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

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Darjeeling Natural History Society.

The Society was started about the end of 1923.

The objects being to maintain the Museum in a proper condition and to promote the study of Natural History. To get together, as complete as possible, collections of Natural History specimens from a limited area, including "the civil districts of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling and the State of Sikkim" as well as what could be procured from the neighbouring countries of Tibet, Bhutan and Nepal.

The Government and Municipal grants not being sufficient for our purpose it was proposed to enrol members so as to increase our funds. The response to our appeal has been poor and it is hoped that more will join the Society and co-operate to make the Museum and Journal a success.

The annual subscription is only Rs. 10.

Application for membership should be made to:---

*The Curator,
Natural History Museum,
Darjeeling.*

CONTENTS OF VOLUME I.

No. 1

	PAGE.
GAME BIRDS OF SIKKIM INCLUDING THE DARJEELING DISTRICT AND OF THE JALPAIGURI DISTRICT, BENGAL. Part I. By C. M. Inglis, F. Z. S., F. E. S., M. B. O. U.....	1
DESCRIPTION OF NEW SUB-SPECIES OF BIRDS FOUND IN OUR AREA DESCRIBED IN THE BULLETIN OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGIST'S CLUB, Part I. By the Editor.....	3
IS THERE MORE THAN ONE KIND OF BEAR IN THE DISTRICT? By G. E. Shaw.....	5
SHOOTING TIGER FROM A MOTOR CAR. By Chas. M. Inglis, F. Z. S., F. E. S., M. B. O. U.....	5
CAN SNAKES HEAR? By G. E. Shaw.....	7
ETHICS OF SHOOTING GAME WITH THE AID OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHT. By C. M. Inglis, F. Z. S., F. E. S., M. B. O. U.....	8
EDITORIAL.....	10
LOCAL NOTES. By G. E. Shaw.....	12
AN OWL IN CAPTIVITY. By Mrs. A. B. Shaw.....	13
AN APPEAL. By the Editor.....	14

No. 2

GAME BIRDS OF SIKKIM INCLUDING THE DARJEELING DISTRICT AND OF THE JALPAIGURI DISTRICT, BENGAL Part II. By C. M. Inglis, F. Z. S., F. E. S., M. B. O. U.....	15
THE VERDITER FLYCATCHER. (<i>Stoparola melanops melanops</i>) (With a photo.) By Dr. Satya Churn Law, M. A., B. L., Ph. D., F. Z. S., M. B. O. U.....	16
THE TONGLU TIGER. By T. Baldry.....	19
IS THERE MORE THAN ONE KIND OF BEAR IN THE DISTRICT? By B. N. Crees.....	25
MEASUREMENTS OF TIGERS. By W. P. Field.....	27
TWO NEW SPECIES OF DRAGONFLY FROM THE DARJEELING DISTRICT, (<i>Gynacantha lyttovi</i> sp. nov and <i>Megalestes irma</i> sp. nov.) By Lt. Col. F. C. Fraser, I. M. S.....	31
A FISHERMAN'S STORY. By J. H.....	33
FELINE VITALITY. By W. P. Field.....	35
ARE LEOPARDS' VERMIN? By Chas. M. INGLIS, F. Z. S., F. E. S., M. B. O. U.....	36
EDITORIAL.....	39

No. 3

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.....	47
ETHICS OF SHOOTING GAME WITH THE AID OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHT. By W. P. Field.....	49
THE NUMBER OF SPECIES OF SOME KINDS OF GAME &c., IN OUR AREA. By E. O. Shebbeare, I. F. S.....	52
NEARER TO GOD THAN THREE. By E. Sampson-Way....	53
HOW BIRDS FLY. By Mrs. J. Majumdar.....	54
A NOTE ON <i>Kallima</i> , THE LEAF BUTTERFLY. By Lt. Col. F. C. Fraser, I. M. S.....	58
EDITORIAL.....	59
LIST OF OFFICE BEARERS AND MEMBERS.....	63

No. 4

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.....	64
GREEN PIGEONS IN CONFINEMENT. By Dr. Satya Churn Law, M. A., B. L., Ph. D., F. Z. S., M. B. O. U.....	66
THE BEAK OF THE SCISSORS-BILL (<i>Rhynchops albicollis</i>) (with illustration). By Major R. W. G. Hingston, I. M. S.....	70
IS THERE MORE THAN ONE KIND OF BEAR IN THE DISTRICT? By G. E. Shaw.....	72
ETHICS OF SHOOTING GAME WITH THE AID OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHT. By H. V. O'Donel.....	73
A BIRTHDAY PRESENT. By W. P. Field.....	74
A LEOPARD'S BOLDNESS. By A. C. Ricketts.....	75
OBITUARY. THE LATE MR. A. WRIGHT. By the Editor.....	76
EDITORIAL.....	77

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

Volume I.

