

377. *Antelopes: Hartebeest* (Sig) was exterminated by rinderpest early in the century, before which there were thousands in the Hargeisa district.
378. *Oryx* (Be'eid) used to be common in herds on all the plainlands, and though it seems commonest in open country, it is in fact equally abundant in the Haud bushy plateau. Recorded distribution since 1928 is shown in Illustration 38, para. 410, below. The huge herds on the coastal plains which used to live behind Bulhar and Zeila, have now been reduced to two small herds near Qabri Bahar and Jideh. *Oryx* are most frequently seen, usually in herds up to 15 or 20 strong, on the gypseous open plains of the east and south-east. The hide is valued for shields and whips, and quite a number are killed annually for whips (Shabuq).
379. *Greater and Lesser Kudu* (Godir) are distributed as shown on Illustration 38. The greater are not believed to occur in any great numbers except in the mountains north of Borama. The lesser kudu is not uncommon but prefers grazing in thick bush, or near thickets where it can quickly disappear if disturbed. The hide is often used for prayer-mats (Masala).
380. 'Aul (Soemmering's gazelle) is very common in some areas, and may be expected in herds up to as many as 50 head or more, in any open plain: e.g. Zeila Plain, Nogal. It lives in similar areas to the *oryx*. For its meat it is preferred by the Somali to smaller buck.
381. *Gerenuk* (Waller's gazelle) is also very common, but only in thickets or thick bush country. It seems especially to favour "Irgin" thickets for cover, or Bil'il (*Acacia mellifera*) thickets on which it browses, but any close bush country will do. There are various folk-tales about this long-necked shy gazelle. Some tribes will not eat the meat of *gerenuk* because the female menstruates. Others will not eat it because to kill it causes the loss of all one's camels: "He who having camels kills a *gerenuk* loses all his camels. All." It can in these tribes be eaten by those who own no camels. These old taboos, however, are dying out.
382. *Dero* (Pelzeln's gazelle in lowlands and Speke's gazelle in the higher country) is probably the commonest antelope in the country. It is found nearly everywhere, in open plains, sand-dune country, in hills (but not often on top of high mountains or far from open valleys), and in bush country. The Pelzeln's gazelle seems to live up to an altitude of approximately 2,000 feet, the more vividly coloured Speke's gazelle above 2,000 feet and usually on the high Plateau country. It is not known how far south it goes, but it is found as low as 1,300 feet in the south-east Nogal. It does not seem common where the *Dibutag* occurs.
383. *Dibutag* (Clarke's gazelle) is believed to live only in this corner of Africa. It is usually found in similar situations to the *gerenuk* and lesser kudu, but only in a restricted area shown on Illustration 39, para. 411.
384. *Klipspringer* (Alakut) is found on steep slopes of the Main Watershed Mountains, usually on rocky cliffs (illus. 39).
385. *Beira* (Baira), believed to occur only in Ethiopia and the Somalilands (illus. 39), is not uncommon, but very shy and often confused by the tribesmen with the *klipspringer*, which is about the same size. It is a bluer grey colour with rounded ears, and usually slips over a ridge into cover with ears back like a dog with its tail between its legs. It lives invariably on hills, both of the Main Watershed Mountains, and on little hills in the middle of plains.
386. *Dikdik* (Šakaro) occurs almost everywhere where there is any sort of low cover. Travelling by car south from Burao one may often see an average of one *dikdik* per mile for the first fifty miles along the road, so that there must be millions off the roads in the whole Protectorate. They are quite common in stations (where they are protected).
387. *Wild ass* (Damer Dibaded: Gumburi) is recorded from three places only (illus. 40, para. 412). There was a herd of a dozen or so in the Nogal in recent years. The wild ass looks very like the domestic donkey until it gallops away.
