

## BIRDS FROM EVERYWHERE

By AUSTIN L. RAND  
CURATOR OF BIRDS

(In "Birds Are Where You Find Them," published in last month's BULLETIN, Dr. Rand told of the collecting of birds by Museum expeditions. In the following article he tells of collections obtained from a variety of other sources also important in building up the Museum's resources.)

Many areas are represented in our collections, though we've had no expeditions there. For such regions our collecting has followed a different pattern. We shared in the Indo-China expeditions of Jean Delacour, research associate of the American Museum of Natural History, and our collections increased accordingly. Sometimes professional collectors finance their expeditions by selling their specimens. They love the travel, the exploration, the work, and the feeling of accomplishment. W. W. Brown collected in the West Indies for the late C. B. Cory in the 1890s and only last year the Museum purchased 300 bird skins from him.

Collectors don't care about selling the specimens, but they have to eat. From Bolivia our chief representation is due to a collection of 5,000 birds secured from Señor Francisco Steinbach of Cochabamba. He is continuing to collect the animals of Bolivia in the tradition established many years ago by his father, José Steinbach. Their efforts have enriched many of the museums of the world and made possible the present knowledge of the birds of their country. Herbert Stevens, who has collected in many out-of-the-way parts of the globe for various museums, got us a beautiful collection of birds from Sikkim in northern India; and Tangier Smith got us another from Szechwan—material that when worked up will add materially to our knowledge of the southern Himalayan fauna.

We have the magnificent Jackson collection from East Africa. It was collected over a period of twenty years while Sir Frederick Jackson was lieutenant governor of Kenya and governor of Uganda in East Africa. One of Sir Frederick's plans during his long and distinguished career in Africa was the writing of a treatise on the birds of East Africa, and to this end he recorded notes and observations and backed his records with specimens. Consequently this is an important collection for us, not only because it gives us representatives of many forms that we didn't have but also because it preserves the historic specimens used by Sir Frederick. The locality records in his volumes on *Birds of East Africa* are those on the specimens in our collection. We also acquired the magnificent Bishop Collection, one of the finest of private North American bird collections and the life-long labor of Dr. Louis B. Bishop. Such large private collections, of course, tend to find their permanent place in a research collection in a large museum.

Boardman Conover is building up a collection in the Museum of game birds that is one of the finest in the world. He has been in the field himself, from Alaska to South America and Africa, and through a wide correspondence with many people in many parts of the world he continues to fill in the remaining gaps.

### CHANCE COLLECTIONS

Small collections add their quota, too; a missionary in northern India, or in Cameroon, may send a few but important specimens; a resident of South America sent us some important specimens from Paraguay; and a mammal collector's few skins, collected as a sideline, have yielded important additions like "Darwin's lost bird," collected by our Curator of Mammals, Colin C. Sanborn, a hundred years after Darwin's visit to Uruguay. A single specimen of a single species, or a specimen in a plumage that's needed for study may have a story behind it. Recently, Conover found we didn't have a downy young sea duck (*Thalassorhynchus*) from Africa, but through correspondence with a chap in West Africa, he got one and that gap's filled.

By a great variety of methods and by a world-wide system of contacts, the collections of our Museum have been built up. We are on the way to having a representative collection of birds of the world. Our study collections permit us to produce exhaustive monographs on the birds of some regions. We're planning other expeditions to explore other regions for birds. On this material will be based further publications for the advancement of science and for popular publications as well as additions to our exhibits for the enlightenment of the public generally.

### Museum-School Radio Programs

In co-operation with the Radio Council of the Chicago Public Schools, the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation will present two Museum radio programs for school children of the 5th and 6th grades in the Council's "Your Science Story-Teller Series." The first program will be on May 25 at 10:15 A.M. over stations WBEZ and WIND, and again at 1:30 P.M. over WBEZ only. On that program Mrs. Winona Cosner will be the guest speaker on the subject "Migration Mystery," pertaining to birds. On June 1, same stations and same hours, Miss Lorain Farmer will present "Some Strange Fish Stories." On the day following each of these programs, May 26 and June 2, at 1:30 P.M., follow-up lectures and demonstrations will be given at the Museum to groups of children sent from their schools.

A lot of things widely believed just are not so. Hear "Facts and Fallacies in Natural History," at the Museum, 2 P.M., May 14.

## 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—

**ON ARCTIC ICE.** By Frederick Machetanz. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 105 pages, illustrations by author. Price \$2.

*On Arctic Ice* is an independent sequel to *Panuck, Eskimo Sled Dog*.<sup>\*</sup> Once again the adventures of Andy Nalook and his dog, Panuck, are laid against a background of modern Eskimo life in Alaska. This time, however, Andy goes farther north and spends the winter with a group of Arctic Eskimos. In the far north Andy has many exciting adventures. Items of ethnological interest are the reindeer-herding Eskimos visited by Andy on his journey northward, the breathing hole and stalking methods of hunting seals from the ice, ice fishing, walrus hunting, and whale hunting. The book is a good introduction to the ethnology of modern Alaskan Eskimos.

The illustrations by the author are aesthetically pleasing and informative. There is much in this book to interest adults, although it was written primarily for young people.

GEORGE I. QUIMBY

Curator of Exhibits, Anthropology

<sup>\*</sup> Reviewed in April BULLETIN.

### Technical Publications Issued

The following technical publications were recently issued by Chicago Natural History Museum:

Fieldiana: Zoology, Vol. 32, No. 5. *Preliminary Survey of the Amphibians of the Riukiu Islands.* By Robert F. Inger. Dec. 8, 1947. 58 pages, 4 maps, and 2 text figures. \$0.75.

Botanical Series, Vol. 23, No. 6. *Further Studies in the Genus Dodonaea.* By Earl Edward Sherff. Dec. 22, 1947. 52 pages. \$0.75.

Botanical Series, Vol. 23, No. 7. *A Preliminary Study of Hawaiian Species of the Genus Rauwolfia. Additions to the Genera Scalesia and Hidalgo.* By Earl Edward Sherff. Dec. 30, 1947. 18 pages. \$0.25.

Fieldiana: Zoology, Vol. 32, No. 6. *Development and Growth of the Rattle of Rattlesnakes.* By Arnold A. Zimmermann and Clifford H. Pope. March 29, 1948. 62 pages, 25 illustrations. \$0.75.

The facilities of the Museum Library are open to the public for reference reading.





Rand, Austin Loomer. 1948. "Birds From Everywhere." *Bulletin* 19(5), 5–5.

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