

BIRDS ARE WHERE YOU FIND THEM—IF LUCK IS WITH YOU

By AUSTIN L. RAND
CURATOR OF BIRDS

“**B**ANG! Bang!” and two birds fell from the leafy canopy of the tropical forest to land at the feet of the young naturalist. He dropped his gun to pick up and hold a bird in each hand.

They were breath-takingly beautiful and strange to him. He'd studied the birds he'd expected to find in this jungle when he was back in the Museum, but he'd seen none like these. There certainly were none like them in the Museum. Perhaps they were new; perhaps the ornithologist back at the Museum would name them for him;

in the mountains, and on board ship amongst oceanic islands, and he saw himself, perhaps for the first time, really playing his part in the whole scheme. Before he had left Chicago, the ornithologist had talked at length with him about collecting and the Museum's bird collection.

The ideal way to get specimens for study is to go out and collect them yourself. But you wouldn't live long enough for that, nor do you have enough alter egos. So expeditions sent from the Museum are the next best solution. The ornithologist knows from his studies the areas that have not been explored; he knows what sort of

the routes used, and observations on travel conditions and anything else that may be of value in writing up a report. As the specimens begin to come in to the Museum, the ornithologist will have sent back encouraging letters to the young collector, suggesting improvements in labeling and preparation, commenting on the material and its value, pointing out things lacking, and congratulating him on the rarities he has found and on his good series.

DUGOUTS, DISASTER, DESPAIR

Transportation is by whatever means come to hand, and some Museum expedition journals, between entries for the detailed description of the song of a brown-tailed scrub-bird, long lists of provisions, and itineraries, may read like first-rate escape adventure literature. Take the 1938 British Guiana trip of Emmet R. Blake, Associate Curator of Birds. He went into the Brazilian frontier country, a region of rugged mountains, rushing streams, and trackless jungles avoided even by aborigines. He flew in from Georgetown and landed on a river base; then he relayed his goods upstream by a 32-foot power boat and later by dugout canoes. In October, with the start of the dry season, falling water level threatened to leave him stranded and so he hurried downstream. Rapids presented real dangers, and one of these materialized. The motorboat hit a rock in midstream, leaving the outfit stranded, the gear gone, and half the specimens lost. Crude craft were improvised—a “bateau” from canvas and planks and a “woodskin” boat from the bark of a “purple heart” tree—and in these and some dugouts the expedition members paddled back to civilization. They were safe, but the loss of half their collections, half the results of a year's work into which had gone thought, effort, long hours, and a man's whole heart—material that was irreplaceable—was a catastrophe beyond portrayal in words.

Melvin A. Traylor, Jr., Associate in the Division of Birds, on a trip to Yucatan traveled and worked in company with an archaeologist, Bill Andrews. While Andrews pored over ancient inscriptions, transcribing hieroglyphics, Traylor collected birds on the plaza where in bygone days Mayan Indians conducted religious ceremonies. Our collectors have worked widely: in South America Blake has made several trips to British Guiana, and Rudyerd Boulton, former Curator of Birds, made a wonderful study on Mt. Cameroon in West Africa; the late Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, former Chief Curator of Zoology, with the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes, noted artist, and Alfred M. Bailey, then a member of our Department of Zoology and now Director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, got a beautiful collection from



ALONE, WITH WORK, IN A CLOUD FOREST OF GUATEMALA

Museum camp on slopes of Mount Tajumulco, altitude about 7,500 feet. At this camp, on an expedition sponsored by Leon Mandel, Associate Curator Emmet R. Blake, shown here at work, collected the specimens for the beautiful quetzal group now in Hall 20.

perhaps, if he proved helpful and apt when he got back home, he could have a part in describing them. This was his first day of collecting, and it was an auspicious beginning. He thought of the time ahead, of the route he'd planned while poring over maps and specimens, and of the treasures he'd have to take back if collecting continued like this—treasures that would make his expedition a notable success.

