

BONANZA IN BIRDS: 17,000 SPECIMENS FROM EAST AFRICA

By AUSTIN L. RAND
CURATOR OF BIRDS

The arrival of the van Someren bird collection at Chicago Natural History Museum is an important event in the history of the Division of Birds. This new collection, numbering about 17,000 specimens—study skins of birds—comes mostly from Kenya Colony and Uganda in eastern Africa and is a remarkably complete representation of the known avifauna. Rare as well as common species are present in series, and there are the historically important type specimens on which the original descriptions of at least 37 kinds of birds have been based.

The collection was brought together by Dr. V. G. L. van Someren, who during a period of more than forty years has studied the natural history of East Africa. Dr. van Someren was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1886. He was graduated in medicine and dental surgery from the University of Edinburgh and, in 1911, was appointed medical officer in British East Africa (now called Kenya).

But even before his appointment to Kenya he was interested in African birds. In 1906 Dr. van Someren and his brother R. A. L. van Someren started a collection of Uganda birds. The first small collection of 2,000 birds was reported on in *The Ibis* for April, 1916, and most of that collection went to the Edinburgh Natural History Museum. It was not until Dr. van Someren's appointment to British East Africa that he was able to undertake an active part in the field work.

Then, realizing the complexity of the distribution and variation of birds in the varied terrain of East Africa, he made plans for a thorough survey of Kenya and Uganda.

COVERS VAST AREA

With the help of trained native personnel and the co-operation of administrative officers he was able to gather material from the great area extending from the Ethiopian border and the Juba River south to the Tanganyika border and from the Indian Ocean west over the greater part of Uganda.

About three decades ago, with a collection of 15,000 specimens, Dr. van Someren went to England, and at Lord Rothschild's private museum in Tring he studied his material and prepared a report on it. This was published in *Novitates Zoologicae* in 1922. Some 6,500 of the specimens he deposited in the Tring Museum (which went to the American Museum of Natural History in New York with the rest of the Rothschild collection), including all the types then in it. The rest of the collection he took back to East Africa with him.

Since then the collection has been added to not only through van Someren's own efforts, but his son, G. R. C. van Someren, also made a notable addition from western Ruwenzori; C. W. Benson, another from Ethiopia; and J. P. Benson, another from Meru, Mount Kenya. More new birds were described from the collection, and specimens representing new records for Kenya and Uganda were accumulated.

The getting together of this large collec-

tion of bird skins for systematic study was only part of Dr. van Someren's scientific work. The study of mammals, birds, entomology, and botany he considered inseparable, and the ecology and the distribution of the birds and their lives at their nests (he made a collection of more than 5,000 bird photographs from blinds) all received attention. The breadth of his



DR. V. G. L. van SOMEREN

Photograph taken on safari in eastern Africa where he has spent some 40 years studying birds, mammals, entomology, botany, and topography.

interests is indicated by the fact that he is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society, and a member of the British Ornithologists' Union. He was also Honorary Curator of the Natural History Museum at Nairobi (1914-38) and Director of the Coryndon Memorial Museum, Nairobi (1938-40).

His was the rare opportunity to live where he could discover the problems in taxonomy and gather material to solve them. And this is reflected in the collection. By 1949 the collection numbered some 17,000 specimens. More species and subspecies had been described from it so that there are at least 37 type specimens in it, and it is this collection that Chicago Natural History Museum has acquired.

Though the collection was lent for some years to the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi, it has always been van Someren's private collection and since 1940 has been housed in van Someren's residence in Ngong, a suburb of Nairobi. Its new home is to be in the study collections on the third and fourth floors of Chicago Natural History Museum in the bird ranges.

Arranged in systematic series, from the most primitive birds, such as the ostriches, penguins, and albatrosses, to the most advanced birds, such as the tanagers and sparrows, the specimens are laid in rows on paper-lined trays, and the trays are filed in dust- and insect-proof steel cases. Each species has its one special place in the

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A MAJOR EVENT IN THE DIVISION OF BIRDS

All hands were called out to help in unpacking the vast van Someren collection of 17,000 birds from eastern Africa. There was not room in the bird range; so the shipment was uncrated in the paint shop.

