

SPECIAL EXHIBITION OF BIRD PHOTOS

A special exhibit of photographs of birds, made both in their natural habitats and from temporarily captured specimens under studio conditions for special studies, will be on display in Stanley Field Hall of the Museum from December 1 to 31. The photographs are the work of the Reverend John W. Baechle, C.P.P.S., professor of biology at St. Joseph's College, Collegeville, Indiana.

For some years, Father Baechle, armed with a fast camera and birdbanding equipment, has made a hobby of studying bird life in the Rensselaer, Indiana, area. He has banded more than 10,000 birds and made portrait photos of some 78 species caught in the bird sanctuaries on the campus. Like many other birdbanders, Father Baechle aids the government in research on bird migrations, longevity, time of flight, and other phases of bird life. Data cards for each banded bird are filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington.

Father Baechle makes portrait photographs of each new species that he bands. Some of these are in black-and-white; others are in natural colors. His photographs are unusual, and many of them have been exhibited in other museums and reproduced in nature magazines.

BERMUDA EXPEDITION

Dr. Fritz Haas, Curator of Lower Invertebrates, and Mr. Joseph B. Krstolich, Artist, spent two months recently in Bermuda making studies for the production of true-to-life models of marine invertebrate animals. They studied the creatures under their natural conditions and collected specimens for the Museum's reference collection. The months chosen were most favorable, because of the calmness of the water. The Bermuda Biological Station for Research, on St. George's Island, not only provided ideal living and working accommodations on its own premises but, beyond that, did everything possible to assist the members of the Museum party by placing at their disposition its motorboats, with trained crews, and its entire collecting and observing apparatus, including a diving helmet. Dr. Dugald E. S. Brown, a director of the station, was most helpful throughout the operations of the expedition.

Thus equipped and aided, Dr. Haas and Mr. Krstolich had the unique chance of studying at close hand the overwhelmingly rich animal and plant life of a coral reef, which, though often described in fervid terms by scientists and travelers, can nevertheless be understood only if seen. An especially close approach to the life associated with coral is made possible by the use of the diving helmet. The view from above, even through the blue and crystal-clear water, gives a wrong impression. What looked like flat coral-pads or like low,

shrubby sea-fans, when viewed from above, turned out to be coralheads as high or higher than oneself or to be towering trees of sea-fans when one walked on the sea floor at a depth of twelve to fifteen feet. The enchanting blue color of the water was lost, however, for the light as seen within the water is grayish-green and somewhat dimmed, even at noon when the sun's rays penetrate almost vertically. It is planned to utilize the observations in producing at the Museum novel exhibits of the life of the sea.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Museum will be closed on both Christmas and New Year's Day so that as many Museum employees as possible will be able to spend the holidays with their families. These are the only two days in the entire year when the Museum is not open to visitors.

MEETINGS OF A.A.A.S. AT THIS MUSEUM

The American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its 114th meeting in Chicago this year, December 26 to 31. Headquarters for the various sections and societies will be in the Congress Hotel, Palmer House, Stevens Hotel, and Sherman Hotel, and most of the meetings will use the facilities of these hotels. However, some meetings will be held at Chicago Natural History Museum, at the University of Chicago, and at kindred institutions.

Gatherings scheduled for this Museum are as follows:

December 29—Daytime:

Limnological Society, Museum Lecture Hall, 9 A.M.

Systematic Section of the Botanical Society of America, James Simpson Theatre, 10 A.M.

December 29—Evening:

Association for Zoological Nomenclature, Museum Lecture Hall, 8 P.M.

Biology Smoker, Stanley Field Hall, 9 P.M.

The smoker will be a gathering of between 2,000 and 3,000 persons from a wide range of scientific societies.

The Museum endeavors to keep its exhibits up to date with recent important developments in science. In pursuit of this policy, the Department of Geology has an exhibit pertaining to atomic energy in Hall 36, and the Department of Botany has an exhibit illustrating sources of penicillin in Stanley Field Hall.

EXPEDITION RETURNS FROM ADIRONDACKS

Dr. Sharat K. Roy, Chief Curator of Geology, who was accompanied on a geological expedition to the Adirondacks and neighboring regions by Mr. Harry E. Changnon, Assistant Curator of Geology, returned to his post at the Museum last month.

Dr. Roy was responsible for the collection of igneous rocks, while Mr. Changnon restricted himself to the collecting of physical geology specimens. In addition to collecting specimens, Dr. Roy paid particular attention to the study of basic and ultra-basic igneous rocks, which, he explained, are very similar to stony meteorites. Dr. Roy is in charge of the Museum's meteorite collection, and his field studies of terrestrial rocks are a prelude to better understanding of the nature and mode of origin of the stony meteorites.

The specimens collected on this trip were restricted to selected types—only those that were needed for exhibits under preparation and those that bore special features requiring further investigations were collected. All specimens collected were tentatively sorted and identified in the field. They will now be checked and catalogued. Some of them will be added to the exhibits; others will go into the institution's study collections.

Serves 200,000 Children

Hundreds of lectures on natural-history subjects are given each year in the schools of Chicago by members of the staff of the Museum's James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures. The Foundation also provides tours, lectures, entertainments, and other events within the walls of the Museum for close to 200,000 children a year.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons became Members of the Museum during the period from October 16 to November 15:

Associate Members

Mrs. Fred A. Hansen, Mrs. Walter A. Krafft, Lloyd Langdon Mills, Marvin G. Probst, Frederick L. Regnery, David T. Siegel, Mrs. R. Arthur Wood.

Annual Members

Arthur L. Brooks, James J. Carroll, Charles H. Collings, Warner S. Conn, Charles E. Cook, Robert B. Cook, John R. Doolittle, Charles L. Fair, Albert Fisk, Arthur E. Frankenberg, Miss Juliet T. Goodrich, R. Emmett Hanley, H. Nels Holgate, Hubert E. Howard, Miss Barbara Leslie Huxtable, Mrs. Ralph R. Kimball, David E. Loebe, Harry A. Lund, Miss Dorothy Macdonald, John F. McGraw, P. V. Moulder, Mrs. Joseph C. Sampson, Henry A. Slamin, Mrs. Edward J. Stokes, Miss Lillian Stevenson, Frederick S. Weiser.



1947. "Bermuda Expedition." *Bulletin* 18(12), 3-3.

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