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WILD AFRICAN ANIMALS
I HAVE KNOWN

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CONTENTS *

	PAGE
EAST AFRICAN BABOON (<i>Papio anubis</i>). North of Northern Guaso Nyiro Plates II-X	I
MASSAI LION (<i>Felis leo massaicus</i>). Massai Steppe, near Mara River . Plates XI and XII	15
EAST AFRICAN LEOPARD (<i>Felis pardus</i>). Massai Steppe, near Mara River Plates XIII-XVII	19
HUNTING DOG (<i>Lycan pictus lupinus</i>). Northern Guaso Nyiro . . . Plates XVIII-XXII	27
BLACK-BACKED JACKAL (<i>Canis mesomelas</i>). Massai Steppe Plates XXIII-XXV	35
CENTRAL AFRICAN ELEPHANT (<i>Elephas africanus cottoni</i>). Eastern Belgian Congo Plates XXVI-XXX	41
RADCLIFFE'S BUFFALO (<i>Bubalus caffer radcliffei</i>). Tana River, Kenya Colony Plates XXXI-XXXVI	49
ITURI BUFFALO (<i>Bubalus caffer adolfi-friederici</i>). Ituri District, E. Belgian Congo Plates XXXVII and XXXVIII	57
WHITE-BEARDED GNU OR WILDEBEEST (<i>Connochætes taurinus albojubatus</i>). Massai Steppe, Kenya Colony Plates XXXIX-XLII	61
COKE'S HARTEBEEST (<i>Bubalis cokei</i>). Nairobi, Kenya Colony . . . Plate XLIII	67
TOPI (<i>Damaliscus korrigum iimela</i>). Massai Steppe Plates XLIV-XLVII	71

* The systematic arrangement and nomenclature is that generally followed by modern men of science.

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	PAGE
UGANDA TOPI (<i>Damaliscus korrigum ugandæ</i>). Rutshuru Plains, E. Belgian Congo	71
Plates XLVIII and XLIX	
SUNI ANTELOPE (<i>Nesotragus moschatus</i>). East Africa	79
Plate L	
WATERBUCK (<i>Kobus defassa</i>). Southern Guaso Nyiro	83
Plates LI and LII	
UGANDA KOB (<i>Adenota kob thomasi</i>). Rutshuru Plains, E. Belgian Congo	87
Plates LIII-LV	
IMPALA ANTELOPE (<i>Aepyceros melampus suara</i>). Massai Steppe	95
Plates LVI-LX	
GRANT'S GAZELLE (<i>Gazella granti</i>). Northern Guaso Nyiro	103
Plates LXI-LXXII	
ORYX ANTELOPE (<i>Oryx beisa annectens</i>). Northern Guaso Nyiro	117
Plates LXXIII-LXXXII	
ROAN ANTELOPE (<i>Hippotragus equinus langheldi</i>). Massai Steppe, near Mara River	129
Plates LXXXIII-LXXXV	
BUSHBUCK (<i>Tragelaphus scriptus haywoodi</i>). Athi Plains, Kenya Colony	135
Plates LXXXVI-LXXXVIII	
ELAND ANTELOPE (<i>Taurotragus oryx pattersonianus</i>). Uganda	141
Plates LXXXIX-XCII	
NETTED GIRAFFE (<i>Giraffa reticulata</i>). Northern Guaso Nyiro	147
Plate I and XCIII-CIII	
EAST AFRICAN WART-HOG (<i>Phacochærus Delamerei</i>). Northern Guaso Nyiro	161
Plates CIV-CVII	
CENTRAL AFRICAN WART-HOG (<i>Phacochærus africanus centralis</i>). Rutshuru Plains, E. Belgian Congo	161
Plates CVIII-CX	
HIPPOPOTAMUS (<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>). Rutshuru River, E. Belgian Congo	171
Plates CXI-CXX	
RHINOCEROS (<i>Diceros bicornis</i>). Tana River, Kenya Colony	183
Plates CXXI-CXXVII	