TREE DAMAGE BY ICE COSTS MILLIONS

By JULIAN A. STEYERMARK
ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF THE HERBARIUM

Winter in north-temperate parts of the United States takes a toll of many plants, especially trees and shrubs. Injury is caused in different ways. Temperatures below freezing kill outright many of the more tender types of plants, particularly those not native to northern latitudes.

If high winds prevail while the ground is frozen and temperature during the day is much higher than that of the preceding night, "burning" of foliage of many evergreen trees and shrubs may take place. For this reason evergreens should be protected by windbreaks, cut evergreen branches, or temporary shelters of cloth, gunnysack, or the like. Further, such plants should go into the winter with their root systems thoroughly moistened so that the leaves may receive proper nourishment and moisture to tide them through adverse drying conditions induced by high winds and high temperatures before the ground has become frozen. The result of excessive loss of water from the leaves, while the ground is still frozen and the roots are inactive, is a "browning" of evergreen foliage on the sun or air-exposed sides that is frequently observed in pines, junipers, yews, rhododendrons, mountain laurels, hollies, and other evergreens.

Heavy snows may weigh down branches of a number of woody plants and split them. Fungus, insect attacks, and various diseases may weaken or kill parts of the woody stem, causing decay, which eventually opens weak areas that become susceptible to winter attacks. While the winter months normally damage and kill many plants, the result is often not apparent until the following spring, particularly in the case of the winter "burning" or "browning."

ICE STORMS' TOLL

Most spectacular is the damage caused within a relatively short time by ice and heavy sleet storms. The load of ice clinging to all parts of the branches of woody plants, especially trees, adds an extra burden, often too great to be sustained. Eventually the branches snap and break off. When such ice storms occur, they usually come and go with such rapidity that within the short span of a day one may witness a striking change in the landscape.

On January 1, 1948, an ice storm occurred around Chicago and suburbs that devastated trees, broke telephone poles, and snapped telephone and telegraph wires, thereby endangering many buildings. This year Chicago and its vicinity suffered great losses brought on by a similar damaging ice storm in the middle of February. The effects were sad to behold. The majority of elms carefully planted along Lake Shore Drive were broken in one way or another. Throughout

the city parks and in many other areas branches and large limbs were snapped or broken off under the strain of the ice. Losses in plantings amounted to millions of dollars.

Here are a few observations made during and after the last storm as to type of tree damaged, location in which the tree grew, and relation between the tree's habit of growth and its resistance to breakage. First, it was noted the storm took its heaviest and most conspicuous toll of American elm and soft or silver maple trees.

ELMS' WEAK POINT

It is easy to understand why the American elm should fall prey so readily to ice damage. The trunk of this elm forks above the middle into two main parts. These forks, with their



PARK CASUALTY

Damage to an American elm during February ice storm in Chicago.

subsequent growth giving rise to new twigs and branches developing in the direction of the two forks, are responsible for the ultimate fan-shaped or Y-shaped form of the tree, which gives it its stately and beautiful shape. Unfortunately, when these main forks and their subsidiary branches are weighted down with a heavy coat of ice, the strain sooner or later results in snapping off either or both of the forks above the main trunk. The trunk stands but the forks "give," much like the two prongs of the "wishbone" of a chicken when pulled. Thus the very growth-habit that makes the elm so attractive often spells its death in time of ice storms.

Soft or silver maples (*Acer saccharinum*) also are easily damaged by ice storms. So are brittle twigs of peach trees, linden, poplar, box-elder, and the like. On the other hand, tough sturdy oaks or hickories rarely succumb to ice damage. In contrast to the soft maples, the sugar and Norway maple of the hard maple group have tough wood

and strong lateral branches that seldom if ever break. The sycamore, too, bears strong side branches.

The location of the tree often plays an important role during a severe ice storm. Thus the American elms adjacent to the lake, being most exposed to wind, received the full force of the wintry blast. They were damaged more severely than many other American elms growing in more protected sites in the city or in natural forests. In the forest preserves and in natural forested areas where the trees protect one another, they suffered much less damage.

RESISTANCE FACTORS

But what enables plants to resist adverse conditions? Although not all answers to this question are known, some comments regarding the internal composition of woody stems are of interest here.

