

91. The REDSHANK (*Totanus calidris*) breeds in suitable localities in Europe, Asia to China, and in Iceland. Though some birds remain in some of these localities for the whole year, most migrate south. They are found along the coast, but I have not shot them.

They have been recorded from December to February.

92. The MARSH SANDPIPER (*Totanus stagnatalis*) breeds in Siberia and Turkestan. My records and specimens show that this bird occurs here from August to end of May. The May birds are not in anything like full plumage, and I doubt if they would have left for some time, if at all.

The above dates and records are of birds which I have actually collected or seen, and must be accepted accordingly. It is quite possible that with further study and observation the dates given will have to be extended. No exhaustive observations have been made to determine the migration routes, and until this is done we shall not be in a position to make accurate observations of times of arrival and departure.

It is to be hoped that those members who are interested in the subject will in future make special efforts to collect migrants and to keep accurate notes on their movement, and will send in their records for publication in the JOURNAL.

THE GAME-FISH OF MOMBASA ETC.

BY E. K. BOILEAU

II

In my previous notes, in Vol. V., No. 10, of the JOURNAL, I referred to a list of the native and scientific names of the sporting-fish to be met with on our coast, but by an oversight it was omitted from the manuscript, and will now be found at the end of this article.

This list is compiled partly from Mr. Cuninghame's one in Vol. IV., No. 7, and from Günther's book on Fishes. It is submitted with all due deference to scientists in so far as the

classification of the different species goes, but the native names will be found to be those in common use amongst the 'Wa-Vuvi' or fishermen of the coast.

The subjects with which I now propose to deal are :

1. Bait. Native names &c.

2. Tackle.

Bait.—Almost any bright silver fish, from $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb., is readily taken by all species, when trolled behind a sailing- or motor-boat. The most deadly of all is the 'M'kisi' or Common Grey Mullet ; about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. is the best size, but I am of opinion that the heavier 'Kambesi' would take a 1-lb. fish in preference to a smaller one.

The next best bait, and one often preferred to the above by some fishermen, is a small species of Mackerel called the 'Una,' a life-size illustration of which appeared in my last article. This fish rarely exceeds $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and is a shapely and brilliant little bait, and undoubtedly very deadly, especially for King-fish.

The natives, however, seldom use either of these lures, but confine themselves almost entirely to the small 'Seemu' or Sardine, which, as explained before, they use with a single hook. When this bait is unobtainable a triangular piece of squid is substituted, or any other small silvery fish which can be threaded on to the hook. The young of the Gar-fish (Mtumbo) and the young of the Baracuda make good substitutes when the 'Una' and 'M'kisi' are not in.

Of artificial baits I have had but little experience, but have heard of instances of fish being taken on the Wilson spoon—a long narrow spoon-bait with a flight of triangles and a single tail-hook. It is not likely, however, that any form of artificial lure is capable of proving more deadly than the real article.

Tackle.—The following outfit is recommended :

1 Tarpon rod, 7 feet (steel centred or not, as preferred).

1 Tarpon reel, to hold not less than 300–350 yards.

350 yards Tarpon line, 24-thread.

50 yards fine piano wire.

1 gross swivels (brass).

1 gross triangles (bronze).

2 pairs pliers (combined wire-cutting).

- 1 gaff (steel).
- 1 spring balance (100 lb.).
- 1 rod-butt rest.

There are so many excellent makes of heavy sea rods on the market that it is impossible to say which is the best, but the writer has always used an 'Army and Navy' Dreadnought Tarpon Rod, No. 2, which being made on the principle of an archery bow is practically unbreakable. It has, however, one fault, which should always be looked for when purchasing—the rings are porcelain instead of agate. In this case a clever Cingalese gold-merchant of Mombasa substituted ivory for the porcelain with excellent results.

The length of the rod should not exceed 7 feet.

Reels.—The most universal reel in use is the multiplier of the American pattern, a costly and complicated article and one which, unless the fisherman is well acquainted with its use, leaves much to be desired.

When recently in London, I was shown what appeared to me to be quite the best type of reel as yet placed on the market. Capable of holding 350 yards line, it was fitted with a strong check and a long thumb-break, and the cost was very moderate—about 50s. The reel can be obtained of Messrs. Hardy & Sons, the well-known rod-makers of Pall Mall.

Lines.—A 24-thread Tarpon line is about the best to use, and at least 300–350 yards should be on the reel.

