

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

No. I Melanism in the Golden Cat (*Felis temmincki*).

Whilst walking recently through a belt of heavy evergreen jungle my dog put up and treed a large wild cat which after considerable trouble I was able eventually to bring to ground. The cat which weighed 11 lbs. was dark black all over and on first sight I took it to be a young black panther until I observed that it was a female in milk. As was quite unable to find any description of a cat corresponding to my specimen I sent the skin and skull to the Bombay Natural History Society and the following is their reply to my letter which perhaps may be of interest to your readers:—

“The cat is a melanistic example of the Golden Cat (*Felis temmincki*) which is found in the Assam hills, Burma, Siam and the Malay Peninsula. The normal colouring of this animal is a beautiful golden red but as in the panther there is often a tendency towards melanism, hence occasionally dark chocolate brown or almost black animals are met with.”

The Golden Cat known to the natives as “sua fai” and which is reputed by them to be very savage certainly did not live up to its reputation on this, the only occasion on which I have met with it.

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Lampang, April 1924.

No. II. Heavy egg-laying of the Common Myna.

The Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) was, I am told, absent from Bangkok, or at any rate very rare, only a few years ago. It is, however, now getting more and more common year by year, and this is not surprising if all of them show the same perseverance and patience in breeding as a pair with which I had an interesting experience during the breeding season of 1923. Not less than 40 eggs, divided into 9 clutches, were laid by the same bird in the period from 25th March to 28th August; and the same nest was used on all 9 occasions. All the clutches were taken by me except No. 4, which was allowed to be hatched; but as the young birds were removed by my coolie, the parent birds started afresh. The eggs were taken on the following dates:—

Clutch	No. 1	...	4 eggs	...	25 March.
”	No. 2	...	4 ”	...	14 April.
”	No. 3	...	4 ”	...	2 May.
”	No. 4	...	4 ”	...	Not taken.
”	No. 5	...	5 ”	...	2 July.
”	No. 6	...	5 ”	...	16 July.
”	No. 7	...	5 ”	...	1 August.
”	No. 8	...	5 ”	...	18 August.
”	No. 9	...	4 ”	...	28 August.