



JUNGLE LIFE IN SELANGOR.

The Straits Times, 7 January 1931, Page 16

Share

Save Citation

Microfilm: NL643

<< Previous Article Next Article >>

JUNGLE LIFE IN SELANGOR.

Only Four Elephant Herds Left.

HUNTING IN RESERVES

DISAPPEARANCE OF GREEN PIGEON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Kuala Lumpur, Jan. 6.

A very interesting statement on the remaining wild life in Selangor, and on measures necessary for its preservation, has been submitted by Mr. C. Jackson, Deputy Game Warden for this State, to the Wild Life Commission.

Mr. Jackson (who is on leave) writes: The State of Selangor has four reserves:—(a) Fraser's Hill, (b) Kuala Selangor Hill, (c) Buloh Telor Peretek (Pukit Kutu) and (d) Kuala Lumpur and Ampang (Golf Club).

The State has only one paid Game Ranger whose work is chiefly confined to Kuala Lumpur district. I consider that the State of Selangor should have one head ranger and four subordinate rangers to adequately safeguard the wild life which still remains and suggest the division of the State into five sections for this purpose, e.g. a central district embracing Kuala Lumpur and environs under the supervision of the head ranger, a north-easterly, north-westerly, south-easterly and south-westerly district, each under the supervision of a subordinate ranger.

I have personally made frequent periodical visits to the reserves referred to and have made extensive observations in reserve "D."

Fraser's Hill reserve contains no big game but there is an abundance of wild life of many species including tapir, sambhur deer, barking deer, mouse deer, pig and also carnivorous animals. Of the latter, the black leopard (Rimau Kumbang) is most evident, Kuala Selangor Hill reserve, apart from tribes of monkeys, chiefly Lutong, has no other wild life worthy of mention.

Buloh, Telor Peretek reserve may be rightly described as the only real game reserve in the State of Selangor. I have not, unfortunately, up to the present made any observations in this reserves but it has been periodically visited by Mr. H. M. Pendlebury (acting Game Warden on several occasions) from whom I understand that it contains much wild life.

Recommended Articles

The Straits Times / Article

MORE WILD LIFE EVIDENCE.

5 May 1931 - "Elephant Damage Only Spectacular." A supplementary session of the Wd Life Commission was field at Kuala I.ipis on Apr. 30, when Messrs. Arthur Braybon and Stanley Hartfield gave evidence. Mr. Braybon, who is the manager of Selborne Plantation and hM tod ; limit and varied experience...

The Straits Times / Article

RATS ATTRACTED BY MUSIC.

2 April 1931 - Evidence Before Wild Life Commission. Giving: evidence before the Wild Life CommisFion at Sungei Patani, on Mar. 30. Mr. N. W. Mallet, of Tupah Estate, Bedong, who has been in Malaya for 23 years and in Bedong ten years, stated that he had noticed a distinct...

The Straits Times / Article

PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE.

16 October 1930 - Economic Aspect. HUBBACK COMMISSION INQUIRY. Further evidence was recorded yesterday by the Hubback Commission, sitting at Johore Bahru. During the sitting the chairman mentioned an incident at the Chenderoh Dam as instancing the fact that no attention was paid in this country to the conservation of...

The Straits Times / Article

EVIDENCE AT KAJANG.

7 January 1931 - Enormous Decrease in Deer Recently. Th 1 Commission, consisting of Mr Hubbark and Mr. Hawkins, has been sitting at Kajang yesterday and today. Among l thy witnesses was Raja But bin Raj* Amin, m planter, nf Semonyih, who tmid he had always lived there, recalled the days...

The Straits Times / Article

MALAYA'S VANISHING WILD LIFE.

27 July 1933 - TRAGEDY THAT ELEPHANTS ARE TREATED AS PESTS. The indiscriminate shooting of wild life, and the thorough disregard of the game laws, were some of the points dwelt upon by Mr. P. Sammy when he spoke on Wild Life In Malaya" at the weekly tiffin meeting yesterday...

The Straits Times / Article

the including elephant.

A Useless Sanctuary.

