

ABSTRACT

The large animals of Nairobi National Park have been censused intermittently once a month from mid-1960 until the end of 1966. Of the 23 species discussed, the density per kilometre has been determined accurately for the following: Grant's gazelle, Thomson's gazelle, water-buck, impala, wildebeest, hartebeest, eland, buffalo, warthog, giraffe, zebra and ostrich. From these figures the biomass has been calculated for each species each year. After a peak biomass of 12,775 kg/sq. km during the drought of 1960-61 the population declined to and remained fairly level at about 5690 kg/sq. km from 1962 to 1966. This figure includes about 1050 kg/sq. km of cattle and sheep. The large predators account for only about 1.4 % of the total biomass of wild animals while removing about 15.5% from this group annually.