

Bull. zool. Surv. India, 6 (1-3) : 313, 1984

A RECORD OF THE INDIAN FLYING FOX, *PTEROPUS GIGANTEUS*
(BRÜNNICH) IN SIKKIM

Literature available so far on the mammals of Sikkim (Blanford 1888, Wroughton 1916, Finn 1929, Prater 1971) does not record the Indian Flying Fox, *Pteropus giganteus* (Brünnich) there, though Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951) 'apparently' included Sikkim in the general distribution of the species. However, in winter this year (1983) while engaged in field work in that State we saw a dead specimen of this Flying Fox, which was hanging from a roadside electric wire at Gangtok (alt. c 1829 m.), close to the Secretariate Building, on 22 January, and is recorded here. This constitutes the first authentic report of this bat from Sikkim.

The Indian Flying Fox do not occur above the base of the Himalaya permanently (Finn 1929, Prater 1971). It appears that the recent increase in the number of orchards of various fruit trees might have enabled this fruit bat of the tropics to extend its distributional range in this hill State recently. Moreover, its occurrence at such an altitude in winter

suggests about its local occurrence there rather than as a migrant.

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