

combinations of names. Amongst the Siamese birds affected, we note that the genera *Otocompsa* and *Molpastes* are here included in the genus *Pycnonotus*. Such changes are largely a matter of personal opinion, but we cannot agree that both *Ardeola bacchus* and *A. speciosa* are conspecific with the European *ralloides* until more is known of the breeding-range of *Ardeola speciosa continentis* Salomonsen, which, in South-eastern Siam, occurs side by side with *bacchus* in April, when both forms are in full nuptial plumage.

Mr. Chasen has uncovered old records of the occurrence of the rare Chinese Egret, *Egretta eulophotes* (Swinh.) in Peninsular Siam; these have been overlooked by other cataloguers of Siamese birds.

The Director of the Raffles Museum is to be congratulated on his eminently successful completion of a long and arduous task, as well as on the apparently entire absence of the typographical errors which so often mar a work of this nature.

H. G. D.

May, 1936.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECTION.

##### 25TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

Held at the Society's building on February 19th., 1936 at 6.45 p.m. Dr. A. G. Ellis, Leader of the Natural History Section, was in the chair and 30 members and visitors attended.

The Leader opened the meeting by calling on Luang Siribaed to explain his demonstration of *Bacillus siamensis*, a new species of bacteria recently discovered by him. Luang Siribaed had living specimens under microscopes which showed the motility of *B. siamensis* as compared with *B. anthracis*, and he distinguished the new species from *B. subtilis*, (a non-pathogenic form) by showing two guinea-pigs inoculated with *B. siamensis* which were showing lesions and symptoms of septicaemia.

Dr. Ellis then introduced Nai Siah, a local taxidermist, who showed several interesting specimens. There were two living snakes, namely a King-Cobra of medium size and an albino Cobra.

Nai Siah said that the latter were rare and this was the third he had ever seen. It came from Ayuthia province. He then showed two beautifully stuffed animals, a flying-fox and a black-ringed lizard from Nakorn Sritammarat. The Siamese name for this reptile is "kapachang" ကပချာငံ and Nai Siah said that it had a reputation among the country people in the South of giving a very poisonous bite. According to Phra Charan of the Pasteur Institute it is harmless.

Nai Siah mentioned that as a boy he had collected reptiles for Dr. Malcolm Smith, the last President of the former Natural History Society of Siam.

The agenda was then proceeded with and Dr. Svasti Daengsvang read an interesting paper entitled: "Common Parasites causing Disease in Human Beings", supported by a demonstration showing various kinds of worms and diseased tissue caused by parasites. The paper dealt only with parasitic worms and protozoa and did not deal with insect parasites. He was followed by Nai Sup Vatna on "A Method of growing the Lotus Mushroom". This paper appears elsewhere in this part of the Supplement. At the conclusion, Phya Indra Montri, President of the Society, proposed a vote of thanks to the authors of papers which was carried with acclamation.

C. J. HOUSE,

Hon. Secretary of Natural History Section.

#### 26TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

This meeting was held at Mr. Guehler's house on June 24th., 1936 at 5.30 p.m., and was attended by 15 members and 5 visitors.

Dr. A. G. Ellis, Leader of the Section in the chair.

Mr. Guehler keeps several of the larger species of birds free in his compound and he caused these to be brought together while he briefly described each of them. The birds were as follows:—

#### **The Adjutant bird, *Leptoptilus dubia* (Gm)**

Siamese name: Nok Takrum

The big storks of this genus are notable as being the largest of all Indian birds. A number of them formerly existed in Calcutta where they were tolerated for scavenging purposes but Mr. Guehler had heard that the last of them had been shot recently.

The curious gular pouch was pointed out. It has been shown that this appendage does not play any part in digestion but can be used as a receptacle for food which the bird does not want at the moment.

#### **The Black-necked stork or Jabiru, *Xenorhynchus asiaticus***

Siamese name: Nok Kot Pleung.

