*11. Hemichelidon sibirica* ?subsp. Sooty Flycatcher.

Specimens were taken at a grassy area with a few small trees, on Doi Angka, at 5,000 feet 2 and 4 September, 1935. I have not previously met with this bird anywhere in the North.

*12. Emberiza pusilla* Pall. Little Bunting.

One was seen high up on Doi Angka in April, 1931, but was not collected. Since then the bird has been definitely added to the Siamese avifauna by specimens taken on Doi Sutep. As its known distribution in Siam is so limited, it seems worth while to mention this sight-record.

I should like to call the attention of members of the Society to the fact that, during recent years, a large number of Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*) have been ringed under the auspices of the Ornithological Society of Japan. Inasmuch as at least one return has come to the Society from so far afield as the Philippine Islands, and since Herons as a group wander widely when not breeding, it is not improbable that some of these birds may reach Siam. In the event of one of these ringed individuals falling into the hands of a member, the locality and date of capture should be carefully noted and these data, together with the aluminium leg-band, sent either to Dr. Nagamichi Kuroda, Fukuyoshi cho, Akasaka, Tokyo, or to the undersigned, who will transmit them to Dr. Kuroda. Acknowledgement will be made and the information as to the date and locality of the bird's being ringed will be sent to those cooperating.

Chiengmai, 21 September, 1935. H. G. Deignan.

## No. VII. Cleistogamous flower in *Ruellia tuberosa*.

This common wayside weed must be familiar to all Bangkok residents. Its large purple flowers seem to be produced, in Bangkok at least, throughout the year. Though seeing the plant nearly every day while in Bangkok, I never then examined it at all carefully. Some months ago Mrs. Collins kindly sent me seeds, which germinated well and finally grew into half a dozen healthy looking plants. These produced an abundance of flowers buds, which, to my surprise, proceeded to develop into ripe capsules without, at first any appearance of an open flower. Finally two fully developed flowers appeared, but not before many capsules had ripened and shed seeds which quickly germinated. On closer examination, I found that, when the flower bud had reached a certain stage, a little green-tipped cap, about 6 mm. long, was shed from its top. This cap proved to be the unopened corolla in a very young stage. Inside the cap were the stamens, whose anthers, though very small, had already dehisced and were shedding white pollen grains. Though no actual count was made, the proportion of cleistogamous to normal flowers was at least twenty to one. No further fully developed flowers have so far

appeared, but the plants, which are now about eight months old, continue to produce cleistogamous ones.

On looking up the literature, I found that this *Ruellia* was one of the earliest species in which cleistogamy was noted. Dillenius, first Sherardian Professor of Botany in Oxford, described and figured these cleistogamous flowers in his *Hortus Elthamensis* (ii. p. 328), published in 1732. His plants were grown from seeds received from Barbadoes. It is, however, not only in cultivated plants that these cleistogamous flowers appear. They have been noted in the plant's natural habitat, the West Indies. It would be interesting to know the proportion of cleistogamous to normal flowers where the plant is growing under more or less natural conditions as in Bangkok, and also the relative efficaciousness of the two forms of flowers in producing healthy seeds.

Hayes, Kent, October 1935. A. KERR.

### 24TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

This meeting of the Natural History Section was held at the Society's building on July 23rd, 1935, at 6.30 p.m.

Dr. A. G. Ellis, who fortunately returned from furlough in time for the meeting, was able to assume his office as Leader of the Section for the first time and about 40 members and guests were present, including officials of the Department of Public Health who were specially invited.

The meeting opened with an exhibition of specimens and Nai Ariant Manjikul showed living species of Hymenoptera which are parasitic upon the eggs of a bug which damages orange plantations.

He also showed a peculiar stick insect, a number of moths and a live specimen of bamboo rat in its nest of earth. This rat which was from Kanburi was identified by Mr. K. G. Gairdner as *Rhizomys sumatrensis*, so named because it eats the rhizomes of the bamboo underground. Nai Ariant said that the local people called it ตุ่น (Tun) but really this is the Siamese name for the mole which is quite a different creature.

Mr. C. J. House showed a preserved specimen of the Hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imprecata*, from Southern Siam; he stated that this was the commercial source of the so-called tortoise-shell.

Phya Srishtikarn Banchong brought a pair of deer horns but no-one was able to identify them. A portion of the late Mr. E. J. Godfrey's collection of Siamese butterflies was also shown by courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, who now own the collection.

The Leader then called upon Dr. O. R. Causey to read his paper entitled, "Some notes on Siamese mosquitoes with suggestions for their control". It is hoped to publish this interesting paper with the discussion that followed in the Natural History Supplement