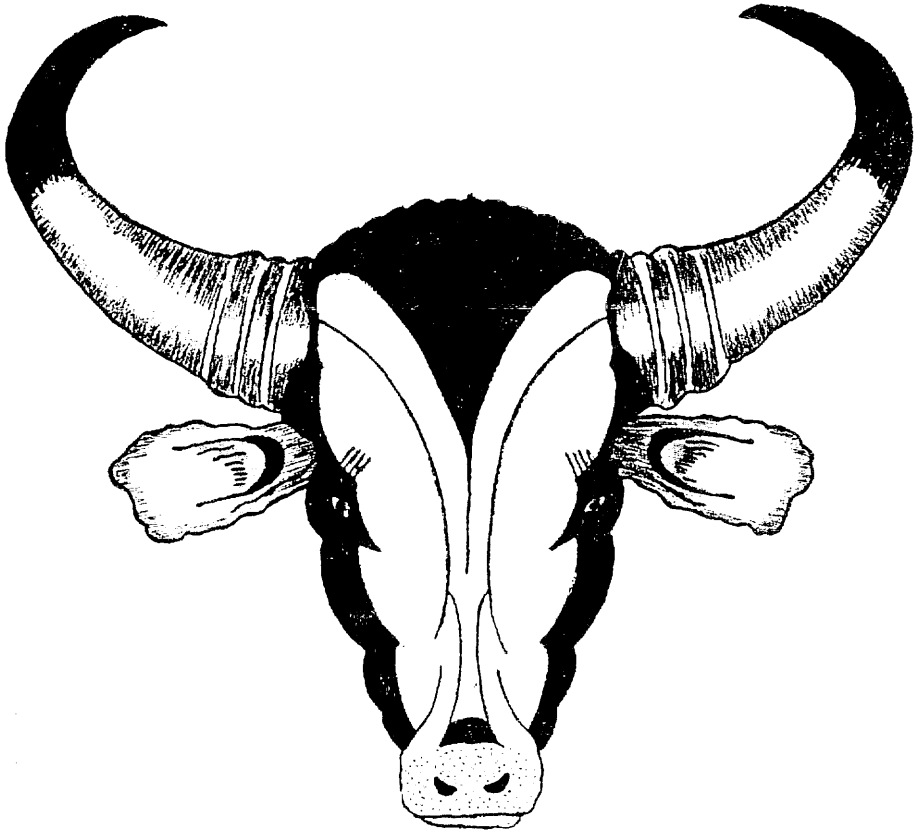


GAME DEPARTMENT
FEDERATION OF MALAYA



NATURE NOTES

1951

by

A. H. FETHERSTONHAUGH.

Chief Game Warden.

Federation of Malaya.

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In changing the title of this publication, I hope that I shall be taking the first step towards the making of an annual record of field observations from all those parts of the Federation where the department operates.

Widening the scope of these notes, beyond the confines of The King George V National Park, cannot be expected to show results commensurate with the increase in territory covered, until Senior Officers are released from Special Emergency Duties to devote their time and energies to Wild Life Management and Research, but sufficient material has been received to justify the change.

A further innovation, is the inclusion of notes on items of botanical, ethnological and archaeological interest in the National Park section. A National Park protects and preserves the flora and fauna, also sites of archaeological and geological interest and special provision is made for the aboriginal inhabitants under the provisions of the Enactments: all come within the meaning of the word Nature.

My thanks are due to the Superintendent of The King George V National Park and the Regional Game Wardens, who have given of their best under circumstances of extreme difficulty; to the Director of Raffles Museum Singapore and his staff for their unfailing assistance and support, to Mr. A. Lindquist of Ulu Bernam Oil Palms Ltd. for photographs and field measurements of the Bearded Pig, and Mr. Chan Peng San, Clerk in my office, for the cover design.

A. H. FETHERSTONHAUGH.

Chief Game Warden.

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PART I

KING GEORGE V NATIONAL PARK

(Observations during the months of February and March were curtailed by the absence of the Superintendent in hospital. He has happily made a complete recovery after a major operation).

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MAMMALS

Gaur. *Bibos gaurus hubbardi* (Malay "Seladang"). Our knowledge of the breeding habits and colour phases of Seladang has been considerably augmented. Much valuable information has been gained from observations made of a calf from approximately 36 hours up to three months old: he is still under observation. I have seen and taken many photographs of Seladang of all ages, but think that Mr. Ogilvie's picture of this calf at about 48 hours old, is a record. Changes in colour and other data recorded are:—

5.30 p.m. 18th September, 1951. Calf first observed. It was still unsteady on its legs and stood up only to suckle the dam. Previous observations led to the belief that it was probably dropped on 16th September at the earliest. *Colour* pale brick red, with a distant black dorsal stripe.

14 days old: first seen to crop grass.

30 days old: first noticeable colour change, the brick red darkening to light brown.

50 days old: uniform light brown.

56 days old: rich brown.

90 days old: brown, perceptibly darker.

On the 16th October a cow appeared accompanied by two calves. She was recognised as a beast which has been recorded as giving birth to twins on two previous occasions. This is the only departmental record of twin calves up to date. The absence of mature bulls from the herds frequenting Kuala Tahan has aroused speculation, but no satisfactory answer has been found, so far.

