

seeds, hair, of hare and cattle, molluscs, scales of snake and monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*).

The fishing cat found dead just outside the Park on 15 Feb. 1986 was 66 cm in length (Head and Body) with a 24 cm tail. Its weight was 16 kg, and its stomach had fish, scales of snakes, feathers and insects.

Fish is the main food of the fishing cat in Keoladeo National Park. Bhattacharya (1989) reports in the Howrah district that the major food of fishing cat is fish, although goats, chickens and ducks of the nearby villages were killed. This is not reported at Bharatpur. Observations (n=12) made during moonlit night also confirm that they feed mostly on fish by entering water and scooping the prey with their paws. The visual observations also reveal that they feed on grasses and gerbills which

are very common on the dykes of the aquatic area. The presence of cattle hair in the scats of fishing cat shows that they could scavenge (Haque 1988). The gut contents of the dead fishing cat also confirm that fish and bird are the major food. The other small carnivore which feed mainly on fish is Smooth Indian otter (Haque and Vijayan 1988).

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4. NEW RECORDS OF *MUSTELA* FROM KHUNJERAB NATIONAL PARK, PAKISTAN

The fauna of Khunjerab National Park (KNP), Pakistan has received little attention. KNP is a 2,269 km² alpine national park in Pakistan's northern areas. It shares a long border with the People's Republic of China. Until recently, there were no small mammals collected from KNP in Pakistani museums, and very few mammals collected from the

immediate vicinity are found in foreign collections. As part of a long-term ecological study of Dhee Sar, a 4100-4300 m alpine meadow in KNP, I have been censusing the birds and mammals found there. Here I report the existences of two mustelids: *Mustela altaica*, the alpine weasel, and *M. erminea*, the stoat.

Based on museum records, Roberts (1977)

reported the existence of alpine weasels a little south of KNP, but the known range maps for stoats did not include the northern areas, and probable distributions included only a bit of the area around Gilgit and Skardu. Prater (1965) reported the stoat as found in Chitral, Hazara, and Kashmir, but not Hunza. The range maps in Corbet (1978) suggest possible sympatry around KNP, but his maps are not detailed enough to resolve it.

I lived at Dhee Sar for 242 days between May and September 1989-1991. During this time adult alpine weasels were periodically spotted (1989: 29 July; 22 August; 10 September; 1990: 21 July; 23 July; 1991: 4 July; 12 July; 11 August; 16 August), photographed once, and unambiguously identified. On no occasion did I spot juvenile alpine weasels.

On 9 July 1991, I spotted my first stoat in KNP. I positively identified it based on its black-tipped tail. On 19 July 5 or 6 stoat pups and 1 adult were seen exploring a talus slope around our camp. They permitted me to approach closely and I photographed and videotaped them. On 26 July, I spotted an adult stoat with a Royle's high mountain vole (*Alticola roylei*) in its mouth running across a glacial moraine.

Both species of *Mustela* are sympatric in Dhee

Sar, and indirect evidence suggests their diets may overlap. In 1989 and 1990, vole populations in our camp decreased when an alpine weasel was seen around camp, while in 1991, I observed the stoat eating a vole.

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5. A NOTE ON THE MORPHOMETRY OF GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN WITH COMMENTS ON ITS MORTALITY IN FISHING NETS

(With a text-figure)

INTRODUCTION

The Ganges river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) is distributed in the northern parts of the Indian sub-continent and inhabits the Ganges, Brahmaputra and the Meghna river systems and their major

tributaries, from the tidal limits to the foot hills of the Himalaya (Prater 1948); the Garo hills of Meghalaya and the Cachar hills of Assam (Jones 1982). Once abundant, its population is now declining all over its range due to habitat loss, commercial exploitation and mortality in passive