

simum) as well as in one smaller Asiatic species, the rare *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*.

In connection with the rubbing down of the anterior horn Grzimek (1956)¹ remarks that captive rhinoceroses shed their horns about once every ten years and it takes approximately a year to become renewed.

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,
REGENT'S PARK,
LONDON, N.W. 1,
July 17, 1958.

W. C. OSMAN HILL

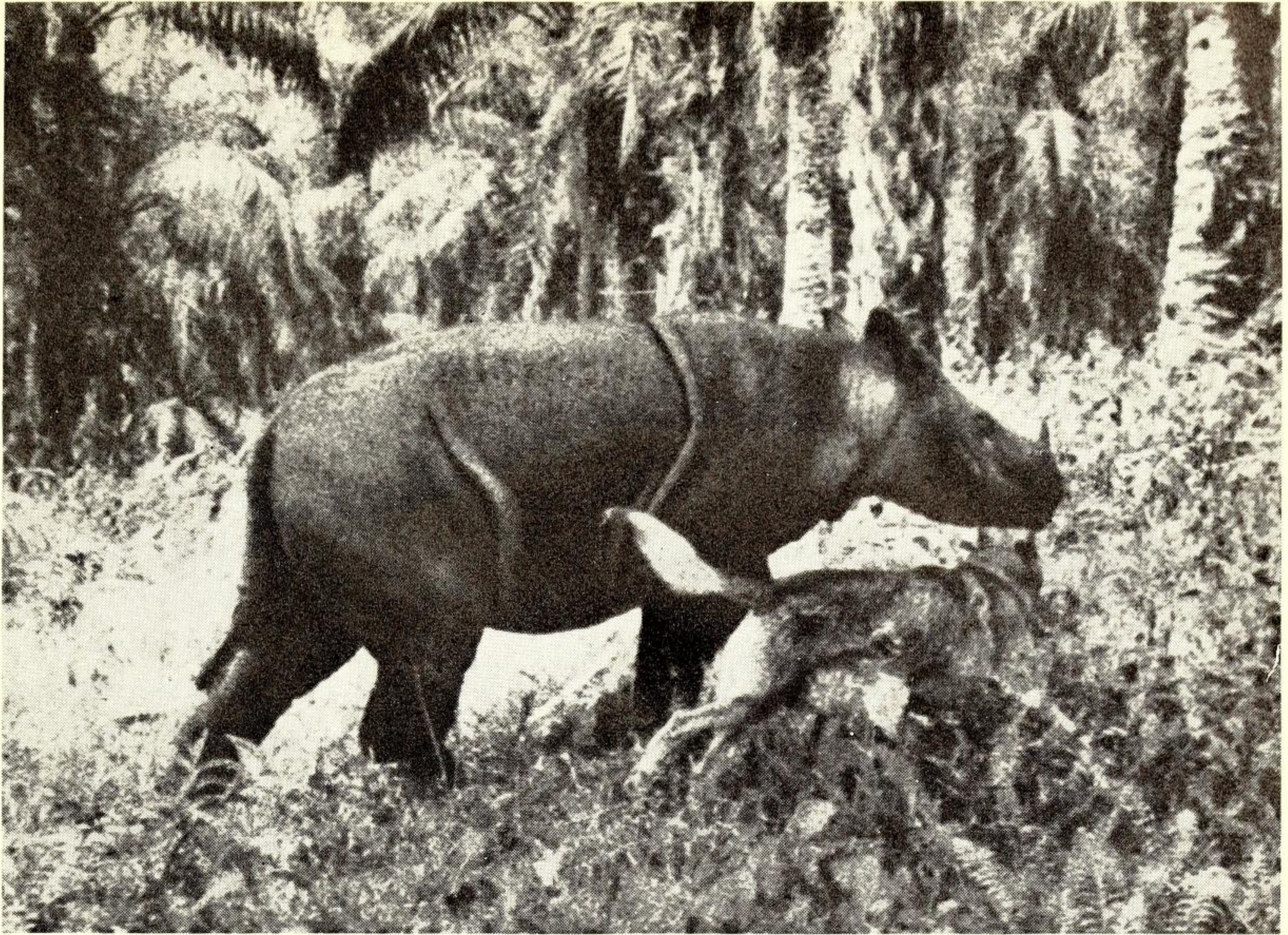
4. RE-DISCOVERY OF THE SMALLER ASIATIC ONEHORNED RHINOCEROS (*RHINOCEROS SONDAICUS* DESMAREST) IN MALAYA

(With a plate)

Thanks to the helpful co-operation of Mr. Loke Wan-Tho of Singapore we reproduce two unique photographs of this 'extinct' rhinoceros obtained in Malaya under the most extraordinary circumstances. According to *The Straits Times* of Singapore (March 22, 1957) where the photographs were first published, they were taken by one Mr. P. G. Bazin of the Lima Blas Oil Palm Estate at Slim River in southern Perak. Ironically enough, the photographer had no idea of what he had in front of his camera! The young animal in the picture was identified by Mr. H. J. Kitchener, the Chief Game Warden of Malaya. In the account given by Mr. Bazin to *The Straits Times* it seems that the animal was first seen by the estate labourers, wallowing in a swamp by a field. It did not appear to be frightened but just got up from the wallow and slowly walked away regardless of the barking of dogs and chivvying by Mr. Bazin's Alsatian. The animal is said to have been followed for two hours along a forest road in a jeep at a distance of 10 yards behind, before it turned off into the jungle and disappeared.