	Page		Page
BALDRY, T.; The Tonglu Tiger	19	including the Darjeeling District and of the Jalpaiguri District, Bengal ...	1,15,47,64.
CREES, B. N.; Is there more than one kind of Bear in the District?	25	— — — ; Shooting Tiger from a Motor Car ...	5
EDITOR THE; Description of new sub-species of birds found in our area described in the Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club ...	3	— — — ; Ethics of shooting game with the aid of Artificial Light	8
— — — ; Editorial 10,39,59,77	77	— — — ; Are Leopards Vermin?	36
— — — ; Appeal	14	LAW, DR. SATYA CHURN, M. A., B. L., Ph. D., F. Z. S., M. B. O. U.; The Verditer Flycatcher (<i>Stoparola melanops</i>) (with a photo) ...	16
— — — ; Obituary. The Late Mr. A. Wright	76	— — — ; Green Pigeons in Confinement ...	66
FIELD, W. P.; Measurements of Tigers ...	27	MAJUMDAR, MRS. J.; How Birds Fly	54
— — — ; Feline Vitality	35	O'DONEL, H. V., M. B. O. U.; Ethics of shooting game with the aid of Artificial Light	73
— — — ; Ethics of shooting game with the aid of Artificial Light	49	RICKETTS, A. C.; A Leopard's boldness ...	75
— — — ; A Birthday Present	74	SHAW, MRS. A. B.; An owl in captivity ...	13
FRASER, LT.-COL. F. C. I. M. S., F. E. S., Two new species of Dragonfly from the Darjeeling District. (<i>Gyanantha lyttovi</i> sp nov. and <i>Megalestes irma</i> sp nov).	31	SHAW, G. E.; Is there more than one kind of Bear in the District?	5, 72
— — — ; A note on <i>Kalima</i> , the Leaf Butterfly.	58	— — — ; Can Snakes Hear?	7
H. J.; A Fishermans Story	33	— — — ; Local Notes ...	12
HINGSTON, MAJOR R. W. G., I. M. S. The beak of the Scissors-bill (with illustration)	70	SHEBRARE, E. O., I. F. S.; The number of species of some kinds of game and in our area.	52
INGLIS, CHAS. M., F. Z. S., F. E. S., M. B. O. U.; Game Birds of Sikkim		WAY, E. SAMPSON; Nearer to God than thee ...	53

Journal
OF THE
Darjeeling Natural History Society.

No. 4.

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 48)

4. The Thick-billed Green Pigeon. *Treron curvirostra nipalensis* (Hodgson).

This Green Pigeon is a slightly smaller bird than the last two and as already mentioned resembles the the Ashy headed Green Pigeon very closely. In this bird however the base of the bill in both sexes is red and there is also a patch of vivid green round the eye. These differences being sufficient for indentification no separate description is given.

Stuart Baker gives the distribution as "found throughout the Himalayas from Nepal in the west, through Sikkim.....the better wooded parts of Eastern Bengal....." but all that Stevens has to say about it is "Evidently confined to the base of the foot-hills and adjacent forested country of the plains." It is, as far as I can learn, a rare bird in the Duars.

They are forest loving birds but at times may be found away from them should there happen to be any fruit trees, I have shot them on a solitary pipul (*Ficus religiosa*) tree situated in a large area of tea. They frequently descend to the ground where Mr. Baker

has frequently seen them "walking about quite freely" near hill streams. Usually they are seen in flocks of about the same size as those of the Orange-breasted Green Pigeon but the above mentioned naturalist mentions some of over a hundred birds. Fruit is of course their staple diet but they also eat grain at times. Like others of this family they are voracious feeders and swallow huge plums which appear for too large for them to manage. Stuart Baker gives an amusing account showing the quarrelsome habits of these birds which I quote *in extenso*. "Quarrelsome as are all Pigeons and Doves, this small member of the family is even more so than most; at the same time it is given, like the rest of its relations, more to the uttering of bad language than to the giving of actual blows. These, however, are quite often enough indulged in, and result in feathers flying freely accompanied with loud clappings and beatings of the wings and guttural notes of anger. The row usually commences when two males, perhaps of different flocks, approach the same tempting cluster of figs or other dainty. The two birds will clamber slowly along the branch towards one another until they are a foot or two apart, when both will stop abruptly and bob energetically up and down uttering a few cuss "words" at the same time. If neither of the warriors are rendered nervous by the appearance of the other, they again approach one another with mouth wide open, and uttering a constant half hiss and half guttural note the bowings and bobbings increase in violence, and the birds dance about with wings semi-lifted. Then, suddenly, there is a clap of wings, and the two birds launch themselves at each other, attempting to strike with their wings, or to seize the feathers of their opponents head with their bills. If either can accomplish this he then proceeds to drag his victim along the branch until the feathers come out, when the fight is again renewed after an interval of more posturing, or the wounded bird finds he has had enough of it and retires to another part of the tree"

The note is much the same as that of the other Green Pigeons though many consider it less melodious and more jerky.

