

## Book Reviews

**Udjung Kulon: the land of the last Javan rhinoceros**, by A. Hoogerwerf.  
Hurst, London, £11.25.

Despite its relatively limited area (c.30,000 ha), the Udjung Kulon Reserve on the western point of Java is one of the most valuable in Indonesia. This is not only because it is the last refuge in Asia of the last representatives of the Sunda Islands rhinoceros, once distributed over almost the whole of south-east Asia, but because, together with the Baluran reserve at the opposite end of Java, it is the last refuge for many other species of both fauna and flora driven out of other parts of the island by the densest human population in the world.

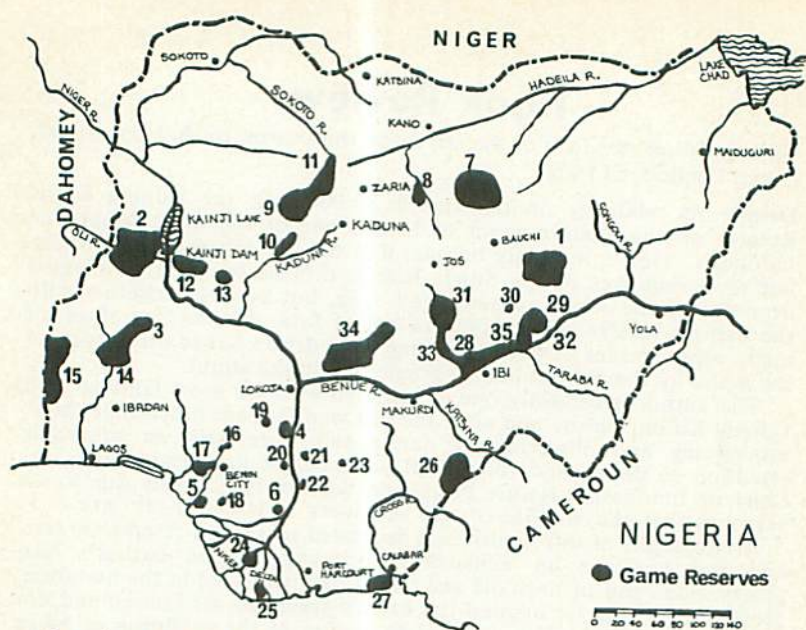
The author is certainly one of the men who are most familiar with Udjung Kulon. Before and after the last war he spent much time there, cataloguing and observing the fauna and flora with an admirable attention to detail, and for several years before independence he was Chief of Indonesia's Nature Protection Service. It is largely due to his activities that the wildlife of this sanctuary obtained a reprieve.

Monographs of this significance dedicated to a single reserve are rare, and the book is an exhaustive focussing of the author's own observations and of both old and recent data scattered in the literature. Moreover he goes far beyond the narrow frame he set himself and, for our greater profit, paints a complete picture of the evolution of Javan wildlife since the colonisation of the island.

The first part of the work traces the history of the Udjung Kulon and describes, with numerous photographs, the various habitats. Sections are then devoted to the large mammals - rhinoceros, banteng, tiger, sambar and muntjac deer, boar, chevrotain, wild dog, panther - and the small ones - birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and various invertebrates. For all the larger species he assembles a mass of data of his own or drawn from an abundant bibliography on taxonomy, morphology, past and present habitat, behaviour in the wild and, of course, problems of conservation inside as well as outside the reserve. All this is most valuable and interesting. Less praiseworthy is his way of dealing with the work of colleagues, of whom I was one, who find that our writings were often interpreted with a very different meaning from that which we gave them, and he makes a mountain of the slightest errors (or what he considers such) in striking contrast to the discretion which he displays towards all former observations which agree with his own. This, fortunately, does not seriously detract from the book's interest, for it is well documented, rich in observations, very well illustrated and excellently presented. The author's experience in the field of nature protection in Indonesia cannot be equalled and we can only approve his conclusions, particularly since he warns against any attempt at 'management' in Udjung Kulon in the hope of increasing the numbers of the last Javan rhinoceros. Our observations between 1956 and 1964 showed that the habitat had not changed unfavourably for the rhinos, the only threat was poaching. Only when effective protection allows the species to regain a normal density will it be possible to consider how to help it to expand both inside and outside the reserve. For the moment, apart from strict patrolling, intervention must be limited to maintaining the existing pastures which alone can assure the survival of other herbivores, notably bantengs and deer, for which Udjung Kulon represents just as much a last refuge against extinction.

