

into the rivers with salt water from the sea about the time of the Songkrant, that is March and April, for Songkrant in Siam falls on the 13th April. This little worm is like a centipede, having innumerable little feet on the lower portion of its body, and its head somewhat resembles that of a viper. Its length as a rule does not exceed five inches. The worm is beautiful in colour, being red, yellow, blue, and is iridescent. If one touches the animal it falls to pieces, and would seem to become dissolved in the water for no trace of its body can be found. I have been told by a Siamese friend, who is a keen observer of animal life, that when a boy he used to try and catch this worm, but was never able to do so, owing to its becoming disintegrated on touch, but he asserts that when he put sandy mud into the bowl of water, in which he had dipped up the worm, the disintegrated particles would join together, and the worm reappear. The breaking up of this worm on touch, may be due to its being in a strange habitat, that is in brackish water, not pure sea water, its natural home.

The Government Ichthyologist thinks this worm to be a sea worm, Sub Class Polychaeta; Family Phyllyodocidae and probably of Genus *Phyllodoce*. However this worm would not seem to have attracted the attention of ichthyologists, when it comes into fresh water streams with salt water from the sea. Further investigations should be made to ascertain its correct genus.

The Songkrant or rather the Maha-Songkrant is that time when the Sun finishes its course through the ecliptic which as I have already said falls on the 13th of April in this country. This day is the beginning of the New Year. I propose to publish in the Journal of the Siam Society a paper on the Songkrant about which little is known to Europeans and Asiatics.

F. H. GILES.

1st April, 1935.

No. V. Natural History Notes.

1. In the middle of March of 1935, at a place called Nong The (หนองแต้) in the Amphur of Talat (ตลาด), province of Mahasarakham (มหาสารคาม) two swarms of bees animated by a desire to find a place to make their hives came flying from different directions toward the drum in the temple ground of that place used for calling the monks together. Apparently the two swarms were determined to use this drum for making their hives. When the two swarms met, a battle ensued, each side attacking the other with great fury. The battle continued for sometime, the ground being covered with the dead and dying. When both swarms had suffered severe losses, they broke off the battle and flew away.

2. Two parties of red ants had taken up their residence in trees in the garden of Nang Pon (นพพจน) in Mahasarakam, one tree being situated to the East and the other to the West of the house. At daybreak one morning in March, these two parties of ants left their trees, and as though by arrangement met in battle on the verandah. Later the combatants withdrew their forces to the beams of the house, where they continued to fight. Late in the afternoon when the floor of the verandah had cooled down, they returned to this battle-ground fighting there till dusk. Next morning and for several days the conflict continued until the losses were so great on both sides that it may be said they completely annihilated each other. Quarter was neither given nor asked for; the fight was one to the death.

F. H. GILES.

1st May, 1935.

No. VI. Notes on Birds in North Siam.

The following records of rare or unusual birds seen or taken during a recent collecting expedition to Doi Angka (Doi Intanon), Siam's highest peak, seem worthy of mention in the *Journal*.

1. *Elanus caeruleus vociferus* (Lath.). Black-winged Kite.

An example of this lovely Hawk was seen, though not collected, 11 September, 1935, perched on a dead tree beside the highway about two kilometres north of Chomtong. I have never before met with this bird in North Siam.

2. *Pitta oatesi oatesi* (Hume). Fulvous Pitta.

A snared female was brought me by Karens at Doi Angka, 4 September, 1935. They assured me that this is the bird known throughout the North as "pet bong" (bong duck), whose cry "bong-bong" is a familiar night sound in the mountains. Usually they call in pairs, the first one being answered at once by another in a different pitch. In French Laos, according to Delacour, the name "pet bong" is applied to the duck, *Asarcornis*.

This Pitta is rarely taken in Siam; my only other specimen was shot in the spring of 1931 at Doi Angka under the impression that it was a squirrel.

3. *Suthora poliotis feae* Salvad. Salvadori's Suthora.

A male and two females of this little-known bird were taken by my collector from a flock of four at Doi Angka, 9 September, 1935. He reported them as being found in high grass at about 5,000 feet. De Schauensee's specimens taken in February and July on Doi Sutep have been hitherto the only ones known from Siam.