



VITAL SHOTS ON THE ELEPHANT

Plate 1

THE DANGER SIGNAL, EARS PRICKED, TRUNK ALERT.
THE TWO FRONTAL SHOTS HAVE BEEN ROUGHLY SHOWN BY RINGS DRAWN ON THE
PHOTOGRAPH.

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VOLUME XIV

BIG GAME SHOOTING IN AFRICA

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With one hundred & fifty
ILLUSTRATIONS



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NORTHERN RHODESIA (Continued)

CHAPTER TWO pp. 330-334

THE GAME OF NORTHERN RHODESIA

By DENIS D. LYELL

ELEPHANT (*Elephas africanus*).—A tall lanky race often reaching 11 feet at the shoulder. Seldom grow tusks over 70 pounds and a 50-pounder is a good one. The record pair from this territory was shot some years ago by Mr. F. H. Melland, and measured 7 feet 9 inches and 7 feet 7 inches and weighed 119 and 110 pounds. The ivory is usually of "soft" quality. Owing to the killing of the larger bulls the females are in a great majority. Like Elephants in other parts of Africa, the herds are given to raiding the native gardens and do much damage.

BLACK RHINOCEROS (*Rhinoceros bicornis*).—Fairly common in wild and hilly country. The best frontal horn I have heard of measured 30½ inches and one much over 20 inches is a good specimen. There are no White Rhinoceros in Northern Rhodesia.

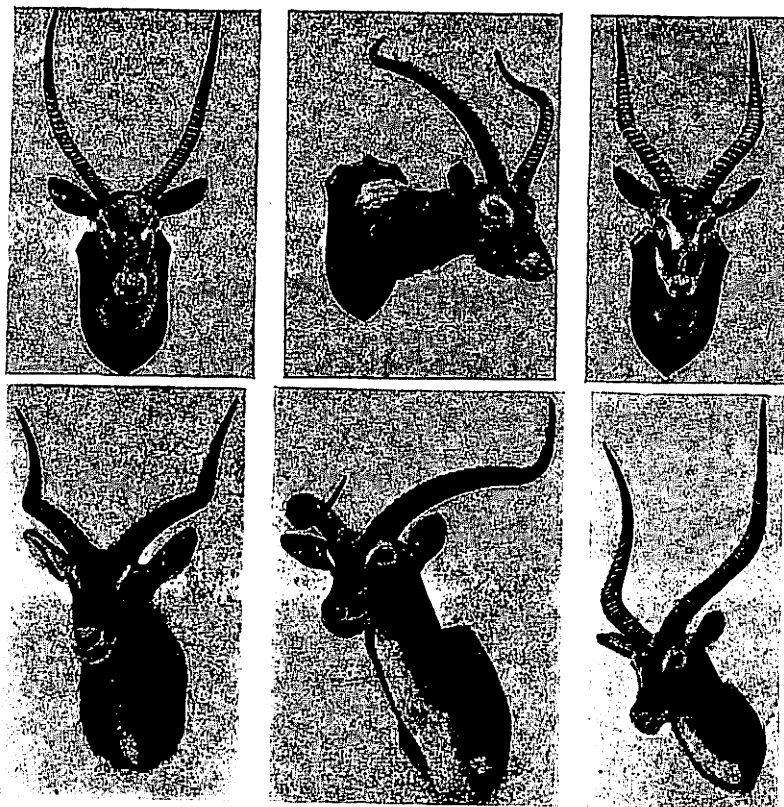
HIPPOPOTAMUS (*Hippopotamus amphibius*).—Plentiful in all the large rivers and lakes, and often raid the native fields. A good length along the curves of the canine teeth is 30 inches and for the straight incisors 18 inches. I once saw a skull with three incisors in it.

BUFFALO (*Synceros caffer*).—Numerous in really wild localities and are sometimes found in large herds. The oldest bulls sometimes consort together apart from the cows. The best horns I have heard of, were 49 inches outside width. Any head measuring 40 inches with a palm of 10 inches is good. The old bulls wear down the points of their horns greatly.

ELAND (*Taurotragus oryx*).—The largest species of Antelope in Africa. Sometimes stands 6 feet at the shoulder. Females often have the longest horns, but they are, of course, thinner. A good male head will be 28 inches on the straight. The best I have heard of was 37 inches.

ROAN ANTELOPE (*Hippotragus equinus*).—Extremely plentiful in most parts. The colour is usually a reddish roan, though the older animals often have a blue tinge. The heads here do not seem as good as in other territories, where it exists. Anything near 28 inches on the curve is good. The meat of the Roan is fair eating.

SABLE ANTELOPE (*Hippotragus niger*).—Smaller in body than the Roan, but grows a much finer head. Like that species, both sexes bear horns. The record for Northern Rhodesia is 52½ inches, and any head from 40 to 42 is better than the average. As in the Roan, naturalists divide the species into several races and the Angolan variety has horns up to 64 inches on the curve, which is immense. This is due, I believe, to phosphates in the feed.



Plates 92—97

Top Left. WATERBUCK.

Top Right. WHITE EARED KOB.

Top Centre. MRS. GRAY'S LECHWE.

Bottom Left. BLACK LECHWE.

Bottom Centre. RED LECHWE (ABNORMAL SPREAD). Bottom Right. RED LECHWE.