The natives of the coast have an excellent dressing for lines which renders them absolutely waterproof and prevents that curse of anglers, i.e. 'kinking.'

This preparation, or rather preparations, for there are two kinds (both, however, giving the same results), is in the first instance the scraped bark of a stunted bush called Mkasiri, in the second the root of a similar bush called Mkoko. In both instances the outer covering is scraped fine and a handful rubbed on the line, which is then allowed to dry in the sun. Two dressings are necessary, when the line will be found to have hardened and assumed a bright red tint. Frequent dressings are subsequently applied until the line becomes almost black and quite waterproof. This preparation completely does away with the tedious operation of washing and drying the

line after use, and, being a vegetable dressing, does not perish it. One, so dressed, was used continuously by the writer for two years.

Hooks and Swivels.—The former, which should always be bronzed and in the form of a triangle, are most serviceable when about the size shown in the illustration. Swivels should be brass, and are also shown to size.

Gaff.—The strongest and widest in the bend obtainable, and should be fitted with a leather cap to prevent rusting when not in use.

Traces.—Traces of piano wire already made up can be purchased, but it is extremely difficult to keep these sufficiently dry in the humid atmosphere of the coast so as to prevent rusting and consequent breakages. The best plan is to make the traces up from the piano wire itself. A good length of trace is about 4 feet, with three swivels; one at the back end, and two midway—the trace being attached to the line by a patent snap-fastener.

List of the Sporting Fish, Mombasa and Malindi Waters

English Name.	Scientific Name.	Family Classification.	Native Name.
King-fish	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	<i>Scombridae</i>	N'guru Mtwana
"	Unknown	"	N'guru Bowrega
Baracuda	<i>Sphyræna</i> ?	<i>Sphyrænidæ</i>	Mzio
"	?	"	Kasumba (Malindi). Tingesi (Mombasa)
Unknown	<i>Caranx ignobilis</i>	<i>Carangoidæ</i>	Kambesi
"	<i>C. Gymnostethoides</i>	"	Koli-koli
"	<i>C. ?</i>	"	Wai
The Bonito	<i>Thynnus pelamys</i>	<i>Thynnidae</i>	Djodari
Tuna (the Yellow-finned)	<i>Thynnus maculata</i>	"	Sahaywa
Pandu	<i>Scomber Sancti Petri</i>	<i>Scombridae</i>	Pandu
The Dolphin	<i>Coryphæna hippurus</i>	<i>Coryphænidæ</i>	Faloosi
The Gar-fish	<i>Scombresox belone</i>	<i>Scombresocidæ</i>	Mtum-bo
The Sword-fish	<i>Histiophorus</i> ?	<i>Xiphiidæ</i>	Sulsuli
The Red Bass (?)	<i>Lethrinus</i> ?	<i>Lethrinidæ</i>	Kiunga or Tisanda

A flight of triangles is attached to the trace. Experience has shown that nothing less than three triangles is of any use, and even with this number the bait is often cut clean in half by King-fish, who are very adept at avoiding the hooks. A few traces should be put together of different sizes to fit the various-sized baits. The illustration opposite is an attempt to describe the type of flight which has proved most successful.

Measurements do not include the length of the triangle itself.

A few of the best fish captured off Mombasa may here be mentioned to conclude this article. Unfortunately the writer has, owing to the war, dropped out of touch with records, so readers who have killed larger fish than those recorded below must pardon the exclusion of the same from these pages.

Kambesi	.	.	.	93 lb., H.E. Sir Henry Belfield
"	.	.	.	82 lb., Mr. Lee, Audit Office
"	.	.	.	72 lb., Mr. W. N. McMillan
Koli-koli	.	.	.	64 lb., Mr. Afalo and Dr. Small
"	.	.	.	57 lb., Dr. Small.
Baracuda	.	.	.	57 lb., Mr. E. K. Boileau
King-fish	.	.	.	62 lb., Mr. E. K. Boileau
"	.	.	.	54 lb., Dr. Small
"	.	.	.	45 lb., Mr. W. N. McMillan
"	.	.	.	45 lb., Mr. Cunningham.
Yellow-finned Tuna	.	.	.	35 lb., Mr. E. K. Boileau.

