(except for a negligible number, the gaur that died of the epidemic in Bandipur were buried deep or burnt). I can assure the reader that skulls do not litter the 2 sanctuaries now, and did not in 1969-70. I looked for them.

Granted that about 1000 gaur died in the two sanctuaries of the epidemic disease (many outside the sanctuaries—they wandered away outside to die), on what basis does Mr Waller get his 90%? The gaur population of this tract is not resident, but a shifting population, and during July-August 1968, when rinderpest took heavy toll of the victims, many of the gaur would have moved out of the Mudumalai sanctuary, where the tall grass is rank and coarse by then. I think the 90% Mr Waller provides is an exaggeration. Guesswork should not take the place of counts in statistical work.

2/14, Edward Elliot Road, M. KRISHNAN
Madras-4,
October 9, 1973.

2. RECORD OF A PIEBALD FULVOUS FRUITBAT, *ROUSETTUS LESCHENAULTI* DESMAREST

(*With a text-figure*)

Instances of albinism and aberrant colorations of the fur have been recorded in bats. Setzer (1950) in his review of albinism in bats mentioned the occurrence of albinism in the genera *Rhinolophus*, *Glossophaga*, *Myotis*, *Pipistrellus*, *Eptesicus*, *Lasiurus*, *Antrozous*, *Chaerephon* and *Molossus*. Glass (1954) and Metzger (1957) recorded aberrant coloration and partial albinism in *Tadarida mexicana* and *Myotis sodalis* respectively. Mitchell (1963) reviewed the records of occurrence of albinism and aberrant coloration in *Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana* and reported an instance of aberrant coloration in *Tadarida femorosacca*. The present report records a case of piebaldism in the Indian fruit bat *Rousettus leschenaulti* Desmarest, 1820

The specimen, a juvenile male, was obtained from a colony in a subterranean laterite cave at Muroor, North Kanara District, Karnataka State, India, on 20th August, 1972. The colony had an estimated population of 10,000 individuals of normal coloration. The coloration of this piebald specimen made it very prominent and it was easily picked up with a sweep net.

Dorsally the specimen has a white patch on the back. Ventrally a white bar runs diagonally across the middle of the body and extends

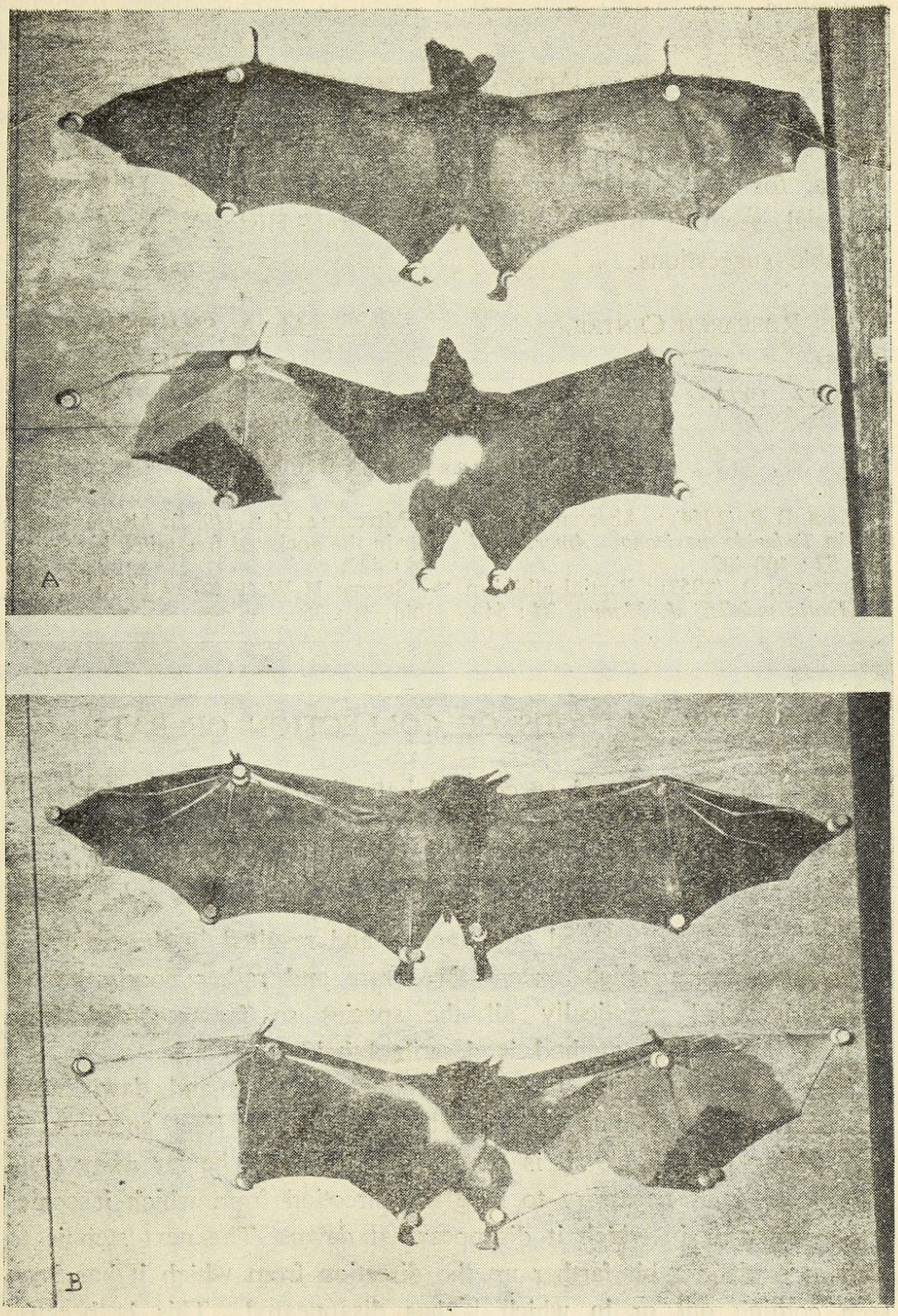

Fig. 1. Dorsal (A) and Ventral (B) aspects of the piebald specimen of *Rousettus leschenaulti* along with a specimen of normal coloration.

to the right forearm. Both wing membranes have large irregular patches of unpigmented areas (Fig. 1).

Apparently this is the first record of piebaldism in the genus *Rousettus*.

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VIRUS RESEARCH CENTRE, POONA,
June 18, 1973.

M. A. SREENIVASAN
H. R. BHAT

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3. NEW METHODS OF COLLECTION OF BATS

Methods of collection of species of bats living in small colonies in obscure and inaccessible places for a thorough survey do not appear to be satisfactory because they depend largely on chance. During a bat survey of Jabalpur city and environs, a method for collection of such species was developed and applied and resulted in the collection of twenty species which, except three rare and rather poorly known forms, included practically all the species so far recorded from Central India. The method is described below:—

The method consists in moving about at dusk and dawn when the bats leave or enter their roosts respectively. If a specimen is seen during these hours, it is certain that it cannot be far away from the roost. It is necessary to note the direction from which it comes out at dusk or in which it disappears at dawn. The next step is to wait at a place a bit farther up the direction from which it has been seen coming out or in which it has disappeared. This is because there is a general tendency among the species studied to follow a restricted path while leaving and entering the roost. After a few