A CONTINUING TASK

That afternoon, as he skinned his birds and made them into study skins for the Museum collection, he thought of the part he was playing in the building of the bird collection at the institution and of the part others had played and still had to play. Expeditions, he knew, had been an important factor in building up the bird collections of Chicago Natural History Museum. Expeditions with Museum collectors had traveled to far corners of the earth, to make their camps in the jungles, on the plains,

things are needed. So he sends out the young student with his equipment, a modicum of funds, a map, a list of rarities that he wants especially (mostly quite unobtainable), and instructions to get a complete representation of all the birds in the area in series large enough to be useful, not forgetting herons, ducks, hawks, and hornbills (i.e., those that are big, hard to skin, and smelly, and whose skins are difficult to dry and pack).

The young collector must not forget the common birds of the native village where he has made his headquarters, for some may be seen nowhere else, though it's necessary to be careful about natives' prejudices, for the natives may not want guns fired in their villages. He will have had strict instructions about labeling (a label without a specimen can be valuable; a specimen without a label isn't worth much), and on note-taking. His notes should include information as to where and how each bird lives, a description of the country and of

northern Abyssinia. Josselyn Van Tyne, now of the University of Michigan, worked for us in Indo-China; Boardman Conover, Trustee of the Museum and Research Associate in the Division of Birds, and John T. Zimmer, former Curator of Birds, collected in East Africa. The history of the collection during the early years of the Museum is another and an interesting story.

CAMPS, COOKS, AND CONTACTS

There's more to collecting than shooting birds. There's choosing the right places to camp and staying there until the area's exhausted, that is, until days go by without getting any new birds. There's the camp to set up and manage, the kitchen to run, and the food to supply to the cook. There's the water to boil. Contacts must be made with the local people and transport arranged. The getting of birds starts another train of responsibility, too. There's the preparing of them. If native help is available, use it. Natives can be taught to skin large birds, and as skill develops they can graduate to small ones. That can double or treble your productivity. The specimens have to be dried, perhaps over a kerosene lamp (but avoid a smoky fire, which turns specimens brown), then packed, and got somehow to the coast, to be put aboard a steamer, after which the collector can be reasonably sure they'll get to Chicago—unless, that is, the ship catches fire or they're damaged by water, and that's beyond him.

Native aid in getting birds is important, especially for obscure or shy ground birds and those of dense grass and marsh that the natives can snare or shoot with their bows or their blow-guns. Sometimes a little crane may be common. Its call rings daily from a grassy meadow near the skinning table but rarely is one glimpsed. In such a case the native is invaluable. He knows where the birds run. He sets his little fiber snares, and for a few cents worth of trade goods in beads, face paint, seashells, or trinkets, you may soon have a whole series brought in. A native gunboy, provided with a shotgun and a ration of a few shells daily is also a good investment.

The good collector is astir betimes. He's up and active with the sun. He tries to get back to camp before noon so as to have lots of time to prepare his specimens. But even so, his enthusiasm may have spurred him on to gather so much material that the last of it has to be prepared by the light of a lamp, after dark. And then there's the writing up of notes, records that are as important as the specimens for any well-run expedition. By the time he's finished, he's ready for bed. But every night can't be spent in bed, if he's to get a complete collection of birds, for it's at night that some birds, like the owls and goatsuckers, are abroad. So some days as darkness falls he takes his gun and jacklight and prowls the jungle trails, watching for animal eyes to

ADDITIONS TO EXHIBITS OF THE PLANT KINGDOM

By THEODOR JUST
CHIEF CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Two new models of plants belonging to widely separated groups have recently been added to the synoptical exhibits of the



DESERT GLORY

This reproduction of *Echeveria gibbiflora*, native of Mexican deserts, has recently been added to the exhibits in Hall 29 (Hall of Plant Life).

Plant Kingdom on display in Martin A. and Carrie Ryerson Hall (Hall 29, Plant Life).

The genus *Echeveria* includes some of the most beautiful succulent plants known. Named in honor of the Mexican botanical artist, Atanasio Echevarria, its species number more than 100 and range in the

deserts from Texas to northern South America.

Highly variable in leaf shape and color, their leaves may be dark or quite pallid, sometimes frilled. The species represented, gibbous-flowered *Echeveria*, is a native of Mexico, where it generally attains a height of 3 to 4 feet in flower and 12 or more inches in diameter. The flowers are conspicuous because of their rose-colored petals and the leaf-like bracts.

