

to see that the Serengeti Plains are still designated as a Game Reserve and not as a National Park, but this is said to be only until the final boundary of the Serengeti National Park has been fixed.

Captain Keith Caldwell, whose knowledge of East African game is unrivalled and who has just returned from Tanganyika, was called into consultation during the framing of the draft bill under discussion. The Society is grateful to its very active member and welcomes the new Bill as a sincere attempt to put game preservation in Tanganyika at last upon a sound footing.

THE FAUNA OF JUBALAND

By JOHN N. WARD and DAVID S. SORRELL

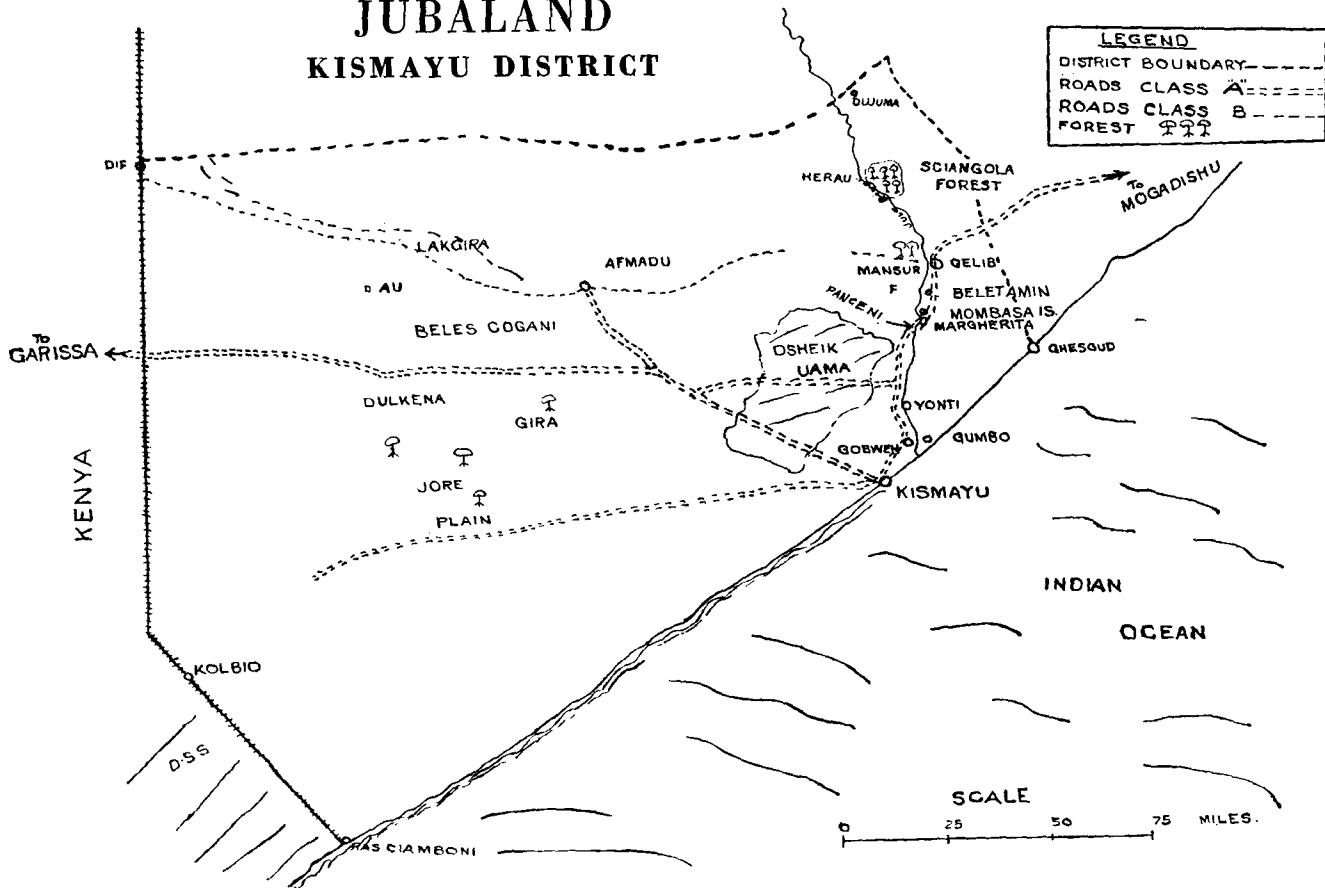
The object of these notes is to give a record of the wild life living in the Lower Juba area of Somalia, and to assist visitors to Jubaland in finding the haunts of the various animals described. The writers do not presume to lay down the methods of identifying these animals because more knowledgeable authors have already done this elsewhere.

