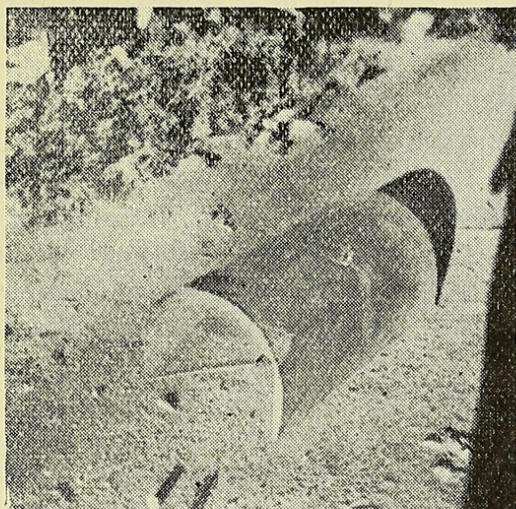


birds have a pugnacious temperament and peck viciously, but immediately they are placed on their backs in the hand they appear to be quite hypnotised and remain motionless until they are turned over, or thrown up in the air.



In this trap I was lucky in getting two Ashy Wren-Warblers and one Tailor Bird last week in Andheri. On the first day I found two Ashy Wren-Warblers flapping furiously in the trap to get away. Unfortunately owing to my clumsiness I succeeded in ringing only one bird, and the other got away from the gathering cage. The next day, however, I again found two Ashy Wren-Warblers in the trap in company with a Tailor Bird. One of the warblers got away again, but I banded the Tailor Bird and one of the warblers. Incidentally there was no food in the trap and it is difficult to imagine why the birds went in at all.

The crow trap of the type illustrated on page 7 has proved completely ineffective for our crows. Batches of them fly over the trap cawing at the decoys from a distance, but are not tempted by the pieces of meat, bread, etc., kept to attract them.

c/o DYNACRAFT MACHINE CO.,
ISMAIL BUILDING,
HORNBY ROAD, FORT,
BOMBAY I,
February 29, 1952.

ZAFAR FUTEHALLY

19. THE RECORD INDIAN CROCODILE

In reference to crocodile measurements [Miscellaneous Note 17, Vol. 52 (1): 213] it is of interest to refer to the note, 'Some Measurements of the Estuary Crocodile (*C. porosus*)' contributed by the Curator, Sarawak Museum, in 1930 (Vol. 34: 1086).

From the long list of measurements given it is found that the body length is a little more than seven times that of the head. From this we know that Major Foran's method of calculation is

about correct, and the skull of length $33\frac{1}{2}$ in. came from a crocodile of about 19 ft. 6 in. The Elgin Museum skull of 37 in. length reported by Dunbar Brander in Vol. 34: 584, will have been taken from a crocodile of approximately 21 ft. 7 in., not 27 ft.

The longest crocodile (Gavial) on record in the Society's *Journal* is the 21 ft. 6 in. specimen shot in the Gogra River as reported by Pitman (Vol. 30: 703, 1924).

Age of Crocodiles

On the basis of the rate of growth of the mugger (*C. palustris*) as given by D'Abreu (Vol. 38: 282) the age of the 21 ft. 6 in. or 7 in. reptiles referred to above will have been about 60 years. To what age the crocodile attains, and for how long after the age of 60 increase of length continues does not appear to be known.

c/o LLOYDS BANK LTD.,
39 PICCADILLY,
LONDON W.1,
December 15, 1954.

R. W. BURTON,
Lt.-Col. I.A. (Retd.).

20. SOME NOTES ON *RANA BEDDOMII* GÜNTHER, WITH AN EXTENSION OF ITS RANGE

In the Fauna of British India and Boulenger's 'Monograph of the Frogs of the Genus *Rana* of Southern Asia', (*Rec. Ind. Mus.*, 20: 114-116), the distribution of *Rana beddomii* is given vaguely as 'Forests of Southern India'. The types of the species are also from three different parts of its distribution namely: (i) Sivagiri Hills in Tinnevely District, Madras Province, (ii) Annamalai Hills on the Madras-Cochin border, and (iii) Malabar.

In May 1953, on our way to Goa we obtained 4 specimens (3 males and a female) of *Rana beddomii* on the Anmode-Londa Road in North Kanara. These were taken from among dry leaves by the side of a stream in heavy forest. All were pale in colour with dark patches behind the eyes (similar to colour-pattern (ii) mentioned hereunder). The enlarged gonads of the three males indicated that they were breeding. In addition to the enlarged pad on the inner side of the first finger, mentioned by Boulenger (1920) as a secondary sexual character, they had on the ventral side of each femur a granular oval-shaped swelling occupying most of the area between the vent and the knee joint.

Later, during a short visit to Mahabaleshwar, 4,500 ft., Satara District, Bombay (31st October to 2nd November 1954) H.A. found this species extremely common on, and under, rocks in flowing streams, many of which held a luxuriant growth of *Ammania floribunda*. In the field it appears very like *R. leithii* (common at Panchgani, 4,300 ft., 10 miles eastwards), but *R. beddomii* keeps more to the wet rocks and flowing water than *leithii* which is often found in grass at the top of hills or alongside hill-streams.



Burton, R. W. 1955. "The Record Indian Crocodile." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 52, 937–938.

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