

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.