

No. XI.—THE GREAT WHITE-BELLIED HERON
(*ARDEA INSIGNIS*.)

On the 29th November 1903, I was at Hsenbo, a station above the first defile on the Upper Irrawaddy. I saw a very large heron, unknown to me, sitting on a half stranded snag at the end of a bank, and I asked Col. S..... who was with me to try and shoot the bird with his .303. He missed the first shot; the second, however, dropped the heron which proved to be a splendid bird. Measurements and description were taken at once.

Length of bird from tip of beak to claw	...	...	...	...	5'4"
Do. bill from eye to tip	...	...	...	...	8'25"
Do. tibia	...	...	...	...	9"
Do. tarsus (including claw)	...	...	...	...	7'25"
Spread of wing	...	...	...	...	40"
From tip to tip	...	...	...	...	84"
Length of wing bone	...	...	...	...	24"

Head.—Naked around eyes especially in front of and under eye skin greenish yellow colour.

Distinct crest or heron plume.

Throat.—White for 2" under jaw.

Neck.—Grey or slatey with some long feathers towards base.

In these feathers the midrib was altogether white, while the barbs for more than half way were bluish; remaining feathers white.

Body, i.e., breast and abdomen—White, except for a few heron-like feathers on upper breast which were tinged grey. The outside of thighs were slatey blue. The under tail coverts, axillaries, etc., were quite white.

The wings and upper tail coverts slatey blue in colour. Mantle darkish slate. Colour of beak, legs, and feet blue black.

G. H. EVANS, F.L.S., MAJOR.

RANGOON, 16th July 1904.

No. XII.—THE ASIATIC TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS
(*RHINOCEROS SUMATRENSIS*.)

The following measurements of an adult female of this species were kindly taken for me by a friend who shot the animal:—

Length from muzzle to root of tail	...	...	...	...	7'9"
Girth behind shoulder	..	...	...	...	6'6"
Girth of forearm	...	...	...	...	2'0"
Length of tail	...	...	...	...	1' 8"
Height at shoulder	..	...	...	...	4'3"
Basal length of skull	...	...	...	...	1'-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Zygomatic breadth	...	...	...	...	0'-11"
Horn anterior	...	...	...	...	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Horn posterior	...	...	...	...	1"

The skin, as regards distribution of hair, resembled that of an adult buffalo, and in its thickest part measured $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The contents of the stomach consisted of wild mangoes and other fruit, leaves and twigs of a tree not recognized, and also twigs and leaves of a species of bamboo known locally as "Kayen-wa."

This cow had evidently quite recently dropped a calf, as she was in full milk. No calf was with her, though search was made near by, nor were any foot-marks of a calf discovered. It is highly probable that the calf was killed by a tiger a few days after birth, more especially as the old cow was found to be severely bitten on one hind leg. The udder had two fairly large teats, each of which showed eleven largish openings.

Rather more than half a pint of milk was drawn off. It was thin watery of a bluish tint, had a very pronounced saline taste, but no markedly distinct odour. When discovered she was lying in a rocky pool. On being hit she rolled over on her side, but immediately recovered herself and charged, closely followed by a second rhino (bull), who had been up to this time unobserved, as he was behind some rocks. Fortunately a very lucky shot, at about six paces, killed the wounded animal, and as she fell her consort at once turned tail. When charging the wounded one gave peculiar grunts and kept her jaws open as though with every intention of biting. The people about the hills state that rhinos do bite.

G. H. EVANS, F.L.S., MAJOR.

RANGOON, 10th July 1904.

No. XIII.—LATE STAY OF SNIPE.

In No. IV of Volume XV I read some notes on the above subject. I am inclined to the opinion expressed by Mr. Aitken, *viz.*, that there are places where seclusion and good fare tempt a few birds to defer their migration.

In Lower Burma the snipe season may be said to be September and October, *i.e.*, we find the first snipe in about the middle of August and they are very scarce towards the end of October. Nevertheless, some snipe, after migrating temporarily somewhere or other, return to certain grounds in Lower Burma where good bags may be made in January and February, and I have on one or two occasions shot 10 to 15 couple early in March.

A large number of birds come to these particular grounds in some seasons, at others not so many. They evidently come more or less all together, as the number does not increase and a successful weekly visit means so many birds less for the next shoot. I have frequently seen a few (perhaps two or three couple of birds) on the edge of the Myitkyo swamp as late as the middle of April.

In Upper Burma they may also be found very late on certain grounds; for instance, last year in Kyaukse district there were any number of snipe on a ground where some fields were being irrigated from a tank. Unfortunately no snipe cartridges were at hand, so they were not molested, but with straight shooting a bag of twenty couple might have been made. This was on the 16th, 17th and 18th April. In this district there are certain very late grounds,