Naturally, without proper anchorage insured by a strong root system a tree or shrub would be unable to stand up. Equally important is the structure of the tree that we see above the ground. The woody part of the tree consists of an outer covering, the bark, enveloping various tissues made up of billions of tiny cells that provide either mechanical support, function in the conduction of water and conduction and storage of manufactured food, or cause increase in the size of the tree by growth in length and thickness.

The two major tissues of the wood are the *xylem*, concerned mainly with mechanical support, and the *phloem*, concerned mainly with the conduction of manufactured food. The pith, which in soft-stemmed herbaceous plants, like corn, makes up the spongy central core of the stem, in older woody stems of trees dries up, collapses, and is replaced by tougher more resistant cells with firmer walls for support. The cells of the phloem and xylem of trees contain various types of reinforcements and strengthening elements. Otherwise they would not be able to withstand strains and weights and the adversities of the weather to which they are subjected daily. Therefore we find such cells as *phloem fibers*, with very long and thick-walled cells, which serve as mechanical protection to the more weakly constructed but highly essential cells known as *sieve tubes*, the function of which is to transport foods from one part of the plant to another for storage or consumption.

Then, in the xylem or *true wood* of the tree are also found cells that provide rigidity and strength and at the same time function in a conductive capacity. These are known as tracheids and are of two kinds: (1) *wood fibers*, which are heavy-walled, long cells with almost no cavity but with a high degree of mechanical strength, and (2) *vessels* or *tracheal cells*, which are much shorter cells with rather thin walls and wide cavities, having the important function of carrying ascending water in the stem.

Moreover, other cells, elongated at right angles to the axis of the woody stem, are scattered among the woody cells in horizontal bands or ribbons running through the xylem like spokes of a wheel. These are known as *wood rays* and facilitate the horizontal transfer of materials in the stem or act as centers of food storage. Other types of cells are provided with spiral thickenings or bands to furnish more elasticity for the bending and swaying daily exacted by winds on the aerial parts of a tree.

AN INTRICATE SYSTEM

The different cells in a woody stem are thus adapted in a variety of ways to the welfare of the tree to offer it mechanical support, elasticity, and flexibility. As the sap wood changes to heart wood, the cell walls of the heart wood become impregnated with tannin, resins, and other substances and the heart wood increases in hardness, thereby aiding the mechanical strength of the trunk. The heart wood also possesses, by means of these added chemicals in its cell walls, certain toxic properties that help keep the tree strong by preventing disintegration of the wood. Light woods possess more cell-cavity space than heavy woods and can be more easily entered by destructive fungus plants.

Although these woody elements are found in all woody plants, no two woody plants are alike. Actually trees can be identified by their internal wood structure, so intimately connected with their habits and growth. The very fact that the many species of native trees in the Chicago region have survived for thousands of years following the withdrawal of the last ice sheet is proof of their ability to survive. However, much remains to be learned regarding each species of tree and its particular relation of resistance to breaking by winds and ice.

WYOMING 'MUMMY' MYSTERY SOLVED

The mystery surrounding a so-called "dwarf mummy" found in a cave near Casper, Wyoming, was dispelled by investigations made by members of the scientific staff of this Museum last month. The specimen had had wide publicity in the newspapers and on the radio as a supposed representative of a hitherto unknown prehistoric race of men and was thought to be adult despite its stature of only 14 inches. It was brought to the Museum for study by its owner, Iva P. Goodman, of Casper, and Ray Henle, a commentator for the National Broadcasting Company.

The study was conducted by Dr. Rainer Zangerl, Curator of Fossil Reptiles, and D. Dwight Davis, Curator of Vertebrate Anatomy, who issued the following statement (with which Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, concurred):

"X-ray photographs made at Chicago

Natural History Museum reveal that the 14-inch dwarf 'mummy' said to have been unearthed in 1934 from a sealed granite cave near Casper, Wyoming, is the dried body of a human infant. The child was an anencephalus monster, the commonest of all congenital malformations in man. In anencephaly the brain and brain-case fail to develop, and such monsters rarely live for more than a few minutes after birth. The deformation gives a hideously non-human appearance to the head and neck, but the rest of the body is usually quite normal.

"The X-rays show conclusively that the supposed 'dwarf' cannot be an adult. The development of the bones is exactly like that of a child at birth. Photos of anencephalic monsters can be seen in any textbook on the use of X-rays in embryology and obstetrics.

