THE HERON.

THE HERON.

THE POSITION HELD BY THE HERON amongst birds may our British quadrapeds. Both may be east almost to exist on sor flerance, and, always dead almost to exist on sor flerance, and, always dead to their extermination rather than their or as in this country. True it is that the cause which insures the preservation of the fox does not to-day operate in the case of the heron, nor oun the latter be said to possess in these days any special characteristic which would give it a particular claim to our protection. It must, however, take its stand on the glories of the past, and trust mainly to its former reputation to protect it from harm in the future.

he ron, nor can the latter be said to possess in these days any special characteristic which would give it a particular claim to our protoction. It must, however, take its stand on the glories of the past, and trant mainly to its former reputation to protect is from harm in the future. It is not to be the protocolor of the past, and trant mainly to its former reputation to protect is from harm in the future. It is not protocolor of the heron occupying a position in the laws of the country which is now held by the few select species to birds which come under the designation of game; for up to a comparatively recent date, in addition to the protection afforded to the birds themselves, the penalty for taking their eggs was twenty shillings for each offence. Whether the heron itself has lost much by being god be doubted; the protection afforded to the birds themselves, the penalty for taking their eggs was twenty shillings for each offence, whether the heron itself has lost much by being god be doubted; the protection of the protection and the protection of the protection and protection of the protection and protection of the protec

the efforts of the heron to take flight are somewhat inducrous; it seems as it were for a moment to lose its head, and struggles off the ground is a most undignified manner. Once afloat, however, its corriects by no means undignified, and it is able to all along when the control of the ground is a most undignified, and it is able to all along that the structural offers, arking the air with its wings at long and regular intervals.

This appecies is an early nester. About the beginning of March the old birds congregate in flocks, and resort to some favoured apot, smally a clamp of lofty trees, where for centuries, perhaps, they and their ancestors have been in the habit of rearing their young. The nests, large platforms of sticks lined with wood, are soon built or restored; and here, often in close proximity to one another, the control of the control

to the coast, and some of our largest and must remowned herouries—such as those in Windoor Park—are situated far inland.

Under official window, when standing in the open (unless he were to adopt. Col. Hawker's somewhat impracticable plan of riding down upon it on horseback against a strong wind), it would require a clever man to come within ganshot of an old bird. They are, however, easily stalked when feeding within reach of any suitable covert; and, as they frequently fly low when on their way to their feeding grounds, they fall easy victims to those who are base enough to meditate their destruction.

Size, measuring as it does as much as fave feet from into to by of its wings, it takes very little to bring down one of these birds—a fact which is chiefly due to the feathers being open and straggling, instead of close and compact, as in the ducks and gesse. The body is small and light, not weighing above three or four pounds; and the flesh of the young bird, if properly cooked, is not bad eating. On some of the more highly preserved trout streams, large steal traps, devoid of teeth (similar in construction to those that are employed upon the moors for the description to those that are employed upon the moors for the organization herous, being set under water in spots to which they are known to resort. Not long ago, chancing to be in a keeper's cottage in Hampshire, I noticed two of these traps, which had been turned out of an old box in which, amongst other relies of the past, were several varieties of man-traps—enormons gins, with teeth like those of a garden rake, well calculated to break the ankle of any milecky individual who might have the misfortune to step into one of them.

unlucky individual who might have the misfortune to step into one of them.

By the earlier writers on natural history the heron is represented as the most miserable bird in existence, presenting to us the picture of wretchedness, anxiety, and want. That it is during a portion of the year a somewhat solitary bird, cannot be denied, and in this respect it resembles anglers of another sort; but that it leads in the operating open to criticion. Possibly the delines noticeable in the species during the day may arise from its nocturnal habits, for it can hardly be expected that, after working all night for its living, it would show any very great activity during the remainder of the twenty-four hours.

The young birds can be reared in captivity, and afford much amusement by the skilf all manner in which they seize the food with which they must be continually provided.

D.

BRILDY was assumed to the provided.

D. RHIMOCEROS AND ELEPHANTS IN BORNEO.

SIR,—In your review of Mr Burbidge's "Gardens of the Sun," I notice you state your belief that the skull of the rhinoecros which Mr Dobree shot at Segulind was identical with the one Professor Flower, described and exhibited to the Zoological Society. This would seem to imply a belief on your part that rhinoecrose are very rare in Progres, for you for know that this is far from being the case; so, instead of going in search of them, in fact, the Seeglind people have difficulty in keeping them and the dephants out of their gardens.

Drahim, the principal man, shot an elephant and a rhinoecros in his little patch of paddy within the conress of a fortnight, some short time fact, the Seeglind people are continually sending down their horns—the only part they take—for sale. I saw the horns of two within a month buck being haved about.

I myself saw the tracks of two not twenty yards within the focert three weeks ago; and, if I had time to go affer them, I could, no doubt, begwind the proper server the proper of the prope

only pix-liney used, about the book being hawked hawked being hawked hawked being hawked hawked

NOTES AND QUERIES ON NATURAL HISTORY. A PEBALD TURTLE DOVE.—Pichalds, and even white varieties or English birds, are not uncommon, but a few days since I fad the pleasure of closely examining a beautiful pichoid turtle dove, the larged by plant of closely examining abeautiful pichoid turtle dove, the larged by plant of each feather being pure white.—T.J. M. (Gonremonth.).

ham, York, May 28).

