

THE GRANDEUR OF AFRICAN WILD LIFE

Ylla's Pictures of Wild Animals in East African Reservations form a Beautiful Collection Recently Published by the Harvill Press

A remarkable book of colour and black-and-white photographs *Animals in Africa* (Harvill, 30s.), displays the full beauty of the game reservations and National Parks of East Africa. Ylla, the American photographer, made a strange safari with her camera in 1952. She took most of her pictures in reservations in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, and though she had one or two narrow escapes, including an encounter with a charging rhinoceros, she found the animals much less ferocious than she had been led to expect. With Ylla's photographs goes a well-informed commentary on the twenty-five species of animals in the volume by L. S. B. Leakey. Mr. Leakey, who was born and bred among the Kikuyu, is a considerable expert on East African animals, and is at present Curator of the Coryndon Museum at Nairobi. His commentaries include a large number of personal reminiscences of his encounters with the animals, and the reader gets some idea of the simplicity and natural goodness of even the fiercest beasts.

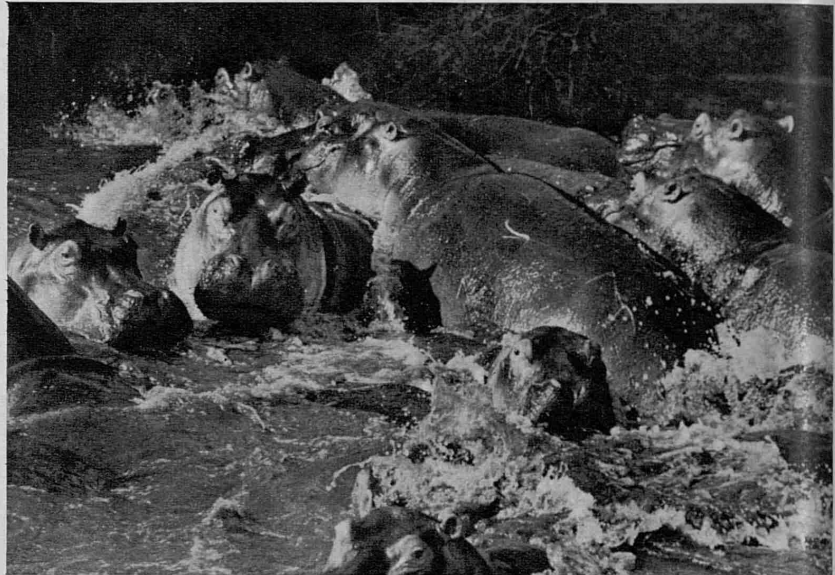
Most of the wild life in East Africa can to-day only survive in reservations or National Parks, where they are safe from native hunters and foreign sportsmen. The National Parks, Mr. Leakey is careful to point out, are not huge zoos where the animals live in semi-captivity. They are merely immense areas of land prohibited to hunters, in which the animals are at liberty to lead free and independent lives, even to the extent of leaving the reservations. But judging from the pictures and the accounts in this book, shooting game with the camera can be quite as rewarding—and as dangerous—as the shooting with a rifle.



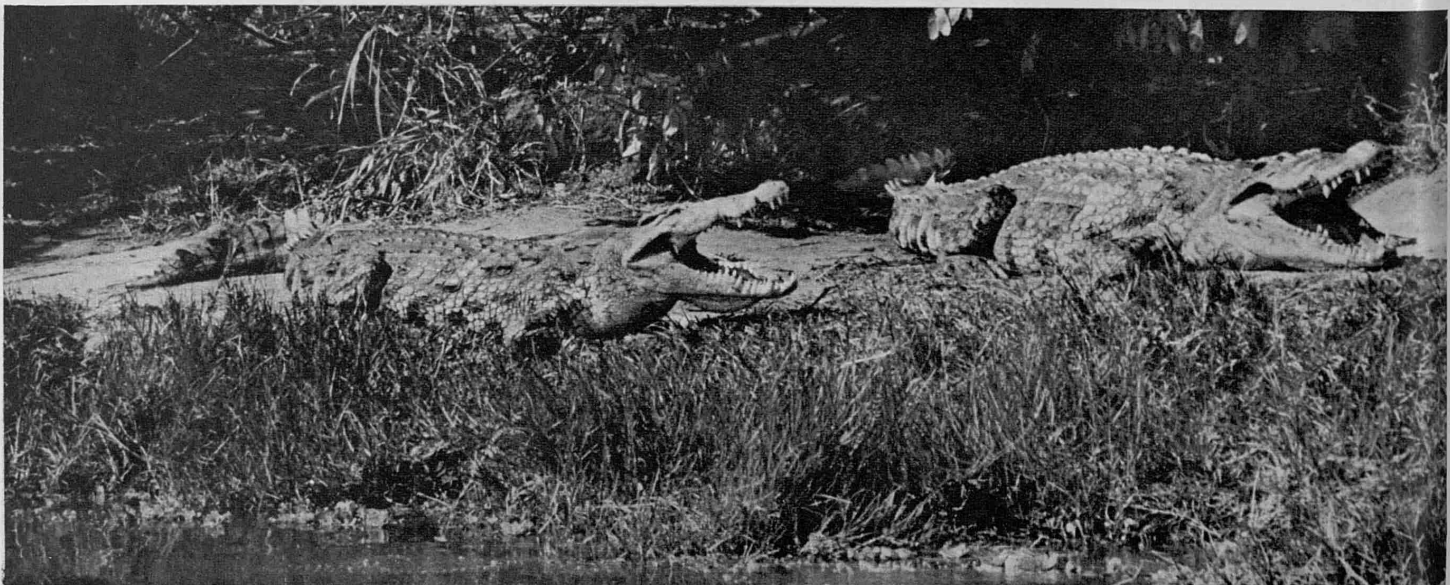
A DUIKER, ONE OF THE PRETTIEST OF SMALL GAZELLES: This animal is one of the most difficult of all antelopes to photograph, because it lives in bush and forest and lies hidden for the greater part of the day. The pictures on these pages were taken by the photographer Ylla mainly in the National Parks and game reserves of East Africa.



