

Obituary

E. P. GEE

(With a plate)

The death of E. P. Gee on 22nd October, 1968, is the grievous loss of a valued friend to the Society and to the Wildlife Conservation movement in India.

Edward Pritchard Gee was born in 1904 in County Durham and was educated at Durham School and Immanuel College, Cambridge. He spent his working life as a planter in Assam retiring in 1959 to reside at Shillong.

Gee, a dedicated conservationist, found on retirement, the time he needed for incessant advocacy of the cause of wild life conservation in India both by the written and the spoken word. He rendered invaluable service to the Indian Board for Wild Life from the time of its formation, and was the Eastern Regional Secretary of the Board for many years until his death. As a member of the Survival Service Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, he was able to maintain close liaison with international bodies and the foremost naturalists of the world, and was able to promote several basic ecological studies in India. He had drawn up a list of terms for the Indian Board for Wild Life, and a Model Bill for the States to adopt, so that the law relating to National Parks and Sanctuaries might be standardised throughout the Indian Union—a measure of vital importance under the conditions prevailing in the country. Unfortunately his hint has not been taken, and several states have yet to enact suitable legislation.

Gee was a naturalist in the truest sense of the word. A perfectionist, who was willing to spend his energy and time in tireless field observation and photography of wild life. His precise notes on wild life, and conservation problems and outstanding photographs of animals and flowers are ample evidence of his knowledge and expertise. He was an enthusiastic gardener, and orchid collector. His garden in Shillong contained some of the rarest species of the eastern Himalayas collected by himself on the special expeditions he was constantly making to remote parts of the region.

Gee will be remembered for his book THE WILD LIFE OF INDIA which has done so much to focus public attention and interest on the

fauna of the country and the need for its conservation. Also as the discoverer of the Golden Langur in Bhutan which has been named *Presbytis geei* after him.

E.P. as he was known to his friends leaves memories of his generosity, hospitality, enthusiasm and intense interest in India's flora and fauna, and an abiding love for the people and wild life of the country, in which he had chosen to spend the evening of his life.

Gee joined the Society in 1931 and was a member of its Advisory Committee from 1953. He took the closest interest in its activities and was always ready to help in whatever way he could to further its interests. He has left to the Society all his books, films, photographs, and papers on wild life. The Society will always remain deeply indebted to him.

A list of his publications in the *Journal* is given below.

1933 Note on the Indo-Burmese Pied Hornbill (*Hydrocissa malabaricus leucogastra*). (with a plate). 36 (2) : 505-506.

— Note on the development of the casque of the Indo-Burmese Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*). (with a plate). 36 (3) : 750-751.

1937 Strange behaviour of a Tigress. 39 (3) : 614.

— The size of the Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus affinis*). (with a plate). 39 (4) : 850-851.

1947 On the Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*). (with a photo). 47 (2) : 371.

1948 Black Leopard cubs. (with a photo). 48 (1) : 173-174.

1949 A possible cause of blank days when Mahseer Fishing. 48 (3) : 598-599.

1950 Wild Life Reserves in India : Assam. (with 2 plates, a map and a table). 49 (1) : 81-89.

— Wild Elephants dying in Assam. 49 (1) : 113-114.

— Effect of atmospheric pressure while fishing. (with a photo). 49 (1) : 128-129.

— Wild Elephants dying in Assam. 49 (2) : 296.

1951 Effect of atmospheric pressure while fishing. 49 (4) : 794-795.

— What is the best means of control and destruction of Flying Foxes [*Pteropus giganteus* (Brunn.)]. 50 (2) : 401.

1952 The Assam Earthquake of 1950. (with a map and two plates). 50 (3) : 629-635.

— The Management of India's Wild Life Sanctuaries and National Parks (with four plates). 51 (1) : 1-18.

— Possible occurrence of the Snub-nosed Monkey (*Rhinopithecus roxellanae*) in Assam. 51 (1) : 264.

— What is the best means of control and destruction of Flying Foxes [*Pteropus giganteus* (Brunn.)]. 51 (1) : 268.

— Extermination of Snakes upsets balance of nature. 51 (1) : 280-281.

