

of mud pellets but mostly on the bare ground in a shallow unevenness. All nests contained one to four eggs on 21 April. Only two downy chicks were seen running about on the wet slimy mud near the water's edge some distance away from the nests.

Four full clutches were taken. Average measurements of 16 eggs  $49.25 \times 35$  mm. Largest  $54 \times 36.5$ ; smallest  $46 \times 34$  mm. Unfortunately it was not possible to collect skins of the birds.

This is the first record of the avocet breeding within the limits of Peninsular India. The nearest it was known to do so is in Northern Baluchistan. After this experience I feel that a great many other waders (e.g. whimbrel) whose breeding in India has often been suspected, but never authenticated, may be found to do so on remote islands in the Rann. The Rann is an area which would well repay careful investigation at different seasons and, I am confident, produce many surprises.

33 PALI HILL, BANDRA,  
BOMBAY.

SÁLIM ALI.

3rd May 1945.

## 12.—THE WHOOPER SWAN (*CYGNUS CYGNUS*).

This swan is a rare visitor to India, and as far as I am aware it has so far never been recorded from Kashmir. On 20th February 1945, a Kashmiri punt gunner brought to the Srinagar Club a skin of this bird which he had shot the previous day at Badshahi Bagh. I examined the skin and found it to be an undoubted specimen of the Whooper, with the yellow on the bill extending right up to the nostril.

SIRINAGAR.

F. LUDLOW.

10th March 1945.

## 13.—MIGRATION OF SWAN TO THE PERSIAN GULF.

Mr. G. B. Gilby, Cable & Wireless, Ltd., Bushire, writes: 'I enclose, three each, primary and secondary feathers from the wing of a swan which was shot in Bushire, on the 17th of December by Mr. M. Haddow, I.C.S., whose letter I am forwarding to you in original. From what Mr. Haddow tells me the bird was probably an immature specimen and was evidently wounded as it did not leave with its companions.'

We are anxious to know exactly what type of swan this is and whether they are frequent visitors to this part of the world. In the 21 years in which I have been associated with the Persian Gulf I have not heard of a case of swans visiting this area. We have had an abnormal amount of rain this year which may account for their visit.' We publish below Mr. Haddow's description of the bird.

'In my opinion the bird was a swan, being much larger than any wild goose I have seen. It was entirely white in colour, with



Ludlow, F. 1945. "The Whooper Swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*).*" The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 45, 421–421.

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