

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

I. Sore neck in Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*).

In Vol. I, pp. 51-53 of this Journal, Mr. P. R. Kemp, under the heading "Sore neck in Sambar," gave an account of the curious sore often found on the neck of Sambar in the mid-line in front, and about half way down. The Editors added a remark to the effect that "Major Evans in his book, *Big Game shooting in Upper Burma* (1910), speaks of it, and states positively that it occurs in all Sambar and at all times (presumably in Burma and India)." I have never found any mention of it by any other author treating of Sambar, which is curious in view of the fact that the sore is undoubtedly of very frequent occurrence.

In Mr. Kemp's note he mentions that both he and I had shot Sambar on which we had not noticed the sore. Major Evans says, however, "At what age the calves are attacked I do not know, but I have seen the spot distinctly on quite young calves not more than a month or two old. If any sportsman should be inclined to doubt my statement as to this blemish on a Sambar's throat, I can only say, let him examine carefully the next Sambar he shoots; and if he doesn't find a large bare circular scar on its throat, with a blood-red spot in the centre of it, I will eat my words served up with Sambar sauce! Can I say more?" Regarding this positive statement it may be of interest to record that, on the 11th February this year, on the west bank of the Meklong River, about Lat. N. 14° 26', Long. E. 99° 5', I shot a Sambar, about two years old, having no sign whatever of any sore on its neck. I particularly called the attention of a Siamese surveyor, who was with me, to this fact.

A. J. IRWIN.

March, 1918.

II. Note on the Wild Dog (*Cyon rutilans*).

On page 54, Vol. I, of the Journal of this Society, in a note headed "Distribution of certain animals in Siam," Mr. K. G. Gairdner writes, "Messrs. Yates and Rogers, of the Bombay Burma Trading Corporation, have reported a black species of Wild Dog. Has anyone else ever met with this animal, and have specimens ever been obtained?"

I do not know of any specimens of a black wild dog having been obtained, but on the 4th March this year a Siamese surveyor working in S. E. Siam (about Lat. N. 12° 52'; Long. E. 101° 7',) informed me that, a few days previously, while at work, two wild dogs

passed close by him chasing a Barking Deer, and that one of the dogs was black, and the other the usual red colour. He was positive they were wild dogs. His coolies saw them also. I mention his statement as evidence that black wild dogs occur, and can occasionally be seen. From a small amount of personal observation, and after making some inquiries from the inhabitants of jungle districts frequented by wild dogs, I should infer that a wild dog of that colour is very rare. I should suppose it to be a case of melanism in an individual of the species usually coloured red, and not an indication of the existence of a separate black species.

In the same note Mr. Gairdner inquires "Where do the (red) Wild Dogs (*Cyon rutilans*) go in the dry season? I have observed that they chase the Sambar down to the cultivation at the beginning of the rains in May and June; at other seasons I never see them."

Referring to this query, I would say that it seems to me these destructive brutes are only guided in their wanderings over the districts they inhabit by the occurrence of the animals they prey on. If they can find Sambar, or other quarry, in the lowlands or near cultivation in the dry season, they may be found there at that time of year. I myself have seen them on low ground not far from cultivation or villages on three occasions during the dry season. On one of these a wild dog was shot by Mr. N. E. Lowe, on another occasion one was shot by me, and on a third I drove some wild dogs off the carcass of one of the cattle belonging to a neighbouring village, which they had just killed.

June, 1918.

A. J. IRWIN.

III. Occurrence of the Pegu Sparrow (*Passer flaveolus*) in South-western Siam.

In a previous issue of this Journal (Vol. II, No. 3, p. 197), I remarked that the only portions of Siam from which the Pegu Sparrow had not been reported were the Western and Peninsular* divisions, and that these might be outside its range, as I had been unable to find any records of its occurrence in Tenasserim or the Malay Peninsula.

Since I wrote the above, my collector has brought me specimens from Hua Hin and Pran, in South-western Siam—the latter place (the more southern of the two) being in about latitude 12° 25' N. These were obtained in June last year. Subsequently, in the latter half of December 1917 and the beginning of January 1918, I found this bird quite common at Nong Kae, about 2½ miles south of Hua Hin, and obtained a couple of fine males in perfect plumage.

Bangkok,

W. J. F. WILLIAMSON.

March, 1918.

*The northern portion of the Peninsular division, as then referred to, is now generally designated South-western Siam, and extends as far south as the Isthmus of Kra, Lat. 10° 50' N.