

Each man on payment of a small fee was placed in possession of a plot of ground, which he was at liberty to sublet if he chose, and which he worked on the conditions above stated. Since 1813 no revenue has been raised from the mines. (For further and fuller information, consult letter from Monro to Board, 24th July 1804, No. 748; from Collector to Board, 24th December 1814, and Board's Monthly Volume for March 1869, page 1,570.)

CHAPTER VII.

FAUNA.

1, *Mammals, Carnivora, Ruminantia, Rodentia, Pachydermata, Quadrumana, Cheiroptera*; 2, *Birds*; 3, *Fishes*; 4, *Reptiles*.

Fauna.—1. *Carnivora*.—Tigers are rare but are still to be met with in the Sandúr hills. Panthers and cheetahs are more common especially in the western taluqs and in the hills round Bukkapatnam. Wild cats and toddy cats abound as in other districts.

Wolves are very rare but have been seen in the Hindipúr taluq and near the Copper mountain in the Bellary taluq. Jackals and foxes are found all over the district and especially in the rocky stony plains in the Kúdlighi and Dharmavaram taluqs. The striped hyæna is not very common. The black Indian bear is found in the hills in the Pennakonda and Kúdlighi taluqs. Mongooses are very common and are often tamed and treated as pets by the natives. There is a breed of Poligar dogs in the Raidrúg taluq, which are large powerful animals but usually savage and ill-tempered. They are owned chiefly by people of the Boya caste who use them in hunting. The sheep-dogs are often well-bred animals and fetch good prices, as the ryots are particular about the breed. The ordinary village dog is a wretched animal.

2. *Ruminantia*.—Antelopes are common, especially in the western taluqs and in the red soils of Gooty, Anantapúr and Dharmavaram. They are not often seen in the black soils. The spotted deer and the "chikara" are not so common. The Sandúr hills is, I believe, the only place where sambhur can be found. The ox, goat and sheep are of course found in every village and will be noticed in another chapter.

3. *Rodentia*.—Rats, mice and bandicoots exist everywhere; as does the common grey-striped squirrel. Porcupines are not very common. Hares are found in all the taluqs.

4. *Pachydermata*.—The crested hog (*Sus indicus*) is found in the Kúdlighi and Raidrúg taluqs and in the hilly country in the south of the district. These hogs do great damage to the sugar-cane crops, and the Boyas make raids upon them. When practicable they catch them in nets, but more often they attack them on foot with knives and spears. The sounders are hardly ever seen in the open country or away from the rocks, where it is impossible to ride them.

There are some good specimens of the country pony, but most of the horses and ponies possess nearly every fault possible. No care is taken of them, and they usually have to carry heavy burdens when only a few months old. They are generally very vicious.

5. *Quadrumanæ*.—The ordinary grey monkey is very common, and in a few places the black monkey (*Inuus Silenus*) may be found. It is rare, but I have seen it in the Adoni taluq.

6. *Cheiroptera*.—This order is represented by the common and great bat, the flying fox, &c.

2. **Birds**.—Among the birds are the Indian eagle, the vulture, varieties of the hawk and falcon tribe, parroquets, king-fishers, jays, wood-peckers, and the common sparrow, swallow and crow. Pea and jungle fowl, partridge, rock-pigeon, quail, bustard, florikin, plover, snipe, stork and heron also abound. The 'karra-karra' is seen in the cold season in the north of the district. The representatives of the "natatores" are a variety of gulls and terns, the common wild duck and goose, the black-backed goose, (*anser melanotos*), teal and pelican.

3. **Fish**.—The right of fishing is let out in a few tanks, but nothing is caught but a few miserable carp. In the Túngabadra river fish are caught at the weirs and anicuts in wicker baskets, *such as eels are trapped in. They are very small and very tasteless and appear to be a kind of carp.

4. **Reptiles**.—The cobra and the venomous whip-snake are very common. The rock-snake is not so often found, but there are numbers of small green snakes, harmless I believe, which are hardly to be distinguished from the trees in which they live. Frogs, toads, lizards, tortoises, &c., abound as in other districts. Alligators are often seen in the Túngabadra river.

There is a countless variety of insects, the most useful are the lac insect and the honey bee.
