

14,500 feet (see Illustration No. 3). And here, half-way up the steep slope of stones and boulders, our second find was made. A tawny, khaki-coloured object lying upon the grey waste of boulders turned out, on inspection, to be the almost intact carcase of a buffalo. It was as hard as wood, and was probably frozen solid. The eyes had been attacked by birds, but otherwise it was uninjured. The horns measured thirty inches on the inside of the curve. How this solitary animal came to die there, at an altitude of something like 5000 feet above the usual haunts of its species, is a mystery which the writer is content to record but unable to explain.

Mr. Mackinder has mentioned the discovery of a buffalo skeleton at an altitude of 14,000 feet on the east side of the mountain.

Unless further rock-slides, skating down the very steep surface of the glacier, have covered the carcase since the accompanying photograph (Illustration No. 4) was taken, it is still probably available for inspection. Nor need the possibility of visiting this spot be considered a hopeless one by the average resident in, or visitor to, this country. With a carefully picked and well-fed caravan, one can travel from Naivasha, on foot all the way, *up to the glaciers and back in a fortnight*. As this fact becomes more generally known, it may be expected that a run up to the glaciers will become the rule with travellers and sportsmen in this country, instead of being, as at present, an almost unheard-of exception.

NOTES ON THE FAUNA OF BARINGO DISTRICT

BY HON. K. DUNDAS

The country lying between the River Kerio and the foot of the Suk hills is a vast expanse of dense and very thorny scrub. Through the centre of this flows the River Krut—more familiarly known by its Swahili name Weiwei—on its way to its junction with the Tirkwel at Ngabotok.

Apart from the elephant very little game is to be met with in this scrub; here and there a few *Thomsoni* or a stray oryx

are to be seen, and occasionally a solitary rhino or buffalo may be heard crashing through the bush. It is probable, too, that Greater and Lesser Kudu and even Bongo are to be found; and I have no doubt that, were the traveller to proceed northwards across the Weiwei and down on to the Lower Kerio into practically unknown and uninhabited country, he might come upon game in very considerable quantities.

The greatest glory, however, of this region was the magnificent herds of elephant that throughout the year were to be found roaming over it.

I should be afraid to say how many elephants once lived in this bush, but I should think that a thousand head would not be a very exaggerated estimate.

I myself have on two occasions met with a great herd that covered three or four square miles of country. We viewed this herd from the top of a tree, and the whole country seemed to be enveloped in one vast cloud of dust. The following day we passed through the centre of the herd; and the great beasts getting our wind first formed up into groups and then presently stampeded. Battalion after battalion of cows and young bulls first moved off, and then file after file of old bulls, many of them carrying enormous tusks, crushed past us into the bush. It would be no exaggeration, I think, to say that we saw fully three hundred elephants that day.

Contrary to our expectations not a single beast made any attempt to charge, although all round us was alive with elephants, and they kept bearing down on us from all points of the compass. Finally, at the very end of the herd, long after all the rest had fled, came one immense tusker, making his way in a slow leisurely fashion, apparently utterly ignorant of the smallest danger threatening him.

The Suk hills are a continuation of the Elgeyo escarpment. The inhabitants are for the most part very poor, and the further northwards one proceeds the poorer they become. The only cultivation known to them is that of millet and eleusine grain, and scarcely a season passes without bringing with it at any rate a partial failure of the crops. They are thus driven to seek their living in the forest, and many of them

subsist throughout the year almost entirely on honey, roots, wild berries, rats, mice, and other lesser mammals, and last, but not least, on the flesh of elephants. Necessity has thus driven them to kill game, and they are without exception the most fearless and daring elephant hunters I have ever met with.

The tribe is split into sections each occupying its own piece of hillside, and for purposes of hunting they have divided the country at the foot of the hill into preserves, each section having its tract of bush, in which it has the exclusive right of killing game.

Should a native of one section wound an elephant, and it die, or be dispatched, in the domain of another section, the ivory becomes the property of the man who first wounded it, the meat the property of the section in whose preserve it died. This is the tribal law regarding the slaying of elephants.

The sections that kill most game and are also the poorest are the Kaptakau, Ngorrh, Maerich, and Sekerr. The Kaptakau hunt on the right bank of the Krut; the Ngorrh in the country lying between the Krut and Maerich rivers; the Maerich across their rivers to within three miles of a small stream forming the southern boundary of Sekerr.