1953 The Life History of the Great Indian one-horned Rhinoceros (*R. unicornis* Linn.). (with a plate). 51 (2) : 341-348.

— Wild Buffaloes and Tame. (with a photo). 51 (3) : 727-730.

— Mystery Predator. 51 (3) : 732.

— Further observations on the Great Indian one-horned Rhinoceros (*R. unicornis* Linn.). (with two plates) 51 (4) : 765-772.

— Notes & News : Wild Life in India. **51** (4) : 967-968.

1954 Wild Life Preservation in India : Annual Report for 1953 on the Eastern Region. **52** (2&3) : 233-240.

1955 The Management of India's Wild Life Sanctuaries and National Parks, Part II. (with four plates). **52** (4) : 717-734.

— The Brow-antlered Deer (*Cervus eldi* MacClelland). (with a plate). **52** (4) : 917-919.

— The Function of Zoological Gardens in the preservation of Wild Life. (with four plates). **53** (1) : 79-85.

— The Indian Elephant (*E. maximus*) early Growth Gradient and intervals between calving. (with four plates). **53** (1) : 125-128.

— A new species of Langur in Assam. (with a sketch map). **53** (2) : 252-254.

— Great Indian one-horned Rhinoceros (*R. unicornis* Linn.) cow with (presumptive) twin calves. **53** (2) : 256-257.

1956 The management of India's Wild Life Sanctuaries and National Parks, Part III. (with one coloured plate and five black and white plates). **54** (1) : 1-21.

— Lion v. Tiger. **54** (1) : 171-173.

— Predator and Prey at Salt-Licks. **54** (1) : 181.

1958 Bharatpur 'Wild' Cattle. (with a plate). **55** (2) : 338-339.

— The Shou or 'Sikkim Stag'. An appeal for information on its present status. (with a plate). **55** (3) : 556-558.

— The present status of the Whitewinged Wood Duck, [*Cairina scutulata* (S. Müller)]. (with a plate). **55** (3) : 569-575.

1959 The Great Indian Rhinoceros (*R. unicornis*) in Nepal. Report of a fact-finding survey, April-May 1959. (with three plates and three maps). **56** (3) : 484-510.

— Albinism and Partial Albinism in Tigers. (with a plate). **56** (3) : 581-587.

1960 The breeding of the Grey or Spottedbilled Pelican, *Pelecanus philippensis* Gmelin. (with four plates). **57** (2) : 245-251.

— Report on the status of the Brow-antlered Deer of Manipur (India) : October-November 1959 and March 1960. (with three plates and three maps). **57** (3) : 597-617.

1961 The distribution and feeding habits of the Golden Langur, *Presbytis geei* Gee (Khajuria, 1956). (with two maps and three plates). **58** (1) : 1-12.

— The Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge in Britain. (with two plates). **58** (2) : 429-432.

— Some notes on the Golden Cat, (*Felis temmincki* Vigors & Horsfield). (with two plates). **58** (2) : 508-511.

1962 The Management of India's Wild Life Sanctuaries and National Parks, Part IV. (with two plates). **59** (2) : 453-485.

— A Leopard Cat (*Felis bengalensis* Kerr) in captivity. (with a plate). **59** (2) : 641-642.

1963 The Indian Wild Ass : A Survey—February 1962. (with a plate and a map). **60** (3) : 516-529.

1965 Report on the status of the Kashmir Stag : October 1965. (with one coloured and four monochrome plates). **62** (3) : 379-393.

1966 A Note on the Conference on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in Tropical South-east Asia held at Bangkok, Thailand—November 29 to December 4, 1965. (*with a plate*). **63** (1) : 162-166.

1967 The Management of India's Wild Life Sanctuaries and National Parks, Part V. **64** (2) : 339-341.

— Occurrence of the Brown Bear, (*Ursus arctos Linnaeus*) in Bhutan. **64** (3) : 551-552.

— Occurrence of the Snow Leopard, *Panthera uncia* (Schreber), in Bhutan. **64** (3) : 552-553.

— Occurrence of the Nayan or Great Tibetan Sheep, (*Ovis ammon hodgsoni* Blyth) in Bhutan. **64** (3) : 553-554.



E. P. GEE

(1904-1968)