The genus *Echeveria* belongs to the stonecrop family, which contains some 600 species of fleshy or succulent plants, most of which are small like the stonecrop, live-for-ever, etc. *Echeverias* are great favorites for greenhouse cultivation and can easily be hybridized.

The model, prepared from a live specimen by Preparators Frank Boryca and Milton Copulos, with the assistance of Mr. Emil Sella, Curator of Exhibits, is on display in Case 849.

The other model is a reproduction of a remarkable representative of the class known as blue-green algae. It is a species of *Nostoc* (*Nostoc amplissimum*) common in cold fresh-water ponds and streams of the western United States. The large gelatinous balls of this species are olive-green or brownish and may attain a size of 60 by 30 centimeters, whereas those of other species are usually marble-sized or slightly larger, as is evident from a comparison with another exhibit in the same case (803).

Nostocs are really made up of innumerable microscopic filaments densely interwoven and embedded in a gelatinous matrix. The structure of these filaments can be seen in the glass model in Case 801. This model also gives an indication of the blue-green color characteristic of these plants. Normally *nostocs* grow in water or on wet soil or rocks. The specimens used for this exhibit were collected on the bottom of a very cold pond about 12 to 24 inches deep near Klamath Lake, Oregon. The models were made by Mr. Sella.

shine in the rays of his light. Only the eyes are visible in the beam of the torch, and he shoots at them. It's perhaps the most exciting kind of hunting, for often he doesn't know what kind of an animal the eyes belong to until after he's gone over and picked it up. It may be a goatsucker he's not seen before; it may be some rare mammal that he'll save even though mammals are a sideline in his interests; or it may be only a spider, for spider eyes shine brilliantly. In some marshy bogs the rays of his torch may reveal many pairs of reddish eyes at the water's edge, the eyes of young alligators. Owls' eyes don't shine well and so he has to watch closely. But a word of caution.

Near settlements make sure that large, luminous eyes don't belong to someone's horse or cow!

Sometimes it seems impossible to get a specimen of a particular species of bird that's seen almost daily. Sometimes it's an eagle that soars high over the jungle, never coming within range. But be eternally vigilant, and some day you'll find one off guard. Osgood had trouble getting a good specimen of the rare and elusive green peacock in Indo-China. The birds were feeding in the old rice fields and meadows but always far from good cover and so alert as to defy stalking. But by watching the birds he

(Turn to page 8, column 1)

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Members are requested to inform the Museum promptly of changes of address.

STAFF NOTES

Dr. Alexander Spoehr, Curator of Oceanic Ethnology, has been granted leave of absence for next summer to teach anthropology at Harvard University. Currently, he is engaged in research at museums and libraries in Washington, New York, and New Haven in connection with collections made on his recent expedition to Micronesia. . . . Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, Mr. Donald Collier, Curator of South American Ethnology and Archaeology, Mr. George I. Quimby, Curator of Exhibits, and Dr. Spoehr all have recently lectured before anthropology classes at the University of Chicago. . . . Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany, gave a seminar, "Diversity in Useful Plants of Bolivia," at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, last month. He and Mr. Collier together participated in a recent "Flying Reporter" radio program over WAIT, telling of their expeditionary activities. . . . Dr. Theodor Just, Chief Curator of Botany, gave a seminar at the University of Chicago on "Hartmann's Theory of Sexuality." . . . Mr. Colin Campbell Sanborn, Curator of Mammals, has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Zoological Society of London. . . . Mr. Karl P. Schmidt, Chief Curator of Zoology, attended a recent meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in New Orleans. . . . Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, Associate

Curator of the Herbarium, has been appointed Honorary Research Associate of the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

CUBA BOTANICAL EXPEDITION

Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, Curator Emeritus of Botany, and Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany, have returned from an expedition to Cuba where they studied and collected palms.

Although palms provide food, shelter, and clothing for many people in the tropics, little is known about the habits of palms and of the relationship between the various kinds. The date and coconut palms have been studied slightly, but no thorough investigation has been made of the lesser known palms, many of which, like the babassú palm of Brazil, continued to provide essential supplies of oil when the Oriental sources were cut off by the Japanese during the war.