E. K. BOILEAU,
Lieut. R.E.

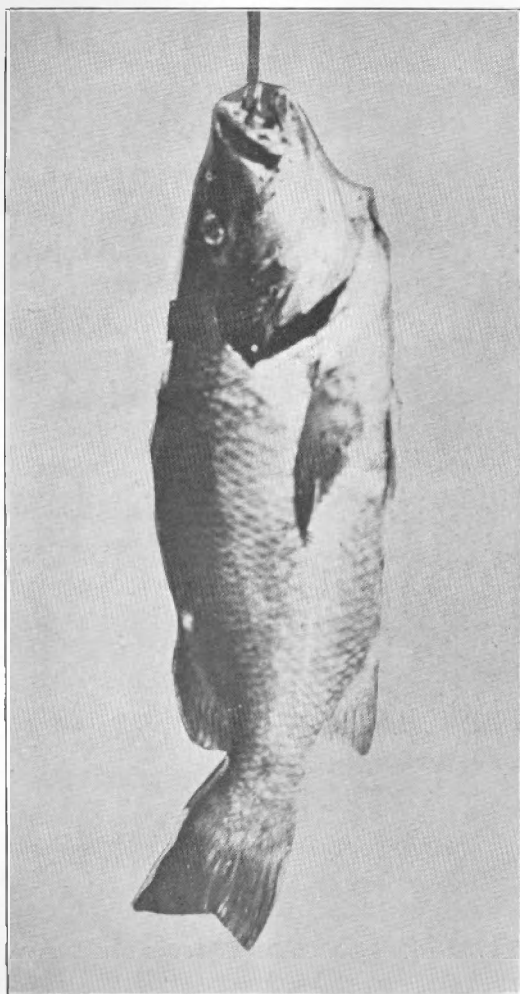
Morogoro, G.E.A.
10/10/16.

P.S.—I note the presence of King-fish here, both varieties, in great numbers, which supports the theory that these fish travel south on the break of the south-west monsoon.

A curious fact is that, whilst 'N'guru Bowrege' is apparently common here and at Malindi, I have not yet heard of it in Mombasa.

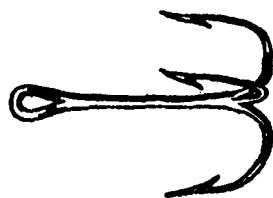
E. K. BOILEAU,
Capt. R.E.

Dar es Salaam.
21/4/17.

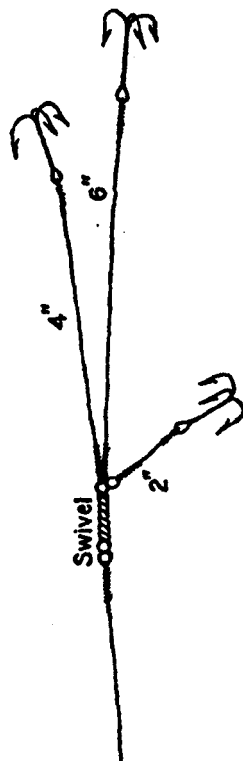


RED BASS, 11 lbs.

Caught trolling at a speed of 8 knots in Mombasa Harbour.

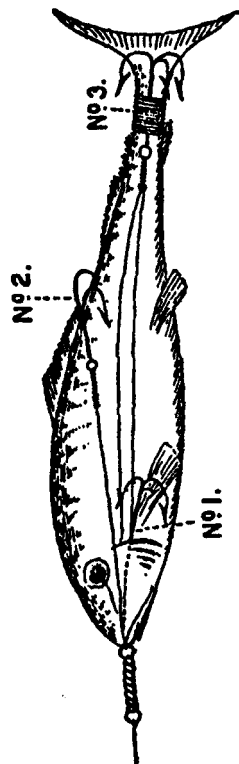
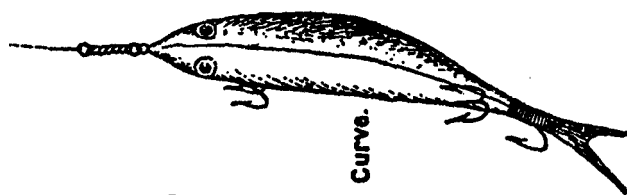


Bronze Triangle,
of useful size.
(Bronzed.)



Flight of Hooks

Shewing Curve.



Swivel. (Brass.)

SKETCH TO ILLUSTRATE METHOD OF AFFIXING BAIT TO TRACE.

NOTE.—The flight is first passed through gill-cover from behind, bringing the short triangle (No. 1) up to the gill-cover. No. 2 is passed over the back and hooked on in such a position as to impart a slight curve to the body. No. 3 is lashed to the tail. The swivel should be clear of the mouth.