



It is claimed that there are greater concentrations of game in Gorongosa than in the Kruger National Park, and from the above photograph of a very sizable herd of zebra, it is easy to believe this.

The original Game Reserve was proclaimed on March 22, 1921, and in 1935 a considerable enlargement was made. The area was declared a National Park about 1949, and remains the only game sanctuary with this status in Mocambique.

Gorongosa National Park

By Antonio Fajardo
(Vice Consul for Portugal)

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ON the left of the international highway Umtali-Beira, there is a road, five miles from Gondola, which leads to the National Park of Gorongosa, a true savannah where wild life flourishes in its natural splendour.

On March 22, 1921, the Mocambique Government proclaimed the region, known as Gorongosa, a national game reserve. Its approximate area at that time was 1,000 square kilometres, but in 1935 the reserve was enlarged to approximately 3,200 square kilometres, with its boundaries reaching to the Inhandue River in the north, the Urema in the east, and in the south, to the River Pungue; the west boundary is the road leading from Mutiambamba, passing through Vila Paiva de Andrada, to where it crosses the Inhandue in the north. About three years ago, this game reserve became a National Park; rest camps were built and over a hundred miles of road were opened for the benefit of tourists.

The Park is well supplied with water from its rivers and numerous streams. The most important of these rivers is the Urema. In the dry seasons the rivers dry up, leaving a series of lakes and pools and it is here where the visitor enjoys the magnificent sight of seeing great herds of buck gathering to drink as the sun's last rays reflect themselves in the disturbed water.

Plentiful River Life Numerous crocodiles inhabit the rivers and streams of the Park and hippopotami gather in great schools along the banks and in the rivers themselves. The best known of the hippo haunts is the Hippo Pool in the Urema River.

Another favourite gathering spot is the Inhalite Pool where the tourists may see some of the most outstanding scenery in the Park. Here, at dusk, very large herds of buffalo and elephant flock to quench their thirst.

The vast grassy flats (known to the Portuguese as *tandos*) attract all sorts of buck, the most common species being the waterbuck and the wildebeest, but here, too, one may see hundreds of zebra enjoying the richness of the grass. Some of the herds which roam these flats are several miles long and number many thousands.

Elephant herds, sometimes numbering over a hundred, are found in the wooded or bush country of the Park. This too, is the home of the buffalo, and it is not strange to see these beasts gathered in many hundreds. Lion abound in the forests, and prides often consist of as many as eleven. Buck such as impala, eland, hartebeest and sable also inhabit the bush



Elephant in typical Gorongosa setting.

country. Other animals which one may see are cheetahs, packs of wild dogs, jackals, hyenas, oribi, bushbuck, reedbuck, baboons and warthogs and if one is lucky enough, one might come across that elusive creature the leopard.

Rhino are found in the northern parts of the Park on the slopes of Gorongosa Mountain.

The bird life of the Park is very colourful and there is a very large variety. Crane and marabou flocks are very common and some rare and unusual species are found here.

The giraffe, strangely enough, is a rarity in the Gorongosa Reserve. Some time ago, as an experiment, the Kruger National Park sent a few giraffe to the Gorongosa Park, hoping that they would find a natural habitat in that part of Southern Africa.

Ostrich too were sent here but unfortunately most of them were eaten by leopards.

The rest camp facilities are being improved by the Government. At the southern entrance to the Park, in the Chitongo

area, the authorities have built a large modern camp which offers comfortable beds and cooking facilities.

The most suitable route for South African visitors to take to the Gorongosa National Park is via Southern Rhodesia, crossing the border into Portuguese East Africa at Umtali. Petrol is obtainable along the route at the following places — Vila de Manica, Vila Pery and Condola, which are all en route. Petrol will shortly be available at the rest camp.

The Gorongosa National Park is open to visitors throughout the year but the most suitable time to visit it, from a climatic point of view, is from the middle of July to the end of October, which is the dry season.

Holders of South African passports do not require visas to enter Moçambique, nor do holders of United Kingdom passports who have been residing in the Union of South Africa for more than six months.

In the opinion of many connoisseurs of wild life and game reserves, this National Park is considered to be comparable



Modern building: Privacy assured. For immediate occupancy, more or less.

Two lions in an abandoned part of camp, Gorongosa National Park.

to that of the Serengeti Plains owing to its uniqueness and the large variety of animals it offers.