"The 'mummy' is not a real mummy, but merely a dried body of an infant probably buried not more than 25 years. Suggestions that it is the body of a miniature prehistoric man are fantastic. It might have been a 'skeleton' from someone's family closet, surreptitiously deposited in the cave in which it was discovered. Because of its shriveled condition, it is impossible to tell whether the infant was an Indian or a white man."

PALEONTOLOGY EXPEDITION BEGINS TEXAS WORK

The Texas Paleontological Expedition will leave Chicago April 1. Bryan Patterson, Curator of Fossil Mammals, and Dr. Rainer Zangerl, Curator of Fossil Reptiles, plan to work in a large area surrounding the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, located in the northern part of the eastern Cretaceous belt of Texas. The expedition has two main objectives: (1) a careful investigation of the Early Cretaceous Trinity Sands in Montague County, where a reconnaissance party of the Museum discovered mammalian and frog remains last autumn, and (2) to search for similar deposits south of Montague County and for Late Cretaceous vertebrates mainly in the Eagle Ford Shale and the Taylor Marl (very few vertebrate localities are known in the latter formations). Investigation of the Late Cretaceous deposits in Texas presents a continuation of our program of faunal study of the southern so-called Gulf Series of deposits of late Cretaceous age.

Technical Publication Issued

The following technical publication was issued by Chicago Natural History Museum last month:

Fieldiana: Zoology Memoirs, Vol. 1. *Siphonaptera from Central America and Mexico*. By Robert Traub. February 28, 1950. 127 pages, 54 zinc plates. \$4.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AT THE MUSEUM

Compiled by MARGARET J. BAUER

The Museum's original habitat group of the polar bear was mounted for a four-sided case by the late Carl Akeley in 1900. The reinstallation of the group with a painted background necessitated a completely new



The original group of polar bears in 1900



The present habitat group of polar bears in Hall 16

plan. The present group is in Richard T. Crane, Jr., Hall (American Mammals—Hall 16).

* * *

"The work of collecting fossil dinosaurs was continued during the summer by an expedition made to Colorado by Assistant Curator Riggs and Preparator Menke. . . . One leg bone found, probably a humerus, was 6 feet 10 inches in length, exceeding by several inches any such bone ever found before and giving proof of the existence of an animal of the dinosaur type larger than was ever before described."

Last of Audubon Lectures April 16

The fifth and final lecture in the current series of the Illinois Audubon Society will be given Sunday afternoon, April 16, at 2:30 o'clock in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. The lecture, "The Riddle of Migration," will be presented by Roger Tory Peterson, of New York, artist, scientist, and author of widely used field-guides to bird identification.

No Easter Rabbit . . .

THE AFRICAN 'BUGS BUNNY,'
A PICARESQUE CHARACTERBY WILFRID D. HAMBLY
CURATOR OF AFRICAN ETHNOLOGY

UNDER the title of Bugs Bunny or Bugsy, the adventures of Hare are known to millions of American children and his exploits are appreciated in comic strips and on the screen. The American cartoon character is closely related to an



African folklore prototype. To be sure, he is a rascal and full of guile—this may be said of either the American or African character. But withal he is a likable villain, the Kingfish of the animal world, a schemer who outwits in turn the courageous lion and the noble elephant. Occasionally, however, he overreaches himself. He is too smart and underrates the intelligence of his victim. Then the children hold their breath—surely he will be killed this time! No, his cunning and resource have again set him free and he bounds across country to the shelter of his “form,” which is often a deep hole at the root of a tree. We have to be careful with respect to the African Hare not to say his “burrow”; neither must we call him a rabbit. There are no rabbits in Africa, but hares are widely distributed.

Although Hare is a deceiver and a delinquent he can boast a lineage stretching back over the centuries. The humor of his antics while running and fighting was the joy of Negro children in Africa long before the arrival of Europeans, and age-old folklore stories of the cunning of Hare were perhaps the sole consolation of miserable slaves on the dreary voyages from West Africa to America. Negro culture survived in the West Indies, the southern states, Brazil, and particularly in Dutch Guiana. There the jungle sheltered many Negro refugee slaves, and today these colonies remain as small islands of African race and culture now

thousands of miles from their place of origin. Religion, magic, arts and handicrafts, mythology and folklore are still welded into a cultural pattern. Incidentally, Hare of African origin, sometimes in disguise of a rabbit, is the hero (or villain) of many American Negro tales.

