

song. Eventually, the porky would respond at almost any time while we sat some 10 feet away and watched the performance.

The first note of the song was much like the hoot of a horned owl, but pitched much higher; beginning on a high note, it went down the scale in half tones, the later ones being sometimes doubled, and all had a faint slur in them. The song may be thus rendered:

Hoo

Hoo hoo hoo

hoo hoo

hoo hoo

hoo hoo hoo

hoo-ho

hoo-ho

hoo-ho

It was clear and owl-like, quite musical, and rather mournful. I have heard a vast number and variety of squeaks, grunts, and wails from porcupines; but this is the first time that I have actually heard it sing. Probably it is a mating song, because the creature was nearly always ready to respond. When the porky mating time is, I don't know for sure; but I do know that after singing all through November, she ceased, and since then has not been heard.—ERNEST THOMPSON SETON, *Santa Fe, New Mexico*.

#### RABBITS KILLED ON AN IDAHO HIGHWAY

In the summers of 1929 and 1931 I travelled on highway No. 40 across Idaho. Both times I made counts of the mammal carcasses per mile seen along the road. Most of these were jack rabbits killed by passing automobiles, but a few were spermophiles struck while feeding on recently killed animals. In the counts no discrimination was made between the two, since at our speed of travel it was often impossible to tell the difference between a ground squirrel and the badly mashed remnant of a rabbit. Both years counts were made along the sagebrush-bordered stretches only and were stopped as soon as cultivated areas were reached.

In 1929, high counts ran to 6, 8, or 10 carcasses per mile for short stretches, but the average was barely over 2 per mile. In 1931, only one stretch gave a count as low as 2 per mile. Most gave averages around 8 or 12, and two stretches as high as 15 and 16 per mile. But the prize stretch was a short one where the rather winding road passes the Thousand Springs. Here I counted as fast as I could, but missed out on a few, and estimated that the carcasses ran very close to 100 per mile for two to three miles.

It would be interesting to see how such counts would compare over a considerable series of years, and whether there would be any indication of cycles in the numbers of animals killed. 1931 has been a year of rodent abundance in many parts of the West, and in Idaho the carcasses were certainly far more common along the road than in 1929.—KENNETH GORDON, *Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon*.

#### STATUS OF EPIACERATHERIUM (RHINOCEROTIDAE)

The appearance of Dal Piaz's important monograph on the excellent Venetian Oligocene rhinoceros material (I Mammiferi dell'Oligocene Veneto. *Trigonias*

*ombonii*. Mem. Istituto Geol. Univ. Padova, vol. 9, pp. 1-63, pls. I-XX, 1930) necessitates a note of correction to the nomenclature employed in his paper, as well as to that used on pages 417, 418, and 427 of Wood, 1931 (Lower Oligocene Rhinoceroses of the Genus *Trigonias*. Journ. Mammalogy, vol. 12, pp. 414-428). It seems desirable to indicate these changes before the incorrect terminology has become established in the literature. Dal Piaz's *Trigonias ombonii* (1930) is an objective synonym of *Epiaceratherium bolcense* Abel, 1910. Dal Piaz's substitution of the specific name "*ombonii*" (Fabiani, 1915) for "*bolcense*," on the ground that "*bolcense*" is derived from Monte Bolca, an incorrect locality reference, is expressly forbidden by Article 32 of the "International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature," and an earlier use "in litteris" (1911) has no standing, aside from the fact of its following, and not preceding, Abel's name (1910). The generic reference is a matter of judgment. Dal Piaz has shown that *E. bolcense* is more like *Trigonias* than I had realized. However, when I saw his material at Padua, in 1927, just after completing a revision of the genus *Trigonias*, as then known, I did not consider them congeneric. I am still of the same opinion.

