

CENSUS OF PLAINS ANIMALS

IN THE
SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK, TANGANYIKA

Dr. Bernhard Grzimek has published a nice booklet containing a full report of the census of plains animals, held by the author and his son Michael (who died in an air accident at the end of these investigations.) It is a reprint of an article published in "The Journal of Wildlife Management" Volume 24, number 1.

The number of plains animals was studied in the Serengeti National Park in Tanganyika, British East Africa. This area of 4,600 square miles was subdivided into 32 smaller areas and the animals were counted from the air. Each area was flown in parallel strips at low altitude with a specially-built airplane. The total count of large animals was 366,980, only one-third of the number which earlier had been estimated for this region.

These animals presumably are the last large concentrations of plains animals in Africa. A considerable number of animals were found at the time of this census in the area outside the park. A far greater number will be outside the park on the basis of contemplated future boundaries. Studies of the seasonal movements, and their causes, of these animal herds are in progress.

Most interesting is the following result of the aerial game census of the Serengeti area — January 3rd — 16th, 1958:

Common name	Scientific name	Number
Thomson's Gazelle	<i>Gazella thomsonii thomsonii</i>	194,654
Grant's Gazelle	<i>Gazella granti robertsi</i>	
Wildebeest (Gnu)	<i>Connochaetus taurinus albojubatus</i>	99,481
Böhm's Zebra	<i>Equus burchellii Boehmi</i>	57,199
Topi	<i>Damaliscus korrigum eurus</i>	5,172
Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx pattersonianus</i>	2,452
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus melampus</i>	1,717
Black Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer aequinoctialis</i>	1,813
Coke's Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus cokii</i>	1,285
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchii</i>	837
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus defassa raineyi</i>	284
Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia ciconia</i>	178
Oryx Antelope	<i>Oryx beisa callotis</i>	115
Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana africana</i>	60
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus langheldii</i>	57
Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis bicornis</i>	55
Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus massaicus</i>	1,621
Total		366,980

A VISIT TO THE Chicago Zoological Park at Brookfield, Illinois, U.S.A.

by Richard J. Reynolds

The huge Pachyderm House contained a truly outstanding collection. There were 4 Asiatic Elephants, including an enormous bull named "Ziggy". He is ten feet tall and is said to weigh 13,000 pounds. Also present were a pair of young African Elephants "Widnet and "Peter Pan", who arrived in 1955 and 1957 respectively. The Perissodactyla were represented by 1—1 Great Indian Rhinoceros, 1—2 African Black Rhinoceros, one Malayan Tapir, and 4 South American Tapirs. The Great Indian Rhinos, "Kashi" and "Kamala" arrived in 1948, as a gift of the late George B. Dryden. An adult pair of African Black Rhinos, "Pharoah" and "Mary", have been in the zoo since May, 1934. They produced the first African Black Rhino born in captivity, a male born on October 7, 1941. A second male was born to the pair on September 21 1944. The third black rhino which was present at the date of my visit was a female named "Rosie", acquired in 1956. The remaining occupants of the Pachyderm House were 1 Pigmy Hippopotamus and 2—2 Hippopotamus. Of the latter, one pair, "Bebe" and "Toto", were acquired from the Memphis, Tennessee zoo in November, 1933. The remaining pair arrived in May, 1956.

The Giraffe House contained the following: 4 Giraffes, 2—1 Okapi and 1—0 Sable Antelope. The Okapi family is particularly noteworthy in that the young male was the first Okapi born in America, an event which took place on September 17, 1959. Concerning the parents, the male arrived in 1955 as a loan from the Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey Circus, and the female arrived in 1956 as a gift of the Belgium Government.

The Lion House contained: 5—3 Lions, 2 Bengal Tigers, 2 Spotted Leopards, 2 Black Leopards, 2 Snow Leopards, 2 Cheetahs, 2 Spotted Jaguars, 2 Pumas, 1 Striped Hyena, 2 Spotted Hyenas and 2 Cape Hunting Dogs. In an adjoining outdoor enclosure were a family of Siberian Tigers.

Features of the Small Mammal House included: 2 Red Uakari Monkeys, 3 Orang Utans, 1—0 Gorilla, "Jacob" arrived on July 7, 1957, 3 Lar Gibbons, 2 Golden Cats, 1 Clouded Leopard, 1 Mongoose Lemur, 1 Crowned Lemur, 1 Aard Vark, and 3 Giant Ant-eaters.

Anthropoid Apes living in the Primate House were 1—1 Lowland Gorilla, "Sappho" and "Baby" received in 1951, 1—1 Orang Utans, "Pieter" and "Tia", received in 1948, 7 Chimpanzees, and 9 White handed Gibbons.