

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

1. USE OF ARM AS 'BRIDGE' IN GIBBON LOCOMOTION

While negotiating gaps in forest canopy, the Hoolock Gibbon *Hylobates* (= *Bunopithecus*) *hoolock* Harlan prefers to jump rather than coming down to the ground. However, when the gap is too wide, they come down and walk across, usually bipedal. Infants and juveniles are carried by their mother. I report an interesting observation on a juvenile crossing a gap in the forest canopy made in Borajan Reserve Forest (27° 25' N, 95° 22' E), now part of the Bherjan-Borajan-Podumoni Wildlife Sanctuary in Tinsukia district of eastern Assam.

On June 13, 1993 at 0315 hrs, a group of gibbons were located on a tree, where they were observed roosting the previous evening, to observe their daily activity pattern. A female and a juvenile in the group started moving by 0340 hrs. At 0415 hrs the female moved from her roosting position followed by the juvenile. At 0420 hrs, they reached a gap in the canopy. Since the juvenile was not carried by its mother, I

was curious to see how it would cross the gap, which was easy for an adult, but not a juvenile. On reaching the gap, where the female was sitting, the juvenile called *eeke*, *kmm*, *kmm*, etc. The female without any hesitation pulled a branch of the tree on the other side of the gap while still sitting on the original tree. The juvenile then easily crossed over, using its mother's long arm as 'bridge', but instead of brachiation it crawled over the arm. Photography was not possible due to poor light.

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2. ELECTRIC PYLONS USED AS NIGHT ROOST BY TROOPS OF RHESUS MACAQUE
MACACA MULATA AT SARISKA TIGER RESERVE, ALWAR DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN

On May 12, 2001, around 2000 hrs, I was passing through the Sariska Tiger Reserve, when between Madhogarh and Bhrit-Hari crossing, I saw troops of Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulata* roosting on two high-tension electric pylons close to the Alwar-Jaipur road. They not only roost on pylons at night, but rest on them during the day too. A similar night roosting behaviour was observed by me in the Hanuman Langur *Semnopithecus entellus* in Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary, nearly 70 km away from Sariska Tiger Reserve (*JBNHS* 99(1): 103).

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and Leopard (*P. pardus*), especially the latter, are the main predators of Rhesus Macaque in and around the Sariska Tiger Project area. Probably, to avoid the attack of a Leopard at night, troops of Rhesus Macaque prefer safer night roosts like high-tension electric pylons, which have towering heights. Since four vertically convergent iron angles, and many connecting criss-cross angles, provide a number of vantage points to sit and sleep to members of the troop, they opt for such places. Visibility remains good around the pylon, and predators like Leopard could be detected from a distance. Disturbances caused by stormy wind are also less on pylons than on crowns of trees.

Vertical and criss-cross angles are used as ladder to climb up. The latter are used as sleeping sites also. Angular points are much preferred for this. Congregation of animals can be seen at angular points, meeting points of two or more angles. When the macaques roost or rest on pylons, members of the troop face all the directions to keep a watch.

High-tension electric pylons are new roosting and resting sites of macaques in Alwar district. Before pylons became available, they roosted on tall trees and buildings only.

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