

# Oryx

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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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## EXTRACTS FROM KENYA COLONY GAME WARDEN'S REPORT, 1925.

### (A) LICENCES.

The sale of Game Licences during the year considerably exceeded all estimates, realising the astonishing sum of £17,681.

The comparative statement giving the figures for the last three years is of interest as showing the increases :

Licences.	1922	1923	1924	1925
Visitor's Full .. ..	28	35	26	56
Visitor's Private Land	—	2	33	38
Residents' Full .. ..	90	156	293	367
Resident's 14-day .. ..	55	115	133	102
Resident's Private Land	173	515	646	744
Native Employé .. ..	—	25	18	22
Bird .. .. .	—	—	954	1,208
Elephant, 1st .. ..	30	58	111	168
Elephant, 2nd.. ..	—	—	37	57
Rhino, 1st .. ..	44	62	76	112
Rhino, 2nd .. ..	—	—	9	9
Giraffe .. .. .	3	5	3	14
Ostrich .. .. .	3	2	2	4
Trophy Dealer's .. ..	—	12	54	72
Game Dealer's.. ..	—	—	4	4
Ostrich Feathers .. ..	—	—	18	—
Traveller's .. ..	168	190	—	—
<b>Total Revenue ..</b>	<b>£5,224</b>	<b>£8,294</b>	<b>£11,499</b>	<b>£17,681</b>

The following analysis of licences is also of interest :—

Licences	European	Indian	Goan.	Arab	Native	Total
Visitor's Full £100 .. ..	56	..	..	..	..	56
Visitor's Private Land £10..	38	..	..	..	..	38
Resident's Full £10 .. ..	359	3	1	4	..	367
Resident's 14-day £3 .. ..	101	1	..	..	..	102
Resident's Private Land £2..	730	..	..	14	..	744
Native Employee £2 .. ..	22	..	..	..	..	22
Bird Sh. 10s. .. ..	649	257	90	103	109	1,208
Elephant (1st) £15 .. ..	165	..	1	2	..	168
„ (2nd) £30.. .. ..	55	..	..	2	..	57
Rhino (1st) £5 .. ..	111	..	..	1	..	112
„ (2nd) £10 .. ..	9	..	..	..	..	9
Giraffe £15 .. ..	14	..	..	..	..	14
Ostrich £5 .. ..	4	..	..	..	..	4
Trophy Dealer's £1.. ..	21	27	..	14	10	72
Game Dealer's £1 .. ..	4	..	..	..	..	4
Ostrich Feather Dealer's £1-10s..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .. ..	2338	288	92	140	119	2,977

#### (B) IVORY AND CONFISCATED TROPHIES.

There was a very great decrease in the amount of ivory handed in and confiscated during the year ; indeed not sufficient was on hand in November to warrant a sale being then held as has been customary in recent years.

A number of causes contributed to this result, the most important being :—

- (i) The cession of a large part of Jubaland to Italy.
- (ii) The alteration of frontier occasioned by (i) *supra*.
- (iii) The success which had attended the efforts of agents during the two or three preceding years had absorbed the greater portion of the buried and hidden ivory in

the more accessible areas, while those with ivory still in their possession had become more cautious.

### (C) REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY.

The Revenue Estimates of the Department were seriously falsified by the drop in ivory sales. Nevertheless, a comparison of revenue and expenditure figures shows a very satisfactory result :—

Cost of Department, exclusive of ivory vote .. ..	£4,758	Revenue from Licences .. ..	£17,681
Expenditure on ivory vote .. ..	£2,479	Revenue from ivory	£12,413
Total Expenditure	£7,237	Total Revenue ..	£30,094
Balance of Revenue over Expenditure, £22,857.			

### POACHING AND ILLEGAL KILLING.

#### (A) NON-NATIVE.

The great number of breaches of the Game Laws are undoubtedly the outcome of the commercial possibilities of game.

So long as there is a free market for game meat, hides, reims, etc., so long will certain persons legally or illegally make what they can. There is probably comparatively little shooting by unlicensed persons, but there is certainly much over-shooting of the schedules by those who kill not for sport or trophies, but for sale or barter.

Similarly, I know that the holders of a Special Rhino Licence do not always confine themselves to one rhino, while doubtless several Elephant Licences issued during the year were applied for after the animal had already been shot.

