

## MISCELLANEA.

### BIRDS.

NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *Vultur monachus* IN CALCUTTA.—On the 21st of November 1909 an attendant at the Calcutta slaughter-house captured and brought to the Museum alive, an adult male specimen of the Cinereous Vulture (*Vultur monachus*) the prepared skin of which I had the pleasure of inspecting the following month.

This capture very greatly extends the hitherto-recorded range of this fine vulture which is essentially a bird of the extreme north-west of India, straggling along the Himalayas to Bhutan and possibly further east in Tibet. As far as I can ascertain, the only record of *Vultur monachus* ever having occurred south or south-east of the Brahmaputra is my own record of a pair which I found breeding in North Cachar in 1888-89, and from the nest of which I twice took eggs (*Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, xi, page 391).

A pair were also seen by me at Dimagiri in Bhutan in November, 1885, and an egg was procured for me by the Bhuteas from a cliff further in the mountains and at a considerably higher elevation.

Throughout the Dooars I have no record of its having been shot, though it must occasionally occur there in the cold weather, and it is not until one gets well into the north-west that it is often met with.

Dr. Annandale has noted the colours of the soft parts of the Calcutta bird as follows: "The bill is blackish brown; the cere pale mauve; the iris brown; the naked skin of the neck livid flesh-colour; the legs and feet creamy or pearly white. The wing from carpal joint to tip of longest primary is 29.10 inches."

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AN ALBINO OWL.—Among the birds recently received at the Indian Museum is an albino specimen of the Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*) presented by Mr. D. Ezra, who obtained it alive from Benares. The eyes were of a uniform deep violet, and the soft parts showed no signs of pigmentation; the feathers are quite white. The bird was an adult male. The following are its measurements: length 8.5 inches; wing 6.1; tail 3.2; tarsus 1.1; bill .8.

N. ANNANDALE.