Jabiru is an Africa name for a closely related species which is the largest of all the storks. The English name is a misnomer as everybody could see, as the colour of the neck is really dark greenish blue.

#### **Sarus crane, *Antigone antigone sharpii***

Siamese name: Nok Karien

This is a red-necked bird fairly well known in Bangkok because it is often kept as a pet. Mr. Guehler's specimen came from the Chiengrai district. This bird has a very long wind-pipe which is formed in coils within the chest and with this apparatus the bird is able to emit a very loud cry which can be heard for two miles.

Mr. Guehler then led the meeting into his house where he showed a considerable collection of horns and antlers. A very fine specimen of the antlers of Schomburgk's deer attracted general attention and there were several smaller ones as well.

Also there were antlers of the three more common species of deer found in Siam, namely :—

| Common name |                        | Siamese name. |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Sambar      | <i>Cervus unicolor</i> | Kwang.        |
| Eld's deer  | „ <i>eldi</i>          | Lamang.       |
| Hog deer    | „ <i>porcinus</i>      | Nua sai.      |

Mr. Guehler pointed out the large horns of a Wild Water-Buffalo which he had shot on his recent hunting trip. This is *Bos bubalus*, the same species as the domestic animal. Scientists had as yet been unable to find anatomical distinctions between the two and it was possible that the types were interchangeable. From observation he found the wild type to be of more slender build, more agile and of course much more alert than his tame cousin.

Next came a collection of horns of certain African Antelopes such as the wildebeest, hartebeest, impalla, greater kudu, eland, etc., and a fine head of an African wart hog. A fine trophy was the skull and horns of the African wild buffalo, *Bos kafir*, shot by Mr. Guehler on Mount Kenya in 1932, measuring 48½ inches at “widest outside”.

The exhibition concluded with a display of living fishes such as pla sua, pla kating and pla bak bao. Phya Jolamark also brought along a living specimen of the wild hog of Siam.

Mr. Guehler then gave a short talk on his experiences on his recent hunting trip in the Mè Wong, west of Paknampoh.

A full account of the curious experience he and Mr. Rodatz had with a man-eating tiger greatly interested his listeners and is published as a “Note” in this number.

At the conclusion Mrs. E. Collins, Phra Salyavej and Mr. C. E. W. Hogge spoke of their various experiences with tigers.

Dr. A. G. Ellis proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Guehler both for his hospitality and for his most interesting demonstrations and talk and this was carried with acclamation.

C. J. HOUSE,

Hon. Secretary of Section.

## 27TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

Meeting of the Natural History Section held at the Society's building on October 14th., 1936, at 6.15 p.m.

Present: Dr. A. G. Ellis (Leader), in the chair, and Major E. Seidenfaden, Phya Sarasart Sirilaks, Phya Srishtikar Banchong, Messrs. Ong Thye Ghee, A. H. Hale, R. Adey Moore, C. J. House, and three visitors.

No members had any specimens to show and therefore the agenda was proceeded with at once. The first paper was entitled: "A note on Sea Squirts from the Gulf of Siam" by Luang Choolacheeb, but as the author was unable to be present the paper was read and the specimens demonstrated by Nai Prayoon Vejabhongsa. This communication was received with great interest and will be published in the Supplement in the form of a Note.

The Leader then read Mr. F. H. Giles's paper, "A description of the Swifts, the birds which build edible nests", which is also to be published in the Supplement as soon as possible.

The author was unfortunately unable to be present being away from Bangkok. At the conclusion Mr. C. J. House contributed to the discussion on this paper.

Major Seidenfaden then read a short note from Mr. H. G. Deignan of Chiangmai recording very recent observations of the Himalayan wood-pecker and the Argus pheasant. Referring to this the Leader said that a very comprehensive paper by Mr. Deignan on the Chiangmai birds was being published in the next part of the Supplement. A vote of thank to the authors of papers brought this short but interesting meeting to a close.

C. J. HOUSE,  
Honorary Secretary.