

of each species and sub-species deals with its synonyms, local name, size of adult male, female and juvenile. The colour of the animals has been discussed in detail to facilitate their identification. Skull measurements and lengths of their alimentary canal are also given. Under the head "Ecology" we have dealt with the habitat or the place of collection, their stomach contents, breeding records and Ecto- and Endo-parasites. The distribution of mammals in the desert of Rajasthan and in India is also dealt with.

The paper also records a comparison of these mammals with those of the adjacent fertile areas and also with those found in other desert regions of the world.

A key to identify the mammals found in this area is also given as an Appendix to the paper.

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45. A preliminary study on the conservation of the Great One-horned Rhinoceros in the Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary, Sibsagar District, Assam.

H. KHAJURIA, Calcutta.

The importance of wild life conservation in India needs no emphasis at present. The present investigation is a preliminary attempt on such a study and was carried out from 9th to 31st March, 1955. It is proposed to continue these observations as and when opportunities occur.

Due to the presence of very luxuriant and 15-20 ft. tall elephant grass, the whole investigation was carried out on an elephant back. The census was taken by examining a number of population samples from different parts of the sanctuary. Two more methods, named as 'Rhino Dung-head' and 'Burnt Grass' methods, of taking census were also discovered but were not used for want of time and suitable facilities. The problems found to need urgent attention are : (1) silting of 'bhils' by water hyacinth and floods; (2) insufficiency of certain grasses much liked by the rhinoceros; (3) grazing inside the sanctuary of diseased cattle; (4) presence of a large number of uneducated persons very near the boundaries of the sanctuary; and (5) the overcrowding which may be caused by the increasing hog-deer population.

46. Ecological studies on the bats of the desert of Rajasthan.

DAYA KRISHNA, ISHWAR PRAKASH and S. C. SHARMA, Jodhpur.

The Chiropterous, except *Pteropus giganteus giganteus*, inhabit dark unattended ruins and caves. In Jodhpur, so far we have come across half a dozen such localities where the bats live in thousands and about a dozen such where they are only in hundreds. Most of the observations were taken at Mandore, a place six miles away from Jodhpur. Here they live in a tunnel about 500 ft. long, passing underneath a palace. The tunnel is inhabited by four species of bats. *Megaderma lyra lyra* live in the most interior darkest parts. Others, *Rhinopoma k. kinneari*, *R. kinneari* subsp. nov. and *Taphozous sp.* live in the outer parts with sufficient light. *Taphozous kachhensis kachhensis* has been observed to reside in the crevices of the rocks. *Rhinopoma hardwickii* live in the verandah of deserted buildings. They are not so common as others.