Kuala Lumpur and Ampang reserve consists of the Selangor Golf Club course and environs; it was originally created as a sanctuary for wild birds and contains no other wild life worthy of mention. Up till a year ago this reserve contained considerable quantities of pigeon of all species, with a predominance of green pigeon (Purai) but it is an unfortunate fact that at present their numbers have diminished to a very low figure. This may be attributed to the gradual clearance of breeding and feeding areas and there is no possibility of the position improving. The Selangor Golf Club has at present a further nine-hole course under construction and it is inevitable that in due course this reserve will become absolutely useless as a bird sanctuary.

Although hunting is not allowed in forest reserves there is no specific section of the Forestry Enactment covering this point. I have been informed by the Director of Forestry that should any person be found hunting in a forest reserve without authority, that person could be summoned for trespass only. In such a case, unless actual damage to the forest could be proved, from a point of law, I very much doubt if a conviction could be obtained. I have no recollection of any such case having been brought before a magistrate in the State of Selangor during the past ten years, and the fact that hunting in reserves does, to my own personal knowledge take place, would indicate that no active steps are taken by the Forestry Department to prevent hunting or poaching in these areas and that on this point the Department is positively apathetic.

Poaching by Rangers Alleged.

I do not consider that any active steps have been taken to prevent hunting in forest reserves; there has, therefore, been no benefit to wild life in these areas, rather, on the contrary has such wild life suffered by unauthorised hunting and poaching and I am of the opinion that Forest Rangers themselves are the chief culprits where poaching is concerned.

It is also my opinion that no benefit can possibly accrue to any wild life by the commercial exploitation of a forest reserve. The felling of timber, clearing of undergrowth, replanting, etc., can have only one effect, namely, that of depriving such wild life of its feeding grounds and cover and of driving it to seek its natural habitation elsewhere. This policy has been the reason for existing unlimited destruction and the ultimate result can only mean total extermination of the wild life which still inhabits these areas. This, I suggest, is a deplorable state of affairs which should be speedily remedied, with special reference to that area known as Tanjung Karang, in the district of Kuala Selangor, which still contains a fair measure of big and small game and an abundance of wild bird life.

There are now only two animals left in the Kuala Selangor elephant herd, an old cow with a calf. I have been personally responsible for the shooting of five animals from this herd since June, 1929, on the authority of the Chief Secretary to Government by whom they were prescribed owing to damage to the Sungei Buloh river bund and also to agriculture. Periodic damage to rubber and oil palm estates which was complained of was reported by me and found to be justified. Three estates, namely Elimina, Tandridge and Bukit Ijoke suffered severely from repeated visits by this herd.

NLSacrificed to Commerce

No efforts to my knowledge have ever been made by Government to preserve the Kuala Selangor herd by reserving sufficient primeval area for it to live in and full provision been made for a permanent wild life sanctuary, the elephants once so numerous in the Bukit Chembak and

EXTERMINATION OF WILD LIFE.

17 January 1931 - Selangor Game Warden's Evidence. (From Our Own Correspondent.) Kuala Lumpur, Jan. ML Two vtiBMMi ap[K-ari-il lk f T. R. liubtiack and O. Hawkins, M.C.S., ■t yesterday^ «ittinir of the Wild Life Commission in Kuala Lumpur. They were Maw*. C. I. R-il.in<on. Warden of Mines, Nrgn S<ml>ilan....

The Straits Times / Article

FIXED OPEN SEASON FOR SNIPE.

1 April 1931 - I More Evidence for Wild Life Commission. Giving evidence before the Ufa 'ommi'ion at Baling, Redan, on Mar. LB, (r V I) .Magill. manager of Kirn Seng Mate lialinir. in Malaya for 18 years, aid that be had notie-d an in< 1 m'ii...

Show More

Bukit Panjang districts would still be flourishing today.

In the issue of forest land for the cultivation of rubber, etc., Government does not appear to have paid any consideration whatsoever to the wild life which inhabited it, and by the gradual diminution of its natural feeding areas this unfortunate herd has had to be gradually exterminated in the interests of commerce.

The undermentioned species of animals and birds have to my knowledge become rarer in Selangor during the past eleven years:—elephant, rhinoceros, sambhur deer, barking deer, tapir, snipe, green pigeon.