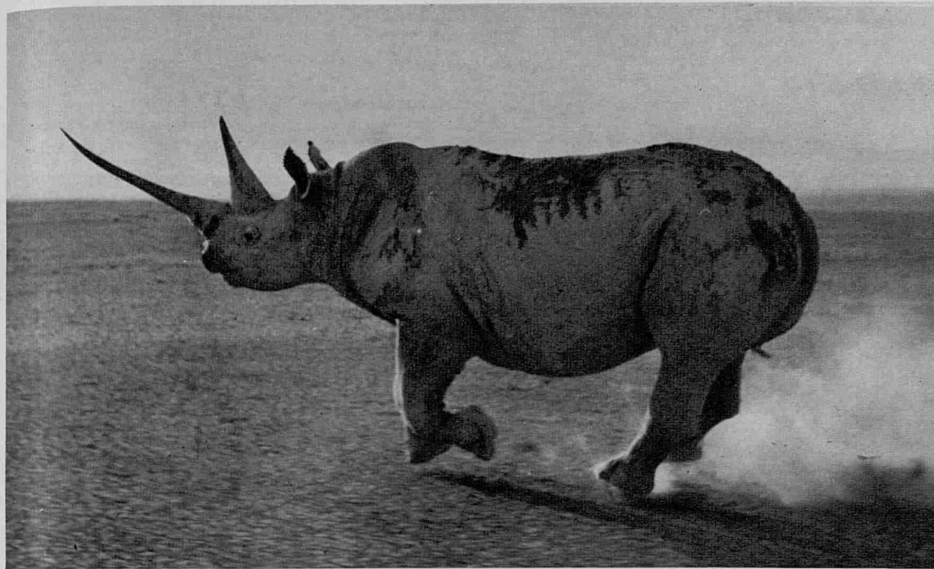
INSTINCTIVELY PRETENDING TO BE DEAD TO PROTECT ITSELF: A new-born Thomson gazelle, when it was still moist from birth. The gazelle instinctively pretended to be dead to protect itself from the strangers.



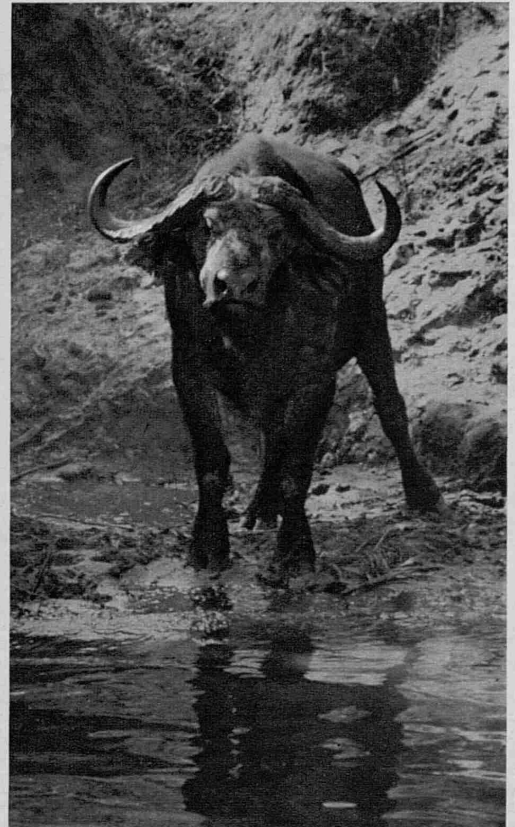
HIPPUS SCRAMBLING FOR COVER: At the approach of human beings these hippopotami at the Kazinga Channel would pull themselves out of the shallow water in which they pass the time of day and scramble out on to the shore. If they were approached early in the morning, they simply submerged.