The behaviour of Seladang in relation to man in the National Park has been the subject of previous comment. The opportunity to record the behaviour of animals in the presence of a natural enemy is so rare, that pre-war notes supplied by Mr. Ogilvie are included in Appendix IA together with the latest observations from Kuala Tahan, Kuala Trenggan and Jenut Kumbang.

*As noted briefly last year the skull of the bull killed in the homeric battle on 15th November, 1950 was recovered. The complete skeleton has since been brought in. It is interesting to note that the animal was apparently making for the Salt Lick at Jenut Kumbang when he succumbed to his wounds. A comparison of the dimension of the horns with the record is interesting, particularly in view of the notes on bulls in Appendix IC.

Record.	Widest outside.	Circum: at base.	Tip to tip.	Widest inside.	Length on curve of longest horn.
(Roland Ward)	- 40"	18"	28 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	34 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	28 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Kuala Tahan head	- 37 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	32 $\frac{1}{8}$ "	31 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

There seems little doubt that death was due to lung injuries caused by a broken rib.

Elephant. *Elephas maximus* (Malay "Gajah"). A solitary Bull Elephant leaving a track 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter has a regular round, appearing at Kuala Trengganu, Jenut Kumbang, Jenut Tabing, Jenut Belaw and Kuala Tahan. His antipathy to our photographic "hides" is a perpetual nuisance, but one of the things which must be accepted in a sanctuary. A small herd of 7 to 8 head appears regularly on the Tembeling between Kuala Atok and Kuala Tahan. Larger herds frequent the valleys of the Tahan, Kenyam, Sat and Spia Rivers, but no accurate count has been possible so far. The tracks of a lone bull, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter were observed in Jenut Jintoh, far up the Sat. The evidence to date leads to the belief that this is the most southerly and westerly point on his "beat."

Tapir *Tapirus indicus*. (Malay "Chipan"). Tapir are in a most satisfactory position; shy and difficult to observe, their tracks have been recorded on all trips into the tributaries of the Tembeling River. Although they frequent Salt Licks, they choose such awkward times and are so wary that we have yet to secure good photographs. They seldom come out into the open in daylight and we have no suitable "flash" equipment to deal with them, at present. They have been seen in Salt Licks in the day time, notably in the Krau Game Reserve in 1947, but this is exceptional and no recent instances are on record. The tracks of a cow accompanied by a very small calf were recorded from Jenut Tabing on 20th December.

Rhinoceros. *Didermocerus sumatrensis*. (Malay "Badak Sumbu"). The report of Rhinoceros in the Upper reaches of the river Sat† has been confirmed. Tracks observed on two separate occasions lead to the belief that there is more than one beast in a relatively small area and knowledge

* Note to page 4. Appendix I. Nature Notes 1950.

† Nature Notes 1950, page 2.

of their habits gives hope of a mated pair. This area is being kept under as close observation as circumstances will permit. Greatest recorded width of tracks in firm ground, 8" and 7½". A report was received from a reputable Malay observer, of fresh tracks observed in the hills between Ulu Dungan and Ulu Lurut on 5th November. His estimate of the greatest width of tracks observed was between 8" and 9". Although outside the National Park area this locality is sufficiently close to be of immediate interest. If the estimated size of the tracks is not greatly exaggerated, interest is stimulated by the possibility of their being those of *R. sondaicus*. A party bringing a tame Elephant from Batu Lompat to Kuala Tahan reported tracks, but nobody had sufficient knowledge to make a positive identification. The presence of old wallows, noted by a previous expedition, presupposes the presence of Rhinoceros. No further investigation in this area is possible at present.

Sambur Deer. *Cervus unicolor equinus*. (Malay "Rusa") Sambur are not easily observed. Their tracks are almost invariably recorded in reports on visits to Salt Licks and they patronise the artificial feeding grounds fairly regularly. They usually leave the forest to graze late in the evening and at first light, but five head were observed in a feeding ground at Kuala Tahan on one occasion at about 4.30 p.m. They are frequently seen there in the glare of security flood-lamps. We have every reason to believe that Sambur are in a very strong position. There is a curious lack of warrantable heads although some very large stags have been seen; this requires further investigation. A picture of a doe was obtained in Jenut Kumbang in October.

Barking Deer. *Muntiacus muntjac*. (Malay "Kijang"). No Barking Deer have been observed during the year, but tracks are plentiful.

Chevrotin. *Tragulus napoh*. (Malay "Napoh").

Lesser Chevrotin. *Tragulus kanchil*. (Malay "Kanchil" "Pelandok"). Tracks frequently seen in high forest and on river banks. Glimpses have been had of individuals, but their extreme timidity and wariness makes them very difficult to observe. Here again "flash" equipment would be of great advantage.

Wild Pig. *Sus scrofa*. (Malay "Babi Hutan"). Wild Pigs are plentiful and well distributed. No evidence of disease has been noticed and numbers have stood up to normal inroads by Tiger and Wild Dogs, their principle natural enemies. Checks throughout the year have confirmed that Pig do not frequent salt licks and although frequently present, they have never availed themselves of the artificial salt licks at Kuala Tahan. An unusually large boar was under close observation for twenty minutes and although he rooted diligently in the vicinity, he never touched the salt bricks.