Magistrates are now, for the most part, alive to the fact that exemplary fines are necessary in the interests of the public

and in the majority of convictions during the year penalties sufficient to have a deterrent effect were recorded. In one or two instances, however, the fines were so slight as to make it a case of "heads I win, tails you lose" for the lawbreaker. Not until all concerned with the administration of the law, and the imposition of sanctions recognise the futility of petty and inadequate sentences will it be possible to reduce poaching to a negligible minimum. For just as a certain proportion of persons will maintain that it is no crime to travel first-class on a third-class ticket, so there always will be those who will not recognise that they are robbing their fellow men if, having a licence for two waterbuck, they proceed to shoot ten.

Few of these same individuals, having bought and paid for four oxen would attempt to make off with eight, even though they had bought from a big syndicate and not from an individual. It is, then, difficult to imagine how the over-shooting of a schedule can find justification in even an elastic conscience; for the game of the Colony is the property of the community, which sells the right to its members to do away with certain numbers of certain species for a certain payment. There will, however, remain always some whom no consideration, moral or otherwise, will affect, but only the fear of retribution; and it is on their account that all breaches of the Game Laws, other than purely technical, should involve heavy penalties.

It is believed by some that the Game Department is never content unless it has a prosecution pending. It will never be content until the necessity for a prosecution has ceased to exist.

#### (B) ILLEGAL IVORY TRAFFIC.

No satisfactory working arrangement has yet been arrived at with the new Italian colony of Trans-Juba, to ensure the suppression of illegal ivory traffic across the frontier. The Italian home Government has shown itself sympathetic, however, and it is hoped that in the near future some reciprocal agreement will be arrived at which will close an avenue—Great North Road would be a more appropriate nomer—of

disposal that has long rendered nugatory all attempts to deal with ivory smuggling in the north-east of this Colony.

If and when such agreement is arrived at, a concentration on the Kilifi-Lamu coastline will finally deprive the trader in illegal ivory of his last hope of export. Some small amount of ivory will still, doubtless, find its way from time to time into Abyssinia, but it will be so small as to constitute no menace to the elephant herds of this Colony.

The present situation is undeniably bad, since the new frontier is close to the important, closely bushed, and sparsely administered, elephant areas; and it is a matter of absolute impossibility to prevent elephants being killed and their teeth crossed over without our knowledge. For in those vast areas the only conceivable means of preventing—or reducing to a minimum—killing is to remove the incentive; the incentive being gain, a market is essential and the denial of such removes forthwith the menace.

#### DAMAGE BY GAME.

##### (A) GENERAL.

I regret to record that there were a large number of well-founded complaints received during the year; of these, many were due to the prolonged drought with the resultant forced migrations. In others, however, the blame cannot be laid on climatic conditions, and it will accordingly be of some value to consider in brief detail the various indictments.

##### (B) PLAINS GAME.

The effects of the drought on the game were very evident in the Southern Game Reserve. The grazing being finished, the herds were forced to move in search of other and less dessicated feeding grounds. There is normally a periodic migration in the dry season from the Athi Plains lying south of the Railway to the foothills and uplands to the north; this was naturally largely augmented by the severity of the drought, with consequent depredations on growing crops, grazing and waterholes in the contiguous settled areas. I am satisfied that while in average years game is a grave hindrance to development in the

Athi River, Mau Hills, Lukenia, Kilima Kiu area, in years of exceptional drought such as 1925, it is liable to cause losses that may well put an end completely to the farming activities of those who are not firmly established.

Many native shambas round Nairobi were visited nightly by animals from the near-by corner of the game reserve, while the usual quota of zebra patronised the excellent grass of the Gymkhana Club and other well-kept lawns in the town itself, leaving behind at times one of their number which had treated wire with undue contempt. One such was found dead a few yards from the Museum; the Natural History Society generously presented it to the conservancy authorities.

#### (C) ELEPHANTS.

I am glad to be able to report that there appears to have been less damage done by elephants on the Plateau and Trans-Nzoia than normally. Elsewhere in Kisii, Wateita country, Laikipia, the Aberdare slopes and several coastal areas, raids on shambas were reported.

They are suspected of acting as carriers of "fly" in the north-west of Laikipia and it appears that such may be the case, since outbreaks have frequently followed the arrival of herds from the fly-belt to the north.

#### (D) RHINO.

Many complaints were received from the Nyeri-Kenya area as to the number and ferocity of the rhino there.

The matter was brought into tragic prominence by the cruel fate of Captain E. D. Atkins, whose death deprived the Colony of a true sportsman and a great gentleman.

