

WEST FRONTIER INDIANS PORTRAYED IN EXHIBIT

By GEORGE I. QUIMBY

CURATOR OF EXHIBITS, ANTHROPOLOGY

Since 1894 Chicago Natural History Museum has owned an important but little-known collection of rare paintings by George Catlin, who was famous for the western scenes and Indian portraits that he painted more than one hundred years ago. The Museum's collection consists of thirty-five oil paintings of Indians and scenes of the western frontier painted by Catlin between 1831 and 1837. Most of the pictures were painted along the upper Missouri River in 1832.

During April the Museum will display a selection of its Catlin paintings in a special show entitled "Indians of the Western Frontier." The special exhibit of more



SIUX INDIAN CHIEF

Portrait painted by George Catlin in 1832.

than twenty pictures will be placed in Stanley Field Hall. Other Catlin paintings are on permanent display in the regular Indian exhibits in Hall 5 (Mary D. Sturges Hall) and Hall 6.

Catlin received considerable encouragement and aid from General William Clark (famous for his part in the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Pacific), who was then governor of Missouri and Superintendent of Indian affairs for the western regions, as well as from Clark's nephew, Major Benjamin O'Fallon, who was Indian agent. The Museum's collection of Catlin paintings was formerly owned by Major O'Fallon and probably General Clark. The collection was sold to the Museum by Miss Emily O'Fallon, daughter of Major O'Fallon and grandniece of General Clark. These paintings had been in the O'Fallon home, "Indian Retreat," in St. Louis until 1861, when they were packed up and put into storage until purchased by the Museum in 1894.

How this Museum came to purchase the O'Fallon collection is an interesting story that can be reconstructed from letters in the files of the Museum.

On December 4, 1893, Miss O'Fallon wrote a letter to her friend Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, stating that the O'Fallons "wished to dispose of" their paintings of Indians and requesting the aid of Mrs. Grant in bringing this collection to the attention of the "Museum Directors of Chicago." Soon after receiving this letter Mrs. Grant wrote to Mrs. Potter Palmer in Chicago, who relayed the information to Harlow N. Higinbotham, a Trustee of the Museum. Mr. Higinbotham negotiated directly with Miss Emily O'Fallon, and the paintings were purchased by the Museum on December 10, 1894.

FOUR SATURDAY LECTURES OFFERED IN APRIL

Illustrated lectures in the spring course on science and travel will continue on the four Saturday afternoons in April. The lectures, provided by the Edward E. Ayer Lecture Foundation Fund, are given in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum at 2:30 P.M. Because of limited accommodations, it is necessary to restrict admission to adults. For children, free motion-picture programs are given in the Theatre on the mornings of the same Saturdays under the auspices of the Raymond Foundation.

Following are the dates, titles, and lectures for April:

April 3—Italian Interlude

Dr. J. Gerald Hooper

April 10—Once Upon an Island

Robert C. Hermes

April 17—Turkey

Karl Robinson

April 24—Wildlife of Wisconsin

Cleveland P. Grant

No tickets are necessary for admission to these lectures. A section of the Theatre is allocated to Members of the Museum, each of whom is entitled to two reserved seats. Requests for these 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 2:25 o'clock on the lecture day.

Daily Guide Lectures

Free guide-lecture tours are offered daily except Sundays under the title "Highlights of the Exhibits." These tours are designed to give a general idea of the entire Museum and its scope of activities. They begin at 2 P.M. on Monday through Friday and at 2:30 P.M. on Saturday.

FLYING LIZARD RIVALS PHILIPPINE BIRDS

By AUSTIN L. RAND

CURATOR OF BIRDS

(This is the last in a series of articles on Dr. Rand's observations during his recent study trip to the Philippines. Drawings illustrating various phases of life on the islands appear on pages 4 and 5.)

