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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. | |

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Amongst wantonly destructive animals may be enumerated :—

Pigs, porcupines and baboons, and many varieties of smaller monkeys.

There exist also packs of wild dogs which render good service to planters and natives by pursuing and destroying numbers of the smaller antelope.

Of the Pachyderms, elephants are found in considerable numbers between Kilifi creek and the Tana. In the dry season they retreat into the hinterland, but as soon as rain begins to fall they appear in numbers, especially at Ntondia Roka and Mambui. So careless are they of human presence that in 1909 at the latter village a herd was seen in broad daylight feeding in a cocoanut shamba within 200 yards of the place. The inhabitants turned out in force to witness this extraordinary sight.

So far as is known at present there are very few good tuskers among them, but from tusks I have lately seen at the District Office, Malindi—weighing nearly 100 lb. each—I gather that there must have been huge beasts in the district some time ago. Possibly the various tribes have killed off the bigger ones, for in the dense bush there live the Wasania, a hunting tribe pure and simple like the Dorobo.

Hippopotami are common in all the rivers and big swamps. The writer remembers in 1906 seeing two in the upper reaches of Kilifi creek, but they are not common in that part. In the Sabaki river and the swamps bordering it on either side numbers of these beasts are always to be found. They travel long distances in the night at times, and crops at a distance of twelve miles from their haunts are not safe.

The coast lion is a maneless one, and smaller than his brother of the highlands. For all that he is, if anything, more savage, and in his dealings with defenceless animals partakes more of the nature of a tiger or leopard than of the character usually ascribed to the King of Beasts. I have lively recollections of the wanton destruction caused in 1906 by two lions at Nabudi. They walked almost into the heart of the village one night, entered a goatpen and killed 59 sheep and goats. The following night they killed a baker's dozen in a shamba two

miles off. At the latter place three lions were present. One is glad to record that two of them were accounted for in the next few days.

The leopard also has a long tale of destruction to his account. Takaungu is a favourite haunt of his, and more than one human being there has fallen victim to these savage brutes.

Cheetah are rare, but are to be found on the coast here and there. It is a pleasure to know that they are neither as destructive nor as savage as the lion or leopard. Serval cats are a source of greater trouble in the chicken yard than anywhere else. The careful housewife, and even the happy-go-lucky bachelor, often have to deplore the destruction of their best fowls by a Serval cat, or so the houseboy will tell them. Possibly the wild cat is blamed when perfectly innocent, but the chickens disappear.

I am informed that buffalo are to be found on the mainland close behind Mombasa. They are certainly present at Utange, a village near Utwapa creek, distant about eight miles north of Mombasa, for Mr. de Lacey's plantation at one time suffered considerably from their depredations. I have not heard of any haunting Takaungu, but from Kilifi creek to the lowlands of the Sabaki there are several herds to be found. It is impossible to get on even terms with them in the thick bush, and as they rarely appear in open ground during the daytime the sportsman has very little chance of bagging one. A short while ago the mail runner from Mombasa was tossed by a buffalo on the road a few miles south of Malindi. After throwing the man into the bush, the buffalo proceeded to examine the mail bag, but, finding that the contents were mostly dry and unappetising official correspondence, he left the bag severely alone.

On the Sabaki lowlands there are several herds. One, numbering twenty-five, was seen on open ground last January, and there are several smaller lots in the neighbourhood. Apparently the natives live in wholesome dread of these animals, and one rarely hears of them being hunted and killed. There is no doubt that they are rapidly increasing in number.

Of the antelope, bushbuck and waterbuck are to be found in considerable numbers scattered up and down this district.

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Oribi, duiker, and topi are not, to the writer's knowledge, to be found in the coast belt of Seyidis province, south of the Sabaki, but there are considerable numbers of them on the mainland of Lamu province. Gerenuk is found in Jubaland only, while Hunter's antelope roams the Tana valley. Paa are common wherever there is bush, and the reedbuck, though rare, is found in the Sabaki valley. He is commoner on the Tana.

There are no zebra nearer than Fundeisa, a village about ten miles north of Mambrui. Four years ago there was a small herd on the Sabaki lowlands, but the approach of the white man drove it further north. They exist also in considerable numbers in Jubaland.

Pigs and porcupines are, like the poor, always with us. Their name spells destruction to young plants, and many a man has had to deplore the loss of hundreds of promising young rubber trees in one night. The only effective method of prevention, is fencing which adds considerably to the expense of a plantation.

Baboons and monkeys, too, maintain their reputation for destructiveness. There is no animal more wantonly destructive in a plantation than a monkey, and the amount of damage a small troop can do in half an hour is almost incredible. Fortunately, a little judicious shooting will frighten them off, and the clearing of bush in the vicinity of a plantation is a great preventive. The monkey does not like travelling on open ground; he feels unsafe unless he is aloft, and a wide belt of cleared ground round a plantation will almost always ensure its safety from depredation. There is no doubt that, speaking generally, wanton destruction to shambas of all kinds is yearly caused by most of these animals.
