

The Country-Side

THE COUNTRY : GARDEN : POULTRY : NATURE : WILD LIFE : ETC.

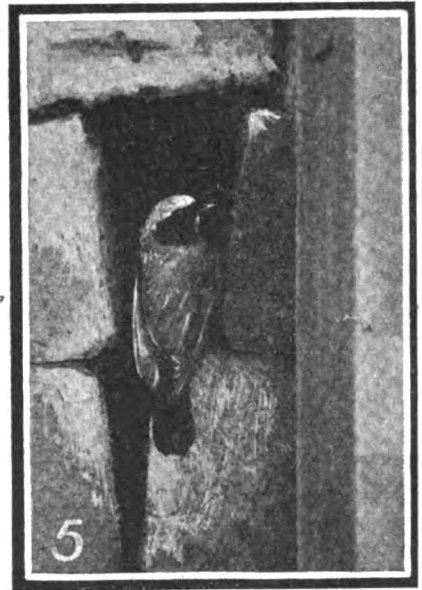
No. 58. Vol. 3.

JUNE 23, 1906.

1d. WEEKLY.

WILD BIRDS AND THEIR YOUNG.

(See page 96.)



Latest Notes from the Zoo.

By F. Finn, B.A., F.Z.S.

THE arrival of the Prince of Wales's collection of Indian animals rather obscures other additions, and there are several items in it which will be of greater general interest than any other animals received of late, notably the baby elephant and rhinoceros.

The former is a most amusing and mischievous little creature; its restless little trunk explores everything, and when it has nothing else to amuse itself with is called into requisition to scrape up dust, which is then thrown on the animal's back, a very common habit with elephants.

The young rhino, which belongs to the great Indian one-horned species (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is a much more stolid creature.

A remarkable point about it is its resemblance to the adult in proportions; in a photograph it is impossible to judge its size if there is no object near for com-

Brazilian Blue Wood Crab (*Uca una*). They have made themselves quite at home, having excavated a burrow in one corner of the case, wherein both pack themselves.

A pair of White Siberian Cranes (*Grus leucogeranus*) have a nest on the North bank quite close to the path, and are sitting assiduously on their one egg. Both parents sit, taking turns; it is remarkable that they should be breeding now, as one, at least, has moulted its quill-feathers, and the new ones are only just appearing.

Nature Records of the Week.

(Sent in by Readers of "The Country-Side.")

MOLE, cream-coloured, at Galston, Kilmar-nock, N.B.—(Alex. Wason.)

FIELDFARE, heard screaming, April 8th, at Talybont, Bala, N. Wales.—(R. E. Vaughan-Roberts.) [See "Country-Side Notes."]

BIRDS INTERBREEDING.—Missel thrush and blackbird mated, built a nest, and hatched out young at Douglas, Isle of Man.—(R. M. Broadbent.)

THREE BIRDS TO A NEST.—Three long-tailed tits distinctly observed to be attending upon

tern's nest containing 3 eggs, at Wells, Norfolk, June 7th.—(J. P. K. R.)

GREY WAGTAILS finished nest at Bala, N. Wales, April 14th.—(R. E. Vaughan-Roberts.)

CORN BUNTING.—Nest with 3 eggs, April 28th, near Liverpool.—(W. D. Armstrong.) [A question has been raised lately as to the time when this bird nests.]

REDSHANK'S nest with clutch of 5, at Cullen, Banffs.—(J. Gowan.)

CUCKOO observed at Ansdell, near Manchester, on June 5th, early in the morning, to call 47 times while it was sitting on a fence.—(J. Weeks.)

Reptiles.

A SMALL SALAMANDER caught at Shoreham, Sussex, a little over a year ago, is still alive. (It was probably brought over from Spain in a cargo of stones used in the local cement works.)

Butterflies and Moths.

SILVER-STRIPED HAWK MOTH, taken at Boscombe, Hants, about June 6th.—(A. E. Webber.) Also on same date at Horsham, Sussex.—(Rev. L. H. White.)

Hundreds of Painted Lady butterflies on the cliffs at St. Austell, Cornwall (although scarce a mile inland), May 31st and June 2nd.—(H. D. Kenyon.)