During the survey of the palms of Cuba, material was collected for the exhibits and herbarium of the Museum.

Guatemala Zoological Expedition

The Museum's Guatemala Zoological Expedition, 1948, will leave on April 8 for four and one-half months work in the field. The main purpose of the expedition is to collect certain insects that were described in the monumental publication, *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, and that have since presented many problems in classification, and to collect mammals and their ectoparasites. Work will center chiefly around the Volcan Fuego and the Volcan Agua, the Sierra de las Minas, and the caves in the Lanquin area. The party consists of two entomologists, Mr. Rupert L. Wenzel, Assistant Curator of Insects, and Mr. Rodger D. Mitchell, of Wayne, Illinois, and a mammalogist, Mr. Luis de la Torre, of Highland Park, Illinois.

'Children's Corner' on Radio Features Museum Stories

Museum stories on natural history, supplied through the co-operation of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures, are currently being featured as part of the program called "The Children's Corner." The program is presented each Saturday on Station WCFL at 5:15 P.M. and again each Sunday morning at 9 A.M.

Museum Aids Surgery Class

On February 12 and March 9 a group of twenty-four plastic surgeons taking advanced graduate work at the University of Illinois Medical School visited the Museum for a special demonstration by Mr. John Pletinckx, Ceramic Restorer in the Department of Anthropology, of plaster casting.

Books

(All books reviewed in the BULLETIN are available in The Book Shop of the Museum. Mail orders accompanied by remittance are promptly filled—The Book Shop pays the postage on shipments.)

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN—

PANUCK, ESKIMO SLED DOG. By Frederick Machetanz. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 95 pages, illustrations by author. Price \$1.75.

This is the story of an Alaskan Eskimo boy and his dog. The Eskimo boy, Andy, raises his puppy, Panuck, to be a sled dog. With his own sled and dog team with Panuck as lead dog, Andy has adventures, one of which is particularly exciting and proves the abilities of the boy and his dog team. The story is laid against a background of modern Eskimo life in Alaska. The duration of the story, four seasons, enables the author to show modern Alaskan Eskimo life in spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

The text is abundantly supplemented with excellent illustrations by the author. These are not only entertaining but also instructive. There are, for instance, drawings showing the form and construction of sleds and the style and method of harnessing dogs.

GEORGE I. QUIMBY

Curator of Exhibits, Anthropology

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Department of Botany:

From: Dr. Walter Kiener, Lincoln, Neb.—180 specimens of algae, Nebraska; Dr. Ramón Ferreyra, Lima, Peru—29 specimens of algae, Peru; Dr. E. Yale Dawson, Los Angeles—90 specimens of algae, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Galapagos Islands; Herman Silva, East Lansing, Mich.—192 specimens of algae, Tennessee and North Carolina; Facultad Nacional de Agronomía, Medellín, Colombia—342 herbarium specimens, Colombia.

Department of Zoology:

From: John Q. Burch, Los Angeles—2 specimens of sea shells, West Mexico; Mrs. Dorothy Foss, Chicago—a golden hamster; Rupert L. Wenzel, Oak Park, Ill.—404 specimens of insects and allies, Tennessee and Georgia; Hugh B. Leech, San Francisco—2 beetles, British Columbia; Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.—a freshwater snail, Philippine Islands; Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago—a hutia (*Plagiodontia*), Haiti; Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, Ill.—19 birds and a male drill; Bro. Niceforo Maria, Cucuta, Colombia—a turtle; Miss Dawn Davey, Chicago—22 specimens of sea shells, Florida; Claudio Ciferri, Caracas, Venezuela—6 birdskins, Venezuela.

Library:

From: Caribbean Research Council, Caribbean Commission, Washington, D.C.; Col. Clifford C. Gregg, Valparaiso, Ind.; Dr. Fritz Haas and Rupert L. Wenzel, Chicago.

SATURDAY LECTURES ALL THROUGH APRIL

The Museum's spring course of free illustrated lectures on Saturday afternoons will continue through April. All lectures begin at 2:30 P.M. in the James Simpson Theatre. They are restricted to adults.