	PAGE
GRANT'S ZEBRA (<i>Equus burchelli grantii</i>). Massai Steppe Plates CXXVIII-CXXXV	193
GREY'S ZEBRA (<i>Equus grevyi</i>). Northern Guaso Nyiro Plates CXXXVI-CXLIX	193
TAWNY EAGLE (<i>Aquila rapax</i>). Massai Steppe Plates CL and CLI	217
SOCIABLE VULTURE (<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>). Massai Steppe Plates CLII and CLIII	221
WHITE-HEADED VULTURE (<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>). Massai Steppe Plate CLIV	221
AFRICAN WHITE-BACKED VULTURE (<i>Pseudogyps africanus</i>). Massai Steppe Plates CLV-CLXI	221
HOODED VULTURE (<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>). Massai Steppe Plates CLXII and CLXIII	221
MARABOU STORK (<i>Leptoptilus cruminiferus</i>). Massai Steppe Plates CLXIV-CLXIX	237
ABDIM'S STORK (<i>Sphenorhynchus abdimii</i>). Southern Sudan Plates CLXX and CLXXI	245
BLACK-CROWNED HERON (<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>). Lake Mutanda (British Ruanda) and Southern Sudan Plates CLXXII-CLXXVIII	249
CATTLE EGRET (<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>). Lake Victoria Plates CLXXIX-CLXXX	259
EAST AFRICAN CORMORANT (<i>Phalacrocorax lugubris</i>). Lake Mutanda, British Ruanda Plates CLXXXI and CLXXXII	263
EAST AFRICAN PIGMY CORMORANT (<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>). Lake Mutanda, British Ruanda Plate CLXXXIII	263
EAST AFRICAN CROWNED CRANE (<i>Balearica regulorum gibbericeps</i>). Lake Victoria Plates CLXXXIV and CLXXXV	269
SCISSOR-BILL OR SKIMMER (<i>Rhynchops flavirostris</i>). Lake Albert Edward Plates CLXXXVI-CLXXXVIII	273
NILE CROCODILE (<i>Crocodilus niloticus</i>). Lake Albert Plates CLXXXIX-CXCIV	279

	PAGE
PUFF-ADDER (<i>Bitis arietans</i>). Guaso Nyiro Plates CXCIV–CXCVIII	287
JACKSON'S CHAMELEON (<i>Chamaeleon jacksoni</i>). Nyieri Plates CXCIX–CCII	293
SCORPION (<i>Pandinus pallidus</i>). Guaso Nyiro Plates CCIII–CCVI	299
MOUNTAIN GORILLA (<i>Gorilla beringei</i>). Birunga Volcanoes, N. of Lake Kiwu Plates CCVII–CCXI	305

RHINOCEROS

(*Diceros bicornis*)

Tana River, Kenya Colony

ALL day we had been following the spoor and already it was drawing towards evening. But not one glimpse had we had of the great pachyderms. Then we came on them suddenly in medium tall grass, where evidently they had been sleeping during the most severe heat of noon. As the wind was unfavourable, we had to make a wide tack to get to leeward.

Slowly and cautiously we crept closer and soon discovered that they were a cow and a calf, that had just got to their feet and were now staring in our direction. But the eyesight of the Rhinoceros, as is well known, is very poor, and we creep on through the grass with our two cameras. After a little we peep over the grass and find the position favourable. The two animals have not moved. The tripod is set up and the film runs out foot after foot, reproducing the two monsters. We are scarcely fifty yards away. And yet they stand still.

Then we take down the camera again, creep farther in and soon have not more than about twenty yards between us. For the second time the tripod is set up and again the film winds past the lens.

But by this time the old cow is beginning to think our behaviour in some way an aspersion on her honour. With a humorous grunting she starts straight at us with head down and tail in the air. The quickness of these clumsy

beasts is amazing, and it seemed as though a small locomotive on a narrow-gauge track had suddenly charged us.

There was nothing to do but shoot. The cow fell and the calf stood astonished, wondering why the mother did not get up again.

Then we went forward to take some pictures of the calf from a still nearer position. For we assumed that it would be slow to quit the place after the mother fell.

Just as we got the camera arranged, however, the wounded rhinoceros came to. We were looking in another direction, and before we were aware of it the cow came rushing at us for the second time. Scarcely five yards separated us. In a flash rifle and shoulder came together. There was no time to aim. The shot was almost entirely a random one. The beast was then so close that, when it fell, knocked over by a lucky hit in the head, its horn was already under one of the legs of the tripod, which of course overturned. The rhinoceros rolled over, dragging with it the other camera also, which, however, was not injured in the slightest degree, but fell between the cow's two fore-legs.

