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Game Birds of Sikkim including the Darjeeling District
and of the Jalpaiguri District, Bengal.

by
C. M. INGLIS, F. Z. S., F. E. S., M. B. O. U.,

(Continued from page 3)

2. The Ashy-Headed Green Pigeon
Treron pompadora phayrei (Blyth)

There is only one green pigeon with which this species can be confounded and that is the Thick-billed Green Pigeon. The red at the base of the mandible and the vivid green round the eye easily distinguishes the latter from the Ashy-headed species.

The cock has the top of head and tips of most of the tail feathers grey, mantle maroon, breast orange, yellow on the wings, the under tail coverts cinnamon and the remainder of the plumage more or less green. In the hen the maroon and orange are replaced by green and the under tail coverts are buffy white. The legs in both sexes are red. This is a much smaller bird than the Bengal Green Pigeon.

This is also a plains species and appears to be rather rare within our area. During the Bombay Natural History Society's Mammal Survey one of their collectors got one at Hasimara and I have heard of others being seen at Kuntimari in the Western Duars. It does not appear to be found in the Terai or anywhere in the foothills.

In Assam where it is very common it is sometimes found in very large flocks though not always and parties of only half a dozen birds are not uncommon. Their flight is very fast much more so than that of the Bengal

Green Pigeon. Although usually shy birds Stuart Baker has sometimes noticed that "when feeding in thickly foliated trees they often trust to the effective blending of their colours with the leaves to escape detection. I have known cases in which a bird has been shot out of a tree without the rest of the flock taking to flight".

Like all green pigeons they live mostly on fruit but will also eat grain and termites. With regard to the latter Stuart Baker writes:--

"For this purpose it descends to the ground and runs about quite actively, seizing both those termites which drop to the ground on losing their wings and those which are emerging from their nest-holes. It will also descend to the ground to eat strawberries or other fruit growing on ground plants". Its note is the same melodious whistle as other green pigeons.

In Assam they breed from April to August and make the usual scrumpy stick nest in saplings or bamboo clumps but Mr. Baker has also taken them occasionally from quite high up on a biggish tree. The eggs two in number are glossy white and measure $1.08 \times .83$ inches.

As is well known all green pigeons are good for the table more so when prepared as suggested by Mr. Stuart Baker, "they should be skinned and not plucked only for their skins are very tough and sometimes seem to give rather a rank taste to the flesh. The best way of all to cook them is to jug them in claret and the next best to roast them in a ball of clay, which keeps in all the juices but takes away skin and feathers complete when the ball is opened".

They are easy to keep in captivity and can be fed like other Green Pigeons but should not be kept together during the breeding season as they are then most quarrelsome.

(To be continued).

The Verditer Flycatcher. (*Stoparola melanops melanops*).

BY

DR. SATYA CHURN LAW M. A., B. L., FH D., F. Z. S.,
M. B. O. U.

(With one plate).

Of the Fly-catchers which breed in the district of Darjeeling, *Stoparola melanops melanops* claims our attention not only by reason of the fact that it is now reckoned



Photo by]

[S. C. Law

Nest and young of *Stoparola m. melanops*.

as a cage-bird but also for several other considerations. Its confiding habits and verditer-blue colour, its soft but sweet notes during the months of May and June, are so captivating as to commend it easily to the notice of visitors to the District. In the town itself it appears to be a very common bird, either sitting on fences, telegraph wires, prominent branches of trees, or rallying forth high into the air after the manner of King-crows to catch insects, returning to its perch to devour them, and then to sit idle for a while or to pour forth, to its mate, from a place of vantage, its subdued trill of music. The bird, however, does not reside throughout the year in the District but goes down to the plains during winter. Its disappearance from the Darjeeling District at this season cannot fail to arouse the curiosity of the naturalist. The fact is that *Stoparola m. melanops* is a cold weather migrant to the plains of India where it passes its winter days. There, on its arrival, it readily falls to the notice of many Bird-observers. It is then distributed over a wide area but never becomes sufficiently numerous in any one place or district to be termed, for the time being, a common bird. From my personal observations, in the vicinity of Calcutta and in many villages of the district of the 24 Perganas, I have invariably found that six is the largest number of these birds visible during their sojourn at any one place. Sometimes a pair only, keeping within sight of one another, flit about in their characteristic way. At other times three birds (all of the same sex, either all males or all females) perched on three separate tree-tops not far off from each other are a noticeable feature. During their stay in the plains, it is never one's fortune to keep them under observation continually for the period of their winter migration. My field-notes lead me to the conclusion that in the course of its migration *Stoparola m. melanops* reaches the vicinity of Calcutta (10 miles to the north of the city from where my records have been taken) in the middle of December with clock-work regularity, keeping to or around the same place for 8 or 10 days at a stretch and then disappearing for a time. This disappearance is evidently due to the exigencies of migration which send it further down. But in the third week of February it returns to the locality and shows itself on its favourite perches and in its characteristic attitude. This reappearance

rance is again due to the exigencies of its up ward migration which instinct tends to lead it to its breeding grounds in the Himalayas. At this moment and under this impulse we can hardly expect it to remain in places under our observation for more than a week, after which it is not again seen for about nine months at a stretch. The nesting area of this bird lies in the Himalayas up to an elevation of 9000 ft. (but Oates says "it probably breeds in some portion of the plains") and April to July are the months when its nest is found.

On my arrival at Darjeeling on the 6th of June 1923 I found this bird quite busy in attending to its nidificatory duties. A pair is found almost everywhere in and around the town in a suitable locality or rather breeding zone within which there is no admittance for any other pair of the same species. A little watching is all that is required to find out its nest, for either of the couple will be sitting still for a while on some branch, fence or telegraph wire as if waiting to evade observation while entering its nest. Sometimes the cock will pour forth its volley of music from its perch in the vicinity of the nest or flit from tree to tree with occasional sallies into the air. When there are young in the nest both the parents will bring insects in their bills and while one enters the nest-hole, the other will wait to enter the same as soon as the other has left it after feeding its young. Although *Stoparola m. melanops* builds its nest in the hole of a tree, wall or bark, it is not unusual for it to fix it in a niche under the eaves of a house-roof. I discovered such a nest underneath the beam of the office-room of the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium. The nest just filled the entire space of the niche, resting on a wooden beam and supported on the three sides by similar ones. The structure was a heap of moss 2 inches high with roots still sticking to rocky crumbled earth and with a few creeper stems to which dry leaves were clinging. Upon this a cup shaped superstructure one inch high was built entirely of fine black roots, (no trace of hair visible), the diameter measuring outwardly three inches. The nest contained three young, which, although completely fledged and ready to fly out in another two or three days, revelled in the darkness of the hole and shuddered at the glimpse of light which I had introduced for convenience of inspection. The prevailing colour of their upper plumage was bluish grey but the lower parts

were spotted with fulvous. In one, however, these spots occurred also on the whole head and its sides and even on the upper shoulder, though in another they appeared only on the sides of the head. The third was absolutely free from these spots in its upper plumage. Legs and toes of all the three nestlings were plumbeous and claws blackish. In my eagerness to secure the young of as many Darjeeling birds as possible during my short stay, I did not fail to take these to my room in the Sanitarium. I admired their growing confidence in me which led them, whenever hungry, to hop up to me to have a feed of the *saroo* from my hand. But I noticed on the part of both the parents a lamentable lack of courage and comprehension of their duties to the offspring in spite of the proximity of their new lodging. Yet Mr. E. W. Harper writing in the *Avicultural Magazine* for August 1909 had a good tale to tell of a dutiful and courageous pair of Verditer Fly-catchers which came in the wake of their young (which had been removed by Mr. Harper a quarter of a mile away from the original site), fed them industriously through the wires of the cage in which they were placed and were not deterred, even when the cage was transferred for purposes of additional safety inside the house, from following them there and feeding them as before.

