



THE BIGGEST OF THE FOUR LIONS
SEE PAGE 183

UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY
CAMBRIDGE

651. c. 91. 13

THE REDISCOVERED COUNTRY

BY
STEWART EDWARD WHITE, F. R. G. S.



ILLUSTRATED
FROM
PHOTOGRAPHS



HODDER AND STOUGHTON
LONDON NEW YORK TORONTO

UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY
CAMBRIDGE

CHAPTER XI

AUGUST 26.—Returned early to the thicket. Had the lioness several times within a few yards, but could not get a sight of her. The zebra was pretty well eaten up. This in spite of the fact that the dead lion's carcass lay within eighty yards. Evidently conjugal affection did not go so far as to destroy appetite. Several hundred carrion birds sat around in neighbouring trees, but they had not yet ventured to the feast. I have many times noticed this peculiar action. The birds could clean up an ordinary carcass in five minutes, but will often leave a lion untouched for days, though they cannot bear to go away.

Then beat down the ravine for some distance, and cut across the hills home. At one place a herd of zebra departed over the hill. A spoiled child of a colt, not having seen us, refused to be hurried just because the elders chose to go off in such a hurry. Anxious mamma, at the top of the hill, uttered impatient and worried commands. He toddled along, his eyes half closed, his ears laid back crossly, replying every once in a while with a sulky, petulant bark. So busy was he in having his own way that I got within a few yards of him. And then how he flew! "Mamma was right after all!"

138



METHOD USED IN DRYING LION SKINS

UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY
CAMBRIDGE



HE STOPS IN CONTEMPLATION
SEE PAGE 144



HE DEPARTS
SEE PAGE 144

mapped. Same character of country. Killed a good warthog on the run at sixty yards, and missed a good impalla, just at noon, at about 100 yards. Beat many dongas and counted 1,539 head of game before nine this morning. Then quit: too much work. Sun very strong. Determined this as a cracking game country; mapped it carefully. Easy to get lost, as the twist of the country is peculiar, and there are no local landmarks.

Ten and a half hours; $24\frac{3}{4}$ miles; morning, 56; noon, 100; night (?).

August 30.—Got results on our lion bait—in the shape of eleven hyenas and a leopard! The latter leaped into the top of a low tree—a fine silhouette against a saffron dawn. He looked at us, leaped down again, and disappeared before I could get a shot. The hyenas were of all sorts—big, little, and medium; red, gray, and brown. They vanished sullenly, at the last moment.

We then swung on a circle toward our base camp at the foot of the hill. Across the valley saw a rhino browsing. Slung the .405 over my shoulder, took the camera, left the men squatted, and sneaked down on him. A little ravine lay between me and him, and I took two at twenty-five yards across this. Then I let myself down into the ravine, raised myself with great caution on the other side—and found myself so close to him that I could not get him all in. Waited patiently

until he moved to the next bush, and then got a fine portrait. After this I tossed two very small pebbles toward him, not enough to alarm him, but sufficient to cause him to move on. As soon as he was far enough away I climbed out of the ravine and slipped along after. Dogged his footsteps for half a mile, dodging from bush to bush, and occasionally getting some new pose.* At last he emerged on the open plain. I whistled sharply. Instantly he whirled and started toward me and I snapped the final film of the roll. Deposited the camera quickly on the ground and gave him a careful shot in the outside of the shoulder. No chance to dodge in the open, and I had no desire for him to close. This turned him at about thirty yards and he went off with a slight flesh wound.

Nothing remarkable then happened until we were quite near camp. Then I saw a lioness moving across a small flat of grass in the valley. Hurried down there, but she had disappeared in a donga where I knew it would be useless to follow her. However, I happened to glance to the right, and there was another loping slowly along about 125 yards away. Opened fire with the Springfield and got in three beautiful shoulder shots you could cover with your hand. This slowed her up. A fourth shot, as she turned, just cut into her tail, saving a miss but doing no damage. She then

* These pictures did not turn out as well as I had hoped owing to the fact that I had, because of the easterly wind, to take most of them toward an early morning light.