The Lower Juba is that area which was the Administrative District of Kismayu under the recent British occupation. It extends from Ghesgud to Dujuma on the left bank of the Juba River, and contains all the land between the right bank of the river and the Kenya border from Ras Ciamboni to Dif, lying south of a line Dif-Dujuma (see map).

The area is approximately 20,000 square miles, and was held by the British from 1898 to 1925 when it was handed over to the Italians. During the 1939-1945 war, Jubaland was quickly taken back under the British flag, only to be returned on 1st April, 1950, to the Italians on the instructions of the United Nations Organization. In spite of the military activity necessitated by these moves, and the fact that the District was the birth-place of the Mad Mullah, wild life abounds and is not unduly molested.

Though the wiry little Bon tribesmen are clever and cunning when hunting, little exploitation has taken place, and the most dangerous man-made weapon known to animals is still usually the bow with the wicked poisoned arrow. The poison on these

JUBALAND KISMAYU DISTRICT



arrows kills an animal very quickly, an elephant, for instance, hit in the trunk will die within four hours. Nevertheless, by the time the poison has gone round the animal's body, it is spent, and the meat is therefore quite fit for human consumption.

The chief sport of these hunters is killing the "Afmadu" Leopard, so sought after by the ladies of America, and the Elephant, whose ivory tusks still obtain a ready market in Mogadishu and Nairobi in spite of controls.

The country has two main rains each year, the "Der" from October to December, and "Gu" from May to July. During these rains, the bush is green and there is plentiful grazing, but at other times the scorching sun soon dries out the land, and turns it into dust. Thus for half the year the wild life is dependent on the water holes and the river. This water also has to support the Somali nomads with their camels, cattle, sheep and goats, which vastly overstock the countryside.

Three types of soil may be found—black cotton—red sand—yellow sand. There is practically no stone.

It is an interesting fact to note that the writers have on several occasions watched antelope and cattle graze together, whereas elephants have been known to tear a camel to pieces for no apparent reason.

The nomad Somali lives on the milk and flesh of his stock, and does not bother to kill game, and this is one of the reasons why it is possible to enjoy the sight of many species of wild animals in this flat, dusty, thorn-bush country.

In view of the fact that the Italians are now ruling Somalia again, the writers have recorded the British, Italian and Somali name¹ of each of the animals referred to in the hope that these names will assist visitors to the area in identifying the various types more easily. Visitors are warned, however, not to accept the word of a Somali too readily in the matter of animal names, because he is surprisingly ignorant of any animals other than his domestic stock. The Bon tribe, however, who live individually, mostly in the forest areas, know a great deal about the habits of wild animals, but unfortunately they are very timid, and it is difficult to encourage them to talk. Maybe the fact that the Police are always looking for their secret hoards of ivory explains this.

In conclusion it must be stressed that these notes are not exhaustive, but are written from the personal knowledge of the writers only.

¹ Omitted for lack of space. May be obtained on application to F.P.S. Offices.—
EDITOR.

THE ANTELOPES

BUSHBUCK (*Tragelaphus scriptus*). This antelope is fairly common, and may be found close to either bank of the Juba. It is rarely seen, as it lives in the thick bush and emerges only at night. The Somalis have a superstition that this animal gives leprosy to anyone touching it. This, doubtless, originates from its white spots. It tames easily and makes a good pet if caught young, but always remains timid.