Though nimble in its habits and endowed with the typical qualities of a Fly-catcher, *Stoparola m. melanops* behaves well in a cage. "In confinement" writes Mr. Harper, "the Verditer is a delightful pet. It has a soft sweet song, something like that of our Hedge Accenter. I have kept three pairs in the same enclosure along with smaller birds, but never found it quarrelsome or aggressive. It thrives on any good insectivorous mixture, supplemented by live food; indeed, it might be almost called hardy." Little wonder then that the natural beauty of the bird coupled with its other qualities will endear it in no small measure to foreign aviculturists.

The Tonglu Tiger-

In India, we associate the tiger with the burning plains, therefore, when I was first informed of one wandering within close proximity of the Tonglu dak bungalow (elevation above sea level 10,774 ft.) I very

naturally discredited the information, and it was only after repeated reports had been brought to me of the depredations of this animal, that I hastened to investigate by sending out a reliable man to inquire into the matter. I fully expected to hear that the cattle slayer was either a panther or a snow leopard--in fact, I would not have been taken aback to learn that it was a bear, as these animals will sometimes not only kill, but devour, cattle. Hence, when my shikaree returned and confirmed the information brought to me by the villagers, I conjured up visions of myself as being the possessor of a tiger skin obtained at the highest altitude that this animal has ever been recorded in India.

Although I was to experience many a contretemps and thus be disappointed in my efforts to obtain so worthy a trophy, I shall, however, relate my experience, in order to show that the animal was a TIGER, who not only confined himself within the limits of Tonglu, but even ventured to higher elevations.

I was still sceptical as to the identity of my quarry being a tiger, but nevertheless decided to try my luck, as I considered that I would still be extremely fortunate if I bagged a snow leopard.

In March of 1923 I received *khubber* of two ponies having been killed. When I reached Tonglu it transpired that three days had elapsed since the occurrence, and, imagine my chagrin when I still further learnt that the kills had not even been located nor a *machan* erected! The cause of the delay was due to the villagers, who belonged to the superstitious Dugpa sect; they had been too frightened to venture anywhere near the scene of the tragedy, and so it remained for me to find the kills and to have a *machan* constructed. As was to be expected, my quarry did not return to his kill! However, I was able to satisfy myself as to the identity of the perpetrator, as the shape and size of the pugs in conjunction with the method of killing and manner of eating, undoubtedly indicated a tiger.

It appeared that the unfortunate ponies were grazing on a small open *maidan* just below the Tonglu dak bungalow. They must have seen the tiger approaching, as there were indications of a chase, in which the ponies made a frantic dash down the road, only to be driven

into the jungle where they met their fate. At the time the ground was quite wet, hence it was not difficult to surmise what must have happened, owing to the tracks being so clearly defined.

The tiger was reputed to have again killed a few days later at Kalapokri, a place situated nine miles from Tonglu, on the road to Sandakphu. From thence it travelled to Chiabhanjan which is six and a half miles from Phalut on the road to Dentam. I do not know the elevation of either Kalapokri or Chiabhanjan, but anyone interested could ascertain this information. From either of these places the tiger usually crossed into Nepal and travelled down (on the Nepal side) destroying ruthlessly whenever he encountered cattle. He eventually appeared again in British territory within the precincts of Mani Bhanjan, his circuit of travel may be described as follows: Mani Bhanjan to Chitri, to Tonglu, to Kalapokri, to Chiabhanjan, then down the Nepal side until his reappearance at Mani Bhanjan, when he repeated the same performance. As a matter of interest I give the altitudes of Mani Bhanjan, Tonglu, Sandakphu and Phalut which are, 6,500 ft. 10,774 ft. 11,929 ft. and 11,811 ft. respectively. I was unable to visit the kills further distant than Tonglu, but sent out a reliable man who carefully collected all information. I understand that reports of all the cattle killed were made at the Sukea Pokri Police Station by the villagers concerned, and as a result of the considerable amount of damage done by this animal, the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, at the time Mr. Strong, sanctioned a reward of Rs. 50 for its destruction.

The next occasion on which I received news of a kill was about three months later. The victim was a cow---she was seized on the same open *maidan* as the two ponies to which I have already alluded. The superstitious Duggas, who were by now thoroughly scared, declared that the destroyer was a *boodk* (demon) and that they had invoked the aid of their deities, as they were perfectly confident that human hands alone could not possibly circumvent the death of a devil! The owner of the unfortunate cow who had quite obviously drowned his sorrow in a potent stimulant, was the most loquacious, as he delivered quite an oration in which he commenced mildly by referring to his

peaceful and sequestered abode in the mountains until the intrusion of the butcher, whereat he showed his contempt by spitting! He then waxed furious until he reached the climax in an imprecation which was extended to the forefathers of the accursed thief! After a pause, whereby he regained his breath, he expatiated with many grimaces on the good qualities of the defunct cow, making particular reference and laying much emphasis on her monetary value, which I was to understand as a gentle hint for compensation! I promised him *bucksheesh*, whereat he brightened up considerably and departed.

Everything now seemed to be in my favour; I had managed to get *khubber* early, that is, as early as it was possible for a messenger to reach me considering the distance he had to travel. I was in my *machan* by 3-30 P. M. At about a quarter to six I had reason to be extremely excited, for I heard the unmistakable footfall of a heavy animal approaching the kill. Suddenly there was a silence and the excitement was intense, but only to give way to feelings of acute disappointment as I heard Stripes retreating. Unfortunately, owing to the thick ringall cane forest into which the cow had been dragged, I was unable to see the kill without removing a few of the canes. Stripes apparently spotted this too, and being very suspicious decided that discretion was the better part of valour.

To make a digression: a panther would not have been alarmed at the cutting of a few canes near his kill, and would have stalked boldly on to his dinner. Also, I have never yet heard a panther approaching his kill. He steals inaudibly on to it, and although a tiger is sometimes described as making as much noise as a buffalo moving in thick brushwood, a panther never does so. I would mention that this kill and all subsequent victims were large animals, and none other than a tiger could have so easily killed them. A panther will usually confine himself to sheep, pigs, dogs and small deer, unless hard pushed for food, and as there was no scarcity of such small fry, the chances are more in favour of a tiger being the perpetrator. In every case the neck of the victim was dislocated. Further, only a very powerful animal indeed could have dragged such big kills through such dense cane jungle, thereby leaving a broad track. Tiger-like, he

always commenced his feed on the hind quarters, and never touched the intestines of any of his victims.

