Surprising Elephant Facts

MOST PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW

THE HIGH POINT OF THE ELEPHANT'S HEAD IS THE BOSS

THE HIGH POINT OF THE ELEPHANT'S BACK IS THE BOSS

THE HIGH POINT OF THE ELEPHANT'S BACK WITH CROTCH AND CROWN OF HEAD

HE elephant is the best known and at the same time the least known of all wild animals. Paradoxical as this may sound, it is nevertheless true. Nearly every one has seen an elephant and nearly every one imagines he knows what one looks like. But this popular impression as well as most of the beliefs about the elephant are erroneous.

In the first place the elephant we see here in America are Indian elephants. They are undoubtedly the largest of them.

A full-grown African elephant is nearly three times the size of Jumbo, which was the largest elephant ever brought to America. I have shot several specimens which stood over fifteen feet and which weighed at least twice as much as Jumbo.

Next to the monkey, the elephant is the wisest and most intelligent of all animals. I am not saying this of the domesticated Indian elephant, but of the African elephant in his native state. And the African elephant is always a huge, wild beast. He is never domesticated.

During the past two years that I spent in British East Africa and Uganda studying the elephant as he has lived for centuries, I learned several things about him that entitled him to be called the most intelligent of all animals, the monkey alone excepted.

In many respects he surpasses the monkey, but the latter's intelligence more nearly approaches our own, and for that reason we must consider him the highest type of intelligence.

Much to my surprise, I discovered that the bull elephant is rarely a fight er. Indeed, there is little danger from him. The generally accepted theory that the big bulls are not found in the big herds is a fallacy.

The bull elephants that are found roaming alone are almost invariably senile gentlemen who have been cast off by a herd. While I succeeded in getting three splendid specimens of bull elephants the finest specimen I shot at large I was unable to get him, for the reason that he lives in the center of a herd of 150 elephants, who guard him night and day.

These herds of elephants have cow leaders. The leader is usually an old animal with an ugly disposition. The cows protect the bulls, and the moment they scent danger they crowd around them in order to prevent them from being alone. If they see an hunters they will charge them, leaving enough of their number to guard the bulls.

Their sense of smell is very acute. They can detect the presence of a man a thousand yards off, but unless he is moving they can't see him, even if he is within a hundred yards. When they catch a whiff of wind tainted by man the cow elephants charge in that direction and it is a hundred to one that they will locate the person.

It is impossible for a hunter can get near enough to shoot a bull elephant the cows guard him so well. I have several times waited to try to carry off a big bull elephant that I had shot.

If he had been able to make any effort himself they would have succeeded in pulling the bullet from my rifle had finished him, and after trying for several minutes to lift him up and get him in motion the cows ran off and left him.

These African elephants have many signals which they use to communicate among themselves, for instance, when a cow gets the wind of a hunter she signals "to guard," and immediately every elephant in the herd stops grazing and listens with trunk to the ground. They are as silent as the grass.

Even when a shot among them raises a stampede and the forest resounds with the fine crash of their moving, they can disappear without making the slightest noise. They can move so silently that I have often come within fifteen or twenty yards of a big herd, mistaking his trunk and forefeet for trees in the jungle.

On several occasions the beasts received so quietly and so quietly that I lost them altogether.

When they want to they can make more noise than any animals in the world. A herd of two or three hundred will trample down an entire native village and all the farms around it with such noises that can only be compared to an earthquake.

Again a herd will slide through the forest so quietly that you can't hear them ten yards away. As their sense of smell and hearing are acute, they rarely fall into the elephant pits which the natives dig to capture them. I don't suppose one pit in a hundred accomplishes its mission. When the elephants go through the forests they hold their trunks close to the ground, and by tapping every now and then they can detect any pit, no matter how skillfully concealed, before stepping into it.

The moment they strike any ground that is the least bit suspicious they tap it carefully and make wide detours. Of course, when a herd is stampeded they haven't time to investigate the ground and then they sometimes fall into the pits.