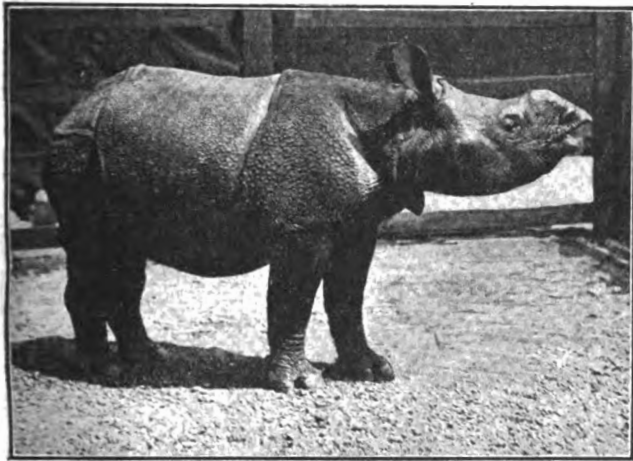
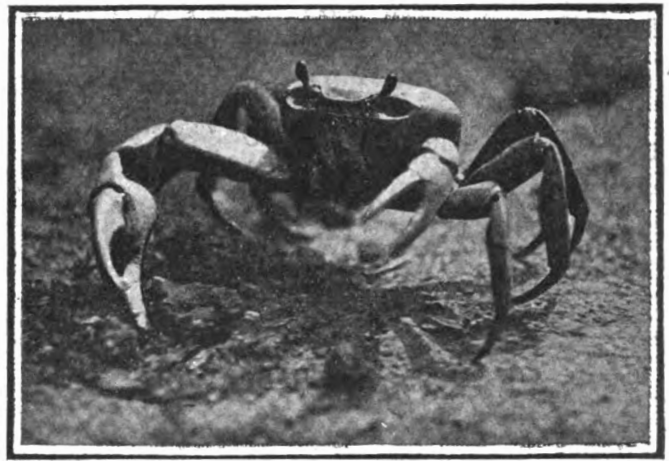


Photo.]

A Baby Rhinoceros.



[W. S. Beiridge.

Blue Wood Crab from Brazil.

New Arrivals at the Zoo.

parison. Of course, the nose-horn is not yet developed, however, but in old captive rhinoceroses the horn is often much worn down, and not so noticeable a feature as it ought to be.

Two very curious bears, bred in one of the continental gardens, were received recently. One is a hybrid between a brown and a polar bear, and the other a three-quarter bred, the offspring of this hybrid and a polar bear. The hybrid animal is of large size and brown in colour, shading to nearly white on the head, which, in form, much recalls that of the polar bear.

The three-quarter bred animal is so like a pure polar bear that the fact of its possessing a fourth of alien blood would never be guessed from its appearance.

It is rare for bears to breed in captivity at all, and fertile hybrids between such very distinct animals are also very rare, so that these beasts possess a quite unusual interest.

In the Reptile House, in one of the large cases on pedestals of stone, mostly devoted to frogs and toads, may now be seen a pair of land crustaceans, the

the needs of a young family of six.—(J. R. Harding, Elm Park Mansions, Chelsea.)

WHITE-BELLIED SWIFT?—"On June 4th, I saw clearly and repeatedly a swift with white under-tail-coverts flying with others over Navestock Lake, Romford. The white showed up most conspicuously as the bird wheeled round me. I have not seen it since. As there were many others, they may have gone farther north."—(C. Arthur Miles.) [The white-bellied swift is white below, but the under-tail-coverts are darker. The needle-tailed swift has white under-tail-coverts, but its throat is also white. Will readers whose homes are north of Essex keep a look-out for this bird?—ED.]

ALBINO.—Two in a nestful of young black-birds at Claybrook, Leics., June 2nd.—(N. G. Bridge.)

Birds' Nests and Eggs.

SONG-THRUSH observed, on June 6th, repeatedly tugging at a strip of calico tied to a line; when the knot was loosened for her the bird flew with it to build her nest.—(J. C. M. Irons.)

RINGED PLOVER laid one egg in a common

The King's Sanatorium.

The Sanatorium for Consumptives at Midhurst, which was opened by the King on June 13th, is most perfectly equipped according to modern hygienic principles. The furniture of the patients' rooms, of which there are exactly a hundred, was designed and made by Messrs. Heal and Son, of Tottenham Court Road, London. It is made of polished birch, and has been specially designed to meet the requirements of consumption sanatoria, and yet so designed as to avoid suggesting to the patient the usual hospital surroundings. That there should be no dust-traps is the first consideration. All the surfaces and joints are flush, and mouldings have been eschewed. With this view the wardrobe has a domed roof, while all interior angles of drawers and cupboards are rounded off. Each article of furniture is well raised from the floor on legs to facilitate cleaning. There are casement blinds throughout, made by Heal's, of their speciality "casement flax," 2,000 yards of which were used. The arrangement allows of the bottom blinds being closed, while the top are drawn back to admit of ventilation or *vice versa* if desired.

An Important Question of Time.—Those who wish to obtain a copy of the International Library Free Book of 124 pages—as big as a 6d. magazine—should apply at once. Thousands upon thousands have already been distributed, and the final issue is now going out. As long as copies remain they will be forwarded gratis and post free to all who apply, but in a few days they will all be gone. The Free Book tells all about The International Library and the phenomenal price, and gives forty specimen pages. The sale of this great library closes for ever on July 9th, and can at no future time be re-issued, the destruction of the plates from which the Library has been printed being guaranteed. Further particulars appear on p. iii.

"DAILY MAIL."

The Naturalist's Daily Newspaper.