SOME PEOPLE regard museum curators as men who study dry bones and dusty skins, and think curators themselves are dry as dust. I reflected on this sardonically while in camp in the mountains of Negros in the Philippines. A magnificent forest exists there, but such a forest needs moisture. In camp there were driving rains, the mosses were like wet sponges, the trails were soaked and slippery, and sodden skies dripped ceaselessly. No curator could be dry and dusty there for long—I was wet and muddy most of the time.

I lived awhile on the edge of a different, drier forest at Lilo-an on Siquijor Island. It was here I saw the flying lizard fly. It was about three feet up on a twelve-foot tree stub—a slender creature with head and body about three to four inches long. It pulsed the loose gular skin of its throat as it climbed. I thought it would "fly" from the top of the stub, but it jumped a foot or so to a tender sapling and climbed nearly to the top, about 18 feet up. Then off it went in a flat jump of three or four feet. It spread its "wings" (specialized flaps of skin that when folded reach about from fore to hind limb and are inconspicuous, but when expanded make an oval gliding surface on each side). The downward course was checked and the glide was nearly level to the trunk of a nearby tree. I measured the distance—about fifteen feet from sapling to tree—and the lizard lost only an estimated five to six feet of altitude in this distance. With greater altitude these lizards jump several times as far.

NEW COLLECTING-GROUND

Siquijor is a small islet, about ten miles across. Its interest to me was its poor fauna and the effects of the island's small size on habits and speciation. Once a forested island, presumably, there still are tiny patches of forest in the south. As no collecting had been done here previously, my associate, Dr. D. S. Rabor, and I went to work.

January was in the dry northeast-monsoon season. The only water for a mile or so each way from the farming area called Lilo-an was the village well. Lines of people and cattle to and from the well were a morning and evening sight.

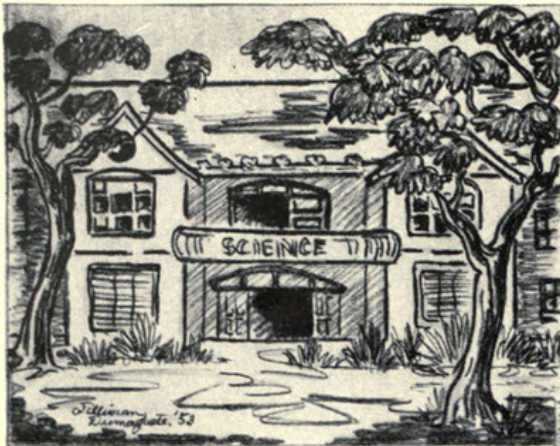
There are gradual beaches and even bits of mangrove on Siquijor. Off the forest there is a broken cliff of 100 feet or more

(Continued on page 6, column 1)

PHILIPPINE SKETCH

Chicago Natural History Museum's 1953-54 Philippine Study Trip resulted in collections of specimens, notebooks filled with data, and a sketchbook of studies by Dr. Austin L. Rand, Curator of Birds. From Dr. Rand's field sketches Miss Ruth Johnson made the drawings presented here.

TOWN



↑ The Science Building of Silliman University, in Dumaguete, where Dr. D. S. Rabor (Field Associate of the Museum) teaches, and where Dr. Rand made his headquarters.

A small village near Dumaguete, showing houses and a small Sari-sari (general) store. Prominently displayed are strings of bananas and jars of "tuba," a popular coconut drink. →



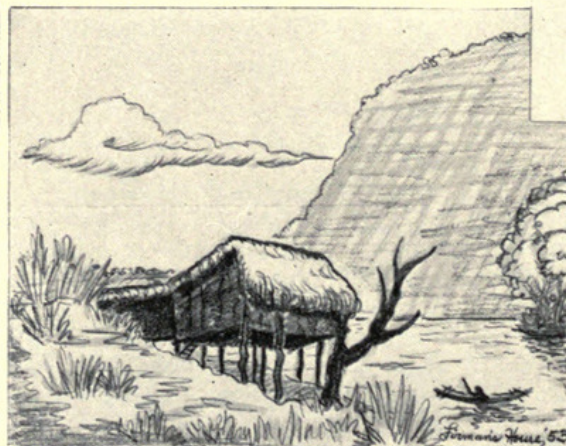
↑ The residence of Dr. Rabor, who was host to Dr. Rand while in Negros.