The remaining lectures are:

April 3—SEEGORUK

Frederick Machetanz

April 10—WORLD BELOW THE WAVES

Vincent Palmer

April 17—DESERT GOLD

Peter Koch

**April 24—LIFE AMONG THE PRIMITIVE
FUEGIANS**

Col. Charles Wellington Furlong

No tickets are necessary for admission to these lectures. A section of the Theatre is reserved for Members of the Museum, each of whom is entitled to two reserved seats. Requests should be made in advance by telephone (WABash 9410) or in writing.

LECTURE TOURS IN APRIL, DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS

Tours of exhibits, under the guidance of staff lecturers, are conducted every afternoon at 2 o'clock, except Sundays and certain holidays. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, general tours are given, covering all departments. Special subjects are offered on Wednesdays and Fridays (the Friday tours open with an introductory lecture and slides or films in the Meeting Room on the second floor of the Museum); a schedule of these follows:

Fri., Apr. 2—The Wandering Navaho. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Jane Buchwald*).

Wed., Apr. 7—Spring in the Animal World (*Lorain Farmer*).

Fri., Apr. 9—Spring Song Birds. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Winona Cosner*).

Wed., Apr. 14—Indian America (Pan-American Day) (*Harriet Smith*).

Fri., Apr. 16—Medicine Men—Primitive Medical and Dental Practices. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Marie Svoboda*).

Wed., Apr. 21—Spring in the Woodlands—The Earliest Flowers, Leaves, Birds, and Reptiles (*Miriam Wood*).

Fri., Apr. 23—Adapt or Become Extinct! Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Jane Sharpe*).

Wed., Apr. 28—Buried Treasure—Story of Gems (*Winona Cosner*).

Fri., Apr. 30—Snake Stories. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Lorain Farmer*).

DEEP-SEA EXPEDITION PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY

Most of the equipment for the Bermuda Deep-Sea Expedition, 1948, a joint project of Chicago Natural History Museum and the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, Inc., will be dispatched in April to the ex-

Laboratory at Woods Hole was erroneously named in connection with the Oceanographic Institution. The Laboratory is a sister organization but has no official connection with the Oceanographic Institution.

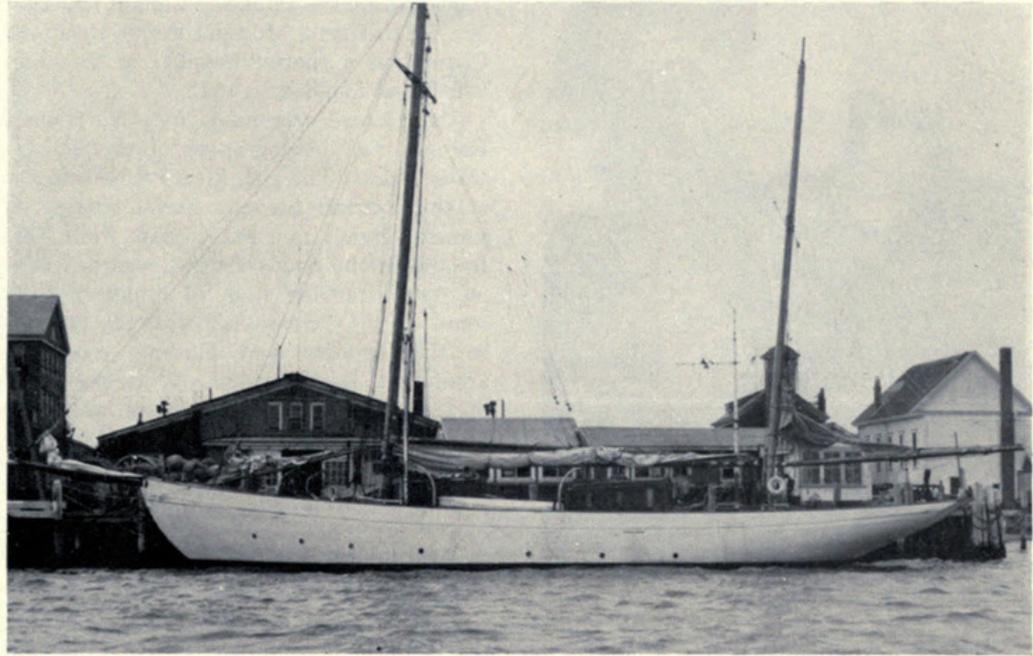


Photo courtesy Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

THE 'CARYN,' EXPEDITION SHIP, AT HER DOCK AT WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

pedition headquarters at St. George's in the Bermuda Islands on the *Caryn*, the ship assigned to the expedition.

