

cover of the jungle there. The second shot fared no better except to turn the animal back again towards the water. The rest of the pack were quite unconcerned by the noise, but stopped and stared at us, raising themselves and standing up on their hind legs to get a better view of us.

Then an extraordinary thing happened. The whole pack suddenly surrounded their wounded comrade, and uttering loud cries, four or five of them seized it, and partly lifting, partly dragging, conveyed it over to the bank and disappeared into the jungle beyond. The soft mud at this spot, a broad stretch of 15 to 20 yards, made it impossible to follow them and see what happened afterwards.

MALCOLM SMITH.

Jan. 1922.

No. III.—The Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) in Siam.

On March 5th last, I received a specimen of the large bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) shot by Major Forty at Preng, near Petriu. It appears to be the fourth record of this bird in this part of the world, the other three being from Raheng, Malacca and Singapore respectively (*vide* this Journal, v, p. 81.). The bittern is well known throughout Europe, though nowhere common. In winter it migrates to the Mediterranean, S. W. Asia, India, Burma and China. It is likely that it is more common in Siam than it is thought to be, but it is a shy bird, hiding away during the day time in swampy places among tall reeds, and is thus seldom seen. Major Forty's bird was an old male and very fat, and was excellent eating. The skin is now in my collection.

C. J. AAGAARD.

April, 1922.

No. IV.—The Burmese Hoarse Crow (*Corvus splendens insolens*)

Having in mind Gyldenstolpé's statement that this Crow was common in Bangkok, whereas during the past 16 years I have only seen it once in Petchaburi town, I took particular note when coming across from Moulmein to Raheng early this year, as to how far this dreadful bird extended towards Siam. In Moulmein it is of course the commonest and noisiest vertebrate the place supports, and successfully competes for the "chota hazri" laid on the verandah, unless one instantly dashes from bed to table.

It seems to be a maritime or lowland bird, and was entirely absent a few miles East of Kawkarik where the ascent of the Dawna mountains commences, some 40 miles East of Moulmein, being replaced by the ordinary jungle crow.

K. G. GAIRDNER.

March, 1922.