



HIMALAYAN RED BEAR

*Photo—L. J. J.*

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# Concerning the Introduction or Re-introduction of the Indian Rhinoceros into Other Parts of India

E.P. GEE

In recent years there have been some proposals for introducing new species of animals into certain parts of India. For instance, some people have suggested introducing the rhinoceros from north-east India into other parts of the country. The pros and cons of such introductions are here discussed very briefly.

## 1. Policy

(1) It is an internationally accepted principle, and also the national policy of India (as expressed in resolutions passed by the I.B.W.L.), that species which formerly existed in a part (of India) but are now extinct may be re-introduced into that part—provided that the climate and vegetation are still suitable (to be ascertained by an ecological survey by experts). This means that the Indian rhino could in principle be re-introduced into some part of U.P. or Bihar because the rhino existed there within the last two hundred years, but see II (1) and (2) and III (1) to (6) below.

(2) It is an international principle, and also the national policy of India, that new species should not be introduced into places where they have never before existed, except under expert advice after ecological studies have been conducted. This means that the Indian rhino, although it is an adaptable creature and could easily live in most parts of the

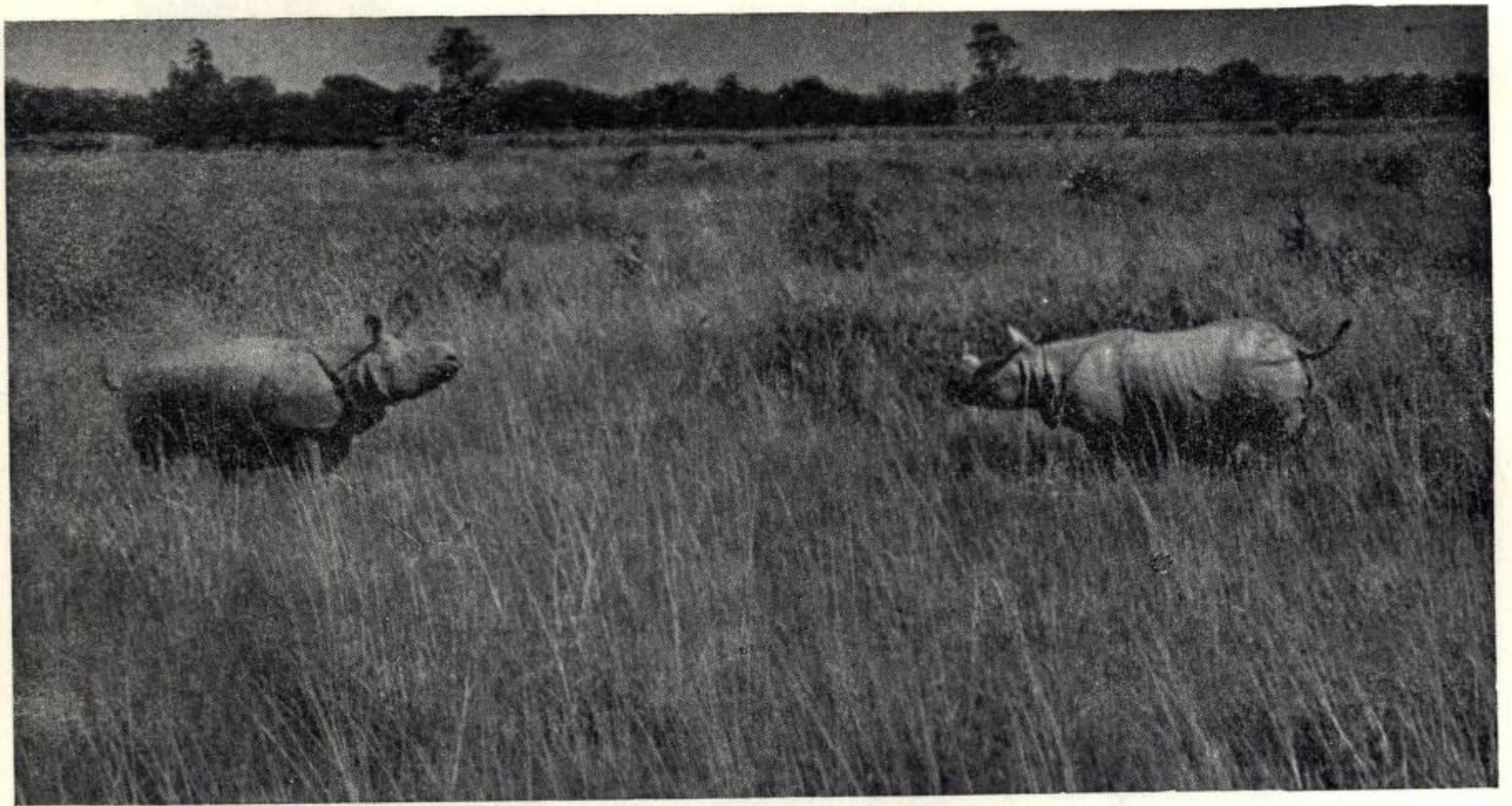




The Indian rhino is a solitary creature.

*Photo — E. P. Gee.*





When rhino meets rhino, anything may (or may not) happen.

*Photo—E. P. Gee.*



most probably not bring about the desired results, i.e., the rhino would probably not be seen by visitors, they might not breed, and they would run a great risk of being killed by cultivators and poachers. In addition, it is against the principles and policies of national and international conservation agencies to introduce new species into an area—especially into a national park or sanctuary likely to be made into a national park.

[ See also Editorial Notes. —Ed. ]

## Visit by IUCN Delegation to the Keoladeo Ghana Sanctuary, Bharatpur, Rajasthan

Peter Scott

A party of some twenty people visited the Ghana, arriving on Thursday, 25 November and leaving again on the following morning. Conditions at the Sanctuary were said to be unusually good, in that migrant birds from the north were already present in some strength, while due to a late monsoon the breeding colonies of storks, herons, ibises and cormorants were still occupied, many of the nests containing quite small young. During the very short period spent at the Sanctuary, (and including the journeys to and from Delhi) some 130 species of birds were identified. Also seen in the Sanctuary were Blackbuck (c. 40), Nilgai (c. 10), Chital (c. 50), Sambur (3) and Wild Boar (2). A panther was seen as it crossed the road.\*

H.H. the Maharaja of Bharatpur was kind enough to take my wife and me round the Sanctuary on the afternoon of the 25th when we saw most of the waterfowl species recorded from the area, and a splendid concentration of from 3-4000 Greylag Geese, as well as 150 Barheaded Geese and large flocks of ducks of 15 species, including Cotton Teal.

During the afternoon other members of the party had no difficulty in finding and photographing blackbuck and other antelope, or went by boat to see the colonies of breeding birds in small trees standing in shallow water. These included Painted and Open-billed Storks, Spoonbill, White Ibis, Grey Heron, 3 species of White Egrets, Darters and two species of Cormorants.

\*See also Table 1 on the number of wild ungulates in the Ghana, By Schaller and Spillett 'Cheetal', Vol. 8, No. 2, pp 14.