Though rare it probably breeds in the Duars and foot-hills. They appear to be double brooded, the first

lot of eggs being laid from April to June and again during July and August. The nests are similar to those of other Green Pigeons and according to Mr. Baker "When nesting in the jungle they place their nests either in a sapling, quite unconcealed, in a high bush or in a bamboo-clump, and very often two or three nests are placed in close vicinity to one another. The male bird takes at least an equal share in the duties of incubation, and also helps in the building of the nest and care of the young." The eggs, two in number, resemble those of the Ashy-headed Green Pigeon.

They take kindly to captivity and may be fed in the same way as other Green Pigeons. Stuart Baker mentions their being "especially greedy over plantains, often making their breast and head feathers in a very dirty state in their anxiety to get as much as possible inside, in the shortest time on record." I have found this to be the same with the Bengal Green Pigeon which is the only one I have ever kept.

(*To be continued.*)

Green Pigeons in Confinement.

BY

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

Mr. C. M. Inglis in his note on the 'Game Birds of Sikkim Himalayas including the Darjeeling District and of the Jalpaiguri District, Bengal, (Jour. Dar. Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. 1. p. 2) writes---"In captivity green pigeons are rather lethargic and uninteresting birds inclined to get messy on account of their rather sticky food. The latter should consist of plantains mixed up with *satco* or boiled rice into a more or less crumbly condition." This estimate of their qualities is based on insufficient, if not wholly erroneous, data and appears to ignore the results of modern aviculture, specially in the matter of housing and feeding these soft-billed birds. Mr. Inglis is not alone to blame, for he repeats what Mr. Finn wrote long ago in his *Garden and Aviary Birds of India*. "Lethargic" is not the word for them, for in reality their activities are on a par with those of many of our domesticated pigeons and their quarrelsomeness, waddlings and antics are oftentimes too animated to escape notice. These are most in evidence in the mornings and afternoons, but towards noon with

the warmth of day-time this animation is held in suspense, the birds relapsing into indolence and relaxation. The periods of activity hardly savour of dullness, and diverse are the sounds which are produced not through the mouth alone but by the flight feathers and wings which are in great request during a duel or fight. Scarcely a day passes when my own aviary does not present a sight like this. Nor is this activity sometimes unattended with grave consequences, specially to the smaller and weaker birds which, unless removed forthwith to a separate apartment, run a risk of being frightened or oppressed in the hurly-burly. The Green Pigeons, it will be apparent from their size and bulk and the exigencies of courting behaviour, require a larger space—flight as it is called—in an outdoor aviary, high and roomy, with trees and boughs providing not only cover and shelter from rain and strong winds but also facilities of movement. And watching them to advantage, one should as well bear in mind that while their antics or waddlings up and down a bough with wings outstretched or the ruffling of feathers or shaking of certain parts of their body are frequently indulged in, the physical efforts and exercises thereby brought into play are of supreme importance to their health apart from the effect they might serve to produce from the point of view of sexual aesthetics. In an aviary thus furnished and adapted to their needs, another *sine qua non* is plenty of water to provide bath and drink, for notwithstanding the story of their aversion for descent to the ground at the water's edge, these birds do as a matter of fact revel in a regular dip, and that twice, as a never-failing routine, which I observe in my own aviary. So far these habits and the amenities of the bird-house contrived to cater to them are calculated to dispel rather than occasion any "mess" which might come upon or stick to them by reason of their housing in captivity. Mr. Inglis, acting evidently on the suggestion of Mr. Finn, prescribes for these birds a *menu*, which, he thinks, at the same time is mostly responsible for the 'messy' condition of the Green Pigeons. Plantains form an essential component of this menu. The economic status of this fruit is sufficient guarantee for its wholesomeness, if given fresh, though longer exposure in a tropical climate is apt to bring in signs of decomposition. Its mingling with boiled rice, however, has a risk of furthering or quickening this decomposition, since boiled

