

ELEPHANTS TO HUNT NEPAL'S PINK DUCK

Museum of Natural History Sends Volunteers to the Jungles of India—Tigers Bar Chase Afoot.

(New York Times.) There is a pink-headed duck in the depths of the jungle in Nepal, India, that in a few weeks will be hunted by four men and about sixteen elephants.

Much potter about a little duck, and passably absurd, as the big game hunter who narrated the preparation for hunting this afflicted bird admitted with a smile but nevertheless true.

And when the little duck is caught and stuffed he will be brought back to the American Museum of Natural History, where the chroniclers who write the cards under specimens will have the opportunity of their lives to detail the most remarkable duck hunt without the aid of forbidden spirits.

The man who is planning to commit melodramatic slaughter on the pink duck is Arthur S. Vernay, an English hunter of big game. He told with many chuckles of the need for the elephants in hunting pink ducks while giving details of the expedition yesterday before sailing for England on the Mauretia to make final arrangements.

The jungle is thick and dangerous for men on foot, so that the only way to drive the elephants in after the little pink headed fowl, and when he starts up in amazement, big him, Mr. Vernay will have a motion picture cameraman with him, so the pictures of the duck fleeing before the sixteen elephants may be preserved for posterity.

Will Finance Expedition. Mr. Vernay and Colonel J. C. Fauntleroy, British Commissioner at Lucknow, also an experienced Shikari, as hunters are called in India, will lead the expedition.

When Colonel Fauntleroy was here with the British Mission during the war he visited the Museum of Natural History and noted the scarcity of specimens illustrating the animal life of India. Those animals are rapidly becoming scarce, and the museum has long wished to have representative specimens of them.

Colonel Fauntleroy and Mr. Vernay will be in charge of the expedition and will be accompanied by John Jones, taxidermist of Denver, and the motion picture operator. There will also be a native ornithologist whom will obtain a collection of Indian birds.

The British Indian Office has given its support to the expedition and the local Governments are expected to give aid. Some of the native Princes have promised permission to hunt in their game reserves, but that specimens difficult to obtain otherwise may be shot. It was expected that, although not generally known, India is a country where a search for the Government has even put restrictions on the hunting of tigers.

To Start From Bombay. The party will start from Bombay and go to Lucknow, whence they will go north to Nepal up to the foothills of the Himalayas. They will there hunt for tigers, the pink duck and a one-horned rhinoceros. The tigers will have their winter coats when they are hunted, which will make unusually good specimens. The rhinoceros is, with the bison, the hardest of the animals to get and the forest.

From Nepal the expedition will go to Mysore. The hunters will travel all the way, except in the central provinces, in an American automobile which they are taking with them. The particular object of the Mysore hunt will be the bull bison, a huge, solitary creature, standing six feet high in the jungle grass and with a horn spread of forty inches. Mr. Vernay said the animal was a magnificent sight when first viewed, but a dangerous animal to get.

The Mysore tiger will also be caught and Mr. Vernay said it was an interesting speculation as to whether this might be a species different from the tiger of the north.

Will Get Mysore Elephants. Specimens of the Indian bull and cow elephant also will be obtained in Mysore, as the museum has requested permission of the Maharajah of Mysore, by whom the animals are protected, to shoot them. Mr. Vernay has seen twenty-two elephants in one day in this district. The southern elephants are mischievous animals, and when they see a hunter's tent they wander down to it and playfully tip it over. On one occasion Mr. Vernay found it necessary to burn a wide strip of jungle around his camp to prevent it being overrun by elephants.

The water buffaloes, which are becoming scarce, will be hunted in an almost impenetrable jungle in the central provinces, where a ten-day march will be made. An Indian lion will also be shot.

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