The Smaller Onehorned, or Javan, Rhinoceros (*R. sondaicus*) was found in India within recent times but now appears to be extinct. In the last century it was recorded from the Rajmahal Hills (?), Sikkim Terai, Sunderbans and 'in the forest along the Mahanaddy River'. It was reported as frequenting swampy ground in the Sunderbans as well as dense hill forest up to altitudes of 4000 ft.

¹ Grzimek, B. (1956): NO ROOM FOR WILD ANIMALS, Thames & Hudson, London. (translated from Kein Platz für Wilde Tiere).



The young "*Rhinoceros sondaicus*" (?) photographed in Perak, Malaya
(By courtesy *Straits Times*, Singapore)

At the present time it apparently occurs in Burma in small and diminishing numbers, Thailand, Java, Borneo, and Sumatra.

It differs from the Great Indian Onehorned Rhino (*R. unicornis*) in being somewhat smaller; height at the shoulder *c.* 5 ft. 8 in. against up to 6 ft. Skin not tuberculated but with a mosaic-like pattern as on the flanks of a crocodile; throat folds less heavy; shoulder folds joining above neck to form an anterior saddle-like nape fold. Horn in females small or absent.

No reports of the existence of *R. sondaicus* in Malaya were available during the last 20 years, and the animal was believed to have become extinct. It may be recalled that Mr. R. C. Morris who led an expedition to Malaya on behalf of Mr. A. S. Vernay to procure a specimen of this rhinoceros for the American Museum of Natural History in 1935—curiously enough in the very area where these photos were taken—returned empty-handed without even seeing any footprints except those of the Twohorned, *R. sumatrensis*, or obtaining any other clues. Mr. Morris appeared to be of the view (*JBNHS* 38: 446) that *sondaicus* no longer existed in Malaya and specimens would have to be procured from Sumatra where it is still found. It is believed that commercial poaching of the animal was largely responsible for its disappearance.

Theodore Hubback, during his term as Chief Game Warden, after prolonged search in Malaya found a single living example which he was so convinced was the last of its species (and mateless) that he permitted it to be shot for some American Museum 'in the interest of science'. How dangerous it is to feel so convinced in such matters is shown by the re-emergence of the present animal which, being only half grown, could conceivably have a mother and father still living. Mr. E. O. Shebbeare who followed Hubback as Game Warden in Malaya for several years before the War did not even see the tracks of this rhinoceros—all of which makes the present discovery still more astonishing.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
114, APOLLO STREET,
FORT, BOMBAY,
January 15, 1958.

EDITORS

[As the above note was about to go to press doubts arose in regard to whether the animal in the photos was really *R. sondaicus*. The chief reason for this doubt was the fact that one of the important keys to the identification of *R. sondaicus*, namely the prominent anterior nape fold formed by the joining of the shoulder folds on the neck [clearly shown in the excellent illustrations in the *Proc. Zool. Soc.*

London, 1874, Plate 28, and *J. Malayan Br. Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, 1937, 15 (2), Plates 3 and 4] is not visible in the picture. Mr. E. O. Shebbeare to whom the matter was referred, while still supporting Mr. Kitchener's identification of the animal as *sondaicus*, ended his letter by saying '. . . meanwhile I, for one, would be sorry to plump for either species as the original of the Lim Blas pictures'.

The matter must rest at this for the present, and we must await further conclusive evidence to dispel the doubts.—EDS.]

5. THE SHOU OR 'SIKKIM STAG'

AN APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ON ITS PRESENT STATUS

(With one plate)

A species of the Red Deer group known as the Shou (*Cervus affinis* Hodgson)¹ is probably nearing extinction, and any news of it would be most welcome. Unfortunately it is not found in India, not even in Sikkim although it is often referred to as the 'Sikkim Stag'. It is not found in Nepal. It is, or used to be, found in the Chumbi Valley of Tibet and sometimes in the adjacent valleys of north Bhutan, and then again in Tibet in the valley of the Tsangpo to the east of Lhasa.

R. Lydekker in his GAME ANIMALS OF INDIA (1924) states that the Shou was at one time reported to be plentiful in western Tibet, near the source of the Brahmaputra, and that a young stag was also caught in 1912 in the upper reaches of the Tsangpo Valley near the Manasarowar Lake; but in Rowland Ward's RECORDS OF BIG GAME (1928) is the statement: 'The Shou is not found within 200 miles of the Manasarowar Lake. The authority on which this incorrect statement was originally made was solely based on the fact that a single antler was found in a temple near the Manasarowar Lake (Major G. Burrard).'

R. Lydekker confirms that the Shou is not found in Nepal and Sikkim, and that its main habitat is the Chumbi Valley and that its range extends into Bhutan. He quotes from a letter to the *Field* of October 27, 1906, written by Lt.-Col. H. A. Iggulden as follows: 'My own observations and enquiries on this matter may be of interest to naturalists, for whilst in Tibet with the military expedition of 1903-1904 I made enquires regarding this stag, and saw a considerable number of skulls and horns at various places between our boundary on the Talep Pass (Jalep ?) and Lhasa. I came to the conclusion that these deer are not found to the west of a line drawn north and south between Shigatse and the northern point of Sikkim. They are

¹ = *Cervus elaphus wallichi* Cuvier.—EDS.