rice very soon gets sour and stale by exposure and a combination of these two ingredients makes the diet of doubtful efficacy. The banana nevertheless is an important item of food and so much is it relished by the birds that its taste is apt to pervert their natural hankering for the ripe berries and *Ficus* fruits, which appear to form the favourite diet of the Green Pigeons in their wild state. Still it is not inadvisable to keep as near as possible to the foodstuffs which Dame Nature has contrived for them. The *Bur* (*Ficus bengalensis*) and *Peepul* (*Ficus religiosa*) fruits can therefore hardly be omitted from their dietary, though it is difficult to get them in other than the periods when they become available. These fruits are to be chopped into small parts so that they may be easily swallowed without sticking to the birds' bills, and it is never prudent for reasons stated above to mix these up with substances like the boiled rice or *sattoo* paste (made with water) which is liable to get sour in a tropical place. It is noteworthy, however, that the gapes of the Green Pigeons are large for their size, besides being soft and elastic so much so that the way they can swallow whole fruits like plum, which are as large as the birds' head, passes our comprehension. Mr. Stuart-Baker has also drawn our attention to this feeding habit not only in confinement but also in the natural and wild condition of these birds. He writes--"Larger and soft fruit, such as figs, they tear to pieces, pulling off great lumps which they swallow whole. * * * * * In confinement they consume almost any sort of grain, and I once shot a pair out of an Indian corn-field whose crops were full of the ripe, but still soft, maize. * * * * * My birds in captivity ate plantains greedily and would also eat the inside of oranges, invariably picking out the pips first before eating the fleshy part. Peaches and apricots they also ate, swallowing even the stone-kernel, shell and all, complete. In addition to fruit and grain they also ate a certain amount of green food such as lettuce, and once I saw a bird pulling some green shoots of rice which had just sprouted up in the corner of the aviary". Fruits and berries are never difficult to get throughout the year for these frugivorous birds and considering the adaptability of the latter to the food provided in an aviary, the change of the fruit menu necessitated by the exigencies of season and circumstances (e. g. different fruits or berries available in different

seasons) is apt to be productive of good rather than harm. Of the various artificial menus prescribed for the the Green Pigeons I have found the following as beneficial without being to the distaste of the birds —

(a) bread and milk sop.

(b) preparation of *satoo* or powdered gram fried in *ghee* and afterwards when cool this preparation is mixed with minced carrot.

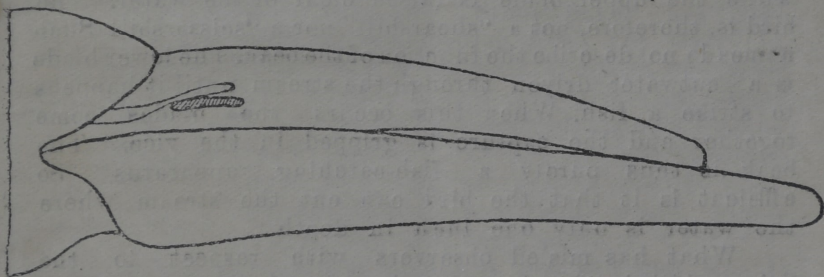
With many aviculturists in India the Green Pigeons have a bad reputation for being far too delicate to stand protracted captivity and the reason is not far to seek. The fault is never inherent in the birds but is due not infrequently to our ignorance as to their proper food in confinement in the tropics and oftentimes to bad housing. R. B. Sanyal in his "Handbook of the management of animals in Lower Bengal" cites a long list of the diseases—catarrh, diarrhoea, vertigo, rheumatism, epidemic—from which they suffer and suggests that they should be well-protected from draughts and cold to which they are extremely susceptible. For his observation is—"Some feel the cold and like nothing better than a snug warm corner; several of them may be seen on a windy winter morning, sitting in a row with half their bodies inside the nests". The latter apparently refer to the appliances for nesting put up for those which are so inclined, but in the absence of proper screen or shelter they are very often resorted to by birds which seek protection against wind and rain.

Fruivorous birds are as a matter of fact easy to keep, provided proper attention is paid to their housing and food. The fruit diet of the Green Pigeons admits of elasticity, though a judicious selection is imperative of the artificial menu which, while being wholesome, must be to their liking. So far as my experience goes, I have had no occasion for complaint in my choice of the diet, natural or prepared (referred to before) as supplied to my birds. Of the species that thrived in my aviary I find *Crocopus p. phanicopterus* as the most hardy of the lot, while *Crocopus phanicopterus chlorogaster* and *Osmotreron bisincta bisincta* are quite competent to hold their own in any mixed company. *Osmotreron fulvicollis* appears to be the most docile of these Pigeons nothing better makes for its contentment than a flight all its own, where there is no molestation from a bullying kindred.