The generally accepted theory that the calves are only to be found with cows is also a fallacy. The cows are the leaders and the fathers of the herds, so it is only natural that they should turn over their offspring to be reared for by the bulls when they themselves are busy. And that is exactly the case.

I have seen bull elephants playing with the calves and looking after them on numerous occasions. The fact that you see a couple of calves does not indicate that a cow is close by. Their pace has to be in charge of them.

It is only a matter of a few years until the African elephant will be extinct. Most of the fine specimens have been killed off already. The herds that are roaming the jungles have little ivory, and are therefore, immune from elephant hunters. However, as civilization spreads, the herds are being destroyed, for the reason that they are a menace to the safety of the natives, besides being the destroyers of much property.

Now that they are suspected of carrying sleeping sickness their doom is sealed. For this reason I am anxious to return to Africa as soon as possible to complete the specimens for my group. Unless I do so museum will be able to group elephants as they are in all their glory.

I inspected hundreds of elephants without finding any really fine specimens. Mr. Akeley and I shot three bulls having tusks each weighing over 100 pounds. But what I am after particularly is a bull with tusks weighing 200 pounds, a full-grown animal.

Many elephant hunters have killed three and four hundred animals without finding as large tusks as we did, but we were on the lookout only for the finest specimens. These fine specimens are very rare, for the reason that when a bull develops tusks of fifty pounds, which is quite an early age, perhaps twenty-five years, he becomes the target of every hunter, and not have the will-braced from the end of the arms to the post. To

CONCRETE GRAPE POST

A, Mold for Making Posts; B, Front View of Finished Post; C, Side View of Finished Post

and posts are braced so that the wires may be drawn taut. It is a mistake to have holes in the posts and run wires through them at four feet from the ground, or in fact any distance, to allow of the accumulation of mutter, ure, and a wire at this height may naturally interfere with the cultivation of the vineyard and the picking of the crop. Any obstruction that prevents getting readily from one row of vines to the next is to be avoided. The cross arms, if made of 1 by 4 inch board and secured with three nails

ESSENTIAL CULTIVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF GRAPE VINES

Found to Be Good Practice to do Pruning Just About Time of Pick ng, But in No Case Should Treatment Go Over Until Spring, as "Bleeding" Causes Weakness and Stunts.

The care of grapes is the same whether for the home or the vineyard, and the method of training differs largely upon circumstances. In the east, California, and in the far east, Italy, Spain, etc., no trellis is used, as the vines are grown on hill sides and the other sides the crop is supported by trellis. On our farm four canes are allowed to grow from the root stock, and we coiled old tiller tied with tarred twine, wires Herman Haupt, Jr., in the Rural New Yorker. We use cedar posts eight feet long set in the ground about six feet, with the butt end throughout coated with hot coal tar from the gas works. The hold the longitudinal wires we saw a shallow notch in the upper edge of the cross-arms; this is sufficient as it being doubled with tar keeps out moisture and heat would rot and we have adopted the plan now of replacing the wooden post with one made of concrete. A rectangular box is made tapering from six inches at the base to four inches at the top and eight feet long, open along one side. This box is made up of boards, slightly tapering, the others are straight. In the ends of the box we have four holes, near the outer edge, for the insertion of four strands of galvanized telephone wire; these are passed through the box from end to end and made taut. The box is then laid on the open side up, and filled with concrete: One part best Portland cement, three parts sand and water to make quite wet. With a trowel the surface is smoothed off. At the upper or smaller end of the post we have a piece of the concrete two-or-quarter inch hole, the head imbedded in the concrete, and the shank protruding an inch or more. The holes are four inches apart and two inches from the top of the post. One is two inches and the other six inches from the top, and the wires are screwed the cross-arms 24 inches long, when the post has set and hardened. The box or form is so made that six or eight posts may be made at one time. This makes a post that will last for all time, and needs no repairs. The end posts will, of course, be braced, and the corner posts

IMPROVED ORCHARD SPRAY TOWER

Spray Solution
Post Bracing
Post Bracing
Cross Arm
Post
Post Bracing
Post Bracing
Post Bracing