The *Caryn* is currently engaged in oceanographic research for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. When her present mission is completed, the *Caryn* will go to Bermuda for the joint operation by the Bermuda Station and Chicago Museum. She is to be ready for the beginning of actual work on the Museum expedition in June.

The *Caryn*, shown in the accompanying illustration, is a 98-foot auxiliary ketch especially designed and equipped for marine research, manned with a full crew of professional navigators and seamen. Members of the staffs at both the Chicago Museum and the Bermuda Biological Station are at present busy with preparations for the expedition, which will be at sea during June, July, and August.

Dr. Dugald E. S. Brown, director of the Bermuda organization, and members of his staff will conduct certain phases of the work. The Chicago Museum's party on the expedition will be led by Dr. Fritz Haas, Curator of Lower Invertebrates, with the aid of Mr. Loren P. Woods, Curator of Fishes, who will join the expedition for the initial three weeks. A number of other members of the Museum staff will be included in the expedition personnel.

In a preliminary announcement of the Bermuda Deep-Sea Expedition in the February BULLETIN, the Marine Biological

Progress of Pacific Expedition

The Palau Entomological Expedition, which entered the field in October last year, has transferred its insect-collecting activities from Palau Island to Ponape, the largest of the Caroline Islands in the central Pacific, it is reported by Mr. Henry Dybas, Assistant Curator of Insects, who is in charge.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons became Museum Members between Feb. 16 and March 15:

Associate Members

Carl A. Erikson, Roger F. Howe, Franklin J. Lunding, Mrs. Norman G. Parry, Dr. Eugene L. Walsh.

Sustaining Members

William Laing

Annual Members

Dr. Leo Amtman, George S. Bartlett, Daniel L. Benton, James F. Cech, A. B. Dunwody, R. J. Durham, G. Howard Fisher, Maurice Fisher, Dr. Townsend B. Friedman, Joseph Goder, William Grage, C. R. Hickey, Leon J. Ketcham, Dr. John A. Kollar, Jr., W. A. Kuechenberg, A. W. Lavers, Dr. Richard A. Lifvendahl, Francis E. Luthmers, Dr. Eugene F. Lutterbeck, Verne O. McClurg, Albert E. McKee, A. S. Nabat, Dr. F. E. Norman, Mrs. Hedwig Norman, Leo T. Norville, Jay G. Odell, Joseph R. Odell, Paul V. Pallasch, Mrs. Ben Regan, Reuben M. Schutz, George F. Stahmer, II.

*Easter Bonnet . . .***MUSEUM PHOTO A WINNER
IN PUBLICITY CONTEST**

Courtesy Chicago Daily News

The accompanying picture, entitled "Easter Bonnet—Primitive Style," made

**BIRDS ARE WHERE
YOU FIND THEM***(Continued from page 5)*

found that if they were undisturbed, he could follow them at dark and find where they went to roost in tall trees and then, with care and luck, he could get a shot. But then he found that ordinary shot was not heavy enough to kill them, and he had to use buckshot. He got some females and young males that way, but the fine old male, now in the habitat group in Hall 20, he got by a fluke. He shot it from his motor car, beside the road, at the end of his stay in the country.

Sometimes, and these are times he remembers, the collector has searched far and wide, in jungle, by river, and over plain, for some rare bird that is supposed to be in the area, or that he hopes is there, without finding any trace of it. And then toward the end of his stay, returning tired and discouraged to camp, he finds that during his absence one of the prized individuals has ventured right into the camp and the cook boy has killed it with a stick.