SIESTA FOR TWO CROCODILES IN UGANDA: These animals on the Victoria Nile, near Murchison, lie motionless in the sun for hours on end. But though they look clumsy they can move extremely fast. Crocodiles are now seen only rarely in their native haunts, and then usually in a protected area like a National Park. Their skins are valuable, and the incessant hunt after them by Europeans and natives has made these animals, which are still very dangerous, more cautious about being seen by man.



A TERRIFYING MOMENT AS A RHINOCEROS CHARGES : On the level ground of a dried-out salt lake this rhinoceros charged a car and its occupants at a speed of about 25 miles an hour, but the car was too fast for him. His horn—this one is about 40 ins. long—is of great value to native hunters. Like the white rhino of South Africa, this black species is threatened with extinction unless protected by reserves and National Parks.



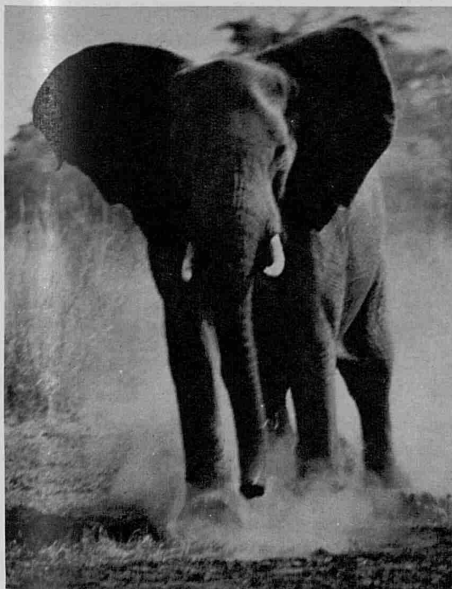
THE OLD BUFFALO WHO WENT DRINKING BY HIMSELF : An unusually close-up view of a buffalo drinking at the Kazinga Channel. Though they are wild and dangerous when wounded, buffaloes have a strangely docile look.



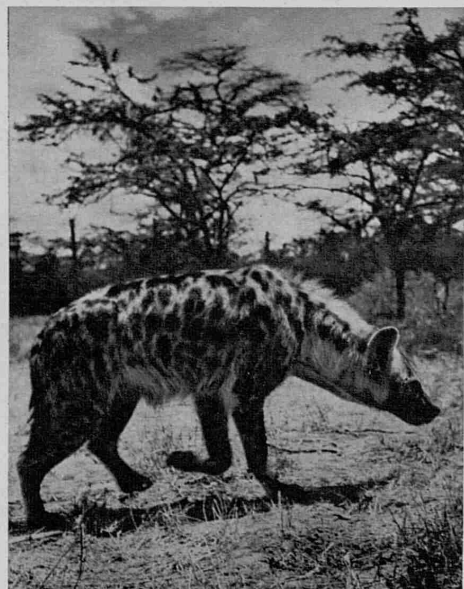
LIONS LEAD A CHARMING DOMESTIC LIFE : The lioness is playful, almost kittenish, while the lion tries to look dignified under the lens of the camera. This charming study at the Masai Reserve illustrates the affectionate family life which lions enjoy. The traditional man-eating lion is very much an exception in East Africa.



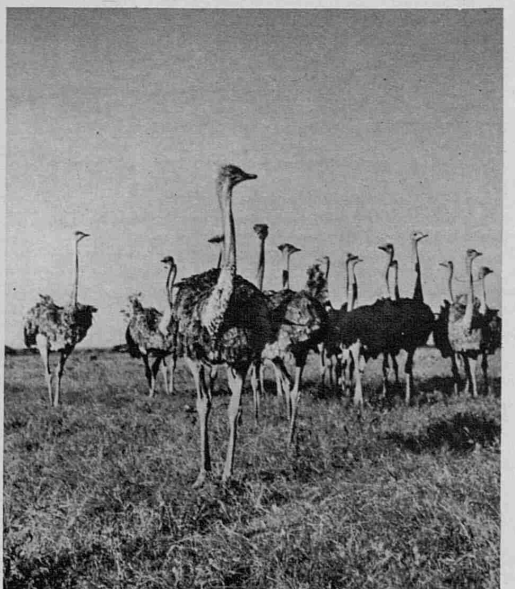
A THOMSON GAZELLE AND ITS BABY : These are the smallest of the true gazelles in East Africa, and are also the commonest. "Tommies," which are named after the East African explorer Joseph Thomson, make charming pets.



AN EAST AFRICAN ELEPHANT DISPLAYS ITS GLEAMING TUSKS : This fine elephant at Amboseli carries tusks probably weighing less than 100 lb. apiece.



ONE OF THE LEAST ATTRACTIVE OF EAST AFRICA'S WILD ANIMALS : The spotted hyena, common on the plains, seldom has a good coat, and is often very mangy.



OSTRICHES ON THE EAST AFRICAN PLAINS : A herd of ostriches seem to survey the world with equanimity. They are nowadays seldom hunted, and seem to be on the increase.