the portion of the Corridor referred to in the preceding paragraph. The Game Conservator reports that there has been no decrease in the game population. On the other hand the increase has been all that could be expected remembering that owing to the depredations of vermin, e.g. baboons, hyenas, pythons, etc., only, say, 25 per cent of the increase of the smaller species of game animals and, say, 10 per cent of game birds live to maturity. There is certainly no reason for assuming that the Reserve is overstocked although it will be necessary to keep the commoner species such as Wildebeeste and Zebra within reasonable limits. The Game Conservator reports that the grazing has been remarkably good throughout the whole year. During the year 1942-43 82 in. of rain fell, and the average for the last seven years was approximately 43 in. There was an abundance of drinking water for the animals.

VISITORS

The number of visitors has decreased owing to transport difficulties. About 700 persons visited the Reserve during the year including many servicemen from all parts of the Empire who were brought by residents of Zululand with whom they stayed during short periods of leave. During the year

two organized visits were arranged consisting of men attached to the Royal Air Force and Red Cross Nurses.

ACCOMMODATION

A policy of steady development has been pursued. During the year the Rest Hut accommodation at the Reserve has been increased, making a total provision for about 70 visitors.

ST. LUCIA AREA

In the St. Lucia area progress can also be reported. On the whole fishing has been good although, as was to be expected, catches have been on the small side during and after heavy rains. The health conditions at the Estuary have been good and anti-malarial measures have been continued with satisfactory results. The Provincial Administration arranged for the old pont to be replaced by a new one more suited to present conditions and this was in commission early in June of this year. At Fannies Island a suitable fresh water supply was located and this has proved to be of great convenience to Campers who previously were obliged to transport for domestic purposes for a considerable distance. Sanitary conveniences have also been provided. Reference has been made in previous reports to the Board's policy of providing Rest Hut accommodation at a point about 15 miles from the Estuary. Two additional rondavels have been erected, making five in all with necessary conveniences, but they will not be ready for occupation for some time owing to difficulties in obtaining equipment. They will, however, be placed in commission as soon as possible. Few visitors are able to proceed by water up the Lake owing to difficulties of transport. The whole area has been patrolled as far as circumstances permitted and the Board is pleased to report the animal and bird life has received adequate protection. Owing to existing conditions little can be done in this area, but the Board is taking steps to bring to the notice of the authorities the necessity for a properly considered scheme of post-war development. The Board is more than ever satisfied that large numbers of visitors can be expected as soon as normal conditions return and that everything should be done to make it possible for these visitors to see all that there is to be seen in what has been described as one of the outstanding tourist resorts of the Empire.