Very few attempts have been made by African Negroes to invent a script for writing their songs, tribal history, riddles, and folklore. But memories are good, and Negro languages are rich in vocabulary and metaphor; therefore the tales are passed verbally from one generation to another.

We who are accustomed to so many pleasures and amusements perhaps find difficulty in understanding why so much satisfaction is derived from simple narratives. It is true that Negro children, and adults as well, have their singing, dancing, games, and musical instruments, but these do not meet all requirements. In fact, such pastimes are mainly an adjunct to literary expression. Folklore stories are acted with clever mimicry, and the antics of animals are the subject of games in which the creatures are made to think and act like human beings. A few animals, the crocodile, python, and leopard, have been revered. The first two have been the focus of a definite worship with attendant priesthood. The leopard has been the emblem of strong organizations of a social and political kind. Almost every animal has a legendary history and most of them have here or there been chosen as totemic creatures, the sacred animals whose names are symbols for the clan. The clansmen must not kill or eat their emblem animal. On the contrary, they should protect it, and, in turn, the creature is thought to protect them.

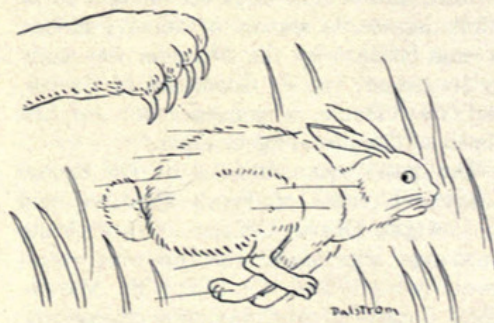
In Negro tribes a hunter is (or was before European interference) the leading authority on animal life. He spent years of training under an expert, and his livelihood depended on an intimate knowledge of the habits of animals. All boys imitate the activities of hunters, and at an early age are expert with blunt wooden arrows. The stories are told therefore by hunters, by boys who have scoured the hillsides and forests for appetizing morsels of fur and feather, by women who are the most awful chatterboxes while they pound their grain or work in the fields.

Perhaps the popularity of Hare is due to the many facets of his character. We see him, in turn, kind and helpful or no better than a mean sneak-thief. In popular slang he is a “double-crosser” and a “show-off” without parallel in the animal world. In the story of his friendship with a cow and her calf, who are threatened daily by a lion, Hare figures as a protector of the weak. He hides in a cave with them, receives a small quantity of milk as a reward for discovering this refuge, then hatches a plot to frustrate the lion. Hare takes a little blood from the cow and holds it in a cup behind his back. When the lion appears at the entrance to

the cave Hare quickly dashes the blood at him, saying, “Look! you are wounded in the side.” The lion, totally lacking his legendary courage, flees the spot. The cow says in congratulation, “I never thought that one so small as Hare could be so kind and brave.”

A trickster is sure to make enemies, and Hare gives many a nervous glance around as he leaps along. There is the baboon who owes a grudge and is seeking a settlement. It happened in this way. Hare and the baboon were caught in a patch of flaming grass, but the latter made a quick exit, running as he does on all fours. Hare was so long emerging that the baboon had given up all hope of his survival. But Hare was quite unperturbed and, with a grandiose air, he said, “I see you are out of breath. Never run from the flames. I always just spit at the fire around me and put it out.” As a matter of fact, Hare had hidden in a deep hole where he was safe until the fire had swept by. But the baboon was completely deceived. He treasured this fragment of misinformation and, in trying to quench a fire as Hare suggested, nearly lost his life.