KIRK'S DIK DIK (*Rhynchotragus kirkii*), PHILLIPS'S DIK DIK (*Madoqua phillipsi*). These charming little creatures are the most common of any gazelle in the district, and it is not possible to drive along any road without seeing them scurrying away to safety. There are numerous types of dik dik, but the Kirk's and the Phillips's dik dik are the only two noted by the authors.

DUIKER (*Sylvicapra grimmia*). These animals are nocturnal and are therefore seldom seen. Their habits are similar to the Bushbuck and they may be found close to either bank of the river. They may be tamed, but are never very friendly.

GRANT'S GAZELLE (*Gazella granti*). This animal is very local and is confined roughly to an area west of Afmadu and Beles Cogani, extending to the Kenya border and probably beyond, but in ever decreasing numbers. It runs in herds of from ten to forty near Afmadu, but nearer to the frontier is found only in pairs. There are a few of the variety *brighti*, the majority being of the *petersii* race.

RETICULATED GIRAFFE (*Giraffa reticulata*). The Reticulated Giraffe may be found in large herds anywhere west of a line Afmadu-Kismayu. The writers have seen as many as sixty to eighty on a two-day safari. No other giraffe is found.

HUNTER'S ANTELOPE (*Damaliscus hunteri*). This rare animal is found in the Beles Cogani-Kolbio area, and there is one group on the Lakgira Plain. The writers noted two males, only seven miles from Kismayu. They appear to be decreasing in numbers, and are now confined to areas difficult of access.

KUDU, GREATER (*Strepsiceros strepsiceros*). One report was received of four near Beles Cogani, but this was unconfirmed. The writers do not believe that they live in the district.

KUDU, LESSER (*Strepsiceros imberbis*). This timid antelope is well distributed. More females are seen than males. A pair well known to the writers bred in captivity, and now live with their offspring.

ORIBI (*Ourebia haggardi*). There do not appear to be many

of these animals in the district, and the writers have only seen them on the plains east of Malkagira.

ORYX (*Oryx beisa*). This fine animal may be seen in herds ranging up to one hundred on the open plains. Two such herds are located on the east bank of the river just north of Gumbo. Others may be seen near Afmadu and Au.

REEDBUCK (*Redunca redunca*). These tough little antelope have been seen near the river at Yonti and Herau. It is thought that they are fairly plentiful in small groups of six to eight.

SOEMMERRING'S GAZELLE (*Gazella soemmerringii*). Various reports that isolated herds have been seen have not been confirmed, and, with the exception of one herd west of Afmadu, it is doubtful whether there are any in the district.

SPEKE'S GAZELLE (*Gazella spekii*). These have been seen on the coastal belt, but not by the writers.

TOPI (*Damalisca korrigum*). This antelope has been seen many times on the river north of Herau. Several large herds have also been noted in the Malkagira-Kolbio area. This animal tends to join up with herds of waterbuck or with oryx.

WALLER'S GAZELLE (*Litocranius walleri*). This is the most common gazelle in the district. It seems to prefer the dry bush but is plentifully distributed, and although it usually runs in pairs, herds of up to fifteen have been noted. It is the opinion of the writers that a second variety of Waller's exists in small numbers, differing from the common one in that it has a black band across the forehead. Many Somalis will not eat the meat of this gazelle because they say that the female has regular periods, making the meat unclean. This opinion is held so strongly that the writers feel that there may be some truth in it. It is interesting to note, however, that not even the meat of a male is considered safe eating by the natives. To a European, on the other hand, the meat of a Waller's is considered very palatable.

WATERBUCK (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*). This animal is very common indeed on both banks of the river and constitutes a great menace to farmers and shamba owners.

OTHER ANIMALS

AARD WOLF (*Proteles cristatus*). Similar to the hyæna but much rarer. May be seen generally in the early morning on the grass land between Afmadu and Dif. Has also been reported from other parts of the district. Usually hunts in pairs.