COUNTRY



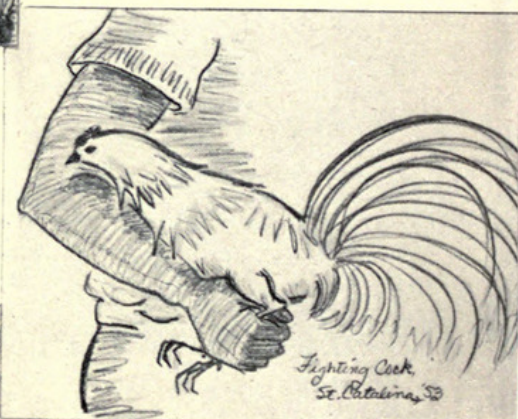
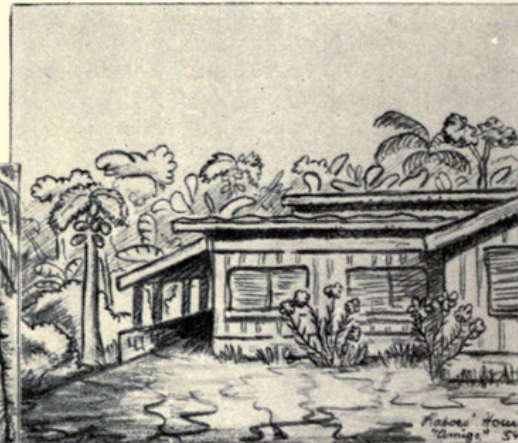
↑ The edge of the Sulu Sea. Coconut palms lean into the monsoon, and the shallow inshore water is incredibly pale, brilliant green-blue.

Carabao, or water buffalo, love to bathe in mud, and here we have one in a buffalo wallow. ↓



↑ Lake Balinsasayo—a view from Silliman University's Biological Station veranda, with the caretaker's home in the foreground.

A cornfield, with a small shelter from which people watch for marauding monkeys, ready to chase them from the ripening corn. →



↑ Cock-fighting is a favorite Filipino sport, and a fighting cock, carried on a man's arm, is a familiar sight.

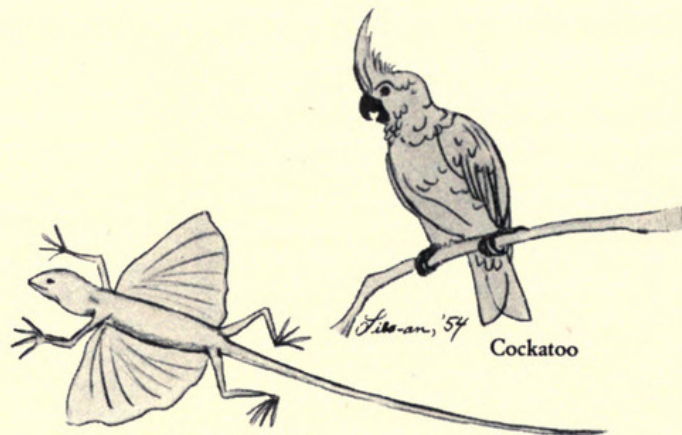


TIES FROM NEGROS



↑ At higher altitudes, tree ferns and epiphytes are common.

