

# WILD LIFE

*AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY*  
Edited By DOUGLAS ENGLISH



**BLACK-HEADED GULLS.**

---

---

# WILD LIFE

## AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

Edited by *DOUGLAS ENGLISH*

---

---

VOL. V. No. 4.

### CONTENTS

DEC., 1914. PRICE 2/6  
NETT.

---

---

	PAGES
EDITORIAL.	
RAVENS - - - - - (Rev.) D. A. Scott	92-96
THE BLACK RHINOCEROS - - - - F. Russell Roberts <i>(Concluded)</i>	98-102
NOTES ON THE HARE - - - - C. H. Pattison	106-109
THE PIED WAGTAIL - - - - E. Eykyn	110-113
CLEARWING MOTHS - - - - Alfred E. Tonge, F.E.S. <i>(Member of the Nature Photographic Society)</i>	114-119
NOTES FROM THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS - E. G. Boulenger	120-122
CORRESPONDENCE - - - - -	122-123

And numerous illustrations by F. Russell Roberts, D. Seth-Smith, G. A. Booth, H. B. Macpherson, Walter Wilson, G. J. Atchison, J. H. Symonds, Alfred E. Tonge, and Douglas English.

---

*EDITORIAL NOTICES: Letters, etc., intended for the Editor should be addressed to 55 Bank Buildings, Kingsway, London.*  
*The Editor will be glad to consider contributions on Natural History subjects with or without photographic illustrations. Only photographic illustrations will be employed in "Wild Life."*  
*The Editor cannot be held responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, though every endeavour will be made to return rejected manuscripts when stamped addressed envelopes are enclosed.*  
*Every photographic print submitted must have, clearly written on the back, the name of the owner of the copyright, his or her full address, and the title of the picture. It will be sufficient for the Editor's purpose if the photographs submitted in the first instance are rough contact prints.*  
*In no case can unsolicited photographic prints be returned. Any which are likely to be usable will be filed for reference, and, if used, paid for; the remainder will be destroyed.*  
*Subject to these conditions, the Editor will be glad to consider photographs unaccompanied by letterpress.*

---

---

## THE BLACK RHINOCEROS

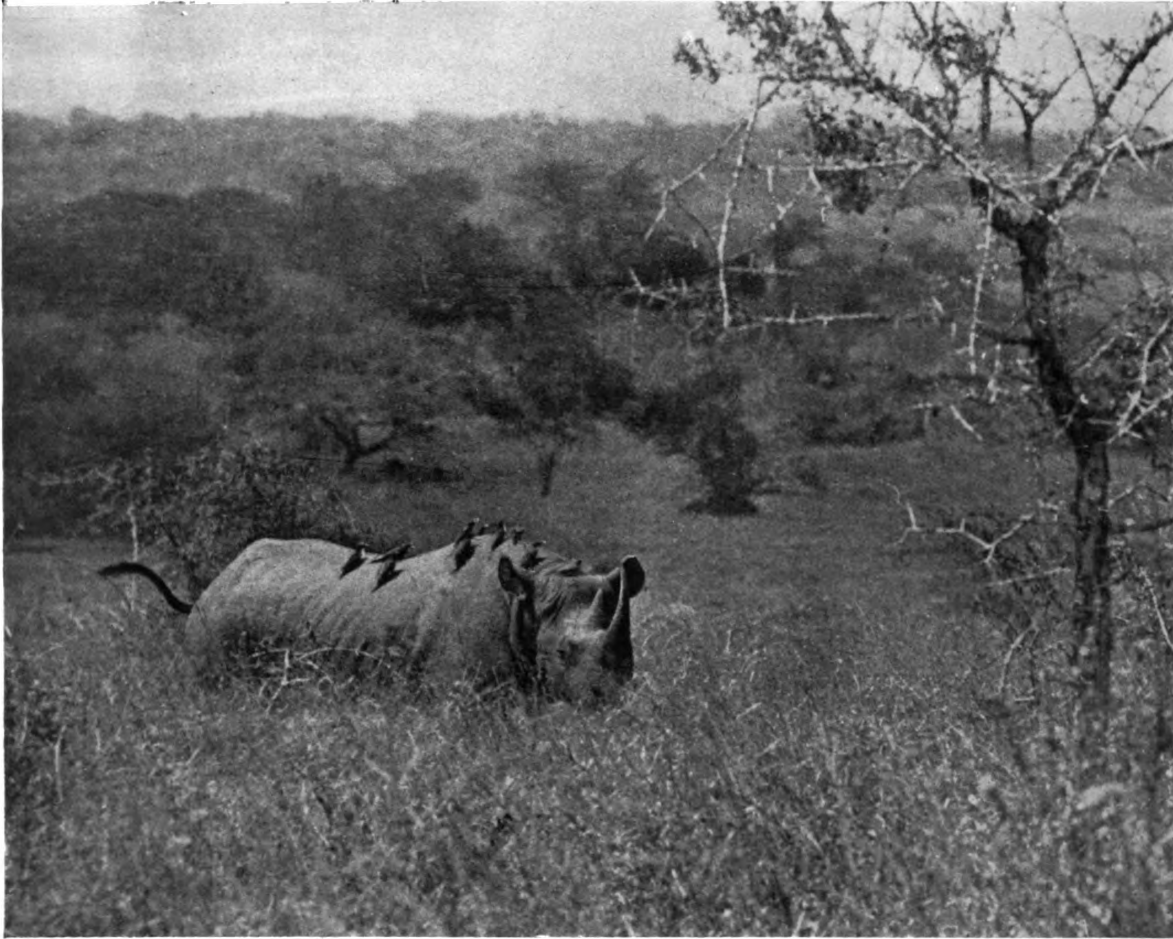
(Concluded.)

