

Bangkok in February and March, 1928. Through the friendly interest of Mr. F. S. Harrop, of the Arts and Crafts School, this specimen, 66.5 cm. long, was presented to the Department of Fisheries.

This fish is of very wide distribution in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, being known from Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Tahiti, Samoa, Dutch East Indies, east coast of Africa, Bombay, Ceylon, and Burma.

At least three other species of *Anguilla* occur in the Malay Archipelago, one of them also in India and two in the Philippines, and all may be looked for in Siamese waters, more particularly on the west coast of Peninsular Siam.

H. M. SMITH.

No. IV. Wild Dogs in Siam.

The ravages of wild dogs in India have been receiving considerable attention among zoologists and sportsmen, and the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society issued January 15, 1928 (Vol. XXXII, No. 3) contains three communications on wild dogs, each with editorial comment. One of the articles relates to the treeing and killing of panthers by wild dogs, another discusses the manner in which wild dogs kill their prey. This subject has come up in Siam several times in recent years, and the following notes seem worthy of record.

At a meeting of the Natural History Section of the Siam Society held August 13, 1926, Mr. D. Bourke-Burrowes, adviser in the Royal Forest Department of Siam, gave an account of the killing of a sambar by wild dogs. When he was descending the Pasak River in a rice boat from Petchabun to Gengkoi on July 8, 1926, and while passing down a very narrow reach with banks overgrown with bushes, the keen-sighted Siamese boatmen all suddenly shouted out "kwang" (deer), and all except the steersman sprang into the water. They eventually emerged from the bushes dragging a full-grown female Malayan sambar which had been killed by wild dogs in the previous night. One man reported that he saw three dogs devouring the carcass as the boat approached. The sambar had been completely disembowelled, and one dog had eaten the whole of the left side of the head. The boatmen cut up the meat and dried it as "biltong". Mr. Bourke-Burrowes remarked that wild dogs caused havoc with wild game in Siam.

Mr. Bourke-Burrowes' communication, as published in a newspaper account of the meeting, led to the receipt by the section leader of several other communications on the same subject.

Major Erik Seidenfaden, a vice-president of the Society, wrote from Copenhagen under date of September 28, 1926:

"The wild dogs mentioned by Mr. Bourke-Burrowes are found also in North-eastern Siam where they are called *ma nai*.

I have never actually seen them though I have crossed and recrossed the vast plains and forests of that region innumerable times, but I have heard them. I recall one moonlit night when I camped with a party of gendarmes at a place called Ban Lumpuk, some 32 kilometers to the south-southeast of Yasothorn in the changwad of Ubon and not far from the banks of Lam Chi, the big northern tributary of the Mun River. Our camp was on a small plateau in front of which, i. e., to the north, stretched a broad plain, inundated during the rainy season and overgrown with tall rank grasses and reeds during the dry season. The time was during the month of November or December. Suddenly we heard from far away to the east a sound like the barking and yapping of a pack of dogs. The sound came nearer and nearer, and though we could not see anything distinctly, we heard and felt how an animal, and that a big one too, came rushing over the plain and passed us, followed by a fiendish gang of savagely barking and yapping things. This wild hunting party passed on to the west towards the river bank and not long after the barking ceased. Did the wild dogs get their quarry? I do not know. May be the deer saved his life by swimming, as sometimes is the case, according to the tales told by the people in those districts. My gendarmes were not in the least doubt that the quarry was a sambar or lamang and that the chasers were wild dogs. This incident took place in 1915 or 1916. There is a big cave in the precipitous rocky banks of the Mun River, on the right bank about a mile from its outlet in the Mekong. This cave, which contains remarkable archaeological remains, is called Tham Phu Ma Nai — Cave of the Wild Dog Hill."

Phra Anuvat Wanarak, divisional forest officer at Korat, in a communication dated October 4, 1926, enclosed an extract from his diary for September 27, 1926, relative to an incident which occurred in a thick evergreen forest called Dong Krong in the district of Kratoke about 90 kilometers south of Korat, and led him to believe that wild dogs, which are well known to be ravagers of harmless game, may also be formidable enemies of bison (*ngua kating*) and bear. The extract reads:

"Our two dogs which had gone ahead encountered a bear and in chasing it probably plunged into a herd of sleeping bisons about half a mile away. The bisons, which must have mistaken them for wild dogs (one was a big red bitch), took fright and the whole herd headed towards us with a most tremendous noise. I had no gun with me, so advised the party to take to trees, and myself hung up on a branch of a near by *mai keo* tree while two bisons, a full-grown bull and a cow, passed hurriedly about three yards from my tree."

H. M. SMITH,