[This is a most interesting paper on these beautiful birds and coming from such an enthusiastic and successful aviculturist as Dr. Satya Churn Law is also most valuable. We have certainly had no opportunities of studying these birds in large spacious flight aviaries, the one or two we have kept and seen being in fairly small ones and those we certainly found *lethargic* and uninteresting. We err in good company as Mr. Stuart Baker writing about the Wedge-tailed or Kokla Green Pigeon says:—"On account of their beautiful notes, which are fuller, richer and more sweet than those of any other Green Pigeon these birds are specially sought after as cage-birds. Beautiful, however, as they are, both as regards plumage and song, they are, on the whole *uninteresting* pets (the italics are ours). In a cage they are slow, *lethargic* (the italics are ours) and indeed stupid birds, and the two bad traits of greediness and quarrelsomeness which they share with the rest of their tribe, do not to add their attractions." Ed.]

— — —

The beak of the Scissors-bill (*Rhynchops albicollis*)



The beak of the Scissors-bill is very peculiar, and its function does not seem to be properly understood. Yet it is a simple instrument, but not a pair of scissors, as the name of the bird would lead one to believe.

Seen from the side the beak is like a pair of scissors, since it is compressed into flat blades. The lower blade is four inches long, its point is rounded and edge sharp. The upper blade is stouter and stronger, its extremity is more pointed and falls short of the lower blade by about three-quarters of an inch. Thus, looking at it from the side, we see something like a pair of scissors. But this is not borne out by the edges of the blades. That of the lower blade is sharp and

cutting, but the edge of the upper blade is much broader and has a groove running along its whole length. Into this groove the edge of the lower blade fits when the beak is tightly closed. The implement, therefore, is not a pair of scissors. The blades do not slice against, they fit into one another. The object between them is not cut across; it is rather held in a vice-like grip between interlocking blades.

Now let us watch the implement at work. The bird is fishing. It usually hunts over shallow water at the edge of the main stream. Skimming gracefully close to the surface, with head lowered, beak wide open, it thrusts the lower blade of the scissors like a cutwater into the stream. From time to time it jerks its head and the blades come together with a snap. As a rule the beak is empty, but sometimes we see a fish between the blades. The capture is caught transversely in the instrument. But the bird quickly turns it through a right angle and swallows it head first. Thus we see that the beak is an instrument for gripping, also, remarkably modified for fishing. For the lower blade as I have said, projects beyond the upper blade, and this allows the tip of the lower blade to be immersed while the upper blade is raised clear of the water. The bird is, therefore, not a "shearsbill" nor a "scissorsbill. Such names do not describe the function of the beak. The lower blade is a cutwater driven through the stream until it happens to strike a fish. When this occurs the blades come together and the capture is gripped in the vice. The beak is thus purely a fish-catching apparatus. So efficient is it that the bird can cut the stream where the water is only one inch in depth.

What has misled observers with respect to the Scissors-bill is the fact that its stomach is almost always found empty, or, at least, containing nothing beyond a little oil. But this does not mean that they do not catch fish; on the contrary it is due to their fishing being so effective that they capture enough in a few hours to enable them to enjoy long periods of rest. The evening is the time when I see them fishing. During the day they rest on the sand, and it is then that collectors are likely to get specimens. But this is the time when the birds are inactive and their stomachs contain only oil. If the Scissors-bill is shot while hunting the stream its stomach will be found full of fish. They are of different sizes and bear the marks of the bird's beak.

These marks show the gripping power of the instrument. Three cuts are to be seen across the fish. A single one on one side made by the lower blade, and two cuts on the opposite side made by the upper blade. They confirm my view of the function of the beak. If a dead fish is introduced between the blades three similar cuts will be made on it when the beak is tightly compressed.

R. W. G. HINGSTON,
Major, I. M. S.

Is there more than one bear in the District ?

I have received the October number of the Journal here in England and was very interested to read Mr. Crees' notes on the bears. Shortly put he recognises a heavy animal with broad blunt head and two lighter types with narrower longer heads, and the great question is whether these latter are only the young of the first type or whether they are mature animals of another race or even species. If it could be shown that some of these smaller bears are really fully grown then the existence of a second race would have to be allowed. The difficulty is how to tell the age of the bear. The shikari's method by counting the lobes of the liver as quoted by Mr. Crees is not at all likely to be of any use, for entirely fresh lobes are not to be expected after birth. The presence of the second set of teeth is of no use here for the milk teeth are lost while the cubs are still small. And even the sexual organs mature too early to give any indication whether the bear is fully grown or not. Being ignorant of any method myself, I took advantage of a visit to London to see Mr. Hinton at the Natural History Museum at South Kensington and together we examined what bear's skulls they have there. It was at once evident that the state of the teeth is no guide, for some of the teeth of mere cubs were far more worn than those of some fully grown specimens. But an apparently pretty safe guide was found in the bony ridges on the upper surface of the skull. They serve for the attachment of the temporal muscles which move the jaw and while the ridges could not be found at all on the skull of

a small cub which has a perfectly rounded top they were as prominent as a boats' keel on the oldest specimens. (Probably some allowance would have to be made for sex in judging age in this way). Another useful indication of age is the visibility of the sutures or jointing lines between the different bones of the skull, but this would require the skull to be well cleaned first. Has Mr. Cree's kept the skulls of the bears' he mentioned? If so these ridges would help towards a solution of the problem.