The Kaptakau use mostly poisoned arrows; the other three sections the ordinary Suk throwing spears. Whilst, however, the Maerich and Sekerr hunt on foot, the Ngorrh build platforms in the trees, from which, lying in wait for the elephants, they stab them on their way down to water.

During the wet season, when pools of water are to be found here and there in the bush, the elephants split up into small herds. In the dry season they gather into one or two great herds and water at the Krut. Very old bulls, however, keep apart from the rest, and during the heat of the day they may be found lying up under the shade of the great trees that line the banks of this river, and, being especially easy to kill, many of them fall victims to the native hunters.

The elephants are not easily scared, but if they have been badly hunted they make for Ngabotok, a hill at the junction of the Tirkwel and Weiwei rivers; and on such occasions their departure is signalled to the inhabitants for many miles along

the hillside by the great pillar of dust that follows their tempestuous rush through the bush.

At Ngabotok is a colony of Turkana Torobo, who, as soon as the herd makes its appearance, turn out and spear as many as they possibly can; they will follow after them for mile after mile engaged in a kind of running fight with the great beasts, and I am told that upon such occasions they will often account for as many as ten or twelve head. The elephants do not stop here therefore, but move on to Masol and Laterok, where they remain for a time watering at the Kerio, and then gradually work their way back to their old grazing grounds.¹

I have said that the Hill Suk are absolutely fearless hunters. They tell me that they can only remember one instance where one of them was killed by an elephant, and on that occasion the man met his death because he lost his head and attempted to run away from a charging cow. They maintain that, no matter how fierce a charge an elephant may make, it is always possible to turn the beast by throwing spears at its head, and that so long as a man has courage to face the enraged animal it will never charge home.

All over Baringo district small patches of fly-infected bush are to be found; for instance, one such patch exists about two miles south-east of the south-eastern corner of Lake Baringo.

The two danger zones, however, are the foothills of Loroghi and the bush on the Upper Kerio and Weiwei rivers.

On two occasions I camped for a night at the foot of Loroghi. I had with me dogs, camels, donkeys, and a few sheep and goats, and on both occasions several of the donkeys subsequently died of fly bite, but none of the other animals. The natives tell me that camels will live almost indefinitely in this region, and that cattle and sheep and goats can be kept there several weeks without danger, but that it is very fatal indeed for donkeys.

The Kerio and Weiwei river zone is less infected with fly than the Loroghi foothills, but this region also proves very fatal to donkeys. Until recently the Suk kept large numbers

¹ These conditions have changed; there is now a Government station at Ngabotok.

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of donkeys on the Kerio, but within a single year almost every one of these died of fly bite, although scarcely a single head of cattle became infected. Since that time it has become impossible to keep donkeys on the Upper Kerio, but cattle, sheep, and goats do very well indeed.

GAME ON THE COAST AND ITS DEPREDATIONS

BY J. E. JONES

This article is necessarily incomplete, for it deals only with game found north of Mombasa as far as Jubaland. Satisfactory data, even within this restricted area, are very difficult to obtain, for no regular shooting parties ever visit our coasts, and such particulars as are given have been gleaned from information supplied by the kindness of friends.

In certain districts game abounds, but as there is very little open country shooting is exceedingly difficult. That, together with that bogy of the coast—the climate—probably explains the non-appearance of sportsmen. Forests are conspicuous by their absence, and in their place we have dense scrub, often impenetrable except along game tracks. Such country cannot appeal to the sportsman who comes out with a limited amount of time at his disposal to make a bag.

The chief species to be found are :—

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) Elephant. | (13) Paa (Dikdik). |
| (2) Hippopotamus. | (14) Common and Harvey's
Duiker. |
| (3) Lion. | (15) Topi Hartebeest. |
| (4) Leopard. | (16) Gerenuk or Waller's
Gazelle. |
| (5) Cheetah. | (17) Hunter's Antelope (local,
only found near the
Tana about forty miles
inland). |
| (6) Serval Cat. | (18) Zebra. |
| (7) Gennet. | |
| (8) Buffalo. | |
| (9) Waterbuck. | |
| (10) Bushbuck. | |
| (11) Reedbuck. | |
| (12) Oribi, Haggard's. | |