

Trip No 3

Party: Ferguson, Wells, Miller, Stephenson and Waller

1872

Saturday 21st December

Started from the Kee Chong jetty @ 3.30pm, arrived at Jessfield at 6pm, here picked up Poulett Wells. Stephenson also joined us here but did not turn up until 8.45, saying that their boat was not ready.

Sunday 22nd December

Wang-du at 7am progressing very slowly in consequence of the wind being dead ahead. After our morning feed went on shore to stretch our legs and took our guns with us, saw a few birds. First blood to Ferguson, Wells shot a brace and Waller one. Miller bagged two quail. He was highly delighted with the performance of his Pups, they all bid fair to prove good serviceable dogs. Stephenson complained of pain in his big toe, having a slight touch of gout, he had to be very abstemious, consequently was out of sorts. Reached Lo-co-pan at 4 in the afternoon - Met the Hamilton brothers on their way home, reported good shooting, but about 30 boats up country so there will not be much choice for us. We all dined together and had a very lively conversation afterwards, class of men in the east as compared with those at home, came to the unanimous conclusion that although all the Eastern lot are nearly all Ingaris (which Miller said meant scoundrels) they were better on the average than those you meet at home. This was borne out by Wells who, having seen all kinds of society, had come to the conclusion that he had never met a better lot taking them all round, than the men he had become acquainted with during his short stay in Shanghai.

Monday 23rd December

Passed through Soochow at 1 o'clock. Met Fred Ringer and party. Progress very slow, tried to get a bird or two and got the latter, Wells one and Ferguson the other. Miller and Stephenson both complain of gout Steph has it rather severely.

Tuesday 24th December

Last night we had a great deal of trouble in getting through Woossee where we arrived at half past one this morning. The Loudah informed us that the "Phantom" could not get through, but in the morning Miller and Stephenson turned up all right, even Wells in the "Queen Mab" said he had some trouble in passing this place on account of one of the bridges that was broken during the rebellion still being left in the same state, the stone not having been removed from the middle of the canal. We were lucky to get through at all and when we have a look at the bottom of the of boat we expect to see them very much torn. Went on shore at noon in the neighbourhood of Chang Chow and had fair sport. Shot up to two o'clock then had chow. Chow, sent the boats on to the bridge at the entrance of the suburbs and shot till sun down. Found Miller's boat had gone on, soon came up with him though as his boat had grounded, all hands set to work to get her off but did not succeed. Saw a couple of deer, bagged one of them, Nero trying to catch the other, and after a most exciting chase he had to give up in despair.

Wednesday 25th December

Xmas Day. Boats still stuck for want of water and so far it seemed as if our trip would be far from pleasant. Got away at last and after we were a clear of Chang Chow shot along the bank while the boats were continuing on their way. Raining nearly all the day.

Thursday 26 December

Between Lee-san and Lin-cur, beastly weather raining on and off all day, lots of birds but as wild as hawks, they evidently had been treated with a few shots before as it was a fluke if one got a decent shot.

Friday 27 December

Went out at 10 o'clock, saw any quantity of birds, but there was not much chance of getting near them, we did fairly well however from all accounts - Overbeck and Cook came on board about 7pm and reported very poor sport, so we decided going back a short distance.

Saturday 28th December

Stopped about 2 miles on the Shanghai side of Lee-san. Shot on the right bank, had good sport, no one having been here this season.

Sunday 29th December

Still at the same spot and again took the right side of the creek, walked at least five miles inland and had splendid sport. Fungus shot poor "Nero" by accident, a sad loss this as he was very useful.

Monday 30th December

Same place, went further inland than yesterday consequently had better sport.

Tuesday 31st December

Tried the left Bank this morning shooting up to 1.30, got a few birds, all feeling very tired we determined to take it easy for the rest of the afternoon.

1873

Wednesday 1st January

Came across Pond and Hutchings who reported having had a poor sport. I fancy they did not go far enough inland. We are now about 9 miles from Lee-san and about 2 from Pen Yu. In my idea we have made a mistake in coming so far, however Fungus and I are going to try our luck. The others are more or less seedy from being woke up to see the new year in. Fungus and I did the thing "to rights" fired off our guns blew the horn and made night hideous generally. Consequently heads in the morning and a disinclination for anything like sport. I was the only one that did any good and had the best four hours sport I have had this trip. The most peculiar thing that ever happened on board a boat occurred this evening while we were all enjoying our dinner. The Loudah came in and said he must count the glasses, spoons etc etc belong me to the boat, and was most insolent in his remarks, we of course could not have our way as Wells said that the boat having been a lent to him by Turnbull we had a no right to resent the Loudah's impertinence, so we had simply to abide by Wells decision. In my idea the man was mad or so full of opium that he had not the slightest knowledge of what he was about, so that after all perhaps Wells was right, but having been in China for some years we have never been suspected of purloining the spoons, plates etc. The Loudah this journey was in clover or by all that's good he would have received such an infernal licking that he would never try the same game on again.

Wednesday 2nd January

Wind dead against us and the Loudah sure he could not reach Shanghai till Sunday if it continued so we made up our minds to make the best of our way back at once. Our bag will be seen below with 10 days shooting but only 5 days that may be called on good ground.

Total Game Bagged

	Pheasant	Duck	Teal	Deer	Quail	Fox	Hare	Woodcock	Total
Miller	86	4	2	1	2	1	0	0	96
Stephenson	40	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	44
Wells	111	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	117
Ferguson	63	4	5	3	1	1 Plover	1	1	78
Waller	91	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	97
Total	391	13	7	15	3	2	1	1	433

1. Friday 3rd January

Raining hard, wind SE. Woosce at 7.45am. All of a sudden the wind changed around to W.N.W. and blew almost a gale with heavy rain; we began to go like the wind. Passed the Wong tong jou at 40 minutes past noon flying along. See jie quan @ 1.30 pm. Stopped for 10 minutes to let Wells join he was in distress. On the Soochow suburbs at 2.50 pm making the run of 20 li or seven miles in one hour. The devil's own job to get through the city. Found a rice boat stuck fast so we pressed an open boat into service and set to work discharging her, got through in about half an hour and there had to wait for the cook - who came on board at 4.30 so up stick and went, branched off E of the walls at 5.40. Not able to use sail very shoal water touching bottom every now and then - 6pm not yet clear of Soochow, had to anchor as a perfect gale set in, raining hard and very dark.

Saturday 4th January

Icy cold, after a deal of trouble got under way at 7.30pm E'ding @ 8:30am, Quinsan @ 10am, back up again at 10.20. Soo-cong-que @ 2.30 pm. Wang du at 3.15. Jessfield 5.45 - trailed in to Shanghai at 7am.