

Following Big Game in Africa

Photographs by Marcuswell Maxwell

A Pictorial Review

The name of Marcuswell Maxwell should be added to the list of those men who have made valuable photographic records of African wild life during the last decade. The following selection of pictures is taken from a collection of his camera studies called "Elephants and Other Big Game Photographs," recently issued by the Times Publishing Co. of London. From a camera hunter's point of view Mr. Maxwell considers the lion the most pleasing animal, the rhino the most interesting, the buffalo the most exciting, and the elephant, which possesses all these attributes in a high degree, the most intelligent, amusing and fascinating of all. The pictures reproduced herewith give some idea of the excellence of Mr. Maxwell's big game studies.

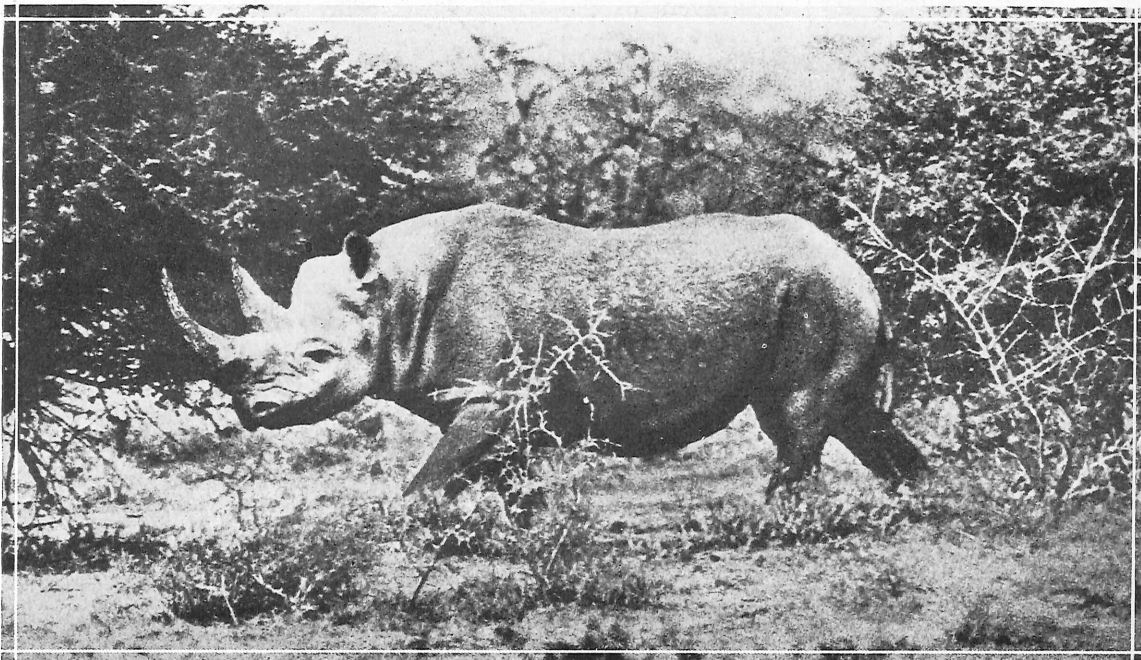


A FAMILY GROUP

For centuries the elephant led a comparatively peaceful existence in his jungle haunts, secure in his superiority to all other beasts. Decades of slaughter, however, have taught him to be constantly on guard against his most terrible enemy, the hunter. He fears man, whether he carries a gun or a camera. When the wind is right, elephants are easy to photograph, but an unfavorable breeze may send the photographer flying with an infuriated pachyderm charging at his heels.

DANGEROUS QUARRY

The charging rhino is fury incarnate. He fears nothing; he charges with irresistible power; and he travels with amazing speed considering his unwieldy bulk. The rhino is rapidly being exterminated. Once he was common throughout all Central Africa; today he is difficult to find even in the Great Game Reserve where shooting wild animals is forbidden.