The storyteller enjoys best of all the series of tales that leave Hare with apparently no loophole for escape. The narrator is a past master for introducing what modern novelists and writers of detective stories call “the element of suspense.” And so we find Hare brought before Justice of Peace Lion. The offender is tried for theft and all kinds of mischief and is condemned to death. The narrator then draws the ashes of the fire together, folds his blanket, and prepares to retire. All this means “to be continued in our next issue,” and the listeners are left to speculate just as modern and more sophisticated readers have to guess the fate of their hero. Sadly, Hare makes a last request before his execution. “Just let me dance and sing my favorite song,” he pleads. The request is granted. Hare is no mean terpsichorean performer. He selects the most dusty piece of ground and starts a mad whirl. He leaps in the air, flings his legs, and is in a perfect frenzy. Then, leaping from the cloud of dust he has created, he gives a mocking laugh and races to the safety of the bush.



REPORT FROM MICRONESIA

By ALEXANDER SPOEHR
CURATOR OF OCEANIC ETHNOLOGY

In the northwest corner of Micronesia lie the Marianas Islands, discovered by Magellan in 1521 and from time immemorial the home of the Chamorros, as the native people are called. Although most of the islands of Micronesia are coral atolls, the Marianas are all high islands that extend northward from Guam in a long chain.

Since November, 1949, the Museum's Micronesian Anthropological Expedition has been conducting work in the Marianas on a combined ethnological and archaeological project. The ethnological project is concerned with the present-day culture of the Chamorros and the changing trends that their culture exhibits. The Chamorros today live on Guam, Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and Alamagan, a small island in the northern part of the chain, while a group of Caroline Island natives, who migrated to the Marianas in the 19th century, live on Saipan and Agrihan. The work is centered among the approximately 6,000 Chamorros and Carolinians on the islands north of Guam, for these people were formerly under Japanese domination and we know little about their present culture.

In the Micronesian area as a whole, the native peoples present extremes of cultural contrast. In the more remote islands of the Carolines the natives follow the patterns of their life in much the same manner as in olden times, allowing for certain changes brought by missionary and trader. The Chamorros are at the other end of this spectrum of culture contrast. Guam, the principal center of population in the Chamorro world, was an important stopping place for the Spanish galleons making the long voyage from Mexico to the Philippines during the days of Spanish empire in the New World and in the Pacific. The natives intermarried with Spaniards and with Tagalogs brought from the Philippines and were converted to Catholicism by the Spanish padres.

LANGUAGE PRESERVED

Nevertheless, the Chamorro language continues as the language of the peoples of the Marianas, while other cultural survivals remain as testimony of the old life. The Chamorros today are primarily a folk people, primitive in no sense of the word, yet in no way urban sophisticates.

Of all the Micronesian islands, the Marianas probably suffered most during World War II. The houses and possessions of the natives were destroyed, and much of their farm land was rendered unusable by war-time base construction. Today the people are rebuilding their communities and the old cultural patterns are reasserting themselves. Yet the war has wrought marked cultural change, not merely in the landscape but in the lives of the people as well. A

primary objective of the expedition's work is to examine this recent cultural change, as seen against the long history of contact with the West and with Japan. The techniques of making a living, the economic organization that guides the work in the fields and the fishing offshore, the life that goes on within the family, the central position of the church among these devout people, and the organization of their political life are all points of interest in the investigation.

A subsidiary problem is offered by the presence of the Carolinian minority among the Chamorros. These people, of a different ethnic background, still maintain a cultural separateness from their Chamorro neighbors. Given more to fishing than to farming, they cling to many of their own customs while staying on equable terms with their fellow islanders, the Chamorros. The Marianas therefore offer to the ethnologist a series of problems in culture contact and change.

PREHISTORY SOUGHT

A second objective of the expedition is aimed at problems lying farther back in the Chamorro past. What was prehistoric Chamorro culture like and where did the Chamorros come from? Spanish accounts contain sufficient information on Chamorro culture at the time of first contact to provide a starting point for archaeological work. Some excavating has been done, mainly on Guam, so that there is a certain amount of knowledge of prehistoric Chamorro life. But no sequence of prehistoric cultures in the Marianas has ever been established by modern archaeological methods. Perhaps none exists, but the problem must be attacked if scientific advance is to be made in the prehistory of this part of the Pacific. Eventually we may be able to relate the prehistoric Chamorro materials to archaeological data from the islands to the southwest, and even to early horizons in the Philippines.

To date, the Museum expedition has completed an archaeological survey of Saipan and a preliminary survey of Tinian. Excavations have also been commenced on Saipan and at a later date will be extended to other islands. The progress of the work will be described in future numbers of the BULLETIN.