FOREST



Flying Lizard

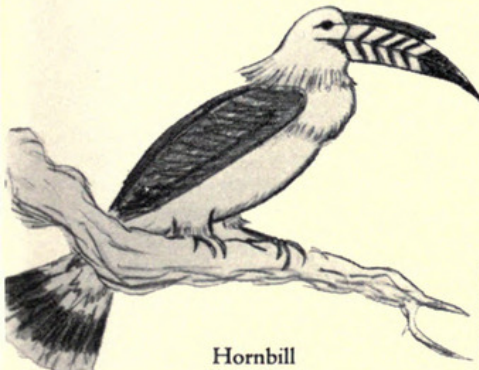
Cockatoo



↑ Lowland Philippine forest, in typical three-story formation: the tallest trees give the topmost canopy, trees of intermediate height make a second story, and the shortest trees provide the lowest story.



Philippine Macaque

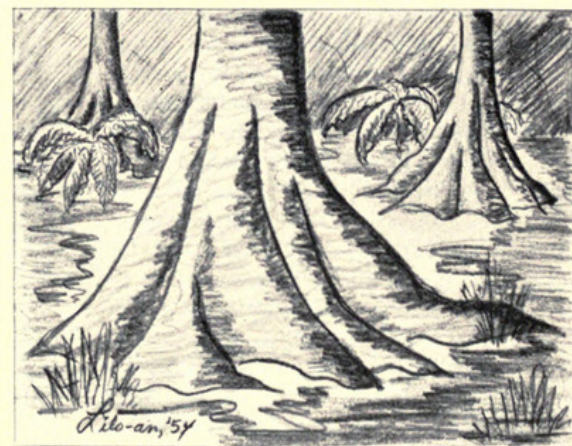


Hornbill

CAMP



↑ Camp on the Inaboanga-Sicopon River, where with Dr. Rabor, his family, and a group of biology-major students Dr. Rand spent Christmas.



↑ Many lowland trees are characterized by wide flaring buttresses.



← A local water-carrier.

Preparing a meal. →



PHILIPPINES—

(Continued from page 3)

that fronts the sea. This was the first forest I ever worked in where fruit bats were common throughout. A medium-sized species slept singly or in couples hanging up in the lower canopy, and these bats were continually flying ahead of us. They were of a species that feed, fight, and squeal amid the small green fruits in the kapok trees each night. A large species of fruit bat also occurred, with a community roost in a big tree about 300 yards from camp, and from this the bats spread out each evening to do their feeding.

Some of the cornfields still had dried bleached stalks standing. How different were the birds in them from the birds of a cornfield in the United States. Instead of bluejays, blackbirds, and pheasants, there were white cockatoos, which, the people told us, compete with the human population for the younger ears of corn. Wood-swallows and bee-eaters, both of groups unknown in the New World, used the cornstalks as vantage points from which to fly out and capture large insects on the wing. Still more incongruous was a medium-sized kingfisher whose favorite perching places were fenceposts along the cornfield where it watched for insects and lizards on the ground.

GIANT FOSSIL CLAMSHELLS

Near the forest the limestone is close to the surface. It's still closer in the forest, and this probably has saved the trees. An incidental result is that the cornfields near the woodland are rich in fossil giant clamshells (*Tridacna*). The shells or fragments of these huge bivalves, more than two feet long, seem to resist disintegration better than the rock in which they're embedded.

As in so many places in the tropics the introduced shrub, lantana, forms great masses on wasteland. These harbor many birds. The bright orange-red flowers are favorite feeding places of the yellow-bellied sunbird, and the ripe fruits are one of the foods of the glossy starling, an all-black bird with an eye so brilliantly red that in the sunshine it looks like an added adornment. A lantana patch near camp was a favorite roosting place for the little black-and-brown weaver bird that roams the countryside in loose flocks in search of weed and grass seeds on which to feed. On our first two mornings here a dark peregrine falcon, relative of our duck hawk, swept over our dooryard throwing the hens into a panic. It's a dark endemic form of falcon we would have liked to collect, but in a watch on subsequent mornings we failed to find it. However, we did see another chicken predator in action. It was a crow, indistinguishable in the field from our crow except perhaps by voice. "Wak" the natives call it, and that's a very good rendition of its call.