That they are numerous in the area in question is certain; and I am of opinion that many have moved there recently, driven from the Aberdare forests by buffalo hunters whose activities were rendered possible by the existence of the "unlimited" buffalo area to the west. It is also clear that these forest rhino are unusually fierce, even when unprovoked, as witness the number of persons who have been chased and the number of cattle which have been injured recently. And that

they are dangerous in the thick forest there I know from personal—and painful—experience. An attempt is at present being made under the auspices of this Department to reduce their numbers, a matter of some difficulty to achieve with success, since many of their strongholds consist of the thickest possible bush forest and the danger to the community of leaving a wounded animal is only equalled by the danger incidental to bringing it to bag.

(E) ZEBRA.

The campaign against zebra on the Uasin Gishu Plateau was continued with successful results during the year. Concerted attempts to reduce the numbers of these animals were also made in North and West Kenya and Laikipia. The price of hides, which rose to Sh. 10 each for a period, and the issue of condemned Government ammunition, contributed to a slaughter that may well cause horror to animal lovers but is yet, as I see it, to the interest not only to the community but of the game preservation. For in areas where the existence of large herds of zebra is economically impossible, it is better that a clearance be effected and that speedily. Desultory shooting spread over long periods, apart from achieving little good and leaving grounds for a sour public opinion, endangers all other game. The average person—I am here excluding the “poor white” who attempts and at present, alas, succeeds in making a living out of game—does not often shoot except in case of necessity, after once satisfying the blood lust that bites many new settlers; but if he does as a result of necessity go out to shoot he is very apt to shoot any animal that he meets. Thus a community that goes about armed for any reason will shoot—thoughtlessly often rather than wantonly—and game as a whole will suffer. It is for this reason, as well as from sympathy with the farming community, that I am glad to see the success of the zebra campaign.

(F) VERMIN.

A number of complaints and inquiries were received on the score of the damage done by baboons and bush pig. I sug-



gested that it might be possible to cope with the marauders by means of poison.

I have so far had no reports as to whether the method produced any satisfactory results, but it would be of great value if anyone who has tried this or any other method of dealing with the pests would give this Department the benefit of their experience. The method I suggested as is follows :—

The animals are fed for a time on cooked sweet potatoes, pollard or bran, placed always at the same spot. When they have accustomed to finding the food, poison is added to it. For this purpose arsenite of soda has certain advantages, tasting sweet and not occasioning vomiting if taken in overdoses. Ten grains is said to be the lethal dose for a pig.

Needless to say the utmost care must be used in employing this or other poison to ensure that native totos or domestic animals do not pick it up.

#### GAME PRESERVATION.

I have stated elsewhere in this report that it was a tragic year for the Department. In the death of Sir Robert Coryndon, game, not in Kenya alone, but throughout Africa, lost one of its ablest champions, for he had seen game in many lands ; seen it and seen it go. His experience and advice were invaluable to us in our attempts to steer clear of the rocks which beset game preservation in a young and vigorously growing Colony ; and when he went, I felt that we had indeed dropped our pilot just as we were entering on the roughest and most treacherous reaches.

His memory remains as an inspiration.

It became apparent during the year that, in certain areas at least more game was being killed than was consistent with the proper conservation of a good future stock. I refer, of course, to Crown land and more particularly to the easily accessible and popular shooting grounds. The animals I would cite as giving especial cause for anxiety are waterbuck, eland, roan and lion. Four hundred and twenty-three Full

Licences were taken out during the year and 102 Fortnightly Licences ; when it is recognised that the greater number of these were used on a few chosen shooting parts it becomes evident that the drain on the less numerous but desirable species is enormous.

I am of opinion that it will be necessary in the near future to limit the number of lion that may be killed on a Full Licence except on and in the vicinity of private land ; otherwise this animal will soon cease to exist in some areas where he does no harm, but—to put the matter on the most sordid basis—helps to swell revenue.

I consider further that the time is not far distant when it will be necessary to find means of limiting or at least keeping in check the number of Crown Land Licences issued each year ; whereas in 1922 there were issued 118 Full Crown Land Licences, there were 191 in 1923, 319 in 1924 and 423 in 1925 ; there has thus been an increase of nearly 300 per cent. in three years.

I do not wish to give the impression that the shooting grounds in the Colony are shot out. Such is far from being the case. But care must be exercised or several of the most popular will cease to offer the probability of a representative and sporting bag.