The Museum has maintained a long-standing interest in the anthropology of the Pacific area. At the present time, with most of Micronesia under American administration, this interest is of wider importance than to a few scientists alone. Anthropological research that throws light on contemporary cultural change in Micronesia is of practical significance to the administrators who must govern the area. The solving of more academic problems regarding the prehistory of Micronesia contributes to a body of knowledge whose formulation must be primarily the responsibility of American research institutions.

STAFF NOTES

Karl P. Schmidt, Chief Curator of Zoology, will spend three months in Germany at the Senckenberg Museum and the University of Frankfurt as a member of the currently organized University of Chicago faculty exchange team. He will leave in mid-April for New York from Rockport, Texas, where he is scheduled to give an address at the spring seminar of the Texas Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission. Mr. Schmidt will engage in studies on amphibians and reptiles in the Senckenberg Museum, where his stay will be an equivalent for the recent work in Chicago Natural History Museum of Dr. Robert Mertens, director of the Senckenberg Museum.... **Dr. Theodor Just**, Chief Curator of Botany, conducted a seminar at Northwestern University on "Divergent Mutation or Selection."... **Dr. Julian A. Steyermark**, Associate Curator of the Herbarium, has been re-elected president of the Barrington Natural History Society.... **Dr. Paul S. Martin**, Chief Curator of Anthropology, **Donald Collier**, Curator of South American Ethnology and Archaeology, and **George I. Quimby**, Curator of Exhibits in Anthropology, represented the Museum at a symposium on evolution held at the University of Chicago. Dr. Martin lectured and showed films of his archaeological expeditions recently before the Adventurers' Club and gave a radio talk over a National Broadcasting Company network on the Museum's solution of a "mummy mystery" (see page 5). Mr. Collier participated in the meeting of the Carbon-14 Committee at the Institute for Nuclear Studies at the University of Chicago.... **Dr. John B. Rinaldo**, Assistant in Archaeology, lectured for the Earth Scientists Club of Northern Illinois in Maywood.

Expedition to Cuba

Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, Curator Emeritus of Botany, and Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany, left March 14 on a botanical expedition to Cuba. They will continue the collecting and research in which they have been engaged on that island for the past several years.

Borneo Expedition Leaves

The Borneo Expedition of the Museum emplaned for its first port-of-call, Singapore, March 19. Co-leaders of the expedition are D. Dwight Davis, Curator of Vertebrate Anatomy, and Robert F. Inger, Assistant Curator of Fishes. After arrival at Sandakan the expedition will add native personnel for the work in the field, which is to take about six months.

5 SATURDAY AFTERNOON LECTURES ON TRAVEL

The annual Spring Course for adults of free illustrated lectures on travel and science will continue throughout April. The five remaining lectures will be presented each Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. Motion pictures in color will accompany all of the lectures except one, for which slides will be used.

Limited accommodations make it necessary to restrict these lectures to adults. Members of the Museum are entitled to reserved seats on application. For children, free motion pictures will be presented on the mornings of the same Saturdays by the Raymond Foundation.

Following are the dates, subjects, and lecturers:

April 1—GORILLA HUNT
R. Marlin Perkins

April 8—ALASKA WILDLIFE
Cecil E. Rhode

April 15—TRAVEL TRAILS OF THE ANDES
Herbert Knapp

April 22—ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA
F. M. Setzler

April 29—AMERICA, OUT-OF-DOORS
Victor Coty

Requests for reserved seats should be made in advance by telephone (Wabash 2-9410) or in writing, and seats will be held in the Member's name until 2:30 o'clock on the lecture day.

BONANZA IN BIRDS—

(Continued from page 3)

biological classification and a corresponding one in our collection. The whole functions as a gigantic, self-indexing filing system, where any specimen can be consulted at any time and filed away again.

The van Someren collection arrived in nine huge cases that came in bond to the Museum. There was not enough room in the bird range to open them and so we put them in the fourth-floor paint shop. There, under the watchful eyes of two United States customs officers, unpacking started. The paint shop hummed with activity. Interest extended far beyond the Division of Birds. Everyone vied for a crowbar, nail-puller, hammer, screw driver, or tin shears. As the lids came off and the protective metal lining was sheared away, the beautifully packed collection began to emerge from the cases. Each specimen had been wrapped in cotton, in paper, or in both. The specimens lay side by side, row upon row, layer upon layer, and had arrived in perfect condition.