Mr. Hinton informed me that at the Museum they are working at a new edition of the "Mammal" volume of the Fauna of India series and that while examining the few skulls and skins of bears that they have there they had been struck by the difference in the hair and the shapes of the skulls and are consequently quite prepared to believe that the case could be made out for two forms. Unfortunately they have not many skins or even skulls from our District and Mr. Hinton has asked me to appeal for contributions. Many shikaris who want their skins might be able to spare the skull which should have a note of the date, sex and locality on the label. The Museum authorities would naturally be still more pleased to have the skins as well and are prepared to pay a reasonable price to get them. However I hope that any one able to send to the British Museum would first let Mr. Inglis see the skulls and skins so that records could be made and this question thrashed out here. And of course we should like to have and publish records of any small bears whether given to the British or Darjeeling Museums or not. Probably many of our readers could help in this matter.

G. E. SHAW.

17, St. Mary's Road,
Tonbridge, Kent.
4th December 1926.

Ethics of shooting game with the aid of Artificial Light.

Whether this is right or wrong must greatly depend on the view point and circumstance of the hunter.

I am dealing only with the shooting of tiger and leopard. Personally I have not indulged in the aid of

artificial light but that is perhaps because I dwell in a land of tigers, and to those similarly situated, I do not think this aid would appeal. But there are many whose business in life keeps them far from the haunts of the tiger, and whose visits to a forest are few and far between, also the depth of whose purses preclude all the necessary and expensive *landclust* of a spectacular shoot.

What are these men to do, with only a few days leave, if unsuccessful in securing a tiger by daylight? Are they to give up all attempts at getting one? Is the tiger more easily bagged by sitting up at night than by sitting up in daylight? I question this. True one must miss all the charm attached to sitting up by daylight or moonlight, but as the obtaining of a successful shot is the main object of sitting up, the means employed must be left to the tastes of the shikari, so long as those means are legitimate and conform to the game laws of the country.

Personally I cannot agree that the use of artificial light in moderation is unsportsmanlike and I do not think the tiger has any more sporting chance by day than by night, in fact less so in daylight as the target offered is more conspicuous. The great objection to the use of artificial light seems to me that more animals are possibly wounded by this method than is the case by daylight; and statistics by those who habitually use electric light would be instructive.

Hasimara

H. V. O'DONEL.

25th August 1927.

A Birthday Present.

Some years ago I got khubber of a tiger kill near Ramshai. It was my birthday and therefore a good excuse for a well-earned holiday so off I went in the car with my cook, bedding and sufficient food for the day. I found the kill was quite close to but on the far side of the Jaldacca river.

I got into the *machan* about 3 o'clock and about half an hour later thought I was in luck's way as I heard a noise to my left, presumably the tiger returning to the kill. After a breathless moment of surprise nothing but a pig appeared followed by a small sounder of about a dozen individuals. It was most amusing

watching their nosing about and to see the commotion when His Highness, an enormous boar, arrived on the scene, the smaller pigs scuttling away and keeping their distance from him. I noticed one very lean brown-looking pig, that was obviously placed as a sentinel; it never grubbed at all and was uneasy the whole time. It galloped off shortly afterwards immediately followed by the rest. Something had upset them but what it was I don't know; may be it was the proximity to the kill, but at the time I thought it heralded the approach of the tiger and so was on the *qui vive*, but nothing happened.

It being December it got dark soon after 5 o'clock but having nothing to do and only a tiny lean-to tent to go back to, I thought I might just as well stay in the *machan* for a bit. It was a pitch black night about an hour later when I heard the tiger on the kill. I had no torch but took a snap-shot at where I thought the beast might be on the off chance of getting it; immediately after the shot I heard the sound of some animal running away, so called up the mahout with the elephant and returned to my tent a greatly disgusted man.

Next morning I went along to see if the tiger had returned to the kill, and to my surprise found it lying stone dead with its head inside the carcase. I had, by an *extraordinary* fluke, shot it clean through the heart and could not have made a better shot had it been broad daylight instead of the blackest night possible. What the animal was that ran away I don't know, but rather fancy it may have been another tiger.

W. P. FIELD.

A Leopard's Boldness.

The facts I put down were experienced by a friend and near neighbour.