The cession of Jubaland is a matter of grave concern. It has brought the new international border to within some 60 miles of the Lorian Swamp itself, making it more than ever a matter of impossibility to circumvent the activities of the ivory runners without the co-operation of the Italian authorities. I hope and believe that a full realisation of the issues involved for themselves in their newly acquired Colony, no less than for us, will induce our neighbours to take the only step that can avail, which is to proclaim all ivory other than that obtained on licence a Government monopoly. If my confidence is misplaced, it is only a matter of time before the elephant herds of the north-east join the sorry fabulous hosts of the past.

No aspect of civilisation has more increased the complexity of game preservation problems than the advent into general use of motor-cars. Areas previously accessible only at certain

seasons with larger safaris and much human endeavour have in consequence fallen open to a few cases of petrol and a gallon of oil. Time, distance, money and personnel are thereby reduced to such an extent that a journey to the confines of the Colony is now within the capabilities of most of us. Conjointly have the difficulties of keeping check of who is where, with whom, and shooting what, increased. Each year the number grows of those whose shooting is all done from cars, and the year under review was remarkable in this manner, the general tendency doubtless gaining impetus from the gradual disappearance of the old safari porter and the increasing disinclination of the younger generation to undertake the work.

### NEW LEGISLATION.

The Proclamation allowing the unlimited killing of buffalo in the Solai-Laikipia-Baringo area was repealed in September. This unlimited area had achieved a part of its purpose in securing the reduction of the buffalo by some 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. as I estimate. It had, however, defeated its own ends in that the animals that remained were driven far and wide from their fastnesses on to farm lands previously clear of them.

It had, in addition, provided a screen for buffalo killing on a large scale in the Aberdares. It is to the consequent undue activity in the latter region that I attribute the presence of an unusually great number of rhino and probably of elephant also in the vicinity of Nyeri.

The whole scheme, while possibly at the time the best that could be devised with the existing lack of facilities, provides a clear example of the desirability of controlled as opposed to indiscriminate methods in dealing with game problems.

Schedule III. of the Game Ordinance was amended on September 29th, 1925, the number of Hunter's antelope allowed on a Full Licence being reduced from 6 to 2 and on a 14-day Licence from 4 to 1.

This was made necessary by the loss, on the cession of Jubaland, of the major part of the always circumscribed distributional area of this species.

At the same time, 1 male sable antelope was added to the Schedule, the increase in number of these animals in consequence of their absence from the licence since 1921 and the stronger steps taken to protect them from native poaching, rendering this warrantable.

## THE GAME RESERVES.

### (A) THE NORTHERN RESERVE.

I am indebted to Mr. R. L. Taverner, 3rd King's African Rifles, Officer-in-Charge, Barsaloi, for the following excellent account of affairs in the Northern Reserve which, in view of its interest I quote *in extenso*.

“ *General.*—This report is based on three safaris of mine, various safaris of game scouts and reports from tribal retainers of game seen by them during their safaris. My three safaris were :—

“ 1. Barsaloi—Laitogwa—Irerr—Laisamis—Marsabit, at the end of February.

“ 2. Barsaloi — Oberoi — Lollerarra — R. Amaya — Sugota Banyaban—Sugota Mugia—Sugota Marmara—L. Kisima—Barsaloi.

“ 3. Barsaloi—Baragoi—Naisecho—Horr Valley—Sirima—Laiyangallani—Mt. Kulal.

“ During the first two months of the year most of the smaller game migrated eastwards owing to the lack of grazing throughout the reserve due to the failure of the rains in the summer of last year. Now that the rains have broken it gradually appears to be moving back and returning to its former grazing grounds. Generally speaking the reserve does not contain the large herds of animals that are to be seen in the Southern Reserve but it appears to be satisfactorily stocked with a considerable number of small herds of each species. A large part of the area is bush, the game is timid and a casual observer passing through might form the opinion that the reserve was very poorly stocked with animals, but I do not think this is the case.

“ Details of the various species in the reserve as observed or reported are given below ; also a report on the killing of game by Turkana and Wanderobo.

“ *Elephant*.—Two big herds reported by game scouts, one to the west of Mt. Uaruaguess and the other to the east of Ndoto Mt. Both these herds seem to stick to the same locality as there is running water at both places. I have seen small parties of elephant in Loroki Forest, Horr Valley and Irerr. Mr. Martin Johnson, who I met at Irerr, told me he had seen a herd of 35 just north of Irerr. He also said that he had seen one very big bull whose tusks, in his opinion, scaled about 150 lb. a side. There are I am certain a very few big tuskers to the east of Ndoto and the Matthews Range, as the game scouts have reported them, and on being shown a 90 lb. tusk recently brought into Barsaloi have said that their tusks were considerably bigger. A few days ago the game scouts reported a herd of about 60 in the Loroki Forest.

