

who is an authority on hairs of all kinds. In his initial report he said that under the microscope the structural elements of the hairshaft agreed with those of an *Ursus* or of an anthropoid of some sort (not *Homo*). He compared it with hair from the dorsum and head of Langurs (*Presbytis* or *Semnopithecus*), Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*) and the Takin (*Budorcas taxicolor*) and could not match it with any of them. After seeing the photograph he said that the so-called 'scalp' could well be the moulded and sewed artifact from some mammal, which may have been brought in by a traveller and may not belong to a Tibetan species at all. The identification of the hair therefore appears impossible, though it may be worth recording that in an earlier letter Dr. Hausman had said: 'Its cuticle is uniformly stained—this is an artificial feature, not a natural one—as mammalian hairs are not colored in this way (except by skin gland secretions—and this is none of these). The coloration, thus produced, reminds me of the color and mode of coloring of hairs I have examined from early Egyptian and Peruvian sepulchres'.

The story of this hair was perhaps responsible for the recent 'Daily Mail' Expedition in search of this strange creature. The party failed to find the Snowman, and we have now to wait for something more definite to turn up.

EDITORS

## 12. THE OCCURRENCE OF THE CRESTED BUNTING (*MELOPHUS LATHAMI*) IN SAURASHTRA

While in the Gir Forest with M. K. Dharmakumarsinhji we saw a single female Crested Bunting on the Hiran River at Sasan on 7-4-54. I believe this is the first record of the bird from Saurashtra. Information regarding its movements in the plains of Gujerat is needed.

JASDAN,  
April 23, 1954.

Y. S. SHIVRAJKUMAR

## 13. AN INTELLIGENT MYNA

On July 14th at 2.30 p.m., I threw a piece of stale bread on the terrace of our neighbour's house from our window and was watching whether any bird would come and take it. There was a pair of Common Mynas nearby. One of them picked it up in its beak and was about to fly off when the other raised the harsh call generally uttered as alarm. I saw 5 or 6 House Crows coming swooping down. The myna with the crumb of bread in its beak hopped to the nearest bamboo pole (one of the many stored on the terrace) and tucked it inside the hollow end and perched above on the bamboo. After the crows had flown away the myna jumped down, carefully surveyed in all directions, put its beak inside the hole and took out the bread. Then the pair shared the hearty meal.

c/o DR. M. V. N. MURTHY,  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
CALCUTTA-13,  
July 22, 1954.

MRS. SYAMALA MURTHY





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