

number of species—would raise their heads, stare for a moment, and join the stampede. None but the first little group had seen me, but all had caught the warning of danger from the flash of stripe and colour, and all were heeding it. On one occasion, six minutes by the watch after the first beasts had departed, game was still plodding by across our front. They were plodding very slowly and mechanically and in a bored fashion, because by now the warning had been much diluted, but they were doing their duty. Now of all these beasts nine tenths were more or less unnoticeable as long as they stood still. Their coloration, or the light or the cover, or all three tended to obliterate most of them sufficiently to cause them to be overlooked by a cursory glance. But the moment any of them moved, they became instantly and plainly visible. In other words, the same pattern that fulfilled one function one moment in certain circumstances fulfilled another function the next moment in changed circumstances. To go back to our zebra, because he is easy to discuss, no creature was harder to make out in thin cover as long as he held still; no animal was easier to see the instant he moved. As long as he held still he was presumably in no danger of which he was aware, and his pattern helped him to remain unobserved; the instant he became aware of danger and ran, that instant by his very conspicuousness he served as an easily visible warning to all other beasts that something was wrong.

It is useless to discuss the point played by coloration in recognition and sex attraction. The uniform of a particular species is as definite as the uniform of a regiment, and perhaps fulfills much the same function. Of course