While he, his wife and children and another gentleman were driving home one night, rounding a bend in the road, just outside his bungalow compound gate, they came on to a large leopard on the road, crouched and ready to spring. It was a dark night and the car's powerful head lights were being used, and, as the distance between the car and leopard was a short one, a very good view was obtained.

My friend drew up the car just as the leopard sprang off the road on to a cow which had got left out in the tea; but, although the whole incident was over in a very short space of time, the occupants of the car saw the leopard spring and make its kill in the full light of the head lamps. The noise of the car engine which was still running did not seem to disturb the leopard at all, for, after making his kill, he half lifted it on his shoulders and proceeded to drag it through the tea.

I am very keen on shikar, but no authority, and pen these lines in support of the statement that the leopard is bolder, as a rule, than his big cousin the tiger. Can any of your readers of this give an instance of a tiger doing anything so bold and, in a way, courageous?

A. C. RICKETTS.

Taipoo Tea Asst.,

Gangaram P. O.,

27th November 1926.

[It would be interesting to learn what method the leopard employed to kill its victim. Dunbar Brander writes:—"In killing their prey, leopards usually seize the animal by the throat and hang on until death by loss of blood and strangulation ensues. They will often clasp the animal round the shoulders with their forepaws as well." Ed].

OBITUARY.

The Late Mr. A. Wright.

Since the publication of our last issue we have lost a keen supporter in the person of Mr. A. Wright who for years resided at Tindharia. He passed away in the Presidency General Hospital on the 26th January.

The late Mr. Wright was a keen and efficient naturalist and, while working on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, he took up the study of snakes and collected vigorously for some years. He knew those of this district well and got some rare species which, we believe, he sent to Col. Wall I. M. S. the great authority on Indian Snakes. Even after retirement he kept up this hobby and our museum is indebted to him for our only specimens of Russel's Viper (*Vipera russelli*) and the Banded Krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*).

He was also an enthusiastic and successful shikari and many of his trophies adorn our walls.

A notice of his death has already appeared in the *Darjeeling Times* of the 16th February but we could not let it pass without a few words of appreciation for all he did for us.

Darjeeling

EDITOR.

8th April 1927.

EDITORIAL.

There only remains for us to make some remarks on our Journal and to give our financial position during the past year.

The Journal --- With this number we complete our first volume. It is still a very modest one. We regret to say this but it has not had the necessary support which we consider it deserves. We would like to impress on our members that, in the words of Lord Lytton "Mr. Inglis cannot maintain this Museum single handed" and we cannot hope to increase the size of the Journal, or even carry on with it, without the co-operation of our members. At present we have only fifteen contributors, including the Editor, not quite a quarter of our member roll. This is certainly an advance on our first number but not at all what it should be, considering our members are practically all sportsmen and must have much interesting information to impart. We are at present left with *few* articles in hand, except our own, for our next number so hope members will "buck up" and inundate us with material, otherwise we shall have to go into liquidation. We have heaps of space and don't mind how long your articles are, in fact, the longer the better. We have not, as yet, had a single article on fishing topics from those who fish; our only "Fisherman's Story" being about a *tiger*!! Won't somebody make a start? May I also ask those who *promised* articles to sit down and pen them and send them in to help us on with our next Journal. We were promised articles on bears, leopards, wild dogs &c., and I hope these lines will catch the eyes of those who promised them.

We must thank those who have so cordially responded to our appeal and hope that they will continue to support us even more energetically. Our ambition is to make our Journal one worthy of the district in which we live and to have it fully illustrated, but, for this, we require the utmost support from *all* our members both in sending in material with which to swell it and on getting others to join the Society and thus swell our purse so as to enable us to spend more money on it.

It may not be out of place to print here what the "Englishman" said in a leading article in its issue of the 12th July in connection with the Society and the Journal.

"Those who imagine that the inhabitants of Darjeeling are given up entirely to frivolous diversions will be surprised to hear of the existence in that station of a Natural History Society. Even Calcutta with her much-vaunted intellectual activity has not yet achieved this distinction, though it must be admitted that the slopes of the Himalayas afford more scope for pursuits of this kind than the flats of Bengal. The district of Darjeeling and the regions round about present such a wonderful diversity of natural conditions that it is only to be expected that the fauna should be equally diversified. It offers indeed almost unrivalled opportunities for the discovery of new or at least rare species of birds, insects and even animals and, incidentally, of thereby immortalising oneself. There is a local Museum always ready to receive such specimens and, it may be added for the benefit of visitors to Darjeeling, this building already contains a collection of butterflies that is believed to be unique. The Society was started about three years ago for the purpose among others, of enriching the museum in other respects and making it as representative as possible of the wonderful fauna of the surrounding country. One regrets, however, to learn, that while the harvest is so abundant, the labourers are yet comparatively few in number. Nevertheless, they have now ventured to publish a Journal to which H. E. Sir Hugh Stephenson has accorded his blessing. It is noteworthy in this connection that both the late Lord Carmichael and the Earl of Lytton have shown a warm personal interest in the welfare of the Darjeeling Museum."