The number of green pigeon in Selangor have been seriously depleted during the past ten years, chiefly due in my opinion to the following reasons:—clearing of nesting and feeding grounds; inadequate close season; indiscriminate issue of licences for smooth bore guns by the police department; lack of the sporting instinct in the average Asiatic, who prefers to shoot a bird while sleeping or feeding rather than take it on the wing; snaring by the kampong dweller and Forest Guards.

Kuala Lumpur's Snipe Grounds.

The old well-known snipe grounds of Kuala Lumpur district no longer exist, chiefly due to most low-lying areas having been exploited by the mining industry and the preference of the native holder to undertake what was the more profitable business of planting rubber rather than padi. There still remain to my personal knowledge certain small areas which are visited annually by snipe but the numbers of the birds are so small as to hardly justify the pursuits of this very sporting bird. However, in view of the present position of the rubber and tin industries, combined with the efforts of the Department of Agriculture to encourage the planting of padi, it is hoped that, snipe may be found in increasing numbers in the future.

The snaring of birds in Selangor does exist although not to any great extent. Detection, is, however, extremely difficult with only one Game Ranger for the whole of the State of Selangor, and the fact that when information does come to hand it is usually too old to act on.

Since the removal of sambhur deer from protection under the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Enactment a great deal of night shooting with the aid of spot lights has been carried on in Selangor, especially against this animal, and it is easy to imagine from the number of animals obtained by this method the suffering by wounding that can also have been caused. I have repeatedly met car parties of professed "sportsmen" leaving Kuala Lumpur on night shooting expeditions equipped with spot lights and smooth bore guns and if there is to be any future legislation in our game laws, I sincerely hope that that, which is a despicable practice except in the case of a real emergency, may be made a punishable offence.

Full Time Warden Wanted.

In spite of the results of Government's apparent efforts to rid itself of the trouble of safeguarding the fauna of Malaya, I am of the opinion that there still remain in the State of Selangor sufficient wild life to justify the employment of a full time Game Warden.

Apart from what still is left of the old Selangor elephant herd, there are three other distinct herds in Selangor, there is also considerable varied wild life in the coast area of Tanjong Karang and also in the mountainous regions bordering the States of Pahang and Negri Sembilan; these latter alone, if our fauna is to be properly conserved must be under

direct European supervision.

As a point of interest, I would refer the Commission to the number of arms (excluding revolvers) licensed by the Police Department and also the number of permits to purchase cartridges issued during the current year to date in Selangor. The exact figures are not at present before me, but if investigated I think they will be found to be eloquent enough. A great deal of unauthorised hunting is at present carried on in Selangor and it cannot be expected that the position be properly controlled without a full-time, active game warden, equipped with full powers and an adequate staff.

It was only during the year 1928 that I was appointed Honorary Deputy Game Warden, Selangor, but from the year 1921 I have been a very keen hunter. The pursuit of my hobby has taken me into many remote parts of the State and some of the things which impressed me most when I first commenced hunting were, the abundance of varied wild life in Selangor, the cheapness and ease of obtaining it, and the lack of real interest displayed by Government in the matter of its conservation, together with the possibility of creating a real source of revenue by the constitution of a properly organised game department.

"A Most Inhumane Act."

In releasing elephant and sambhur deer from protection under the "Wild Animals and Bird Protection Enactment," I consider Government was guilty, to say the least, of a most inhumane act, and I can positively state that, from my personal knowledge such a step on the score of damage was never justified as far as the State of Selangor was concerned, and venture to suggest that the Commission takes the evidence of the well-known rubber companies in Selangor on this point.

Since the above mentioned step was taken by Government, more than one case has come to my notice of the wounding of elephant with smooth bore shot guns, and all of the animals shot by me out of the old Selangor herd bore evidence of having been mutilated in this shameful manner. The young rogue bull that I had to shoot in Semenyih district in the year 1929 had been literally riddled with buck shot—no wonder it turned rogue!

I would also like to mention the fact that, I have on numerous occasions seen sambhur deer meat being hawked through the town of Kuala Lumpur on the top of a bus or lorry, a thing which was never seen when it was necessary to obtain a licence to shoot.