“ *Rhinoceros* are common all over the reserve with the exception of El Barta Plains. Practically every day of my safaris I saw rhino though none of them carried big horns. The rhino in Loroki Forest are reported to carry very long horns, but I have not yet seen one of the forest rhino although their tracks in the forest are anywhere. I consider the reserve well and evenly stocked with rhino and in places like the area round Seya on the Meru-Barsaloi Road and the area between Irerr and Laisamis they are at times very plentiful, going about in twos and threes.

“ *Buffalo*.—Always to be found in the Horr Valley. I have seen herds of 30, 70 and smaller numbers which include a fair proportion of totos. A big herd of over 200 was seen by game scouts drinking at Sugota Marmara. Buffalo are also common in herds of 20 or 30 in the Loroki Forest, on Ndoto and Matthews Range. I regret to say that the buffalo in the Loroki Forest are suffering from rinderpest. I suspected that something was wrong a few days ago when I was on Loroki owing to the large number of lion that visited my

camp during the night and the presence of lion spoor everywhere. On questioning the Samburu I gained this information about the buffalo and they say that the lion are killing off the sick buffalo. The Samburu cattle recently suffered heavy casualties from rinderpest.

“*Lion* are plentiful everywhere but with the exception of the area round Baragoi they do not go about in troops of any size. Three seems to be the favourite number, and I have on several occasions in localities many miles apart come across tracks of three together. The lions from Loroki Plateau and Forest are reported black-maned, but although I have seen one with a partially black mane I have not yet seen a specimen with a full black mane. From spoor I have seen I should say that lioness predominate.

“*Leopard*.—I have only seen three and heard very few more, but undoubtedly they are common owing to the number of goats and sheep that the natives lose.

“*Greater Kudu*.—I have seen small parties of females numbering about five in a party on Mt. Nyiro, Indunamarra, Kowop and Kulal. The game scouts reported small parties from Ndoto. I have seen a few stags on each of the above mountains and I think that kudu exist, though in small numbers, on most of the hills north of Barsaloi. As reported to you during my visit to Nairobi, the kudu I shot in January on the western slope of Kowop was suffering from rinderpest.

“*Lesser Kudu* are common in small parties of two or three in the Horr Valley and in the valley between Ndoto and Matthews Range, but I have not seen them nor have they been reported from any other place.

“*Eland*.—I have seen several big herds of about 50 on Loroki Plateau and in the area round Sugota Banyaban. There are also a few in the Lessergoi area to the west of Mt. Nyiro, but their presence there appears to me strange as water is none too plentiful and there is not a large amount of cover.

“*Waterbuck*.—I have seen a few near the Amaya River, Sugota Mugie and in the Loroki Forest. I have never been

able to approach them very close but am of opinion that they are the Defassa and not the common waterbuck. The game scouts report them in the Loroki Forest and I have no doubt they are common in most of the small valleys there.

“*Kongoni*.—There are small herds of Jackson’s lelwel hartebeestes on the Loroki Plateau and the area round Sugota Banyaban. I have seen no Coke’s hartebeeste and I don’t think they are present as far north as this.

“*Oryx beisa* are common all over the reserve though I have not seen big herds anywhere with the exception of Naisecho where I have seen a herd of over 80.

“*Impala*.—Herds of about 25 or 30 are quite common round Sugato Marmara and I have also seen parties of 8 or 9 stags further north. More small herds exist round Barsaloi but I have never seen an impala north of here.

“*Gerenuk*.—I have seen these in twos or threes practically every day on safari with the exception of the El Barta Plains. I think they exist in considerable numbers as they are very wary and do not allow one to approach near.

“*Grant’s gazelle*.—Plentiful everywhere in herds of all numbers up to 50. The marking of these animals on Loroki Plateau is different from those found in the rest of the reserve, the black stripe on the side appearing more defined.

“*Thomson’s gazelle*.—Although plentiful on Loroki Plateau I have never seen this animal further north.

“*Red duiker*.—I have seen these south of Lollerarra on the Loroki Plateau, but they do appear to be very plentiful. I have not come across them anywhere else.

“*Dikdik* are very plentiful in all bush country. These appear to be Kirk’s dikdik.

