

THE NATURALIST

BIRD SANCTUARIES IN AND NEAR LONDON

THE ANNUAL REPORT for 1926, recently issued by the chairman of the Committee on Bird Sanctuaries in the Royal Parks, contains much that will appeal to bird-lovers in London and supplies satisfactory evidence that the wild birds are holding their own even if it cannot be claimed that they are increasing in numbers. To those who live in what is popularly called "the West End," the most interesting areas referred to are naturally Hyde Park,

most attractive features of the avifauna of Richmond Park is the herony in Sidmouth Plantation. Mr. Rudge Harding has some interesting notes on the herons which occupy it; but we regret to learn from him that fewer nests were occupied in 1926 than in 1925.

He reports that in this Park one of the worst enemies of the birds is the grey squirrel. He laments that the extermination of this pest is probably past all hope, but assures us that considerable success has followed the efforts to keep it in reasonable check. The enemy the Superintendent of St. James's Park has to fear is the London cat, which preys upon all birds it can catch and drives others to desert their nests. A fine cock pheasant and a

of intelligent co-operation between two beavers in shifting a log too heavy for one. If two get hold of the same log they do not work together and haul it in one direction, but tug and push in such a way that the efforts of the one counteract those of the other." Perhaps if Mr. Warren had read this passage he might have reconsidered his opinion as to the beaver's intelligence, about which he seems a little obscure; but we doubt it.

AN ELEPHANT WITH SIX TUSKS AND A RHINO WITH THREE HORNS

SIR.—Some time back I remember reading some correspondence on the subject of certain elephants possessing more than the normal number of tusks. Such freak elephants are known among the Awemba Tribe of Northern Rhodesia by the name Chinsala. While travelling through Nyasaland in March this year I had occasion to spend a couple of days at the Chigawe Hotel, Fort Johnston, waiting for the sailing of the natty little lake steamer Gwendolin. The wife of the proprietor of the hotel noticing that I was interested in certain ivory curios which were exhibited for sale, drew my attention to five small elephant tusks which she said had been given to her husband by a well-known elephant hunter. It appears that the hunter while engaged in elephant hunting in Portuguese East Africa came on a bull elephant which appeared to him to be carrying good ivory. He thereupon shot the beast and was surprised on examining his prize to find that while one tusk was a large and perfect specimen the second tusk was represented by five small tusks all growing together so that this elephant might fairly be described as a six-tusker. I examined these tusks; they were very slender and did not exceed 24 in. in length. Each tusk was entire and possessed its own nerve cavity. I thereupon placed the tusks on a cushion and took a photograph of them which will interest your readers. The large tusk from this elephant had probably been sold while the hunter himself was away somewhere in the wilds.

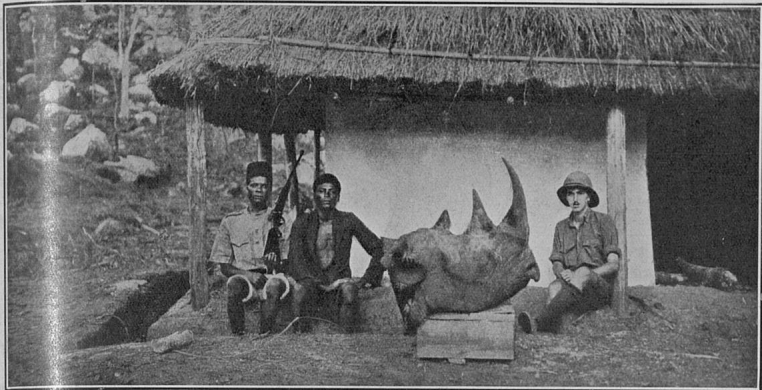
A few years ago a friend of mine, Mr. C. A. Austin of Newton Abbot, Devonshire, had the good fortune to shoot in Northern Rhodesia a very large bull black rhinoceros which carried a splendid head showing three distinct horns. This head is now in the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, but does not occupy the prominent position it deserves. I enclose a photograph showing the head shortly after it had been severed. This animal gave Mr. Austin a lively time before he managed to dispatch it.

E. KNOWLES JORDAN.

Isoka, Northern Rhodesia.

NOTES AND QUERIES

ROBIN'S NEST IN DISPENSARY.—I enclose a photograph of a robin's nest which was built in my dispensary a few weeks ago and which I thought might be of interest to your



MR. AUSTIN WITH HIS THREE-HORNED RHINOCEROS, SHOT NEAR SHIWANGANDU, NORTHERN RHODESIA

including Kensington Gardens, and St. James's Park; mandarin duck recently purchased were slain by the