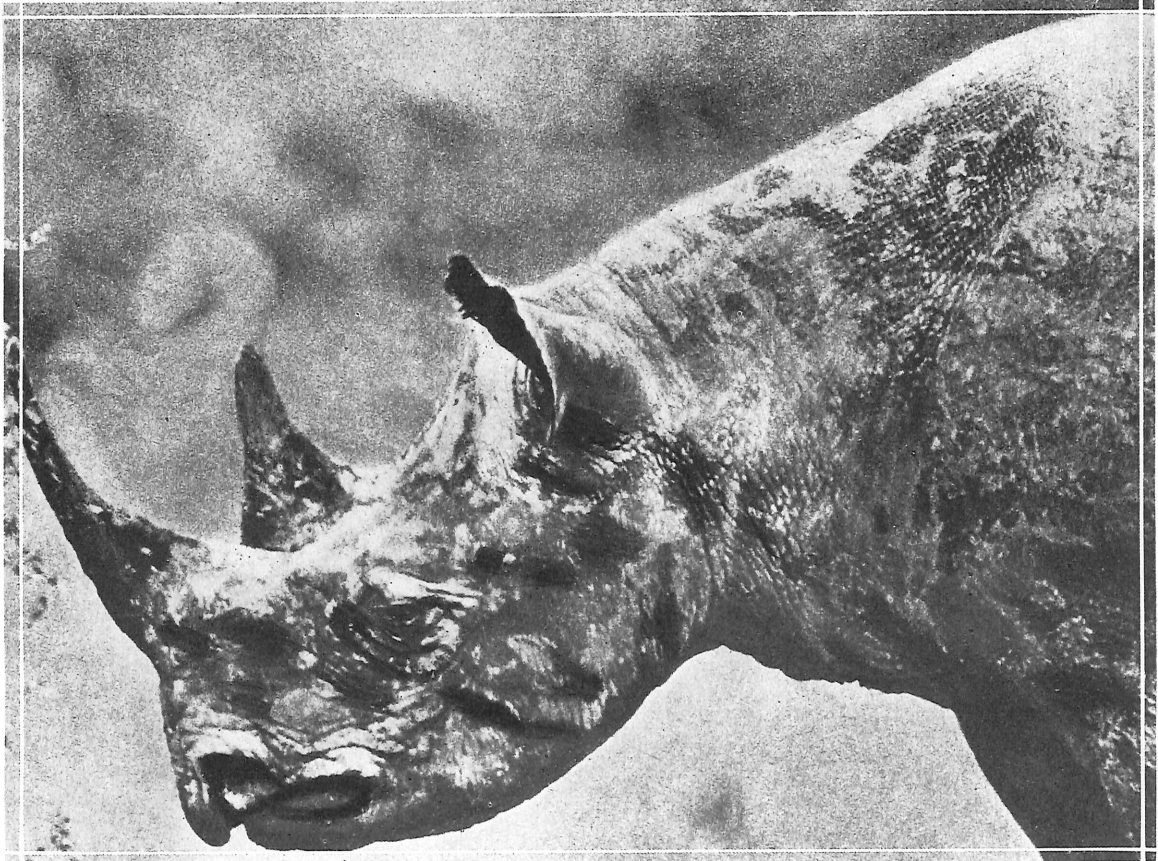


COMRADES

The elephants of Africa are to be found in widely varying territory ranging from the warm forests and grassy plains of the lowlands to regions that are ten thousand feet above sea level and very cold. As a rule the herds are constantly on the move using a particular road which they have broken for themselves through the grass or forest. The two bulls above are refreshing themselves at a dry salt lick.

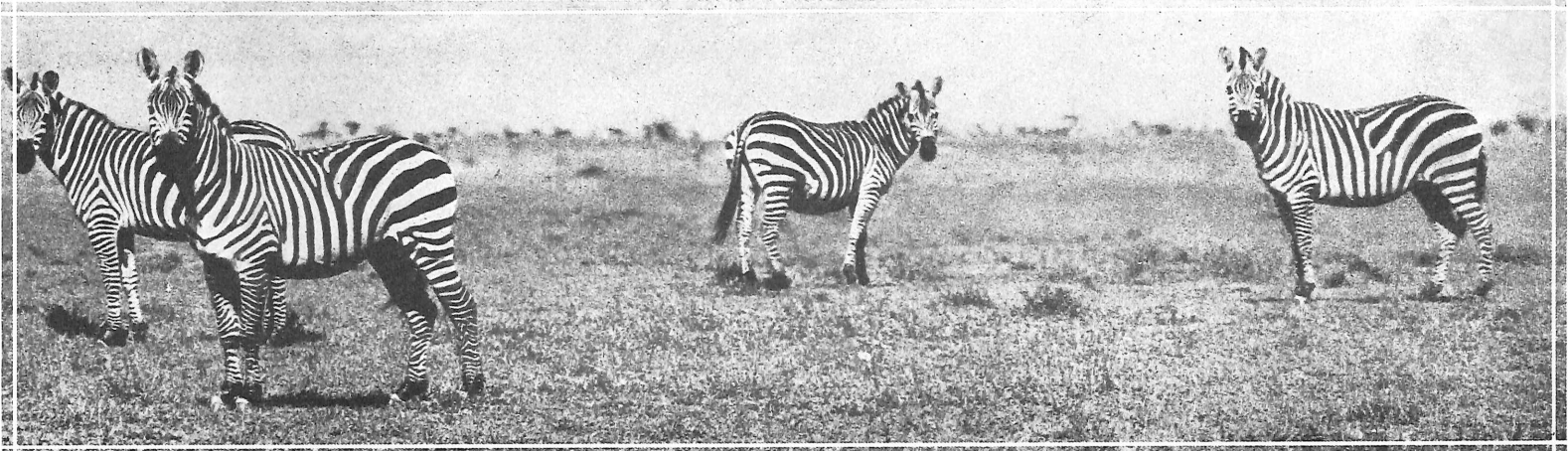
PORTRAIT OF A JUNGLE BRUISER

The heavily armed head of the rhinoceros with its two horns and its thick skull protects a minimum of intelligence and an exceedingly bad temper. The rhino's eyesight is poor, but his senses of hearing and smell are acute and he can back up his rage with a body weighing something more than a ton.