AS a rule, a Rhino's pace, when frightened, is a trot. He seldom gallops unless wounded, but on this occasion he fairly stretched his legs over the plain. One, after much hesitation, finally came; but we dodged behind convenient bushes, and he went by without stopping. Another approached, but evidently did not realise what he was charging, for, when about twenty yards off, he suddenly seemed to realise that the disturber of his rest was a man. This discovery evidently was not to his taste, for he turned off at once and ran away. This one was afterwards bagged by another gun, and was found to be badly wounded, so it would have been quite in order if he had pressed his attack home.

The Black Rhinoceros feeds chiefly at night on shrubs, thorn bush, weeds, roots, etc., and is not a grazer, as one might imagine. For on the Masai plains of East Africa they are—or, at any rate, were—frequently to be found, miles from any bush, sleeping in the heat of the day, sometimes under a thorn tree, sometimes in the open absolutely without shade.

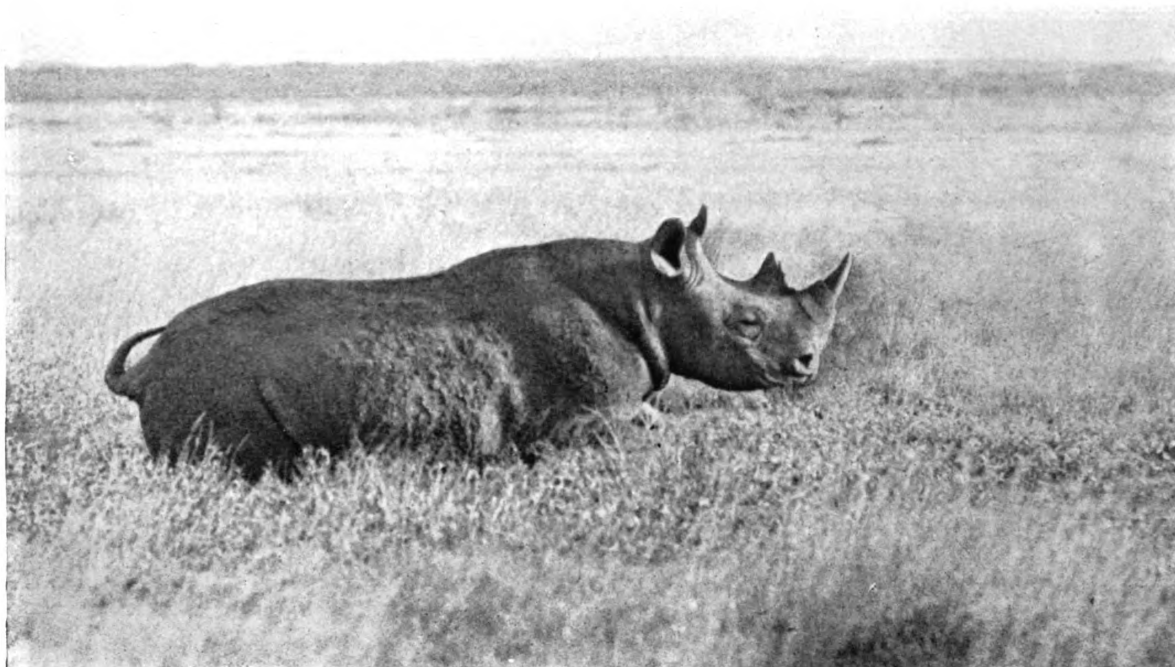
They love to wallow in a mud bath and to roll in the dust. This explains the apparent difference in colour, some being caked with red earth and some with white. They drink at night, and are very regular in their habits, walking long distances to water. They are very fond of euphorbia cactus, and I have heard it said that by cutting one down all the Rhinos in the vicinity will be attracted. They grout about with their horns constantly, sometimes for roots, but largely for amusement. They plough up great furrows, and, as noted in an earlier number, scatter their dung in all directions. The cow usually has one calf, but I have seen one with two, and believe these were twins. The mother is often accompanied by calves of great size, which have the appearance of considerable age, as shown on page 101.