HE WANDERS STOLIDLY AWAY
SEE PAGE 144



JUST BEFORE THE RUSH
SEE PAGE 144

turned at bay in a small thicket. Followed her with usual precautions. She thrust her head up ten yards away, got two .405 bullets in the chest, and collapsed. Took lots of hitting this one. While the men skinned her I went outside and killed camp meat in the shape of a topi at 180 yards and another at 210. Just outside camp got a wildebeest at 231 yards. Thus closed an eventful morning.

Had just finished lunch when in came Cuninghame. We *were* glad to see each other! Ikoma proved to have no donkeys, no Indian stores, no *potio*, no water except in holes, not even one nail! A single German official occupied a battlemented stone fort with three lines of barbed-wire defences. Cuninghame brought back fourteen naked savages as porters, and two Wanderobo as guides. The porters are Wakoma, well-formed, strong copper men, quite naked, with pleasant faces and a happy disposition. They carry their loads by means of shoulder straps made of bark. Why this does not cut their shoulders in two I am unable to say. Cuninghame and I sat in the shade and swapped news all the afternoon. He brought back one tin of butter and a few German cigars. We also took our first drink of whiskey by way of celebration.

Four hours; 13 miles; morning, 56; noon, 89; night, 72. Donkey safari also came in.

Ikoma." We saw none. These beasts decoy readily by fluttering white flags.

25. Uganda Cob (*adenota kob thomasi*).—This animal is reported in a small German handbook from the east shores of the lake and the country adjoining. Perhaps on this authority (?) Roosevelt and Heller include that country in their distribution map. We looked into this matter thoroughly, and are fairly certain cob are not to be found there. The native name for both cob and impalla is *sumu*, which may have caused the confusion. A small herd is to be found in Kavirondo near Kibigori. Here, probably due to the presence of vast numbers of natives, the cob has abandoned his usual habits and seeks thick cover.

26. Duiker (*sylvicapra grimmia*).—Not common; but widely distributed. Whether subspecies *hindei* or *nyansae* I do not know.

27. Oribi (*ourebia montana cottoni*).—Common everywhere. Roosevelt's and Heller's distribution map—p. 563—should be extended eastward to the heights above Lake Natron.

28. Steinbuck (*raphicerus campestris neumani*).—Common in suitable cover everywhere. In seeking to hide they often fold their ears *forward or back*, creasing them in the middle, like a spaniel.

29. Klipspringer (*oreotragus oreotragus schillingsi*).—Common in suitable localities. On the rolling plains, where there are no hills within a good many miles, I found these animals in deeply eroded creek beds filled with boulders. The boulders apparently gave them the illusion of

rocky side hills; and the little animals leaped from one rock to the other entirely satisfied.

30. Roberts' gazelle (*gazella granti robertsi*).—Quite common between Oliondo and Olgoss. Cuninghame reports it around Ikoma. None at all in the immense game herds south of the Bologonja.

31. Thomson gazelle (*gazella thomsoni*).—Nowhere abundant, and apparently very local. Many sections well adapted to "Tommies" are quite devoid of them. Nevertheless saw specimens as far west as Walioba's and as far east as the plateau above N'digadigu. It would be interesting to know why there are not more gazelles in this country. Carry very large heads. I am doubtful of the new subspecies *nasalis*. I have two heads from the region of its habitat, neither of which possess the alleged distinguishing black patch across the nose.

32. Impalla (*aepyceros melampus suara*).—Common. Carry very large heads.

33. Dik-dik (*rhynchotragus kirki cavendishi*).—We found this animal very local in its distribution.

34. Rhinoceros (*disceros bicornis bicornis*).—Common in the mountains between the two protectorates, where their trails helped us greatly; but unusually scarce in the new country. They have been much hunted there by Wanderobo, who take their horns.

35. Zebra (*equus quagga granti*).—Common everywhere; but not so common as the topi or wildebeeste. Seem in this country rather to prefer cover to the open plains. They are there practically invisible (see discussion elsewhere).

36. Elephant (*loxodonta africana capensis*).—In the