We already have considerable African material from earlier expeditions and purchases. Notable additions in recent years include material such as that from Cameroon collected by A. I. Good, from Liberia collected by Harry A. Beatty, and from Kenya donated by Walther Buchen. All will be used together in studies on distribution and variation. A great many species are new to our collections but no species new to science are expected to emerge. However, there remains much to be done in the zoogeography, relationships, and taxonomy of African birds.

PLEASE NOTIFY MUSEUM IF YOU'RE MOVING

Members of the Museum who change residence are urged to notify the Museum so that the BULLETIN and other communications may reach them promptly.

Members going away for extended periods may have Museum matter sent to their temporary addresses.

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; a schedule of these follows:

Wed., April 5—Bright Feathers—Bird Survey (*Jane Sharpe*).

Fri., April 7—The Story of Mexico. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*June Buchwald*).

Wed., April 12—Spring in the Woodlands—The Earliest Flowers, Leaves, Birds, and Reptiles (*Miriam Wood*).

Fri., April 14—Amoeba to Ape. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Lorain Farmer*).

Wed., April 19—Giants—Plants and Animals (*Marie Svoboda*).

Fri., April 21—One Man's Meat—Unusual Food-Animals. Illustrated introduction in meeting room (*Harriet Smith*).

Wed., April 26—Stone Age Man (*Lorain Farmer*).

Fri., April 28—Weather Ways—Weather and Climate. Illustrated introduction in meeting room (*Anne Stromquist*).

Persons wishing to participate should apply at North Entrance. Tours are free.

MOVIES FOR CHILDREN SATURDAY MORNINGS

Five more free programs of motion pictures for children will be given on Saturday mornings in April in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. They are given under the auspices of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation. All of the programs begin at 10:30 A.M.

Children may come alone, accompanied by adults, or in groups from schools, etc. No tickets are needed.

Following is an outline of the programs:

April 1—ANIMAL LEGENDS

Also a cartoon

April 8—ANCIENT PALESTINE
2,000 years ago

April 15—ARRIVAL OF SPRING
Also a cartoon

April 22—CHINA TODAY
Also a cartoon

April 29—JUNGLE BOOK
Kipling's famous story

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Following is a list of the principal gifts received during the last month:

Department of Botany:

From: E. D. Merrill, Jamaica Plain, Mass.—a complete specimen of *Cycas Wadei* Merrill, Philippine Islands; Museo Nacional, San José, Costa Rica—366 herbarium specimens, Costa Rica; Universidad del Cuzco, Peru—19 herbarium specimens and 26 ears of maize, Peru; Botanical Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.—249 herbarium specimens, Brazil and Colombia; Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia—133 specimens of algae, Mexico.

Department of Zoology:

From: Alex K. Wyatt, Chicago—a cad-dice-fly and 16 specimens of flies, bees, wasps, and grasshoppers, Illinois and Indiana; Dr. Henry Van der Schalie, Ann Arbor, Mich.—27 specimens of fresh-water mussels, Kansas; Eugene Ray, Chicago—40 beetles and a beetle paratype, Cuba and the United States; Javier Ortiz de la Puente, Museo "Javier Prado," Lima, Peru—a lizard and a frog, Ecuador; William G. Hassler, Nashville, Tenn.—a salamander, Tennessee; W. E. Eigsti, Hastings Museum, Hastings, Neb.—38 specimens of ecto-parasitic insects, Nebraska; Gordon Thurow, Chicago—8 lizards, Bermuda; Merle L. Kuns, Lafayette, Ind.—a bat skull, Mexico.

Library:

From: Col. Clifford C. Gregg, Valparaiso, Ind.; Dr. Henry Field, Washington, D.C.; Art Institute of Chicago; Alex K. Wyatt, Chicago; Mayuyama and Co., Tokyo.

If your Museum visit extends over several hours, there is a cafeteria to serve you.



Rand, Austin Loomer. 1950. "Bonanza in Birds: 17,000 Specimens from East Africa." *Bulletin* 21(4), 3–8.

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