“*Klipspringer*.—I have seen a few of these on Mt. Nyiro, Indunamarra and Kowop, but have not seen them on any other hills though doubtless they exist.

“*Forest hog*.—The game scouts report the presence of a large pig on Ndoto and the Matthews Range which I conclude

is the forest hog found on Mt. Kenia. The Wanderobo confirm this.

“*Giraffe*.—These are most plentiful in the area between Barsaloi and the R. Uaso, although I have seen a fair number round Irerr and north of the Horr Valley.

“*Destruction of game by natives*.—The Samburu do not kill or molest the game with the possible exception of giraffe, whose skin they value for kibuyus.

“The Turkhana have in the past killed game and I think are still killing it round Baragoi. Outside a radius of about 10 miles of Baragoi I do not think they kill much as during all my safaris I have always seen herds of animals grazing peacefully some 10 miles either side of Baragoi. I think that if the game wanders near Baragoi or near a manyatta they kill it, but otherwise they are too lazy to go looking for it. Information is not easy to obtain as all the station staff are Turkhana. I have had several cases of killing game brought to my notice and these have been severely punished and I think these coupled with repeated injunctions not to kill the game are gradually getting into the heads of the Turkhana.”

#### GAME BIRDS.

A discussion, opened by myself, was held at a meeting of the Natural History Society on the subject of the protection of game birds. It was decided that, while legislation without the co-operation of the community would effect little under the existing law it was impossible to prevent their gradual extermination.

Accordingly a new Bird Ordinance was drafted, which it is hoped will be passed in the near future, giving the necessary powers.

In common with 1924, it was a disappointing year for the shot-gun enthusiast.

It is of interest to note that six widgeon were obtained on Naivasha Lake; this bird has not previously been recorded in the Colony.



## FISH.

## REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TROUT FOR 1925.

“Owing to the low rainfall the rivers were not at their best from the anglers' point of view for as long a period as usual.

“The Gura gave a good sport but a large number of blank days were reported during the year. The size and condition of the fish also the numbers, remain as in previous years, *i.e.*, the fish are numerous and the average weight about  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. and their condition good. No large fish were reported from the Gura this year, the largest being 3 lb. with several of over 2 lb. The number of fishermen on this river is steadily increasing and the limit of 20 fish per rod per day should prove very useful in future.

“The Nanyuki continues to provide large baskets of rainbow but has been very low and owing to its being very much overgrown the fishing is not of the best. The Leki has become very popular. This is a tributary to the Nanyuki and holds some very fine brown trout as well as rainbow. A brown trout and a rainbow of the same weight with other good trout have been taken during the year.

“The Katamayyu has been very poor during the year, no large baskets having been obtained. There is a marked scarcity of fish of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 lb. There are vast numbers of 6-inch fish, showing that the fish have bred well. Three large fish have been taken during the year, one of 9 lb. and two of 6 lb.

“Several rivers have been stocked during the year, in districts that had not had trout introduced before. These rivers were stocked with rainbow from eyed ova introduced from the Solway Hatchery, Dumfries. During June, 1925, 50,000 eggs were laid down in hatching boxes in the Rongai River, 4 miles from Elburgon Railway Station. The temperature of the water was only 54 degrees. The weather was very cold and cloudy during the whole period of hatching which was seven days from the time the eggs were laid down. The hatch-out was very good resulting in approximately 30,000 fry. These grew very fast and were soon sufficiently well grown to be removed from the hatching boxes and taken to the

different rivers into which they were put for the purpose of stocking.

“The most notable of these is Mount Elgon where the Quoiterboss River was successfully stocked with 2,000 rainbow trout fry from a hatchery at Elburgon. Three rivers on the Elgeyo Escarpment were also stocked. On the Mau, the Njoro, Rongai, Mau Rivers were well stocked and the fry have grown at the rate of nearly one inch per month since their introduction to these rivers.

“On the Aberdare Plateau the Tulaga and also stocked, together with the Narandat ; these fry have grown very well. In addition to these rivers were several small streams running through farms that were stocked and in most cases successfully.”

### CONCLUSION.

The increasing difficulties that beset game preservation are, I am thankful to say, offset in the main by the ever-growing sympathy of the community at large.

To the King's African Rifles our debt of gratitude is heavy ; while to mention specifically any from among the legislative, administrative, settler or other sections of the population in this connection would be invidious as giving the unwarrantable implication that their co-operation alone had been our lot.

Thus, I have confidence in the future.