To proceed with my narrative: "When it rains it pours"—I was now to experience a fulfilment of this old adage in both its literal and metaphorical sense. Night set in rapidly to the accompaniment of rain and a thick fog. Owing to the dense mist my electric torch was worse than useless. I was drenched to the skin, cold and hungry. My perch was only about six feet off the ground, and due to the inky darkness, I was unable to see my rifle. Therefore, I made up my mind that the nature of things were not conducive to a successful vigil, and as it was already midnight, I decided to return to the Tonglu dak bungalow where I spent the night.

My shikari, without telling me, very foolishly visited the kill early in the morning with a couple of his pals. They found that it had been removed, so followed in the direction of the drag until they came across the kill at a short distance from its original position. The tiger was lying up close by and resented the intrusion with a great demonstration of growls. He was, however, invisible to the trackers who promptly took to their heels, and on reaching me very excitedly related their experience. I forthwith set out in pursuit, as I presumed that the tiger, having succeeded in demoralising these people, would not be in any great hurry to move away; but I was again to be disappointed, as when I arrived on the scene he had disappeared.

Thus ended the second but not last episode of my defeat!

The next and last appearance of Stripes was in April 1924.

Fresh pugs were seen on the road to Tonglu not far distant from Mani Bhanjan, and, shortly after, a large cow was killed further up the hill, at a place known locally as Chitri, some seven miles from Sukea Pokri. The kill was not dragged far into the forest off the main road. My shikari obtained the information at once, but the rest of the story as far as I am concerned is not a palatable reminiscence as, unfortunately, the messenger sent to me became inebriated at a liquor shop *en route*, so I did not receive the message at all. It seemed fated that this tiger was destined to escape me!

My shikari who did not expect any hitch, commenced to rig up a *machan*. During the course of the day Lt.-Col. Bailey, the Political Officer of Sikkim, who was on his way to Darjeeling via the Phalut--Sukea route, happened to see the kill and told Mr. Wrangham Hardy that it was undoubtedly a tiger that had killed the cow. At about 3 o'clock in the afternoon the tiger actually put in an appearance, and was seen by both my shikari and a native policeman. The tiger perceived them and growlingly retreated! As I did not arrive my shikari consequently returned to me, and brought with him some fur which had been scraped off the tiger on to a tree, presumably when he was dragging the kill.

I have dwelt at length on this subject of identity as I did not have the good fortune to see my quarry and as many people in the district were very disinclined to believe that it was a tiger, I think that this narrative will definitely clear up any doubts.

Whatever motive led this tiger to roam at large at such high elevations still puzzles me, and I can only conjecture that a scarcity of food, or a forest fire, or the results of wounds induced him to indulge in such lofty peregrinations! He was reported to have finally descended in the direction of the Meechi forests in Nepal, and has never been heard of since.

T. A. BALDRY.

Tumsong T. E.

Morybong,

23rd June, 1926.

[The elevations of Chitri, Kalapokri and Chiabhanjan are 7600 ft. 10160 ft. and 10320 ft. respectively.

The probabilities are that the beast was a tiger but even leopards kill large animals such as sambhar hinds, ponies and cattle and don't invariably commence feeding on the viscera, ribs and forequarters, and sometimes even kill in the same manner as tiger. Dunbar Brander says:—"The "gol bagh" will often kill his victim exactly like a tiger. I have known buffaloes of a size which a small tigress might have hesitated to attack, get their necks broken as neatly as any tiger could have done it.

Animals of this type commence to eat behind, between the buttocks just as a tiger does." Ed.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

Is there more than one kind of Bear in the District?

With regard to the question raised in your Journal No. 1 concerning the kinds of bear in the District, speaking quite unscientifically and judging, where sizes approximate, by habits I consider there are three species, excluding the plains bear, the *Melursus ursinus*. Two kinds I judge by habits, and one by an obvious difference in size. My experiences are as below:—

In May 1905 I shot a large bear, about 4 mds. in weight, size forgotten, hair coarse and thin, on the Glenburn Tea Estate at an elevation of about 2000 ft. In December 1909 I shot a small bear of 128 lbs. weight, size forgotten, with fine close hair, in the Mangpu forests at an elevation of about 2,500 ft. The skulls of both these bear were sent to the Bombay Natural History Society for identification, and it was very definitely stated by that body that there was no difference in species.

Both the above bear were full grown, but the head of the first was broader and blunter than that of the second. I have shot bear with close fine hair up to 5 mds. weight and also shot bear up to 2½ mds. weight in trees for feeding purposes. In 1922 I shot a bear at Sivoke, shaped exactly as the ordinary hill bear, about 25 lbs. in weight, with close fine hair and the stretched skin, which I still have, measures 35 inches. This bear was apparently full grown, the teeth were brown and worn, and on counting the lobes of the liver, a favourite method with local shikaris to ascertain the age of bear, I found five distinct lobes and one immature one, from which the Sivoke inhabitants judged the bear to be five rising six years old. I had never seen this type before, but apparently they are not uncommon at Sivoke, and are said to be gregarious.

Thus I recognise one type of bear, a fairly thick-set animal with blunt broad head, running from 2½ to 6 or even 7 mds. in weight according to the season of the year, as the weight of all bear is much more after than before the rains. This type will climb trees for feeding purposes only, so long as they are in a condition to do so.

The second type is much lighter and rangier in build with a narrower and longer head only running up to about 150 lbs. in weight. It is arboreal in habits, frequenting the tree tops both for feeding and for play, and making nests of branches to lie up in during the day time.

The third kind is the type shot at Sivoke, the only specimen I have seen, and about whose habits I know nothing.

I consider that the hill bear partially hibernate, as far as the first type are concerned, gathering together in groups of five to seven individuals, in warm cane-brake hollows. I do not think that the second type hibernate at all.

The three specimens quoted above were all males with black hair.

