

MISCELLANEA.

BIRDS.

Two interesting Albinos.

Through the courtesy of the authorities of the Indian Museum two very interesting albino specimens of birds have been sent home to me for examination.

The first of these is a very curious semi albino Red-vented Bulbul (*Molpastes haemorrhous bengalensis*). The whole head, fore-neck and nape are white, a few of the anterior feathers edged black and others next to them again pale brown or greyish-brown. The bill is quite black, and the feet, though now discoloured, appear also to have been black in life.

I should presume this to be a case of partial temporary albinism, possibly started by the bird, a captive one, rubbing its head and neck against the bars of its cage in attempting to escape when first confined. The feathers of the forehead are edged with orange pink, this colour extending to some of the lateral crest feathers and the tiny orbital plumes and this is really the most remarkable feature about the bird, for this is red naturally in this Bulbul in these parts. I have examined the pigment very closely under a powerful glass but have no reason to imagine it to be artificial.

The specimen No. 25456 was presented to the Indian Museum by Baboo Madhusudan Mullick.

The second bird is a specimen of the common Indian Myna, *Acridotheres tristis*, presented to the Museum by A. C. Tunstall, Esqr., from Tocklai, Assam. This is an example of *constitutional albinism* as compared with *accidental albinism* in the Bulbul. The whole bird is white with the exception of the lores and feathers round the eye which are black as in a normal bird. Below the whole plumage is suffused with rufous buff and the chin, earcoverts and throat are dark and almost normal in tint; above the feathers of the head are tipped dull fulvous brown and those of the back, rump and upper tail coverts with the same but paler. The wing-quills are white-shafted but the rectrices have them dark. The bill and feet are yellow but appear in life to have been paler and more lemon yellow than in a normal bird. It is not easy to say whether this specimen is losing or acquiring pigment; I incline to the former opinion as the wings which are newly moulted are all pure white.

E. C. STUART BAKER, *F.L.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.*

Upper Norwood,

15-viii-18.