But the calf, which evidently considered this hullabaloo too much for its nerves, had in the interval decamped, preferring to put itself in safety.

The pictures given herewith are those salvaged from the broken camera, where the film fortunately sustained no injury worth mentioning.

RHINOCEROS

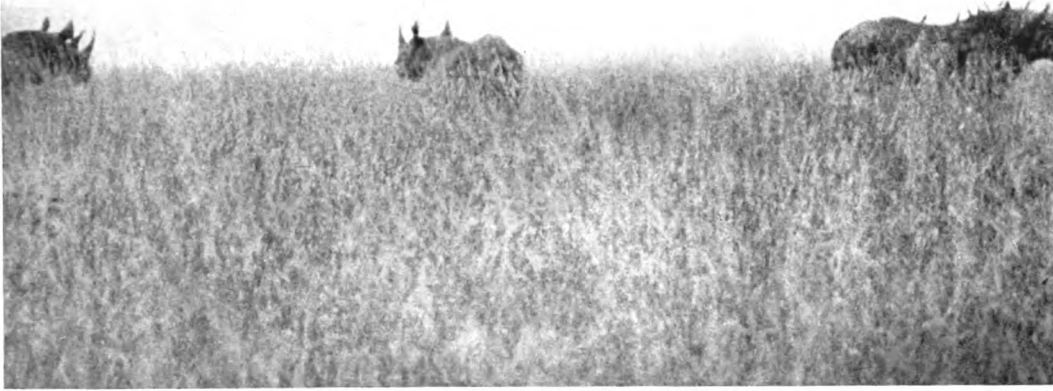


PLATE CXXI



PLATE CXXII

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RHINOCEROS



PLATE CXXIII



PLATE CXXIV

RHINOCEROS



PLATE CXXV

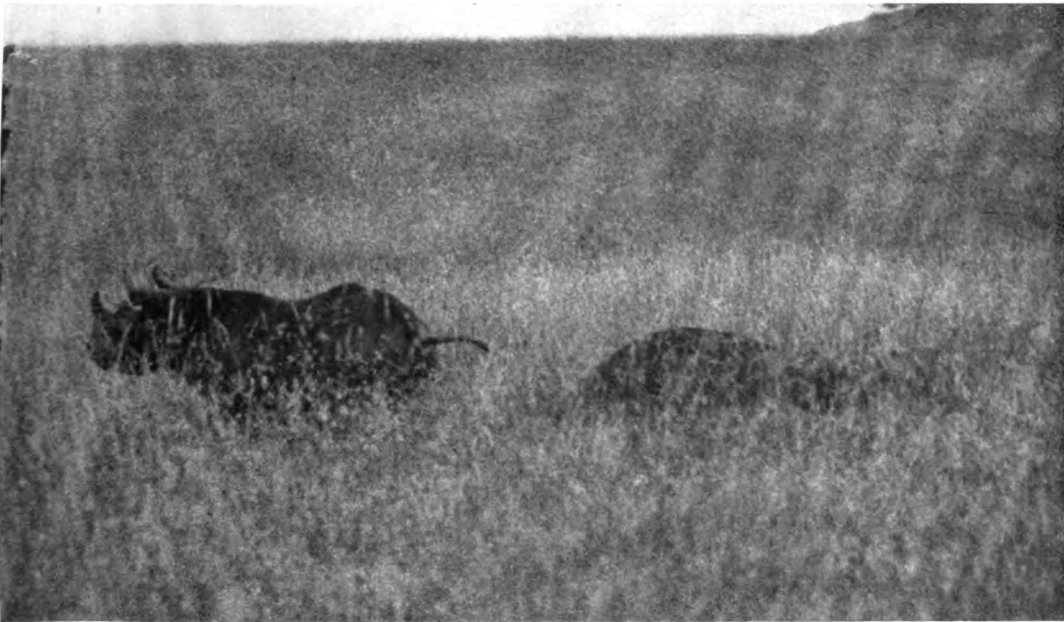


PLATE CXXVI

RHINOCEROS



PLATE CXXXVII