

worrying the very meagre remains. The rest were lying down six yards away in the open, the cubs looking positively bloated. No jackals or hyenas were to be seen. Next morning we passed the spot and the only evidence of the affair was the presence of two vultures in a tree.

Car loads of people were watching all the afternoon and they said that the lions had been there all the time. I do not think any went to drink during these five hours. The whole business was carried through in complete silence, which was only broken later by the growling and snarling of the cubs.

Although each stage of the actual kill seemed separate and distinct, it must in reality have only lasted a few seconds. The impala must, after all, have been covering the ground pretty fast. My wife and I both got the impression strongly that the lioness was not travelling very fast, and we were also struck by the amount of up and down movement in her bounds. This, however, may be because we have frequently watched our tame cheetahs run, and so we were unconsciously using this as a standard of comparison. Moreover, when a cheetah goes all out the most noticeable thing is how flat and close to the ground it streaks along, in spite of the length of its legs. The contrast probably unduly affected our judgment.

I was interested to see that lions do not always kill at night. The way the cubs were managed was worth studying. They were kept out of the way until after the kill, and until the one lioness which had been with them had seen that all was well. They came out so excitedly when permitted, and yet they had controlled themselves until then. The lionesses by contrast were not excited or greedy. They let the cubs start first, themselves looking on, a habit which I believe is not shared by the lions.

Game Preservation Conference

Almost every British territory in East and Central Africa, as well as the Sudan and the Union, was represented at the important conference on the preservation of fauna in Africa held at Nairobi early in May.

Mr. J. H. Orpen, president of the Wild Life Protection Society of South Africa and a member of the National Parks Board, was asked to represent the Board and accepted, but it was then found that the notice given to him by the Union authorities was too short to allow the required period after yellow fever inoculation. It is to be hoped that Government officials will not again be guilty of such an unfortunate slip. The Union was represented by Lieut.-Col. R. Campbell Ross, C.B.E., D.S.O., its Commissioner in Kenya. Other representatives present included Mr. E. Davison, Game Warden, Southern Rhodesia, and for Northern Rhodesia, Mr. T. G. C. Vaughan-Jones, Director of Game and Tsetse Control, and Mr. E. T. Fern, Deputy Director of Veterinary Services.

MORE GAME ENTER ZULULAND

TO turn from the unhappy and really alarming accounts which came to hand before the recent rains of the drying up of the water supplies in many parts of the Kruger National Park, to the report of the Zululand Game Reserves and Parks Board for the year ended March 31, 1947, makes refreshing reading.

The report records that during the calendar year, 1946, a rainfall of 37.89 inches was recorded in the Hluhluwe Game Reserve. This was seven inches more than in the previous year, but is still 16 inches below the average for the last 16 years. The 1946 rainfall was, however, much more evenly distributed than in 1945. Only one month (July) failed to record any rainfall.

As a result of the improved distribution, there has been no shortage of grazing and water for the game animals, all of which kept in very good condition throughout the year.

A noticeable increase in game has taken place since the fence was erected, especially in the case of buffalo, nyala and impala. There are now at least 600 buffalo, and 300 to 400 each of nyala and impala within the sanctuary.

Black rhino continue to do well, though it seems strange that casualties from being bogged or from fighting among themselves should occur each year. This is also the case with hippopotami and white rhino. It is estimated that about two to three per cent. of the total number of rhino and hippopotami meet their death in combat every year.

"Presumably this is nature's way of dealing with such matters, and nothing we can do will help much. The fact remains that each of these species requires the greatest measure of protection, if their numbers are to be kept up to requirements," states the report.

White Rhino Move In There are at present at least 11 white rhino in the Hluhluwe Game Reserve. These have recently come over from the Umfolozi Reserve, where at present there are still about 200 of these animals.

In the year under review the Natal Provincial Council increased its contribution towards the maintenance and upkeep of the reserve, as well as for the St. Lucia Area and Richards Bay from £9,678 5s. 6d. in 1945-46 (in the previous year the grant was £4,792 17s.) to £13,190 19s. 4d. in order to provide for fencing.

The board is now able to record that the fence across the corridor means that for the first time since its inception the reserve, which is about 100 miles in circumference, is completely ring-fenced. No cases of poaching were reported during the year, a welcome change which the board attributes to the fence.

As expected, the number of visitors to the reserve during the year under review, was more than double that of the previous year. The charges for rest huts, and the various services, have been increased. Rest hut and rondavel accommodation is now available for at least 70 visitors. The system adopted, which includes the supply of bedding, crockery, cutlery, and so on, at an inclusive charge, has worked well. Visitors must, as before, supply their own food, but Native servants are available to assist in preparing meals. The services of Game Guards, who act as guides, are available at a small charge.

Several white rhino have come back into the white rhino sanctuary from the south, through the gap that is still open. It is also interesting to note that a lot of rhino spoor have been seen just inside the fence. The animals appear to have travelled for some distance, near to and parallel with the fence; but up to the present no attempts to go through the fence have been made.

Considerable use of blank ammunition has been made in the outside areas; probably with better results than systematic drives. This method is being continued and it remains to be seen how soon it will be possible to report that all the white rhino in this area are safely in the sanctuary.

Ndumu Game Reserve Dealing with Ndumu Game Reserve, which is 25,000 acres in extent, and situated on the Portuguese East African border, the report states that the reserve, which until last March was administered direct from the Provincial Secretary's Office, has now been placed under the jurisdiction of the board.

There are Native squatters living in the reserve, and each Native seems to have several dogs of the hunting type at his kraal. Until both dogs and Natives are removed from this area, there is little hope of protection for the few nyala, impala and hippopotami which have survived.

The reserve is undulating in parts, but is mainly flat and has dense bush in sections; the remainder is patchy scrub. The water lilies in the pans are very varied and beautiful.

The board will receive reports in due course with regard to some elephants, about 30 of which appear to have made this and surrounding areas their permanent abode. Damage to crops by elephant and hippo are frequently reported by the Resident Native Commissioners, and steps are to be taken to protect these crops; by means other than the destruction of the animals concerned.

Some excellent fishing is to be had in the pans and streams in these areas. Fresh water fish of the tiger-fish and tilapia varieties abound, and fresh water mussels are plentiful.

The board is preparing sets of picture post cards of game animals and scenes in the Hluhluwe Game Reserve and the other areas under the board's control.