The following are the fees charged:

ADMISSION:

Vehicle, including driver	160\$00
Passengers (Adults)	120\$00
Passengers (Minors)	40\$00

CAMPING FACILITIES:

Hire of bungalow and bedding for 3 days:	
Daily charges for each bed (With linen)	40\$00
Daily charges for each bed (Without linen)	30\$00

After the above period of three days, a surcharge of 40% on the daily tariff will be imposed.

The above charges also include use of the kitchen.

RATE OF EXCHANGE: 80\$00 equals £1.00.

Successful Rearing of a Baby Swallow

By I. Freese

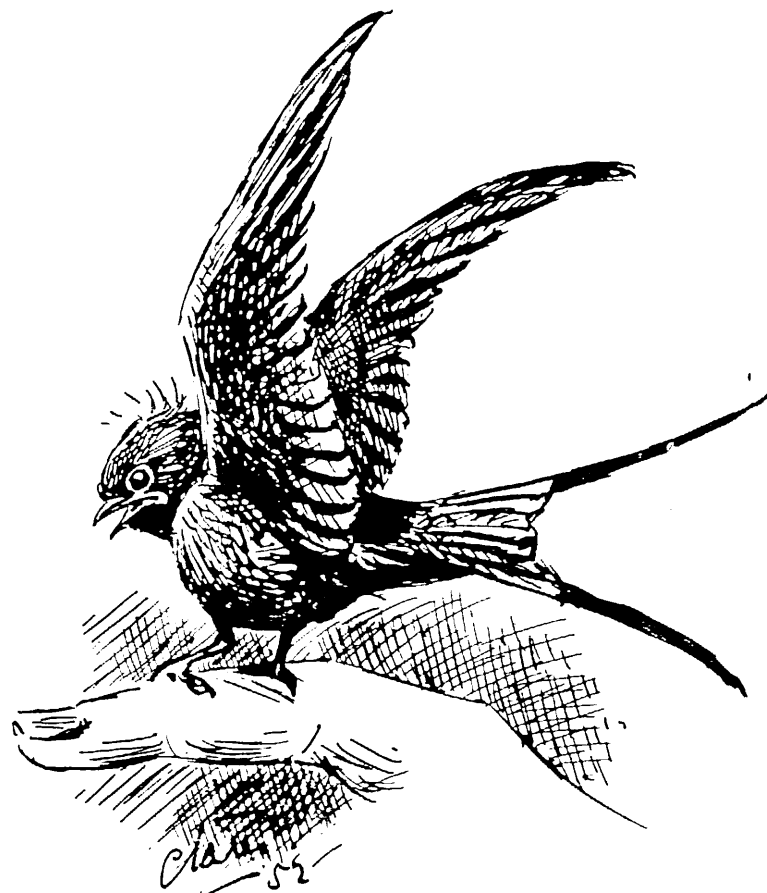
Illustrated by C. T. Astley Maberly

THIS is the story of a wild baby swallow hand-reared on raw minced beef.

During January, 1948, when we were living in Glencoe, a pair of swallows had built their nest high up under our eaves. I cannot identify the species, except that they appeared to be slightly smaller than the stripe-breasted type and were a shiny bluish-black, and very common in Natal during summer. Also the round nest of mud-pellets was built without a long entrance tunnel.

One morning my children reported that the garden boy was teasing a baby bird. There was the baby swallow on the ground under the nest. It was just starting to change its baby down for some scrubby greyish feathers. How it fell out no one knows. Perhaps the growing brood found their quarters too cramped and this little fellow was pushed just too near the opening and fell out. It was weak and emaciated and could not even lift its head or open its eyes.

The nest was very high, and, as I could not obtain a ladder, I placed it in a conspicuous position, hoping the parent birds, who were circling overhead, would notice it and come to feed it. But the day wore on without the parents taking any notice of their offspring, which in any case was too feeble to chirp to attract attention.



"... it had to stretch wings and tail in all directions to keep its balance"—part of the young swallow's training procedure.

Encouraged by the keen interest the children were showing in the baby bird, I decided it was worth trying to save its life. The swallow was therefore taken into the kitchen.

The first thing I did was to force open its beak, into which I let droplets of water drip from my fingertips. In the meantime the children had caught some flies, which I forced down its throat along with some pellets of hard-boiled egg. All this the bird endured without once opening its eyes or showing the slightest interest. I wrapped it in some rags and hung it up in a basket on the pantry fanlight out of the children's reach.

I continued feeding it on flies and hard-boiled egg yolk every three to four hours during the day time. This was a tedious process, as for each titbit the tender beak had to be gently