The bird fauna of the forest is poor here. There are none of the woodpeckers, hornbills, nuthatches, chickadees, or leaf-warblers so characteristic of many Philippine forests. It's interesting to see a well-developed forest with so many ecological niches empty. Because species are few, one would expect the few that do occur to be exceptionally abundant compared with their status on the larger islands, but this does not seem to be the case.

Bird song is not noticeable, which is to be expected on a small island with a poor fauna. The birds do not need song to prevent species mixup at breeding time. In the forest there is always the chatter of the bulbul, which is harsher than that of its relative on Negros, and the bird is less given to singing than that on Negros.

The screeching of cockatoos is also a familiar sound. The babbling of the rufous and black coucal (a cuckoo) and the loud *gua-how* followed by a chuckle of the black koel (another cuckoo) also sound in the forest. The only real songster is a black-and-white thrush, *Copsychus*, that has a series of fine sweet whistles that would rate it a songster in any company.

MONOTREMES, MARSUPIALS BYPASSED BY EVOLUTION

By BARBARA POLIKOFF

Several members of the blue-jean set were standing in front of the new exhibit in Hall 15 when I went to see it for the first time. Their remarks, coming one on top of another, many having nothing to do with the exhibit at all, caused a small clamor that would have made a disciplinarian's heart sink. But I managed to hear the comment of one boy who had just discovered that the new-born opossum finds its way into its mother's pouch when it is so small that it can fit comfortably in a teaspoon. After he had absorbed the full wonder of this discovery he announced to one of his colleagues, "Someday I'm going to study this stuff." In the age when jet planes and deep-sea diving has excited the ambitions of so many boys, this is quite a tribute.

THEME IS PRIMITIVISM

The new exhibit, planned by D. Dwight Davis, Curator of Vertebrate Anatomy, and prepared by Joseph B. Krstolich, Artist, is devoted to explaining the remarkable features of the two most primitive groups of mammals: the monotremes (most famous is the duck-billed platypus) and the marsupials (best known is the kangaroo). Unlike modern mammals such as the dog and the horse that give birth to fully formed offspring, the animals belonging to these two groups have a much more primitive reproductive cycle. The monotremes lay eggs and are in this respect more like reptiles than mammals. The marsupials, a step

above the monotremes in the evolutionary scale, do not lay eggs but they still lag behind the modern mammals. As the small scholar discovered, their offspring are so undeveloped at time of birth that they require the protection of the mother's pouch for several months before they can venture out on their own.

The monotremes and marsupials have other characteristics that indicate their primitivism. A comparison of the shoulder girdle bones of a monotreme with those of a lizard shows that there is a close resemblance between the two, much closer than the resemblance that exists between the bones of monotremes and mammals. The opossum, a marsupial that is as large as a cat when it is full grown, has a brain that is practically devoid of convolutions, resembling the brain of a lizard more than that of a cat. The convoluted brain is found in the mammals that go beyond the marsupials in the scale of evolution.

FLOURISHED IN THE AMERICAS

As the section of the exhibit devoted to zoogeography shows, about 80 million years ago marsupials and monotremes flourished in North and South America as well as in Australia and New Guinea. At that time there was no connection between any of these land areas. When modern mammals developed in North America, they completely dominated the more primitive marsupials, wiping them out except for the persistent little opossum that was somehow able to survive the onslaught. When a connection was established between North and South America, the modern mammals traveled from north to south and obliterated the majority of the marsupials that flourished there. Because Australia and New Guinea are still isolated as they were 80 million years ago, marsupials still exist there in great variety.

The flying squirrel, a modern mammal, and the flying phalanger, a marsupial, are included in the exhibit as a good example of a common but nonetheless extraordinary phenomenon—that of two animals that closely resemble each other although they belong to different groups that are found in different parts of the world, the result of parallel evolution that occurs when animals have similar habits.

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.



Rand, Austin Loomer. 1954. "Flying Lizard Rivals Philippine Birds." *Bulletin* 25(4), 3–6.

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