ZEBRA GRAZING

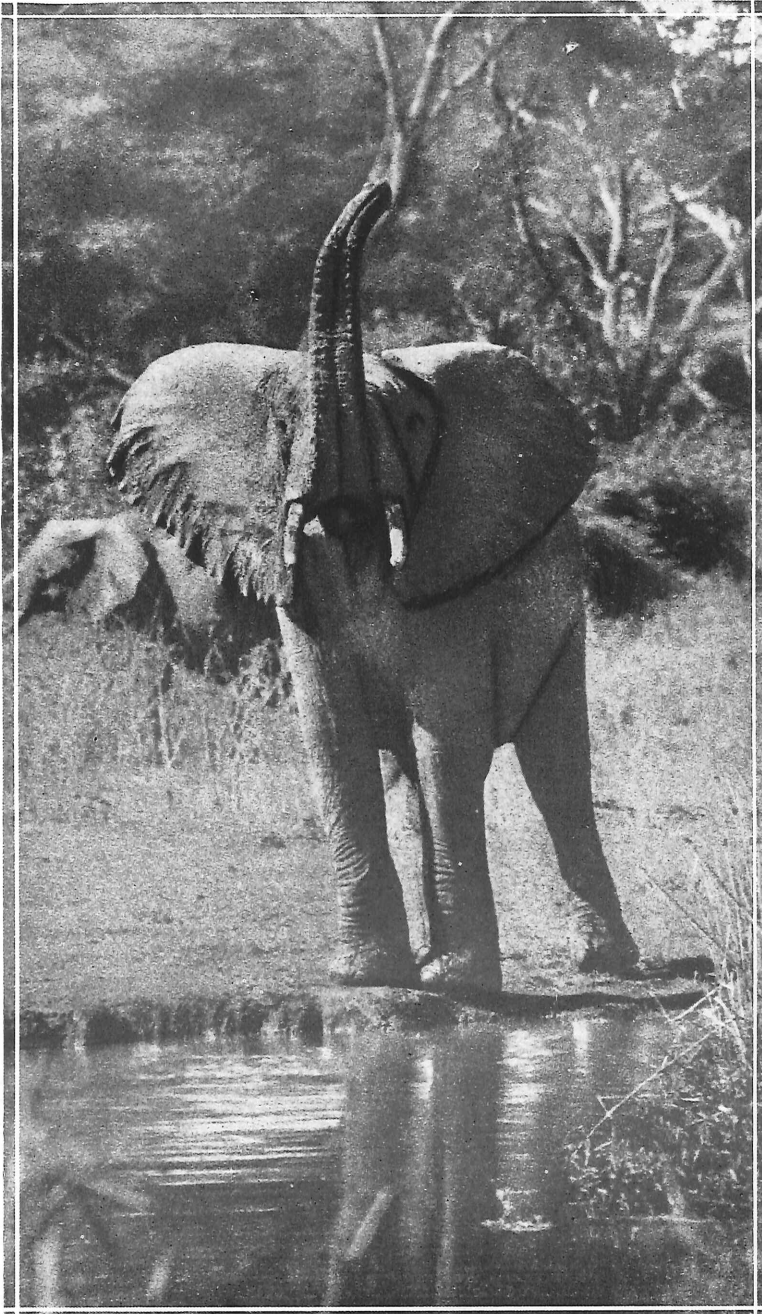
The beautifully striped zebra is one of the most picturesque animals in Africa, but he is cordially hated by the settlers and is rapidly being exterminated. Herds of zebra cause serious destruction, trampling down crops and even destroying triple barbed wire fences. The zebra possesses little stamina and cannot be domesticated.





BROWSING IN THE BUSH

When elephant herds are browsing, youngsters often less than three feet high may be seen plodding along beside their mothers. Though at first sight the mothers may appear indifferent, there is not a moment when they are not watching their children, and sometimes a youngster puts its little trunk over that of its mother very much as a child would hold its mother's hand. When elephants are on trek the herd, contrary to popular opinion, is generally led by an old female. The bulls drift along in the rear browsing nonchalantly and permitting the women to take the responsibility for the welfare of the young calves.



SCENTING DANGER

Her great body tense with expectancy, her ears fully extended and her trunk searching the air for the suspicious scent this old female is ready for instant action. Though their eyesight is poor and their hearing not particularly sharp, elephants have an amazingly keen sense of smell. This old matron is a typical veteran of the bush. The female African elephant, unlike the female elephant of India, has large tusks which she uses in feeding and in uprooting trees. The tusks of the African elephant sometimes weigh as much as two hundred and twenty pounds.

THE COMICAL WILDEBEEST

The wildebeest is a grotesque-looking creature with curving horns, bushy hair on the top of his head, long hair on the front of his face, and hair underneath his neck like a beard. His curious name was given to him by the Dutch settlers because they thought him a wild variety of their own cattle. Wildebeest live peacefully with the zebra, the gazelle and the giraffe and graze in herds that sometimes number several hundred.