It would appear that both the Black and the White Rhino of Equatorial Africa are smaller than those of South Africa. Roughly, an East African bull Rhino would stand just over five feet at the shoulder. Rhinos seem to make no effort to conceal themselves, and are often visible from miles away. Their only protection besides their nose, which is very keen, and hearing, which is of a moderate order, is the presence of the birds which accompany them. These are variously called the Tick-bird, Beef-eater, or Rhino-bird (*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*), and accompany Rhinos and Buffaloes commonly, and less commonly Giraffe and Eland. I have also seen them on Wart-hog. These birds accompany domestic cattle, and are as tame as possible when doing so. This seems to show that they realise their duties as sentinels, as they exhibit the utmost concern at the approach of man when accompanying wild game. They give the alarm at considerable distances by flying into the air and uttering a peculiar twittering note. But when on domestic animals they take no notice of man.



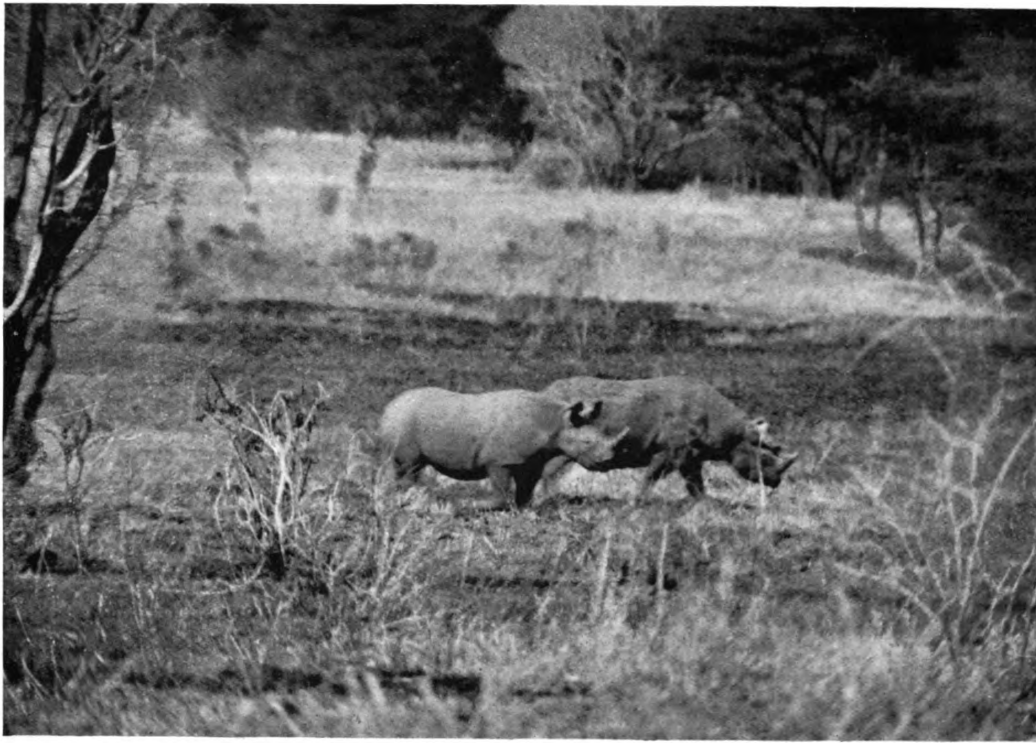
RHINO WITH PARASITICAL BIRDS.

Copyright, F. Russell Roberts



ON THE OPEN PLAIN.

Copyright, F. Russell Roberts



FEMALE RHINO WITH LARGE CALF.

Copyright, F. Russell Roberts



BEGINNING TO SHOW TEMPER.

Copyright, F. Russell Roberts

In the thick-bush countries, where Rhinos abound, travelling would be more nervous work than it is but for the presence of these birds. On many occasions my gun-bearer, whose hearing was keener than mine, would stop and listen. We would then detect the twitter of Rhino-birds, and often find their newly awakened host, standing within forty yards, endeavouring to locate the danger. One's thoughts would very likely be fixed on some far-off scene at home, and to have them recalled suddenly to the present in this way is a bit of a shock. One could easily picture an unpleasant encounter, if one had gone on dreaming for another forty yards, to awake suddenly to find oneself upon the horns of so pachydermatous a dilemma.

I have on one occasion only seen Crows on a Rhino. I think this one must have had sores on its back, as it tried its best to get rid of its troublesome guests. A photograph of this Rhino with a Crow on its back appears below.

The distribution of Rhinos seems largely dependent on the dryness of the climate. We find them equally in the hot valleys of the Tana, the Loangwa, the Zambesi, the Ruaha, and also in the high and cold plains and forests at altitudes up to eight thousand feet or so, but not in the moist regions such as the West Coast or Uganda. Once the steaming heat of Uganda is replaced by drier climate, where bush and thorn succeed forest and luxuriant vegetation, they crop up again. In Usoga and on the Nile, just north of Uganda and close to it, there are a fair number of Rhinos. But the arid thorn-bush country is their home. They are still numerous in the less visited parts of East Africa, particularly in the driest parts, such as the bush north of Kenia and in the Wakamba country. Here they go long distances daily to some water-hole, and browse where their unattractive diet is plentiful. Unless a campaign is made against them there should be no difficulty in preserving plenty of them in these districts, which hold no attraction at present discerned, for white man or black.

F. RUSSELL ROBERTS.



RHINO WITH CROW ON ITS BACK.

Copyright, F. Russell Roberts