

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

No. I. A New Avine Family for Siam.⁽¹⁾

On the 17th of April, 1937, from a Chantabun-bound boat out of Bangkok, the writer was surprised to observe, among the numerous gulls, a solitary individual of some species of *Stercorarius*. The bird, a sub-adult in the light phase of plumage, was seen in the Inner Gulf, less than half the distance from Pak Nam to Ko Si Chang, and, during several minutes, it played about our bows, at times near enough to have been captured by a butterfly-net. The characters common to the genus were noted with ease. Direct comparison showed it to be about the same size as the gulls (*Larus brunnicephalus*) flying with it.

The genus *Stercorarius* embraces three species of pelagic birds known in England as skuas, in America as jaegers. They breed in the circumpolar sub-arctic regions and, during the boreal winter, wander south over the oceans, two of them on occasion reaching the Southern Hemisphere.

Stercorarius longicaudus, the Long-tailed Skua, has the most restricted winter range, and is unknown south of Japan, the Mediterranean Sea, and the coasts of West Africa.

Stercorarius pomarinus, the Pomatorhine Skua, is known from tropical Asia by a single specimen taken many years ago at Moulmein, Burma. In the Old World it is otherwise recorded from the coasts of West Africa, the Mediterranean and Black Seas, Japan, and (rarely) Australia.

Stercorarius parasiticus, Richardson's or the Parasitic Skua, is the commonest and most widely wandering of the three. The localities nearest to Siam from which it is known are Japan, Australia, Madagascar, and, in north-western India, the coast of Sind.

In the absence of a specimen, it would be rash indeed to attempt specific identification of this bird, but the ranges given above show that the presence in Siamese waters of any one of them must be considered highly remarkable.

H. G. DEIGNAN.

Washington, 13 August, 1938.

No. II. A Fine Sambhar Stag's Head.

Phya Winit Wanandorn obtained this year a very heavy Sambhar's head from Kaw in the Me Ping rapids mid-way between Chiangmai and Raheng. The horns are much heavier than any the writer has previously examined.

Phya Winit, of the Forest Department, was anxious to hear of good trophies with a view to a loan exhibition at the Saranarom Gardens during the Constitution Day celebrations.

⁽¹⁾ Published by Permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Guehler has sent me particulars of a fine head in his possession and measurements of this head are included in the table below. The brow tines are particularly long.

In Vol. 1. p. 117 of the Nat. Hist. Societies Journal I described and illustrated a fine pair belonging to Mr. Adey Moore from the Lampang area, and in Vol. 4 p. 239. described a pair belonging to Mr. Peiniger from the Me Teun, a western tributary of the Me Ping river. Mr. Peiniger's best heads had all belonged to stags killed in the bed of the river by packs of wild dogs.

In a valley adjacent to the Me Teun the writer offered rewards for wild dogs (genus *Cuon*, not *Canis*) but none were forthcoming and, on enquiry, was asked "if we kill the wild dogs who will drive the deer down to the river and kill them for us close to our camps?"

Against a pack of these hunting dogs a stag's antlers are useless, but that a tiger has some respect for the Sambhar's horns is borne out by the following. An old servant sent out to get jungle fowl returned breathless and asked would I go and shoot a tiger and a sambhar, the sambhar with his back to a bamboo clump, horns down at the ready, and the tiger walking to and fro in front of the sambhar, about an hour from here.

Incidentally that describes the frightful temptations the jungle man is exposed to and, had a humane manager been present, he would doubtless have said: "Let's go, and give the 200 men building your Dam a holiday;" but without that moral support I had to refuse temporarily. In the evening I was free, found the tracks of both animals, and the Sambhar had escaped.

Yet the tiger will attack an elephant, and in the Petchaburi hinterland we found the bodies of a tiger and an elephant lying together in a tributary stream which became known officially as "Hue Sua Kud Chang."

MEASUREMENTS OF HORNS IN INCHES.

OWNER	Lengths		Brow tine	Circumferences			Span.
	L.	R.		Below brow tine	Mid beam	Above bez tine	
Phya Winit	32	33.2	17.2	10.1	7.5	6.2	29
Mr. Guehler	33	35.2	21.5	9.2	7.5	—	26
Mr. Adey Moore	34.6	33.6	10.7	9.0	7.2	5.5	
Mr. Peiniger	37.5	37	—	9.0	7.	—	31

K. G. G.



Head of a Sambar Stag found by Phya Winit Wanandorn
between Chiengmai and Raheng.



Side view of the Sambar Stag's head found
by Phya Winit Wanandorn.



Horns of a Sambar Stag, belonging to
Mr. U. L. Guehler.

