

to despatch the beast with their iron-shod boat poles, but the Serow was an easy winner and 500 yards up the cliff by the time I arrived. K. G. Gairdner.]

### No. II. Breeding of the Gibbon in Captivity.

Records of the Gibbon of Siam (*Hylobates lar*) breeding in captivity, are I believe unknown and the following instance, although the animals were not in strict captivity, is interesting.

In April 1914 I bought and turned loose in my compound five gibbons, two white and three black. One of the black ones subsequently became savage and had to be shot, but the other four lived amicably together until March 1920 when one of the white ones was noticed to be pregnant and in May gave birth to a young one. A black gibbon who was obviously the father attached himself to her, and the other two were chased from their accustomed trees and never allowed in the compound.

At the time of writing the young gibbon though over two years old and quite big enough to fend for itself still clings to its mother when she moves rapidly from tree to tree, and more remarkable still, is nursed by her and has never been seen to take any of the solid food provided for the other monkeys.

Prae, N. Siam, Sept. 10. 1922.

A. W. OGILVIE.

### No. III. Snipe Records for Bangkok.

The following notes of shooting seasons 1921-22-23 may be of interest as regards the two species of Snipe found around Bangkok. The notes are extracted from my shooting diary and are much the same as the records of previous seasons.

1921 - 1922.

|                            |     |     | Fantail. | Pintail. |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|----------|----------|
| August                     | ... | ... | 0        | 13       |
| September                  | ... | ... | 1        | 117      |
| October                    | ... | ... | 9        | 100      |
| November                   | ... | ... | 59       | 87       |
| December                   | ... | ... | 49       | 27       |
| January                    | ... | ... | 69       | 17       |
| February                   | ... | ... | 60       | 20       |
| March (1st half)           | ... | ... | 23       | 8        |
| March (2nd half and April) | ... | ... | 0        | 21       |

1922 - 1923.

|           |        | Fantail. | Pintail. |
|-----------|--------|----------|----------|
| August    | ... .. | 0        | 3        |
| September | ... .. | 0        | 126      |
| October   | ... .. | 78       | 221      |
| November  | ... .. | 92       | 83       |
| December  | ... .. | 34       | 73       |
| January   | ... .. | 34       | 21       |
| February  | ... .. | 111      | 53       |
| March     | ... .. | 95       | 76       |

The tables shew that during the first half of the season the sportsman encounters Pintails greatly in excess of Fantails, while in the second half of the season rather the opposite takes place.

Last season I weighed a good many of the birds with the following results:—

|                      |        |                      |
|----------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Heaviest Pintail     | ... .. | 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs. |
| "    Fantail         | ... .. | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs. |
| Average for Pintails | ... .. | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. |
| "    Fantails        | ... .. | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. |

Several points must be considered in forming an estimation of the numbers of the two species of birds:—

1. The Pintail is a larger, and in my opinion, a very much easier bird to kill than the Fantail to men accustomed to shoot both species. The Fantail is also wilder, and so one sometimes sees more Fantails, whilst securing more Pintails in a day's shooting in wild weather.

2. State of the ground. The Pintail seems capable of feeding in much drier places than the Fantail. As the dry season continues one finds the Pintails in such places as Wat compounds, the vicinity of farmyards and Buffalo ponds and the nearly dry pools, as, owing to its shorter and stronger beak it seems able to secure sustenance in dryer surroundings. More water and softer ground is needed by the Fantail.

C. H. FORTY,

April 4, 1923.

Lieut. Col. Gendarmerie.

## No. IV. The "Pla Bük".

In Vol. IV, No. 3 of this Journal, p.p. 197-198, Mr. A. H. Duke contributed an interesting note on the "Pla Bük" which I should like to supplement. The creature, in spite of Mr. Duke's doubts, is really a fish and belongs to the order Siluridae. It is called in Cambodian "Trey reach" or "Royal fish." It attains a length of 3 metres and a weight of 240 kgs.