The birds and the material for the habitat groups in Hall 20 were collected by expeditions. Special expeditions may be sent out for exhibition material but usually such collecting is combined with securing scientific material. In 1937 Blake went to South America, to collect specimens and accessories for two groups and to make general collec-

in carrying out a project of the Museum's Division of Public Relations and published in "News-Views," rotogravure section of the *Chicago Daily News*, last month was winner of an award in the Feature Section of "Pictures With A Purpose," the first publicity picture competition and exhibition sponsored by the Publicity Club of Chicago. Mr. H. B. Harte, Museum Public Relations Counsel, is a charter member of the club, which was founded in 1941.

The picture was made by Mr. Emmet Barden, staff photographer of the *Chicago Daily News*. The girl, Miss Pauline Pfeffer of the Patricia Stevens model studios, is shown wearing as a hat a mask from New Ireland in the South Pacific, regarded as a no more startling item of millinery than some of the "creations" worn by women in this country and Europe, especially around the Easter period. When published in the *Daily News*, the picture was used with a series of other primitive headgear from various parts of the world.

Special Atomic Exhibit Continues

The atomic energy "photographic essay," prepared by *Life Magazine*, which opened last month in Stanley Field Hall, will continue on exhibition until April 9.

tions for study. He went to British Guiana where lives one of the most remarkable birds in the world, the hoactzin. This bird, amongst other things, is notable for having functional fingers on its wings. Its nests are usually over water in swamps, and when the young are disturbed they may dive into the water beneath and, later, when danger is past, clamber back into the nest. The hoactzin being one of his main objectives, Blake first located a colony near Georgetown and, employing natives to help him, he obtained the birds, their nests, samples of plants, and photographs and plans so that the Museum might have, in a habitat group, a faithful reproduction of a nesting hoactzin colony of Canje Creek, British Guiana. With this finished, Blake turned to collecting his research material. Camps were established on the river banks, in the mountain forests, and in the vast coastal plains.

The rainy season made field work in British Guiana impractical and Blake moved to Brazil where he could work more effectively. Amongst other things he wanted rheas and rheas' nests. Rheas are ostrich-like in appearance and the largest of American birds. They usually go in small flocks containing one male and several females. A nest may contain 25 to 50 eggs, each weighing one and one-half pounds. On this job, Blake spent about two months in the saddle, roaming the plains, often in company with the picturesque Guarani

**MOVIES FOR CHILDREN
SATURDAY MORNINGS**

The spring series of free motion picture programs for children on Saturday mornings, presented by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation, will continue through April 24. The programs are given in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum, and all begin at 10:30 A.M.

Following is an outline of the programs:

April 3—ESKIMO SUMMER (Color Movies)
Lecture by Frederick Machetanz

April 10—GLIMPSES OF AUSTRALIA
Also a cartoon

April 17—BEAUTY IN THE BIG BEND COUNTRY (Color Movies)
Lecture by Peter Koch

April 24—MY DOG SHEP

**PERU BOTANICAL
EXPEDITION**

The Desloge Peruvian Botanical Expedition, 1948, left March 31 for South America to study the history of cultivated plants in Peru and Bolivia. There, in the central Andes, is the center of origin of many important American food plants, such as corn, potatoes, and tomatoes.

The three members of this expedition, Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany at the Museum, and Mr. Joseph Desloge and Mr. Arthur Hoskins, of the St. Louis Academy of Science, will secure information and specimens for exhibits of the more important indigenous New World plants before these have disappeared. Mr. Desloge, sponsor of the expedition, was recently elected to the roll of Contributors to this Museum.

Indians. After a year in the field, Blake returned to the Museum with wonderful collections of birds rare and new to the Museum as well as material for the two habitat groups. He had traveled in one year 16,000 miles, by rail, steamer, canoe, oxcart, and on horseback and afoot.

Bringing back live animals is usually impractical for a Museum expedition. The amount of care the captives need is usually far beyond what can be provided. But occasionally it can be done. When the Leon Mandel Expedition collectors were in the Galapagos, they were traveling on a private yacht. When live Galapagos penguins, albatrosses, frigate birds, and boobies were secured, there was space to house them, food and care could be provided, and they were brought back in good shape for Brookfield and other zoos.

(Next month Dr. Rand will tell of collections obtained from sources other than official Museum expeditions.)



Rand, Austin Loomer. 1948. "Birds Are Where You Find Them--If Luck Is With You." *Bulletin* 19(4), 4–8.

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