P. PFEFFER

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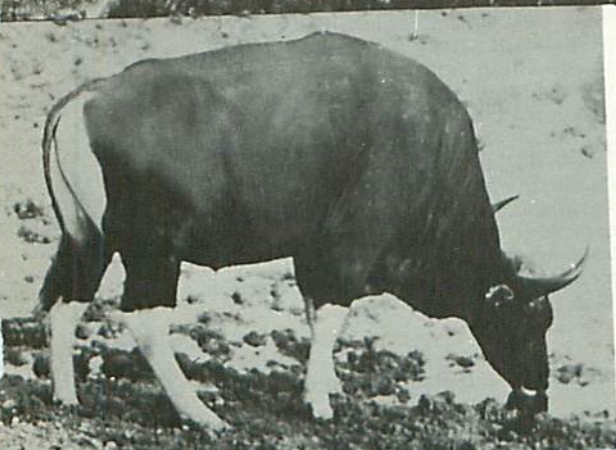
#### Constituted Game Reserves\*

- 1 Yankari, North-Eastern State
- 2 Borgu, Kwara
- 3 Old Oyo, Western

#### Proposed Game Reserves

- 4 Orle River, Mid-Western
- 5 Kwale, Mid-Western
- 6 Gilli-Gilli, Mid-Western
- 7 Lame, North-Eastern
- 8 Kogin Kano, Kano
- 9 Kamuku, North-Central
- 10 Alava, North-Western
- 11 Gusau-Kwiambana, North-Western
- 12 Zugurma, North-Western
- 13 Dagidda, North-Western
- 14 Upper Ogum, Western
- 15 Opara, Western
- 16 Ohasu, Mid-Western
- 17 Okomu, Mid-Western
- 18 Ologbo, Mid-Western
- 19 Ivi-Ada-Obi, Mid-Western
- 20 Ologholo-Emu-Urho, Mid-Western
- 21 Anambra, Mid-Western
- 22 Akpapa, Mid-Western
- 23 Udi/Nsukka, Mid-Western
- 24 Game Reserve 'A' Rivers
- 25 Game Reserve 'B' Rivers
- 26 Obudu, South-Eastern
- 27 Stubbs Creek, South-Eastern
- 28 Ibi, Benue-Plateau
- 29 Wase Game Sanctuary, Benue-Plateau
- 30 Wase Rock Bird Sanctuary, Benue-Plateau
- 31 Pandam Wildlife Park, Benue-Plateau
- 32 Pai River, Benue-Plateau
- 33 Ankwe River, Benue-Plateau
- 34 Nasarawa, Benue-Plateau
- 35 Dampar Sanctuary, Benue-Plateau

\* Since the map was drawn the four game reserves numbered 10-13 have been constituted, making a total of ten, with 25 in various stages of negotiation



IN UDJUNG KULON: Javan rhinos in a wallow; a banteng bull, and a Javan tiger, in Indonesia's premier nature reserve. Photographs by *A. Hoogerwerf*, author of the book reviewed opposite



**Uganda Quest**, by Ernest Neal. Collins, £2.25.

**The Elephants of Knysna**, by Nick Carter. Purnell, Cape Town, R.3.75.

Dr Neal's quest was for the medium-sized carnivores of the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda, and this eventually led him to study the banded mongoose about which he gives much new information. But there is much more to this splendid book than an account of these small animals, interesting as they are. Using a deceptively simple narrative form, he describes most of the major animals of the park — elephants, hippos, buffaloes, lions, hyenas, bats and birds — their relationships with each other and with the savanna on which they live. He also describes his nocturnal wanderings in search of the more elusive carnivores. There are fascinating accounts, for example, of a serval hunting by sound in the long grass and of a lioness driving hyenas from a kill. He also explains most perceptively how to identify eyes reflected by headlights in the dark. Indeed, he demonstrates continuously what can be achieved in a relatively short time by a really experienced observer. I may be prejudiced in favour of the Queen Elizabeth Park but I have enjoyed this book as much as anything I have read about African wildlife for a very long time. It is an excellent portrait of the area, superbly illustrated by twenty-four pages of the author's own colour photographs.

Nick Carter's book is not of the same quality. It is the popular account of the Knysna elephant survey mentioned briefly in *Oryx*, 10 6: a prolonged game of 'hide and seek' with a small group of forest-living elephants which are both elusive and thoroughly sophisticated in their dealings with man. A good story is spoiled, however, by a somewhat affected style and a reluctance to give straightforward facts when these are called for. But the author does not exaggerate when writing about the elephants or when describing what happens when you get too close to them by mistake — their eyesight can be embarrassingly good. The few survivors live further south than any other elephants in Africa and are in serious need of proper protection. Let us hope that Nick Carter's recommendations are accepted and that a permanent sanctuary is established in the Harkerville Forest.

RENNIE BERE

**Last Survivors** by Noel Simon and Paul Géroudet. Patrick Stephens, £4.75.

If the authors of this work had attempted to cover all the 275 mammals and 300 odd birds on the *Red Data Books*' lists of endangered species, they would have had to compress to such an extent that even their large volume could have been little more than a catalogue, useful for reference. Instead they have chosen to produce an eminently readable book by selecting 36 mammals and 12 birds in various degrees of danger of extinction to illustrate the problems of conservation. This gives them scope to write a series of more leisurely essays with descriptions of each of the chosen species, their breeding habitat, food and range, the numbers still surviving, the dangers to which they are exposed and the steps that are being taken — or that need to be taken — for their protection. In this way they are able to devote as much as a dozen pages to the tiger.

Their choice of species is inevitably arbitrary but they have tried hard to make it representative both of the zoological orders and of the