NATH

ing when the land was being ploughed and in the initial stages of paddy transplantation, presumbly taking insects. But as the plants grew in size the number of Pied Mynas visiting the field decreased and no bird came to feed when the plants became about 50 cm tall. These birds did not visit a freshly sown wheat field although the Common Mynas frequently visited the same for feeding. The Pied Mynas were seen feeding in a large sugarcane field presumbly taking insects. The number of these birds seen in the cultivated areas was very small as compared to those feeding in scrub (Table I & II).

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On the occurrence of Great Indian Rhinoceros-Rhinoceros unicornis Linn., from the prehistoric site at Chirand, Saran District, Bihar

The Great Indian Rhinoceros—*Rhinoceros unicornis* Linn., at the moment threatened with extinction in India, inhabited, Saran district, Bihar in the period ca. 1700 B.C. Prashad (1936)[1] reported the occurrence of rhino from Harappa. Sankalia and Karve (1949)[2] and Zeuner (1952, 1963)[3, 4] reported its occurrence in the Microlithic site at Langhnaj in N. Gujarat. Presence of this animal has also been reported by Nath (1968)[5] from Lothal in Ahmedabad district, Gujarat and from Kalibangan (1969)[6] in Sriganganagar district Rajasthan.

IUCN's (1967) *Survival Service Commission Red Data Book* records its former distribution five hundred years ago ranging from the foothills of the Hindu Kush west of Peshawar and southward

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[1] Prasad, B *Mem. Archaeol. Surv. India,* Delhi, 1936, No. 51 : 30.
[2] Sankalia, H. D. & Karve, L, *Amer. Anthro.,* 1949, 5 : 28.
[3] Zeuner, F. F., *Man,* 1952, 52 (182) : 1.
[4] Zeuner, F. F. Environment of early man with special reference to tropical Regions, 1963 .: 15, 28.
[5] Nath, B. *Rec. zool. Surv. India,* 1968, *61 (1 & 2)* : 6, 19.
[6] Nath, B. *Indian Mus. Bull.,* 1969, 4(2) : 107.

along the Indus River to south-eastward along the foothills of the Himalaya up to Assam and Burmese border. It was extensively distributed in the Gangetic Plains formerly, as mentioned by Prater (1971)[7]. Today it is restricted to parts of Nepal and West Bengal in the north, the Dooars, and Assam. In Nepal it is found only in the country to the east of Gandak river known as Chitawan, in Assam in isolated areas of the plains.

The present report deals with the occurrence of rhino from the prehistoric site at Chirand, Saran district, Bihar, belonging to Neolithic period (1700 B.C.), excavated by the Department of Archeology, Government of Bihar during the field season of 1972-73, under the supervision of Dr. B. P. Sinha, Patna University, Patna.

Altogether 4 fragments of bones of *Rhinoceros unicornis* Linn., as detailed below were found belonging to the Neolithic period (1700 B.C.)

1. Site-CRD-XII; Locus 3; layer-17; Depth 10.00 m.
   One complete left humerus.
2. Site-CRD-XII; Locus 9; layer 9; fragment of upper molar tooth.
3. Site-CRD-XI; Locus 3; layer 17; Depth 10.1m.
   Left tibia without proximal and distal epiphysis.
4. Site-CRD-XI; Locus 6; layer 17; Depth 10.1m.
   One proximal fragment of ulna with semi-lunar notch and broken olecranon process.

The above referred finds of Rhino evidently indicate that the Great Indian Rhinoceros existed in the swampy, grassy and wooded forest areas at the prehistoric site of Chirand, Saran district, Bihar in the period 1700 B.C.

Thus it shows that the climatic condition at that time was moist and swampy at Saran district, Bihar instead of the present day dry climte of the area.

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[7] Prater, S. H. 1971. *The Book of Indian Mammals* (3rd rev. ed-) Bombay : 229.