388. *Elephant* (Marodi) of which there were five females in the Dibrawein Valley, north of Borama, in 1928, are probably now reduced to one solitary female. There is a large herd, however, based on the Fafan, south-west of the Protectorate, and it is probably from this herd that lone elephants on two occasions during the past seven years came north during the Gu rains to Daror and Hagoga. In Swayne's time (Swayne 1895) elephants were abundant near Sheikh, and in other parts of the country. "Marodi" often occurs in place names. It has probably been killed out for the value of its ivory (the Somali being a great trader), and the increase of human population and domestic stock has probably helped to exterminate it.

389. *Rhinoceros* (Wig) is represented by one female in the Bur Dab Range near Adabo in 1928, but is probably now extinct. It is much valued for shields and whips made from its hide.
390. *Hyrax* (Baoni), the rock rabbit, is abundant amongst cliffs and rocky boulders, usually near water.
391. *Hare* (Bakeileh) is fairly common throughout the country, but there are no rabbits. The hare is unclean for Moslem peoples.
392. *Porcupine* (Anaqob) is not uncommon, but is nocturnal and seldom seen except when raiding vegetable gardens.
393. *Rat* (or mouse ? Jir) of several kinds is fairly well distributed.
394. *Jerboas* are seen on roads at night.
395. *Ground squirrels* (Diba gale) occur all over the country, and rob gardens and grain stores.
396. *Badger* (Hor) is a small variety, very strong and vicious, and attacks hen roosts.
397. *Stoats* (So-Gurr) are fairly common in the Haud and other areas. They resemble the ground squirrel when running, but are more reddish in colour with a dark rufus tail-tip.
398. *Black-eared fox* (Gora-waraba) is fairly well distributed throughout the country, usually in twos and threes.
399. *Jackal* (Dawa'o) is common everywhere. It preys on lambs and sick or tired sheep and goats as well as game, and probably serves a useful scavenging purpose.
400. *Hyaena* (spotted hyaena: waraba, and striped black-throated hyaena: Dider) are common and a serious pest. The dider will sometimes attack man in times of drought. Both types eat children and sick or old people if opportunity arises, and Somalis sleeping out on the ground always cover their faces to prevent the "snatch-and-run" tactics of the hyaena, which has taken many noses, or other uncovered parts of the sleeping human body. It also attacks camels and other stock, and as many as possible are killed by poisoning.
401. *Mongoose* (Shuqshuq) is seen in tribes of up to 20 or 30 in any part of the Highland country.
402. *Wildcat* (Dinat) is not uncommon and comes into stations.
403. *Lynx* (Gududeni) (illus. 37) is not often seen but appears to be widely distributed. It does little harm to flocks as a rule.
404. *Cheetah* (Harimad) (illus. 37) is also fairly common and preys mostly on antelope.
405. *Leopard* (Shabel) (illus. 37) is now getting rare owing to the high prices of leopard skins. It is still found in the Haud, and in parts of the Main Watershed, and in the Onkhor area. In 1928 the export of leopard skins was prohibited partly because the telephone wire between Berbera and Sheikh was being used for traps. There were at that time quite a lot of leopards in the Berbera lowlands, preying on flocks rather than on the barely clothed children who tried to drive them away from the flocks by throwing stones. About 2,000 skins were exported to Aden from the Somaliland coasts in 1928.
406. *Lion* (Libahh) (illus. 37) are quite common, and distributed all over the country, though they favour special areas in the highest mountains where the juniper forests persist, and thick bush areas of the highland Plateau, or well-watered gorges of broken country in the lowlands. They are a pest to stock-herders, leaping by night into camel zaribas (thorn or stone corrals: kraals). Many of the cases of mauling or eating humans are due to attempts by stockmen to protect their herds, though regular man-eaters do occur, most of the attacks on humans being usually in definite areas (Bawn, Taleh, and Halin especially). An annual average of twelve deaths from attacks by lion have been reported during the seven years of the Survey. Many are poisoned, including a pride of five lions at Erigavo in 1947, and five were shot in half an hour close to Las Anod town in about 1945. There is no danger of extermination of the lion, and for the sake of the stock-herders as many as possible should be poisoned. They do, however, keep warthog from increasing too much in the agricultural areas.