The following characters separate *Epiaceratherium bolcense* from any member of the genus *Trigonias*:  $I^1$  is proportionately smaller, simpler, and more incisiform than is known elsewhere in the Rhinocerotidae. (The incisors of *Prohyracodon* and *Eotrigonias* are unknown.) I observed this in Padua; and Dal Piaz's plate 13, figs. 13-16, fully confirms this observation. Dal Piaz gives the antero-posterior measurement as 15.0 mm., which is only three-fifths of the 25.0 mm. of *Trigonias osborni*, although the animal is not much smaller than the smallest individuals of *Trigonias*. In this respect, Dal Piaz's restoration (page 11) appears to be influenced, by published figures of *Trigonias*, away from his own specimens. The unusually large  $I_1$ , as compared with  $I_1$ , is another distinctive character of *Epiaceratherium*, more primitive than is known elsewhere, and is in consonance with the small primitive  $I^1$ . The upper premolars are rather more primitive than in any known species of *Trigonias*. The protocones of the upper molars are set off from the protoconules only moderately, in the "American style," but rather more than in *Trigonias*. *E. bolcense* is somewhat smaller than any known *Trigonias*; Dal Piaz's plate 8, figs. 1-2, makes them appear more nearly of a size by the enlargement of fig. 1 and the reduction of fig. 2. Even in these figures, the *Trigonias* teeth (especially  $M^{1-2}$ ) are markedly larger. Metacarpal V is more reduced in *Epiaceratherium bolcense* than in *Trigonias*, and the metacarpals are shorter and more stubby, indicating a less cursorial form. Everything considered, it seems definitely preferable to retain their distinct generic status, particularly to avoid sweeping and unjustifiably exact intercontinental correlations. The undoubted resemblances presumably point back toward a common Eocene ancestry for all the Rhinocerotidae.

On the other hand, Dal Piaz has proved that *Epiaceratherium turgaicum* Borisjak is not congeneric with *E. bolcense*, the genotype. His data also disprove my reference to the genus of "*Ronzotherium*" *gaudryi* Rames, Stehlin's *Eggysodon* sp., Roman's specimens referred to *Eggysodon osborni* (Schlosser), and *Eggysodon pomeli* Roman, and remove any justification for my proposed new subfamily Epiaceratheriinae, as such. As the forms listed above are now without any valid generic resting-place, I propose the new genus Allacerops (from ἄλλος, different,

+ a privative + *κέρας*, horn, + *ὤψ*, face), with *Epiaceratherium turgaicum* Borissiak (= *Allacerops turgaica*), the best documented form, as the type species, and also including in the genus *Aceratherium gaudryi* Rames (to which Stehlin's *Eggyodon* sp is provisionally referred), *Allacerops osborniana*, new specific name, based on the maxillary in the Montauban Museum, which was referred to *Eggyodon osborni* in Roman, 1911 (*Les Rhinocéridés de l'Oligocène d'Europe*. Arch. Mus. Hist. nat. Lyon, vol. 11, pp. 11-13, pl. I), and *Eggyodon pomeli* Roman (1911). The subfamily Allaceropinae is here proposed, defined by the presence of canine tusks (possibly I $\frac{1}{2}$ ), as in the Amynodontidae, associated with characters of the cheek teeth and body which are typical, in all other respects, of the true rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae). That this group does not belong in the Hyracodontidae is indicated by the much less cursorial limbs, the entirely different shape of the canines, by the cheek teeth, which are rhinocerotid and not hyracodont, and by numerous other characters.—HORACE ELMER WOOD, 2nd., *Washington Square College, New York University*.

#### KILLER WHALE IN SLOUGH AT PORTLAND, OREGON

A killer whale (*Orcinus rectipinna*) ascended the Columbia River to the Oregon Slough, a branch of Portland harbor, 110 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. This whale, first discovered October 12, 1931, disported between the railroad and Pacific Highway bridges, which span the Oregon Slough one nautical mile apart. This slough is the southerly branch of the Columbia River as divided by Hayden island opposite Vancouver, Washington, and is a quarter of a mile wide and twenty to thirty feet deep. Between the date of its arrival and its death, this whale continued to swim between the bridges, rising to blow with remarkable regularity three times and then remaining under an extended period. On rising to the surface it usually showed only its dorsal fin and a portion of the back. Seldom, if ever, was the tail shown, as in the case of deep sea soundings. So far as known, it never ventured beyond the space between the bridges. Thousands of school children and adults viewed the spectacle, but as little could be seen of the visitor, accurate classification was impossible. The creature seemed to be conscious of the attraction it was creating and on occasion disported itself as though playing hide and seek. It seemed to procure ample food supply, doubtless from the fact that the Swift Packing Plant drains into the water of its selected habitat and this attracts large quantities of carp and other fish upon which it could feed abundantly.

Strange as it may seem this playful and interesting creature aroused the killer instinct in some wanton persons who first sought to slay it with high powered rifles and finally on October 24 the poor creature was attacked by two boatmen and done to death with harpoon and spear. We omit report of the indignation of the public, and the earnest efforts of the District Attorney and Sheriff of Multnomah County to bring the culprits to justice, except to express regret that their good efforts were ultimately in vain.

Measurements.—The specimen herein referred to was a female, thirteen and a half feet in straight line from tip to tip, and in circumference at points, measured in inches from snout as follows: