

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

No. I. Large Tusks in a Siamese Elephant.

The collection of elephant tusks in the Siamese National Museum includes a noteworthy pair which probably represent the maximum length known to be attained in Siamese elephants. Inasmuch as recorded information about this elephant and his tusks is very meager, it is thought that a note on the subject may be of interest, more especially as inquiry has recently come from India in regard thereto.

From information that has been graciously supplied by H. R. H. Prince Damrong Rajanubhap, President of the Royal Institute of Literature, Archeology, and Fine Arts, it appears that this elephant became a royal elephant in the third reign (1825-1851) of the present dynasty, was a familiar court figure in that and the two succeeding reigns, and died about 1899.

Through the courtesy of Prof. Georges Coedès, former General Secretary of the Royal Institute, I was able to obtain two photographs of the elephant taken at his usual station in the court yard of the Grand Palace; one of the photographs is a side view, the other is frontal and gives a good idea of the peculiar shape and extraordinary length of the tusks. The frontal view shows the tusks resting on the ground about one foot below the platform on which the elephant was standing, and the tusks overlapping, with the right tusk considerably the longer and both with the lower side of their tip worn from scraping against the ground. The tusks as exhibited in the museum show the same condition.

The right tusk is 9 feet 11 inches long and the left tusk is 8 feet 11 inches long, measured along the outer curvature from the ridge which marks the attachment of the gum.

It is reported that, owing to the cumbersome tusks, the elephant was unable to lie down during the last 30 years of his life, and must have passed a rather uncomfortable existence in spite of being attached to the royal household.

H. M. SMITH.

No. II. On a Whistling Thrush (*M. changensis*)
of Southeast Siam.

Mr. C. J. Aagaard's collector obtained in January an example of a *Myiophoneus* from Chantabun in Southeast Siam which is only a few miles distant from the island of Koh Chang whence came the single individual which Dr. J. H. Riley has named *Myiophoneus temmincki changensis* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XLI, 1928, p. 207). The specimen before me evidently represents Dr. Riley's bird, but I cannot separate it from a good series of *Myiophoneus crassirostris*

Robinson, of Peninsular Siam (Bull. B. O. C. XXV, 1910, p. 99) which probably on the strength of a single skin in his possession, Riley believes to lack white tips to the middle wing coverts, though in the original description and later records these are reported to be present¹. But as Robinson has stated, individuals vary considerably and in four out of thirteen skins before me the pale spots are absent. Riley further notes that *crassirostris* as compared with *changensis*, has the blue of the upper parts much brighter, more of a dark bluish violet rather than plumbeous black; but both these appearances are found in topotypes and are probably due to the age of the bird or state of its plumage.

The wings of my series range between 160 and 175 mm. in length. The measurements of the Chantabun female are:—wing, 169; tail, 128; culmen, 29.5; tarsus, 53 mm.

The Whistling Thrush apparently commonest in Siam and Southern French Indo-China is *M. temmincki*, the contour-feathers of which are devoid of the white bases so marked in *M. crassirostris*; and I am in some doubt as to whether the latter should be regarded as an allied form. I obtained *M. eugenii* on Koh Chang Id. in December: the type of *changensis* was secured there in January.

C. BODEN KLOSS.

No. III. A Swarm of Butterflies in Bangkok.

Major General P. L. E. Warming related the following observations to me, on the evening of the day they were made.

On the 18th. April, commencing about 3.30 P. M., a vast swarm of butterflies passed over the trees at the Phya Thai Palace Hotel. These butterflies were flying in pairs. One of the pair was white with grey edging on the wing, the other grey with a darker colour edging the wing. They were flying from west to east against the wind. As they passed through the trees it was noticed that they rested on the leaves, quite momentarily, but always in pairs, then flew on again. The swarm had a width, north to south, of about 300 metres. The length of the swarm, calculated by the speed of the moment, would be about 6 kilometres. The insects were flying about 4 metres above the ground, up to a height of 14 or 15 metres. The swarm was not very dense and took about two and a half hours to pass a given spot.

Bangkok, 7th. May, 1930.

F. H. GILES.

1. Robinson, Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus. VII, 1917, p. 178: Robinson and Kloss, Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam, III, 1918, p. 110.