

a tusker in the Haltugaon Forests of Goalpara District which was $10' 9\frac{1}{2}"$ in height, while the undersigned shot one in Kachugaon in 1940 of which the measurements are given below :—

Height— $10' 8\frac{1}{2}"$.

Tusks: 1. $7' 3"$ length. $1' 6\frac{1}{2}"$ thickest girth, 77 lb. weight.

2. $7' 1"$ length. $1' 6\frac{3}{4}"$ thickest girth, 77 lb. weight.

In estimating the above weights, a maund is taken to be 82 lb. in weight.

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,

SHILLONG, ASSAM.

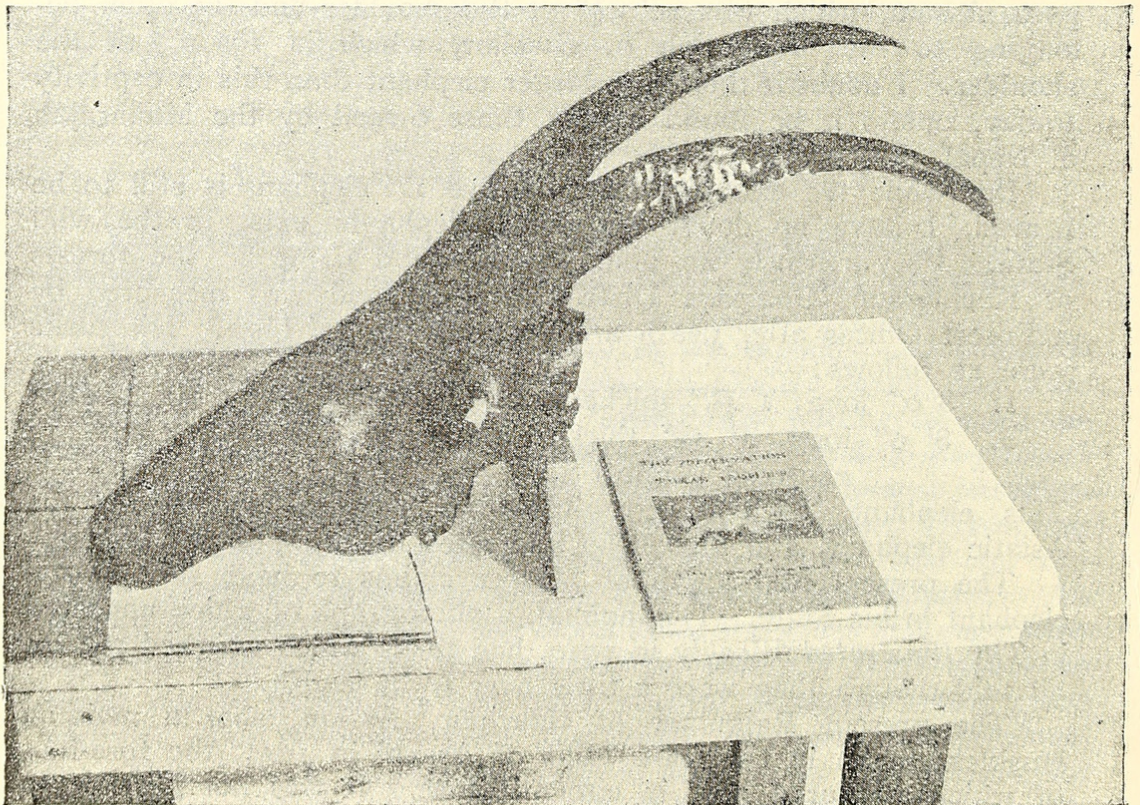
P. D. STRACEY, I.F.S.

15th October, 1946.

7.—RECORD SEROW.

(With a photo)

Major G. T. Allen, M.C., Assistant Political Officer, Lohit Valley Sadiya, has sent us a Serow, which he states he discovered in a hunter's house in the Mishmi Hills in North Assam which is very likely the record.



RECORD SEROW HEAD

The measurements are—right horn— $12\frac{1}{4}"$.
left horn— $13\frac{1}{8}"$.

We enclose a photograph of the head and should be grateful if you would record this in the *Journal*.

ARTISTS IN TAXIDERMY.

MYSORE.

VAN INGEN & VAN INGEN.

3rd October, 1946.

[The longest horns so far recorded of the Eastern race of the Serow measure $11\frac{1}{2}$ ins.—a head obtained in the Mishmi Hills by R. L. Sinclair. (Rowland Ward).—EDS.]

8.—‘SHAMMING DEATH’

Mr. Dunbar Brander's note on this subject (Vol. 46, No. 2, p. 399) will doubtless attract attention of naturalists and sportsmen.

During the years when I hunted my Bobbery Pack in the Hyderabad Dominions the jackal's habit of ‘shamming death’ was sometimes observed by me and my companions of those days. The animal would allow itself to be mauled, hauled about and left for dead—except when Prince, or Tiger, or Paddy, or Poligar Bob had been at him!

When the jack found his simulation of death through immobility and non-resistance had caused his assailants to leave him he was up and off, to be perhaps caught a second time and truly slain. But he was not always caught, not if there happened to be sufficient near-by cover for his escape. In all those instances the animal was in imminent danger of death by violence, or died by violence, but no death cry was ever heard.

All of us have noticed the numerous instances among insects, caterpillars, beetles and other crawling creatures of immobility when touched, an obviously instinctive action by which further molestation is frequently avoided. That, in common parlance, is also ‘shamming dead’ or, shall we say ‘playing possum’.

The ‘death cry’. I have not anywhere read of death cry of a tiger being remarked upon. That comforting assurance of demise of a tiger shot at from a night machan has three times been heard by me. Twice a male (4.2.25 & 15.3.26) and once a female (7.4.25) all full grown animals and subsequent to the first memorable reading of Mr. Dunbar Brander's *Wild Animals in Central India*, or it would have been then mentioned. This cry is not made by all tigers wounded to death.

It is a loud cat-yowl unmistakably similar to the dying yowl of a domestic cat killed by dogs, which I have unfortunately heard in two unintentioned instances. It is curious that no panther has been heard to utter this death cry, which is most certainly, in case of the tiger, unlike any sound ever made in the course of his life until his dying moment had arrived.

I have never observed simulation of death on the part of any tiger or panther, but an acquaintance, the son of the Imperial Forest Department student, who was mauled by the man-eating tigress of Mundali on the 7th May 1889, pulled the tail of a supposedly



Van Ingen and Van Ingen
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and Van Ingen and Van Ingen
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. 1947. "Record Serow." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 46, 718–719.

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