Lopchu Tea Estate

B. N. Crees

19th July 1926

[With regard to the above question it is rather interesting to go back 26 years ago when a paper was communicated to and read before the Asiatic Society of Bengal by Mr. W. P. Masson. It was published in Vol. LXIX Part II Natural Science. No. II:—1900. In writing about the small or tree bear he says:—

“*Ursus malayanus*, Raffles. [now *Helarctos malayanus*. Ed.] With regard to this animal in the year 1883 I wrote to “*The Field*” under the nom-de-plume “Pulteney” a note entitled “Bear Shooting in Darjeeling”:—

“Jerdon, in his ‘Mammalia of India’—and I see Mr. Sterndale follows him—has only one species of black bear found on the Himalayas (*Ursus tibetanus*) [now *Selenarctos tibetanus*. Ed.] Now I know two distinct kinds, *U. tibetanus* and a smaller species. *U. tibetanus* seldom climbs trees, but the smaller species always does. It is entirely a very glossy black, with the exception of a very narrow white mark on the chest, sending up a branch on each side in front of the shoulder; the nose is buff coloured or white. I have shot many of both species, and have now in my possession skins of both. Most of the villagers about the hills could have told Mr. Sterndale that there were two kinds of bears, one called ‘bhoos bhaloo,’ or ground bear, and another ‘rook bhaloo,’ or tree bear. I have always found the bhoos

bhaloo or ground bear (*Ursus tibetanus*) very much more numerous than the rook bhaloo or tree bear". In the same note I mentioned that on the 23rd of October, 1883. a friend, my brother and myself went to Birch Hill Park about 9 P. M. one moonlight night, and we saw three bears in a small oak eating the acorns; and on the following night counted no less than five in a single tree, all of them were rook bhaloos. These numbers are unusual, as a rule not more than a couple of bears are seen in one tree. I may remark that I have since found that *U. tibetanus* in the Darjeeling District does climb trees, as I have shot them in oaks when the acorns are ripe in October. Also that the smaller species, *U. malayanus*, principally affects oaks and chestnuts, in which they form rude nests by breaking off the smaller branches and piling them into a heap amongst the larger branches; and that the examples of *U. malayanus* I have shot were of the normal form described by Mr. Blanford in which the crescentic white patch on the chest does not have the apex prolonged into a white streak on the abdomen. The claws are short. The hillmen dread the rook bhaloo very much more than the larger species, and they all agree that if disturbed it attacks at once". Blanford's key to the above mentioned two bears is:—

Colour black.

- a. Larger: length over 5 feet; ears 5 to 6 inches long; claws black.....*U. torquatus (tibetanus)*
- b. Smaller; length under 4 feet 6 inches; ears about 2 inches long; claws pale.....*U. malayanus."*

Mr A. Wright writes that he was shown, on two occasions, once above Dow Hill and once above Sonada, nests made of dry twigs and leaves said to be built by Rookh bhalus (tree bears). Other letters received on the subject are also not very conclusive, only hearsay from the local Paharias. We must say that we are still very sceptical as to the existence of two bears, and will be till we receive more conclusive proof, preferably a skin of the *rookh bhalu*. Ed.,]

Measurements of Tigers.

Considering the amount of controversy there has been of late regarding the length of tigers it would be interesting if members would send in to the Curator measurements of tigers shot by them or by others of which they were

eye-witnesses. The measurements should, if possible, be given as below:—

(1) From peg to peg i. e:- the tiger placed on the ground before skinning and measurement taken between pegs placed at the tip of nose and tail.

(2) Measurement taken round the curves, starting from the nose and following the undulations of the head and body to the tip of the tail.

(3) Head and body measurement with tail separately.

The measurements of some that I have shot and one that I can vouch for are as follows:—

| SEX. | PEG TO PEG. | ROUND CURVES. | HEAD AND BODY. | TAIL. | SHOT BY. |
|--------|-------------|---------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Male | 9'.4" | 10' | ... | ... | Self. |
| Male | 9 | 9'.4" | ... | ... | C. Bateman. |
| Male | 9'.1" | No record | 5'.10" | 3'.3" | Self. |
| Male | 8'.10" | 9'.3" | ... | ... | Self. |
| Male | 9'.6" | 10' | 6'.4" | 3'.2" | Self. |
| Male | 9'.3" | 9'.7" | ... | ... | Self. |
| Male | 8'.11" | No record | ... | ... | Self. |
| Male | 9' | 9'.6" | ... | ... | Self. |
| Female | no record | 9'.3" | ... | ... | Self. |
| Female | no record | 8'.7" | ... | ... | Self. |

Some very big tigers were said to have been shot in the Jalpaiguri district prior to 1900, including the enormous one shot by Mrs. L. Sohson (or Johnstone) alleged to be over 12'. I believe I am correct in saying that all tigers in those days were invariably measured round the curves. I remember the late P. A. Simpson, who was my Manager, and his father the late Sir Benjamin Simpson talking about some of the shoots which they were at; on one occasion a big tiger was shot that taped over 11' round the curves. One of the party, doubting this measurement, checked it himself and in doing so discovered that the tape commenced from 1 foot instead of from zero, thus making all the tigers shot 1 foot longer than they really were, thus an 11' tiger measured round the curves would have only been 10' or from peg to peg 9' 6". The bigger the tiger the bigger *backsheesh* for the Jemadar and mihouts-----Verb Sap.

W. P. Field.

Aibheel T. E.

Matelli P. O.

18th July 1926.

[Another interesting measurement that might be taken is that of the dressed skin. Mr. Dunbar-Brander writing for Mr. Ellison's interesting book "H. R. H. The Prince of Wales's Sport in India" says:—"The figures published regarding the relative sizes of the animals and dressed skins are interesting, especially in view of the recent correspondence in the *Field*. It will be noted that the average increase of the dressed skin is 1 foot 4.5 inches, and that in one particular case the increase was 3 feet. It is abundantly clear that, unless shrunk and completely neglected, the dressed skin always exceeds the length of the animal.....In measuring animals the object aimed at should be to convey the size of the animal and at the same time eliminate as much as possible variations in result, owing to different measurements. I strongly advocate all body measurements being carried out as follows:—

‘Place the animal on its back on a flat surface; depress the head; stick a peg into the ground at the tip of the nose and the tail; then remove the carcase and measure between the pegs.’

Mr. Ellison also gives the following interesting information:—"In regard to the size of the tigers, the announcement that Lord Reading, when Viceroy, had shot a tiger in Gwalior measuring 11 feet 5 inches following the "record" specimen of 11 feet 5½ inches, killed by Lord Hardinge, also when Viceroy, and also in Gwalior, was the subject of a very lively correspondence in the *Field*, which began with an amusing letter by Mr. Dunbar-Brander in the issue of the *Field* of August 30th, 1923. In his letter Mr. Dunbar-Brander commented on the fact that while the Maharajah Scindia has himself, it is stated, shot between 700 and 800 tigers, and has been at the killing of about 1,400, these beasts of over 11 feet in length only turn up to be shot by Viceroys; and he asked a number of questions in regard to the methods of measurement.

‘Captain H. E. Gregory Smith, A. D. C. to the Viceroy, replied (the *Field*, November 22nd, 1922) repudiating the insinuation against the authenticity of the records, and explaining that Lord Reading's animal was measured "as best we could" by three persons "round the curves" while the tiger was lying in a "dried-up water course surrounded by rocks." The three persons present

were unable to turn it on its back to measure it "between pegs." As for Lord Hardinge's tiger, it was measured by twenty-five people (also "round curves"), and a facsimile of the certificate was reproduced signed by eighteen gentlemen, including the Maharajah, Colonel Haksar, Colonel Frank Maxwell and other well known people. In the same issue, Mr. Dunbar-Brander rejected the evidence, and called attention to the fact that whereas tiger skins notoriously stretch to, generally, about a foot more in length than the animal measured in life, the skin of Lord Hardinge's animal shrank (as Rowland Ward's records show) from 11 feet 5½ inches to 11 feet 4 inches. Another correspondent in the same paper suggested that Viceregal tigers should be regarded as a sub-species and given the name of *Felis tigris superbus*."