EABLY COVEYS OF PARTRIDES.—A covey of nine young Partiages were soon ton days ago at Uffington, near Shrowsbury, which I consider very early. Should like to have your opinion.—Bockiny which I consider very early. Should like to have your opinion.—Bockiny obligation of the party of the Ponnax (The Bury, Ashwell, Herts. [Yarrell says: "Incubation with the partiage lasts twenty well, Herts. [Yarrell says: "Incubation with the partiage lasts twenty on days, and the great paths they give the worth of the party of the

ILLIAM HOWLETT (High-street, Newmarket).

SAGACITY AND STRENDSTH OF STOAT,—As I was walking rough the woods this morning it came on to rain, so I ast down under the woods of the morning it came on to rain, so I ast down under some the property of the property of the stop hanger did a at great pace, entrying mething in its mouth. I immediately made for a fagro-tatok, whither was evidently bein, and, intercepting it, it dropped its burden, which in from the nose to the tip of the tail. I afterwards discovered that me man wave cartting fagroids away from a stack below; so evidently paps and me may be cartting fagroids away from a stack below; so evidently paps for home,—i. C. Passon (Forest Sido Ylurange, Euserorth, Hands, as 23).

correspondent is of much interest, and deserves to be noted by ornithologistis.—BLJ.—When returning from a
HAVE HARES THE SENSE OF SMELL 1—When returning from a
Histo rook shouling on May 25, I stopped by a gate with a very low heellike rook shouling on May 25, I stopped by a gate with a very low heelrepeated the state of the state of

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

HE MENAGERIE, REGENT'S PARK, FROM MAY 23 TO MAY 25

Date.	Name.	Country.	How obtained.	Where placed in Gardens.
May 23	1 Bennett's Gazelle (Ga-	Khelat-i-Gilzai,	Presented by Brig.	Gazelle Shed
-	zella bennetti)	Afghanistan	Gen. Tanner	Charette Blied
	1 Mouflon (Ovis musi- mon) Q		Born in the Gardens	Sheep Sheds
10	1 Slowworm (Anguis fragilis)	British Isles	Presented by Mr G.	Reptile House
24	1 Common Marmozet (Hapale jacchus)	Brazil	Presented by Mr C.	Monkey House
	1 Black-eared Marmozet	Ditto	Stewart Ditto	Ditto
	Hapale pencillata) 1 Domestic Sheep (Ovis	Shanghal		n
**	aries) (var.) Q	snangnat	Presented by Mr H. Bruce, F.Z.S.	Reception Shed
	1 Common Paradoxure (Paradoxurus typus)	India	Ditto	Small Mammal
**	6 Nuthatches (Sitta	Europe	Deposited	W. Aviary
"	2 Peacock Pheasants (Polyplectron chinquis)	British Burmah	Deposited	Pheasantry
25	1 Chaema Baboon (Cyno- cephalus porcarius)	S. Africa	Presented by Mrs	Monkey House
,,	2 Ring-necked Pheasants (Phasianus torquatus)	China	Purchased	Pheasantry
"	2 Swinhoe's Pheasants (Euplocamus swinhoii)	Formosa	Ditto	Ditto
,,	1 Cashmere Shawl Goat (Capra hircus) (var.) Q	March 15 hadres	Born in the Gardens	North side.
26	1 African Wild Ass (Equus tæniopus) Q	Abyssinia	Purchased	Zebra House
	4 Chilian Pintails (Dafila spinica da)	Ante. America.	Ditto	Southern Ponds
	1 White-marked Duck (Anas specularis)*	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
	1 Antarctic Skua (Sterco- rarius antarcticus)	Ditto	Ditto	Lawn Pond
1,0	1 Dominican Gull (Larus dominicanus)	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
27	1 Two-spotted Para- doxure (Naudínia bi- notata)	W. Africa	Presented by Mr W.	Small Mammal
	3 Variegated Shieldrakes (Tadorna variegata)	immouniment	Born in the Gardens	Garganey Pond

BACKETS.

ETON COLLEGE.

THE annual double raciet match has just been finished. Mr T. G. Grimanon, the college rected match has just been finished. Mr T. G. Grimanon, the college rected from the rected of the college rected from the first marked the games, the following being the result as referee, and carefully marked the games, the following being the rected from the first first first firs

drew blank.

Second Ties.—Philipson ma, and Pemberton beat Greatle-Bunk in arditate acratch; Philipson mi, and Tucker beat Cave mi, and Collier; Grey and Polilli Turner beat Rawson ma, and Barry; Greafell ms. and E. W. Bair beat R. Smith and E. G. Baird, scratch; kichards and Philipson mi, best Bon. Bligh and R. Greafell.

Hom. Bigh and R. Granfell.

Hom. Bigh and R. Granfell.

Hom. Bigh and R. Granfell.

Third Tes.—Philipson and and Tucker beat Grenfell and Baird, Richards and Philipson and Penherton development of the Philipson and Penherton development of Philipson and Penherton development of Philipson and Gropping of Tucker were to good for themselved the Philipson and Gropping of Tucker were to good for themselved the Philipson and Schot work of their opponents, Philipson and Philipson in and Theorem and Philipson in and Theorem and Philipson in and Theorem and Philipson in an Ind. Theorem and Philipson and Philipson in an Ind. Theorem and Philipson in Ind. Theorem and P