

hout to press your elephant through the wild herd. Before long they will get your scent, become alarmed and trumpet with a piercing noise. This will make everyone tremble with unforgettable excitement.

Many big herds of wild water buffalo are also seen grazing and wallowing in the marshes. They are much bigger than the domesticated variety, and look much more formidable. Many solitary ones like to stay outside the herd.

Swamp deer and hog deer also often seen in herds of ten or fifteen. These two animals are becoming rare or lost in many surrounding countries, and only in a few reserves can one see them nowadays. Wild boar can be seen feeding all day long in this sanctuary. Sambar deer and barking deer are also numerous in the wooded areas. In May the sambar like to come together in the Diphlu River. It is shallow at that time of year and the sambar deer like to stand or lie down in the water for hours. It is an excellent opportunity to see such shy animals in the open.

Tigers, leopards and bears are rather common here, but to see these dangerous beasts depends on one's luck.

I should like to repeat here again that the Kaziranga Sanctuary is one of the best reserves in the world. Thanks should be given to the Indian Government and its cooperative people for saving this paradise for its own citizens and for the people of the world.

This is a true wonderland and should not be missed by any nature lover who has the chance to visit there.



*The great Indian Rhinoceros*

## SANCTUARIES of ASIA

*Photos: Dr. Boonsong Lekagul.*

### KAZIRANGA SANCTUARY

Kaziranga Game Sanctuary is one of the best game reserves in the world and one that should not be missed by any nature lover. It is in the Sibsakar District of Assam. To reach Kaziranga one must fly by Indian Air Lines from Calcutta for a few hours to Jorhat and then proceed by car or bus for a few more hours to the office of the wardens of the sanctuary. They have a clean rest house with about 10 rooms for visitors. Good beds, good food, but no liquor. So if you're in the habit of drinking, it's necessary to bring your own.

You will be awakened before dawn, when breakfast is served and a taxi elephant is waiting for you. Four visitors can sit on one elephant, plus a mahout on its neck. Now you will be carried into a paradise, with refreshing morning breezes coming down from the hills on the southern border.

Before the sun rises, you will be surprised to see the second largest land animal in the world, the great Indian Rhinoceros, one here, a pair there. In almost any direction you can see a big, strange-looking rhino.

They walk in and out of the dense patches of elephant grass which is almost 18 feet high. Narrow paths and tunnels have been made from constant traversing by these heavy animals.

Many rhinos can be seen grazing on the open plains and some wallowing in the mud. They are not at all scared. They are accustomed to the elephant, and will allow you to get close enough to take any sort of close-up shot you wish. They will run away only when they get your scent which is probably very unpleasant to them.

Besides the rhinos, this reserve is also a paradise for other rare wild animals. Wild elephant can be seen in big herds occasionally, and if you need some excitement you can ask the ma-

*Swamp deer ▼*





*Flocks of egrets and cormorant flying back to the Sanctuary at dusk.*

## PULAU DUA BIRD SANCTUARY

This sanctuary is a small flat island, only about 200 acres in area, to the northwest of Djakarta. To go there, one must travel by road for a few hours and then by rowboat for about one hour.

From a distance, the tops of the trees on the island give the strange appearance of having black and white buds. As you come closer, you realize that the white ones are egrets and the black ones, cormorants. Many other kinds of water birds mingle together: painted storks, glossy ibis, grey heron and night heron are all common here. Other common water birds, such as green herons, rails, and crakes are also often seen.

There is not yet a proper rest house for tourists here but there is a small hut with a few rooms for wardens. It is a good idea for nature lovers and photographers to arrange to spend a night here, in order to see the birds at dusk and at dawn, but one must

bring his own food and bedding. Mosquito netting is most important and must never be left behind.

Late afternoon is the best time for bird watchers and photographers. Long rows of white spots will appear on the clouded sky just above the horizon. These will gradually become larger as they approach the sanctuary. They are white egrets of many kinds. They are returning from their feeding fields to roost here at night. Cormorants are also returning in big flocks seen as black spots peppering the sky in the fading light.

As dusk comes, other groups of birds become more active. They are night birds, awakening to feed at night. Flocks of night herons are flying away from Pulau Dua to the main island to feed in the rice fields. They pass the long rows of white egrets in the sky, mixing black and white, and making a most beautiful pattern.

The glossy ibis is often seen flying in flocks of 10 to 20 as dusk approaches. They fly down to feed on shrimp and small fish along the muddy banks of mangroves in the sanctuary. Green herons, black herons, rails and

Grey herons and large egrets ▼

*(continued on page 18)*