He further says:—"There are even, it is asserted, steel tapes to be found which have twelve sections of 12 inches each marked in a total actual length of 10 feet 6 inches. So the measure needs measuring as well as the tiger!"

In his book "Wild animals in Central India," Dunbar-Brander gives a lot of interesting information. He writes:—"Sir John Hewitt probably possesses the most extensive records of any living person, covering as they do 241 animals which he has seen shot, mostly in the Terai. He has been kind enough to favour me with some of his figures. The longest tiger he ever saw shot was 10 ft. 5½ ins. and the longest tigress 9 ft. 6 ins. The heaviest tiger he weighed was 570 lb. and the heaviest tigress 347 lb. Out of the 241 animals nine tigers were 10 ft. or over and ~~the~~ tigresses were 9 ft. or over 9 ft. Writing about his own records he says:—"I am unable to say, therefore, exactly how many tiger I have seen shot, but it can be taken as being approximately 200. Out of the number one is 10 ft. 3 in. and another of 10 ft. 2 in. In addition, there are one of 9 ft. 11 in., one of 9 ft. 10 in., the latter shot by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught at Supkar. Another tiger at the same shoot was 9 ft. 9 in. I have another record of a tiger 9 ft. 10 ½ in.....The biggest tigress I have seen measured was 9 ft 1 in. In addition, I have records of two of 8 ft. 11 in., one of 8 ft. 10 in., and one of 8 ft. 9 in." He worked out an average of lengths and weights of mature animals; the results

were tigers 9 ft. 3 in. and tigresses 8 ft. 4 in. Average weight, tigers 420 lbs and tigresses 290 lbs.

Digby Davies in "Tiger-slayer by order" gives the biggest tiger he measured out of some 300 in number as 10 ft 2 ½ in. Ed.]

Two new species of Dragonfly from the Darjeeling District.

Among the collections of dragonflies made by Mr. Chas. M. Inglis during the past three years, are two new species from the Darjeeling District. One of these is a *Gynacantha* closely related to *millardi* Fras., and possibly only a subspecies of that insect. The other is a *Syolestes* showing relationship with *Megalestes major* Selys. One had become so accustomed to the latter insect turning up in collections from the North of India, and for so many years, that it had become almost an accepted fact that it was the only species of the genus. Now comes Mr Inglis' new species, with good specific characters and an abdomen, so long, as to recall the wonderful and similar development in the South American *Mecistogasters*

Gynacantha lyttoni sp. nov.

Measurements and colouring exactly similar to *Gynacantha millardi* Fras. Females have the ground colour distinctly darker and more of a foliage green. Abdomen with appendages 47 mm. Hindwing 38 mm.

Wings slightly variable as to venation, but generally showing some constant differences from *millardi*. Trigones of fore and hindwings equal, 5 cells in each (6 cells in forewing trigone of *millardi*); 7 cubital nervures in forewings, 6 in the hind (6, and 5 or 6, in fore and hindwings respectively of *millardi*); hypertrigone of forewings traversed 5 times, that of hindwing 4 times (3 to 4, and 3 times in fore and hindwings respectively in *millardi*); nodal indices about equal in the two species when a series is examined.

Anal appendages. Differing in both sexes, especially in the female, from those of *millardi*. Superiors of male straight on the outer side, very slightly sinuous on the inner, of almost equal width throughout, apex blunt, but furnished with a minute spine on the outer border,

inner border and upper surface densely coated with long black hairs. Inferior appendage half the length of superiors, broad at base, narrowing rapidly at once and tapering to a blunt apex, which turns up as a short but robust spine. Appendages of female shorter than in *millardi*, broader towards the apex, more rounded and with a minute outer spine somewhat like that of male. (In *millardi*, this appendage is very narrow and lanceolate, tapering to a very fine long point).

I had at first confused this species with *millardi* but my attention was caught by the strikingly different shape of the female anal appendages.

Distribution. Singla, Darjeeling District, during April. Collected by Mr Chas. M. Inglis. I have much pleasure in dedicating this beautiful new insect to His Excellency Lord Lytton, Governor of Bengal, who has taken such a keen interest in the Darjeeling Museum.

Type in the Darjeeling Museum.

[The type is now deposited in the British Museum. Ed.]

Megalestes irma sp. nov.

Male. Abdomen 65 mm. Hindwing 36 mm.

Pterostigma 2-3 mm.

Female. Abdomen 51 mm. Hindwing 37 mm.

Pterostigma 2 mm.

Male and female similar. Closely related to *Megalestes major* Selys; I note the following differences:—

Abdomen very much longer, 11 mm longer than the type of *major*. Females of *major* have the abdomen 43-47 mm long, as against 51 mm for *irma*. Pterostigma bright reddish brown, instead of black as in *major*. Postnodals in forewings of *irma* 22 to 24, but only 16 to 20 in *major*. Beneath of thorax black in *irma* pale citron yellow in *major*. Legs entirely black, but marked with yellow on the outer side in *major*.

Adominal segments 1 and 2 metallic green, 3 to 8 dark metallic coppery, 9 to 10 pruinosed white.

Anal appendages very different from these of *major*. The superiors with a long robust spine on the inner side at the base, instead of the blunt subquadrate process seen in *major*. The inner subapical spine seen in *major* is quite absent in *irma*, whilst the appendage

itself is angulated obtusely inward a little beyond half the length of appendage. The inferior appendage in *major* is a broad blunt short process with a minute outer spine directed upwards and outwards. In *irma* the whole process is glossy black and ends in two very stout spines, one of which is directed upwards and outwards, its apex curling somewhat over, the other directed straight up, its extreme apex curling inwards so as to almost meet its fellow on the opposite side.

Female. Distinguished from *major* ^{*irma*} by the following characters:--- Beneath thorax black (instead of bright yellow); legs almost entirely black, the hind femora being brownish only. In *major* the legs of female, pale reddish yellow. Postnodals in forewings 19-20 (only 16-18 in *major*.)

Distribution. Gangtok, Sikhim, 5000 to 6000 ft, towards the end of May, collected by Chas. M. Inglis and named by him after the Hon. Mrs Irma Bailey, whose husband, Lt. Col. F. M. Bailey, C. I. E., has contributed so much to the collecting of Odonates from Sikhim and Thibet.

F. C. Fraser. I. M. S., F. E. S.
Lt. Col.

A Fisherman's Story.

Do you believe in a 10 foot Tiger? I am not sure that I do, but I saw one once!

In the Poojas of 1920 we got news of a kill in a Forest about 6 miles from our camp. As it was a hot day, we sent the elephants on and went by train ourselves.

It was a difficult beat and took some time to arrange. Meanwhile we sat in the shade at the edge of the forest, played bridge and consumed a little beer. Just as well we fortified ourselves thus, as it was 5 P. M. when we sat down to tiffin!

It was nearly 1 o'clock when the beat started. Almost as soon as the mahouts started yelling, there was a shot from the gun on the extreme right and soon after, a cub jumped down into a small nala on my left. I missed but S. made no mistake. A few minutes later I caught a glimpse of an enormous animal sneaking up through the trees towards me.

A head appeared round a tree at the edge of the cleared line. F. and I fired simultaneously and dropped him dead--another cub. As we fired, the big tiger sprang out from the other side of the tree--and went right under my elephant. I turned and gave him my left barrel, hitting him in the stomach. He fell into the nala, but neither S. nor I could fire again before he got into the thick jung'e behind.

He was the biggest Tiger I have ever seen and I swear he was over 10 foot. Later another large Tiger came hell for leather up the Nala between S. and myself and was missed by both of us. We spent some time chasing the wounded animal, put him up once and then lost all trace of him.

After the beat was over, there was some discussion as to which was the big male Tiger. I said it was the one I had wounded but the mahouts thought it was the last one to appear. Mahouts are generally correct but on this occasion I am convinced I was right--will some one kill him and look very carefully for my bullet in his stomach on the near side? Two days later, finding the kill had been dragged again, we had another beat. It was arranged differently but I drew the same place on the nala.

A third cub came out and I killed him. I have called them cubs, but they all measured 8' 4" between pegs. It is unusual to find cubs staying so long with their parents. Since then I have had no opportunity of trying for the big one. He is still alive and presumably still growing.

He was missed from a *machan* in 1921 and appeared several times in beats for pig and deer, but the guns, being on foot, have thought it wise to let him walk quietly away. According to old records a twelve foot tiger was shot in the Jalpaiguri district, but there is doubt about the accuracy of the measurements,

If my old Pal was 10 feet in 1920, as I swear he was, what is he now? 11 feet, 12 feet (any advance on 12 feet)! Some one will get him some day. My advice to the lucky person is:- "For goodness sake measure him properly between pegs and before reliable witnesses (a High Court Judge if possible) and get the tape vetted by the Survey Department." Only then will I accept the measurements. But he really was 10 feet.

DARJEELING,

J. H.

11th July 1926.

Feline Vitality.

About a month ago I sat up for a leopard that had taken a dog from the lines during the night, and having found the kill in the morning, I chose a spot for a small bamboo *machan* to be built and left a Chowkidar and some coolies to make it. About 3 P.M. the Chowkidar came up and reported that, whilst he and the coolies had gone off for their food, the leopard had come and dragged the kill away. I cursed him for a fool and for not leaving someone in charge and told him to track up the beast and build another *machan*.

At 5-30 when I went to sit up, I found that the kill had been dragged about 200 yards and the coolies were just finishing the *machan*; on completion I sat up fully expecting the leopard to appear within a quarter of an hour or so, and although I feel sure it came nothing happened until 7 o'clock. I had given it up, and was thinking of leaving the *machan*, when suddenly the leopard arrived like a flash, lifted the kill (I must explain here that there was only a small hole cut in the dense creepers through which I could see the kill), and by the time I had raised my rifle was out of sight, but I took a chance shot through the jungle and hit him as he went off grousing and falling about.

Next morning I took some coolies down to track it, but as it had poured with rain all night we could find no blood marks. It was however, evident that the beast was moving on in front of the coolies and dragging a leg; eventually it was seen, by some of the coolies, crossing an open space into another jungle. I decided to put in more coolies and beat it out if possible but was not successful; the beaters never coming across it.

The sequel occurred nearly three weeks later when the Manager of a neighbouring garden came over one morning and asked me to come and shoot a leopard that had got into his stables and was lying behind an old derelict car. I went over feeling very sceptical about it being a leopard but sure enough it was one. It was very dark at the back of the stables and very difficult to see anything but having a heavy rifle with me and my neighbour standing by with a 12 bore, I risked a shot. There was a bit of a commotion but the beast did not come out. I found I could see it a

bit clearer lying down so put another shot in and finished the brute off.

When we got it out we found that it was indubitably the leopard I had wounded nearly three weeks before. The poor beast's fore-arm was shattered and useless and it was simply a bag of bones. I doubt whether the unfortunate creature had eaten anything since I wounded it three weeks previously. This shows the extraordinary vitality of the feline race. The agony the poor brute must have suffered was awful and made me inclined to stop shooting after this episode. However leopards take an immense toll of cattle and dogs and I consider them vermin to be shot when possible.

W. P. FIELD

Aibheel T. E.

Matelli P. O.

18th July 1926.

[While on this subject of vitality the following remarks by Mr. Dunbar Brander show what an amount of self-control these beasts have. "In a tiger beat at Chanda, when it was obvious that no tiger was present, a small leopard came out. Firing with a .577 rifle, I blew a large portion of its entrails out. The leopard never even broke step, and finding the entrails an impediment, removed a portion thereof and continued to walk on." Ed.]

Are Leopards Vermin ?

The leopard seems to have few to champion its cause, so I will do my best.

Writing about the vitality of one he shot, Mr. Field remarks:—"I consider them vermin to be shot when possible." Mr. Dunbar Brander likewise says:—"As leopards can be considered vermin, pure and simple, the ethics of how they are shot does not arise."

It is with the greatest diffidence that I enter the lists, on behalf of the leopard, against such experienced sportsmen. Their experience is great and mine is nil, still, being a great admirer of this feline, I will take up the cudgels on his behalf.

As I have just said I am an admirer of the leopard, both on account of his beauty, courage and cheek &c. I also had one as a pet for a period of three or four years and never have I had a gentler or more affectionate one, with the exception of a Tibetan lynx. This is, I understand, exceptional but is, nevertheless, the truth. She used to come bounding up to have her head scratched and turn over to have her belly tickled, purring the whole time. The expression of her face was typical of pleasure whenever I went near her. She eventually got paralysis from which she died; but even when struck down with this painful disease she showed no signs of moroseness nor did she get savage. It was pathetic to see her dragging herself along on her front feet, it was the hind portion which was paralysed, to be petted. She was affectionate up to the last. Rest in peace!

Why should leopards be considered vermin? They certainly take considerable toll of cattle and dogs but is that a valid reason for dooming them? They are, I consider, the tigers' superior in several ways. They surpass him in intelligence, courage and probably boldness. If they show all those attributes surely they are noble enough to deserve better treatment. With regard to their intelligence, note what Dunbar Brander says of them, and he is not prejudiced in their favour. "Like the tiger, they possess very strong instincts, but they are distinctly more intelligent. This can be explained by the variety of their food, and the expedients necessary to procure it." As far as courage is concerned, it is well known that they will attack when a tiger would flinch from doing so and the above mentioned sportsman tells us he has known "a leopard descend the opposite side of a hill on fairly bare ground and come on at a gallop across a nala from a distance of 150 yards, a procedure I have never seen adopted by a tiger."