ANT BEAR (*Orycteropus afer*). This curious looking animal may be found anywhere within ten miles of the river. Usually seen at night, as it sleeps during the day down large holes which it digs extremely quickly.

BABOON (*Papio cynocephalus*). Frequently seen in large numbers near the river, and is a most serious menace to farmers. Easily tames when caught young. The Sacred Baboon is not found in the district.

BUFFALO (*Syncerus caffer*). This animal is rarely seen as it lives in very dense forest areas only. Specimens have been shot in the Mansur Forest and also in the Sciangola Forest where legend says that an entire village was destroyed and the inmates killed by a furious herd charging through it. Herds of up to twenty head have also been seen at Dulkena.

BUSH BABY (*Galago senegalensis*). Well distributed but owing to its nocturnal habits seldom seen except for the large round eyes reflecting the headlights of a car. Makes a most admirable pet.

BUSH PIG (*Potamochoærus porcus*). This pig is fairly rare in Jubaland, and lives near the native shambas on banks of the river. It is very similar to the domestic pig in appearance.

CHEETAH (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Fairly general on the plains and thin bush country near water holes. Seems to hunt in pairs, although nine were once seen on a kill. Has suffered from the ready demand for skins but not to the extent of the Leopard. Cheetahs make very good pets, having a dog-like demeanour.

CIVET (*Civettictis civetta*). This cat is seldom seen and usually hunts singly or in pairs.

CROCODILE (*Crocodylus niloticus*). Plentiful all along the river, and takes a heavy toll of stock, and even human beings. Grows to about 16 feet in length. Several thousand also live in a lake near Dujuma where they are killed by hitting them on the head with a heavy, long-handled hammer as they sleep in the sandbanks. The skins find a good price in Nairobi, and are said to be of a particularly good quality. It is a Somali legend that the riverine people rule the crocodiles and can send them to kill their enemies.

ELEPHANT (*Loxodonta africana*). Elephants abound in the district and are of two kinds. The Somali elephant, which is much smaller than the Kenya elephant, lives by the river and to the east of the Afmadu-Kismayu road, on both sides of the river. To the west of the line the larger Kenya elephant with

the heavy ivory is found. One large herd has lived for a number of years near Gumbo, and another just north of Margherita. Small herds do considerable damage to the Italian banana-growing farms. Although killed by the Bon they appear to be on the increase, and will in the near future have to be controlled. Numbers of the Kenya type favour Malkagira and the Jore Plain where there is a plentiful supply of elephant grass. Those who wish to see elephants without the fatigue of tracking them, may go to Mombasa Island in the middle of the river just north of Margherita. There they will find a herd of about twenty elephants which crossed the river during the dry season, and now show no inclination to return to the mainland. Half an hour's walk on the island is enough to find them.

FOX (*Otocyon megalotis*). The black Bat-eared Fox is fairly common throughout the district, and is generally seen in the evening in pairs.

GENET (*Genetta genetta*). Another of the cat family which is rarely seen, although it lives in most areas near water. When caught young they make admirable pets, but untamed they are exceedingly vicious.

HARE (*Lepus*). May be found on any of the plains, and are particularly common in Afmadu. The natives consider the meat unclean, and do not kill them. They have large pink ears and seem to live a solitary existence.

HIPPOTAMUS (*Hippopotamus amphibius*). Quite a number live in the river, particularly near Belet-Amin and Yonti. They have increased in numbers and are a constant nuisance to native shambas.

HYÆNA (*Crocota crocuta* and *Hyæna hyæna*). Well distributed throughout the district. The spotted are the most common, although the striped have also been seen. It is thought that the latter are responsible for attacking sleeping bushmen, numbers of whom are killed or injured every year by these unattractive animals.

JACKAL (*Thos mesomelas* and *Thos aureus*). The black or blue-backed variety is fairly common and evenly distributed. The larger grey jackal has also been seen, usually near a flock of guinea fowl on which the animal thrives, or scavenging at night round the stock compounds.