The donations received during 1925-26 included one of Rs. 200 from His Excellency Lord Lytton. We didn't receive one last year but, in its place, we have to thank the Jaldaga Fishing Club for their most generous donation of Rs. 200 and the Darjeeling Shooting and Fishing Club for theirs of Rs. 100. Mr W. L. Travers has again given us substantial help in the way of a donation of Rs. Rs. 40 as well as his subscription of

Members' subscriptions ...	Rs. 400-0-0	Members' subscriptions ...	Rs. 700-0-0
Donations	Rs. 345-14-3	Donations	Rs. 532-1-9
Total Rs. 745-14-3		Total Rs. 1,232-1-9	

1926-27.

Both the amount of subscriptions and donations received were in excess of the previous year. The following statement will show this:--

Both the amount of subscriptions and donations received were in excess of the previous year. The following statement will show this:--

Our financial position is in a sounder state than it was during the previous year. The number of members of the Society was 67 in the past year as against 45 during 1925, thus showing an increase of 22. This is due to our starting our small journal and also greatly to the reason given under *acknowledgements*. It isn't, however, nearly the number of members we ought to have, and, as we have already said, when writing about the journal, we would be very grateful to members if they would interest themselves in the matter and try to get others to join.

History Society? should not enrol themselves in the Darjeeling Natural We see no reason indeed why Puja visitors and others should stimulate readers to attempt to add to the collection. Apart from these articles there are notes on the local fauna and on recent contributions to the museum which are wrong to shoot game with the aid of artificial light, motor-car, raising the interesting point whether it is right the journal with an account of shooting tiger from a snakes can hear. Even the learned Editor has enlivened questions as whether owls make good pets or whether "sun-dried" naturalists but show a healthy interest in such other Societies' journals. The contributors are not merely production, but even so, it is more readable than some success. The first number is naturally, perhaps, a modest Stephenson remarks, should be a guarantee for the journals and whose enthusiasm for the subject, as Sir Hugh Natural history in this country are already well-known G. M. Inglis, whose own contributions to the literature of "The journal is edited by the museum's curator Mr.

Rs. 10 Miss Topsy Lister, who gave us Rs. 5 last year, is now enrolled as a full member. We have also to thank the local firms and private persons, mentioned in the following list, for so kindly giving us their support.

We append a Statement showing the amounts of pecuniary donations received.

Jaldacca Fishing Club, Jalpaiguri ...	Rs. 200	0	0
Darjeeling Shooting and Fishing Club. „	100	0	0
Mr. W. L. Travers, C. I. E., O. B. E.,			
M. L. C., Baradighi T. E. ... „	40	0	0
Mr. G. Makins Smith, Samastipur, Bihar „	10	0	0
Messrs. Vado and Pliva ...	10	0	0
„ Hall and Anderson & Co. ... „	10	0	0
„ Boseck & Co. ... „	10	0	0
„ Smith Stanistreet & Co. ... „	10	0	0
„ Whiteaway Laidlaw & Co. ... „	10	0	0
„ Harrison, Hathaway & Co. ... „	10	0	0
„ The Rendezvous ... „	10	0	0
„ Parvion ... „	5	0	0
„ P. C. Banerjee ... „	5	0	0
Smaller donations in donation box ... „	102	1	9

TOTAL Rs. 532 1 9

Our donation box shown some increase. In 1925-26 we got Rs. Rs. 64-12-3 in small donations and during last year Rs. 102-1-9 or an increase of Rs. 35-7-6.

Acknowledgments:---We have again to thank Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Lytton for their continued interest in the Museum and our work.

Mr. W. P. Field very kindly did some energetic canvassing on our behalf and a good number of our new members are due to him. We are very grateful for his valuable help.

I am also indebted to Messrs. Shaw, Shebbeare and Gwyther for much help. The former, unfortunately for us, was home for a large part of the year but, having now returned with an extra supply of energy, we expect wonderful results to our Journal. The latter very kindly let his draughtsman print any labels that were required.

Our Chairman Mr. P. H. Waddell left us in December and Mr. D. H. Wares has taken over his work. I must thank him, the Committee and Messrs. Hopkyns and Jamieson, Revenue Secretaries, for all their kind help and advice.

Thanks are also due to those who have so kindly assisted us with material for the Museum.