Nobody, I think, will deny their boldness or cheek. It has been shown times without number in the way they will enter a house or tent, with lights burning, and pick up a dog. I have known a case of one going up the stairs to the top story of a bungalow and pick up a dog which was asleep outside its master's room.

If leopards are considered vermin, then why is it that poisoning them is always prohibited? One is allowed

to poison wild dogs, which certainly are vermin, then why not leopards? The answer to my mind is because they are *not* vermin.

I hope this note will bring forth some doughtier champion than myself, so that the leopard may come into his own and be considered to hold in the realm of sport, the same status and as fine a character as his more fortunate cousin the tiger.

Chas. M. Inglis, F. Z. S., F. E. S., M. B. O. U.

Natural History Museum,

Darjeeling.

24th August 1926.

Editorial

Their Majesties the King and the Queen of the Belgians paid the Museum a visit last September, so it may interest members to know that, about three weeks ago, I received an appreciation from Her Majesty through Her Secretary. I give the letter verbatim.

Palais de Bruxelles.

SIR,

By order of Her Majesty the Queen my most Gracious Sovereign, I have the honour to send you herewith some photographs which have been made by Her Majesty Herself, during Her visit in Daarjeeling.

The Queen is pleased to offer you this token of most excellent remembrance of Her short call at Your Museum.

Both, the King and Queen, have been most interested by this visit. Her Majesty wishes you to be assured of this, and of the real pleasure She had in receiving the photographs of yourself and the lynx. Her Majesty thanks you heartily. Hoping that this parcel will reach you safely,

I am,

Sir,

Yours very truly.

Signature illegible

Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen of the Belgians.

Brussels July 30th 1926.

To Mr. Chas. M. Inglis,

Conservateur du Musée de Darjeeling.

The photographs that Her Majesty so kindly sent me showed me holding the lynx by its chain outside the porch and at the bottom of one was the following Autograph "Elisabeth, Queen of the Belgians, Darjeeling September, 22nd 1925."

Her Majesty was so interested in the lynx that shortly after Her visit I sent Her an enlargement and some snapshots of it, in several of which I also figured along with it and hence the reference to "the photographs of yourself and the lynx."

The great feature since the beginning of the year has been the launching of our Journal. The starting of such a thing entails a lot of work so what with writing notes, editing and trying to beat up contributors a great deal of our time, while at head quarters, has been spent at this and other Museum work more or less put aside. *When* we get a continual flow of contributors, we hope that we will have more time to spend on other work. At present the bringing out of the Journal is a more or less hand to mouth affair and what we are striving for is to get together sufficient material for several Journals ahead, and until we can do this, it will always be a cause of great anxiety to the poor Editor. We heartily thank those whose kind co-operation has enabled us to carry on so far and hope they will continue to contribute; we strongly appeal to all others to give their help and so wash out our anxiety as to the Journal's future.

This number shows our first illustration which is due to the generosity of Dr. Satya Churn Law who has borne the whole cost of having the block made as well as the printing of 125 copies of the plate. If more members would come forward like this we should soon have a nicely illustrated little Journal. Some day perhaps we may be able to afford the cost of illustrations ourselves.

We are very grateful to the Press for having received our venture so kindly, and thank it for its flattering remarks.

We will now give a resumé of other work done, collections made and a few notes on the more interesting specimens obtained. These we will take group by group.

Mammals.---With the exception of the donations mentioned in our last issue nothing of interest has been added to this collection and only 14 specimens have been collected up to date. Our collection now represents 116 species, which is an addition of 52 species since my 1925 report, no less than 50 of which we owe to the generosity of the Bombay Natural History Society.

The case devoted to this Section had to be totally re-arranged on account of the large increase in material. 163 skins all told. The larger specimens and those which are mounted as well as spirits specimens have been placed in this case and a special cabinet had to

be lined to contain all the smaller species. The labelling, cataloguing and arranging of this large collection took a considerable time but is finished now except for some labels for the drawers. In the last Journal I gave a few notes on the more interesting additions and here have only to add that we got a rat from the Bhutia Busti which so far has dehed Messrs Lindsay, Shaw and myself to identify. We thought we had satisfactorily placed it, until we came to compare it with named specimens from the British Museum. We, now, are awaiting the arrival of Mrs. Lindsay who will, doubtless, be able to tell us what it is.

Birds.—This collection continues to make good progress 423 specimens having been added of which 57 were not previously represented. The collection now represents 422 species all of which, however, are not mounted.

We have so far sent 83 specimens to be mounted of which 23 have been returned, including a few of those sent last year.

We have also made an advance in our Game Bird exhibit, which was started last year, 9 species being added to it. It now represents:—Pigeons and Doves 14 species; Pheasants, Partridges etc. 14 species; Florican 1 species; Woodcock and Snipe 3 species and Geese and Ducks 7 species. A total of 39 species,

The various cases had to be re-arranged to allow space for the new species which have been added.

I will now append a few notes on the more interesting additions to this Section. We were successful in adding two species of Minivets in the Duars and now all of that genus which occur in our area, 5 in number, are represented in our collection.

We sent some of our Duars birds home, to our friend Mr. Stuart Baker, the leading authority on Indian Birds, who is at present engaged in publishing a new series of volumes on the birds of this country, for him to verify, or otherwise, our identification. Amongst them was a very fine specimen of the Ruddy Barbet (*Cyanops asiatica rubescens*). This bird was originally described by Mr. Baker from specimens procured by him in the North Cachar Hills. He then wrote about them. "The birds.....are confined to certain lofty peaks.....The common form of *C. asiatica* is to be found all over North Cachar, but is rare on the lofty

peaks, where it appears to be replaced by the red species." (Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society Vol. X p. 353). In his "Hand-List of Birds of the Indian Empire" he gives the Ruddy Barbet as being found above 3500 feet. It is therefore interesting that both the common Blue-faced Barbet (*Cyanops asiatica*) and the Ruddy Barbet (*Cyanops asiatica rubescens*) were found by us at Hasimara in the Duars, inhabiting the same tract of country and at the same low elevation 400 feet, but the latter bird appears to be rare. Two specimens of this bird were sent to Mr. Baker, both got at Hasimara, one on the 20th February 1925 and the other, a very fine specimen, on the 14th March 1926. In my own collection I have a specimen collected at Garidhura Bazar in the Terai but it is a poorly marked one. Mr. Baker writes:--"The *Cyanops* are *rubescens* but I never got so fine a specimen as the reddest of the two obtained by you. In anticipation of your consent I am having this figured for my Vol. IV of the Avifauna". So one of our birds will have the honour of being one of the coloured plates in the next volume of the Fauna of British India--Birds--Vol. IV. Other interesting birds sent were specimens of Finn's Baya (*Ploceus megarhynchus*) in winter plumage. This species was first described by Hume in 1869 from birds in winter plumage obtained near Kaladingu in the Kumaon Terai. He also appears to have got a specimen from the Darjeeling Terai (Stray Feathers Vol. III p. 153) but I can find no reference to this specimen in recent works. Both Dr. Sharpe in his Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum Vol XIII and Oates in Vol. II of the Fauna of British India--Birds--1st edition, merge it into the Eastern Baya (*Ploceus passerinus passerinus*), the former under the name of *atriflata* and the latter, though retaining *megarhynchus* as the specific name, described the Eastern Baya. Finn received two specimens alive, in Calcutta, from a dealer named Rutledge in 1899 and named them *rutledgei* but on their assuming winter plumage, he knew the birds he had got were Humes' bird and pointed this out in a paper called "Notes on Ploceidae" (Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal of 1899). Since then nothing more was heard of this bird till O'Donel found it breeding at Hasimara in June 1912. The birds we got being in winter plumage, were rather difficult to