LEOPARD (*Felis pardus*). Afmadu is the home of the leopard. The demand for leopard skins is causing a serious decrease in numbers, and it is the opinion of the writers that the leopard

will be a very rare animal within the next five years unless given protection. Another result of the decline of the leopard is the serious increase in baboons.

LION (*Felis leo*).—Is so common in the district that at one time the Government was considering grading the animal as a "pest". Lion take a considerable toll of stock and humans each year. The natives kill them by arrow or with spears, the latter a very dangerous method. The male has no mane, and is not nearly so lordly to behold as the Kenya lion.

LYNX (**CARACAL**) (*Caracal caracal*). This wary savage animal is well distributed in the bush country. Even when caught at birth it is impossible to tame.

MONKEY (*Cercopithecus mitis* and *Cercopithecus æthiops*). There are two common types—the Sykes and the Green Guenon. Both may be seen near the river.

MONGOOSE (*Icneumia albicauda*, *Myonax sanguineus*, *Galerella ochracea*). Three varieties, the White-tailed, the Black-tailed, and the Sociable Brown have been seen within a mile of Kismayu Town and in many other places. Of these the Sociable Brown is by far the most common, the writers having a family of about thirty actually living in the garden.

MONITORS (*Varanus niloticus*, *Varanus ocellatus*). Both types of these lizards may be found in the district, the Aquatic and the Short-tailed. The Aquatic may be found anywhere along the river where there is an abundance of crocodile eggs—their staple diet. The Short-tailed, with its dull and less distinctive skin and blunt nose, may be found in the driest bush but seems to prefer to live within a short distance of the sea.

OSTRICH (*Struthio camelus*). May be seen everywhere, but the larger flocks seem to live close to the west bank of the river and the plains beyond. Several flocks of up to twenty have been seen.

PORCUPINE (*Hystrix galeata*). This animal also seems to prefer the sea coast, where it can live in the deep caves left by the sea many years before.

BLACK RHINOCEROS (*Diceros bicornis*). There are many unconfirmed reports about these animals, but there is no doubt that there are rhino in the district in the areas of Malkagira and Dsheik Uama. They live in dense bush and not necessarily near water, so that even the nomads seldom see them.

GROUND SQUIRRELS (*Xerus rutilus*). Several species of these little rodents may be seen anywhere in the district, but they are

all of the Ground Squirrel family and do not climb trees. They make very charming pets.

SERVAL (*Felis serval*). This cat is fairly common, and is sometimes killed by the natives in mistake for the cheetah.

TORTOISE (*Testudo pardalis* and *Kinixys belliana*). May be found anywhere and grows to a moderate size. Largest specimen seen by the writers weighed 30 lb. There appear to be two varieties.

TURTLE (*Pelusios sinuatus* and *Pelomedusa galeata*). Both the Larger and Lesser varieties of the River Turtle may be found, the former in the river and the latter sometimes in waterpans of Dsheik. Sea Turtles are also caught by the local fishermen, the shell of the Hawksbill being particularly in demand by traders.

WARTHOG (*Phacochoerus æthiopicus*). Very common indeed everywhere, usually seen in pairs or family groups of up to eight. The Somalis being Muslims will not touch it and the meat is too coarse for European consumption. The Warthog is therefore left to multiply, except by those who wish to obtain a pair of the surprisingly large tusks.

ZEBRA (*Equus burchellii*, *Equus grevyi*). The Grant's Zebra is the most common and may be seen on the open plains between the river and the Kenya border. A herd of some twenty was recently seen standing on the main road to Kismayu near Yonti. The larger Grevy's is much scarcer and has only been found on the east bank of the river north of Gelib.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA—THE TSETSE FLY QUESTION

Copy of correspondence between the President of the Fauna Preservation Society and the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia.

LONDON,
4th November, 1949.

RT. HON. SIR GODFREY HUGGINS, K.C.M.G., C.H., F.R.C.S., M.P.
SALISBURY,
SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

DEAR SIR GODFREY HUGGINS,

The Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire is taking stock of the faunal conditions of Africa in the light of recent developments, with special reference to investigations