



young Australian mares when mated, is a dry, insipid scold in com-

parison with an English leveret, and that the most cunning devices of the best cook would not render a mature Australian hare valuable as an article of food in any form.

The introduction of the English sparrow into America has been regarded as one of the greatest curses ever inflicted upon a country by inconsiderate acclimatisation.

The mongoose, which was introduced into Jamaica for the destruction of the rats that devoured the sugar canes, has proved an intolerable evil, not only to the birds but to the mammals.

AT THE LAST FIELD MEETING OF THE ESSEX NATURALISTS FIELD CLUB, MR. E. N. BAXTON OF KNIGHTON, ONE OF THE VEREADERS OF THE FOREST, PROPOSED A SCHEME FOR THE FORMATION OF A SANCTUARY IN WHICH NO DESTRUCTION OF ANIMAL LIFE SHOULD BE PERMITTED.

At the last field meeting of the Essex Naturalists Field Club, Mr. E. N. Baxton of Knighton, one of the vereders of the forest, propounded a scheme for the formation of a sanctuary in which no destruction of animal life should be permitted.

THE INDISCRIMINATE DESTRUCTION OF BIRDS.

IN the county of Westmoreland a law will come into force on June 25, and in the county of Devon on July 1, which will prohibit the shooting of certain wild birds (together with the kestrel). Amongst these are the peregrine, buzzard, hobby, merlin, kestrel, sparrow hawk, and raven, and this law appears to give the sportsmen a very large number of birds which have been less and less, and which, however, be as well if the destruction of the parent birds themselves was also rendered the same.

BEAUNE BRIBES

SIR, As this seems to be an uncertainty in the minds of some people whether mules and horses or not, a few words on this subject may not be out of place. Having travelled in countries where mules are bred, and having taken an interest in them, I have noticed their habits, and have had some experience of their uses.

where thousands of fine mules are bred for the mule markets of the United States, I have asked both mule dealers and breeders whether they have ever known of an authenticated case of a mare-mule breeding, and their answers to me have always been No.

Not having seen the mare in the Acclimatisation Gardens in Paris, I do not know whether there is any difference between her and mares apart from her shape. I have never heard whether her voice is that of a mule or not, because, if so, it is quite different to that from a horse.

SIR,—I have been much interested by Messrs Teggs and Sutherland's book about mules and mule breeding, and by the letters in the Field which have appeared since its publication.

THE FOREST-FLY.

SIR,—I concluded that, when Mr Morgan Evans, in the recent sentence that I quoted, wrote that this fly was not found "beyond the limits of the forest," he was referring to the county of Hants only; but one point intended to be conveyed by my remarks was that the fly, which is a pest to the yearling mares which are smutted, is not interruptedly through the New Forest westward nearly to Dorchester, then it does occur in that strip of Hampshire which lies between the forest and the coast.

THE WHITE RHINOCEROS IN ZULULAND.

SIR,—My attention has recently been directed to one or two letters published in some of the home papers, in which Mr Ray Lucas refers to the discovery of the white rhinoceros in Zululand.

NOTES AND QUERIES ON NATURAL HISTORY.

WOODCOCK NESTING IN MONMOUTHSHIRE.

While riding in the Stanton Woods, near Monmouth, in the middle of May, a woodcock was seen to be nesting in a hole in the ground.

HEDGESPARROW IN THRUSH'S NEST.

While riding in a holly hedge in one garden, and hatched three young thrushes, I noticed a hedge sparrow sitting on the nest.

times the thrush was on the nest, sometimes the hedge warbler. Twice the smaller bird was evidently sitting inside the nest with the young thrushes, for it came from under the thrush and flew away.

HOOPES IN SHROPSHIRE.

A few weeks ago one of my men rescued the body of a hoopoe from a hawk (which from the description I have seen I have no doubt was a sparrow hawk).

ALPINE SWIFT IN MIDDLESEX.

It may interest your ornithological readers to know that I saw the Alpine swift (Cypselurus alpinus) at Staines on May 19. There can be no doubt as to the correct identification for this bird, which, when seen, cannot be mistaken for any other.

THE NOTE OF THE BITTERN.

A correspondent asks if anyone who has actually heard a bittern will describe exactly the kind of sound it produces—the sequence and number of the notes, and, by the way, several of the notes of the bittern which I have heard are not help whatever, no author describing what he has personally heard, but rather giving accounts of what extraordinary noises are said to be made by the bird.

BLUE TITS NESTING IN A PUMP.

For some months past I have been potting plants in a pump, and the wall of one of the greenhouses here. There is certainly more traffic past this particular spot than in any other part of the gardens, yet a pair of blue tits have hatched out a family of young birds in the pump.

WILD DUCKS NESTING IN TREES.

Having seen or heard a wild duck nesting in a tree, I send particulars of a case I have just investigated. We bred a certain number of wild ducks for shooting on a large pond in a narrow valley surrounded by hills, and the ducks nested in the trees which overhung the pond.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ADDITIONS TO THE MENAGERIE, ROBERT'S PARK, FROM JUNE 3 TO JUNE 9.

Table with columns: Date, Name, Country, How obtained, Where located in the Gardens. Lists various animals like Rhinos, Deer, Gulls, etc., and their acquisition details.

\* Wild Birds Protection.—The bill extending the powers of the existing Act for the protection of wild birds having passed the House of Lords, has been read a first time in the House of Commons.