identify, but we thought they might be Hume's bird (*Ploceus megarhynchus*) on account of their size. Stuart Baker has now confirmed this and writes that the British Museum has practically no specimens of this bird. Other birds we considered interesting enough to send home to him were a couple of specimens of the Cinnamon Tree-Sparrow (*Passer rutilans cinnamomeus*) also got near Hasimara and both near the same spot. One specimen had practically no yellow on the lower plumage and the other was very deeply tinged with it. As the amount of yellow on the lower plumage is one of the points on which the three subspecies are divided, those two birds are of interest. Stuart Baker writes that they are most interesting and that he would go into them thoroughly before saying anything more.

We also got the following species which were not known by us to occur in the Duars:--The Streaked Fantail Warbler (*Cisticola juncidis cursitans*); the Kashmir House-Martin (*Delichon urbica cashmeriensis*); the Jungle Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus indicus*); the Emerald Cuckoo (*Chalcococcyx maculatus*); and the Northern Ruddy Crake (*Amaurornis fuscus bakeri*). We also found that once one knew the note of Franklin's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus monticolus*), this bird was really much commoner than we had supposed it to be. The Indian Button Quail (*Turnix tanki tanki*) too which we had never got before, and the only record of which we had was "Recorded from the Bhutan Duars" we found to be not very rare but difficult to procure. Another bird of interest got by O'Donel was the Indian Ruby-Cheek (*Chalcoparia singalensis lepida*). We had never come across it before but Stevens got it at Bhutan Ghat.

Another interesting bird got was a Tibetan Tern (*Sterna hirundo tibetana*) caught alive by a boy near the Presbytery in Darjeeling on the 13th May. We wonder where it had come from and how it had got hurt. A few birds of local interest were got while at Mangpu.

The Grey-headed Parrot Bill (*Ptiliparus gularis gularis*) Stevens gives this as "evidently rare and locally distributed." Shaw got a pair during the winter, November and December. We got two pairs round about Mangpu on the following dates 19th and 30th June, 2nd and 19th of July. It apparently was not scarce at that period.

The Assam Large Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dissemurus paradiseus grandis*) Stevens remarks:—"Extends up the Tista Valley to at least 1000' (G. E. Shaw)." We got a young female at about 5000 ft. on the 24th July. The Indian Crimson-breasted Barbet (*Xantholaena haemacephala indica*). Stevens doesn't mention this bird at all but we got a young female at about 3000 ft. elevation on the 3rd July.

Reptiles and Fish :—Our collection of snakes, except those on exhibit was in great disorder, big jars and bottles being full of specimens of various species all mixed up. With the kind help of Mr. Shaw we overhauled them all, separated out species by species, and placed each kind into separate jars which we labelled. It was a horrible job but a great satisfaction when it was finished.

Nothing of very great interest was added to this Section except the two small specimens of Russell's Viper (*Vipera russelli*) received from Mr Wright. I collected a Gecko in the Duars which is new to our collection. It has not been identified yet but is probably *Gecko verticillatus* about which Boulenger says: Hab :—Eastern Bengal to Southern China and Malay Peninsula and Archipelago. Found in houses as well as on trees, known as "touktai" in Burma, from its loud call. This species and the following are the largest East Indian Geckos."

One or two fish were added and though new to us are of no great rarity.

I may here mention that due to the kindness of His Excellency Lord Lytton who made us a donation of Rs. 200 and also through a mistake on the part of the manufacturers, we were able to get 110 glass stoppered jars at half catalogued price. As they were of most useful sizes this windfall was most satisfactory.

Insects—Butterflies.—Nothing further has been done in cataloguing this collection but we hope to be soon able to carry on with it. Lieut. Colonel Evans of has finished the *Lycaenidae* (Blues) in his paper on the "Identification of Indian Butterflies" and has started the *Hesperiidae* (Skippers). A large number of set specimens have been incorporated in our collection, many showing the underside of the wings. Between 300 and 400 have been collected and those required for the cabinets are being set. The collection has kept in good condition.

Moths.---No further arranging has been done in this section and the whole collection with the exception of the *Saturniidae* (Silk moths) requires naming. Unfortunately that family is the only one with which I am acquainted.

We added a specimen of *Salassa lola* to this family, it was not previously represented in our collection. Some 30 or 40 moths have been collected. The collection has kept in good condition.

Beetles.---A cabinet for beetles was started last year but only the *Cicindelidae* (Tiger beetles) were arranged in it. We are at present engaged in arranging the other families in it and hope to finish this shortly. There are still a large number of beetles that require identification. About 700 beetles have been collected. This collection has also kept in good condition.

Bugs.---My brother, Mr H. A. Inglis, has a certain number of those which he is kindly identifying for us. I am awaiting their return and on receipt will incorporate them in our collection. Some 150 specimens were collected. This collection has also kept in good order:

Dragonflies.---We are still adding to this collection though of course the number of new species and species unrepresented is getting fewer as our collection is becoming more complete. We have added 16 species to our number since my last years report and the collection now represents 116 species out of a total of 174 species known or supposed to be found within our area. As we now have two thirds of the number of listed species in this group we can't hope to add very many more as those species still unrepresented are mostly very rare.

I forgot to mention that *Dividius zallorensis delineatus*, which we got at Gangtok is new to science and has been described by Major F. C. Fraser in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society Vol XXI. No. 1. p. 166. The following interesting species were got during our trip to Tibet last year and from Singla; they are all new to our collection.

Neurothemis atalanta, *Lamellogomphus inglisi* and *Lamellogomphus biforceps* from Singla. The latter was a female which Major Fraser thinks was previously unknown. *Allogaster latifrons* was obtained between Champitang and the Nathu La in Tibet at an elevation of about 13000 ft. *Sympetrum commixtum* was got between Gautsa and Yatung in Tibet. 485 specimens have been collected and will be sent for identification to Major Fraser who has just returned to

India from leave, as soon as he gets settled down. I doubt whether there are any species new to Science among them.

Other Groups :---The following have been collected but are at present unset. *Hymenoptera* (Bees and Wasps) 50 specimens. *Orthoptera* (Grasshoppers etc) 54 specimens and *Diptera* (Flies) 17 specimens.

Touring and Collecting :---A note on touring and collecting and contributions to the Museum will appear in our January number.

