

Field Museum of Natural History

Founded by Marshall Field, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Lake Michigan, Chicago

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FIELD MUSEUM NEWS

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Field Museum is open every day of the year during the hours indicated below:

November, December, January	9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
February, March, April, October	9 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
May, June, July, August, September	9 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Admission is free to Members on all days. Other adults are admitted free on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; non-members pay 25 cents on other days. Children are admitted free on all days. Students and faculty members of educational institutions are admitted free any day upon presentation of credentials.

The Library of the Museum, containing some 92,000 volumes on natural history subjects, is open for reference daily except Sunday.

Traveling exhibits are circulated in the schools of Chicago by the Museum's Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension.

Lectures for school classrooms and assemblies, and special entertainments and lecture tours for children at the Museum, are provided by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures.

Announcements of courses of free illustrated lectures on science and travel for the public, and special lectures for Members of the Museum, will appear in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

There is a cafeteria in the Museum where luncheon is served for visitors. Other rooms are provided for those bringing their lunches.

Busses of the Chicago Motor Coach Company (Jackson Boulevard Line, No. 26) provide service direct to the Museum. Free transfers are available to and from other lines of the company.

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

CARIBOU SPECIMENS ARRIVE

Five excellent specimens of caribou obtained for Field Museum in the Rainy Pass region of Alaska by hunters sent out by Alaska Guides, Inc., have been received and the work of mounting the skins will soon begin. The animals will be used in the preparation of a habitat group which will make the final exhibit in the series of North American mammals in Hall 16.

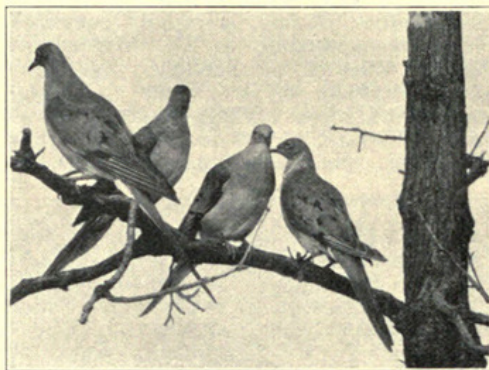
The Museum is indebted to Bruce Thorne of Chicago, vice-president of Alaska Guides, Inc., for his wholehearted cooperation which made possible the acquisition of these animals. Mr. Thorne was one of the leaders of the Thorne-Graves-Field Museum Arctic Expedition in 1929, which obtained the specimens for the walrus group in Hall N, and much other material. Thanks are due also to the United States Biological Survey for its cooperation in issuing the necessary permits to hunt the caribou, which are a protected species of animal.

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

By RUDYERD BOULTON
Assistant Curator of Birds

Years ago vast flocks of passenger pigeons visited the Chicago region on their annual migrations. Their numbers were so great as to darken the sky for hours at a time when the flocks passed to and from their nesting and feeding grounds. Now these birds are extinct, the last wild one having been seen in 1907. The species, however, existed in captivity until 1914 when the last specimen died in the Cincinnati Zoological Garden.

The passenger pigeon is reported to have nested formerly in northern Illinois. The main breeding colonies were, however,



Passenger Pigeons

Part of group of extinct birds on exhibition in Stanley Field Hall. Taxidermy by Ashley Hine.

farther north, in Wisconsin and Michigan. One in northern Michigan was twenty miles long and several miles wide. Millions of birds congregated there to rear their young, and this concentration during the nesting season was one cause of their destruction.

The early settlers depended to a certain extent on these pigeons for food, while thousands were killed by hunters or were used to fatten hogs. After 1882 the flocks had been so reduced that it was no longer profitable to organize hunts or to net the birds systematically on a large scale. From this period on the numbers of pigeons steadily declined. In our times such wholesale extermination of a species is fortunately no longer possible.

In Stanley Field Hall is shown a group of passenger pigeons, representing part of a nesting colony. Eight birds in adult and juvenal stages of plumage are shown crowded together on an oak branch, as was their habit. In the nesting colonies the weight of birds and nests sometimes caused large branches to break and fall to the ground with consequent destruction of the eggs and young birds.

A unique feature of this habitat group is the nest, which is one of the few original examples existing in museum collections. The egg is, of course, also an original and authentic specimen. Usually only one egg was laid, but occasionally there were two.

ADDITIONS MADE TO EXHIBITS OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

A number of especially interesting forms of reptiles and amphibians have been added to the collections in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18). Among snakes are the poisonous copperhead and moccasin, and such harmless species as the large water-snake of the southeastern states, the water pilot, the remarkably-colored ringed king-snake, and the blind burrowing snake of the southwest, *Leptotyphlops*. A plaque showing the vestigial

hind limbs of the African rock python, placed in the same case with several types of limbless lizards, makes clear the origin of the serpent group from the lizards.

Among lizards exhibited is the minute disk-fingered gecko, one of the smallest lizards of the world, which frequently reaches Chicago accidentally in shipments of bananas. It is estimated that the Komodo monitor lizard, largest species in the world, of which a specimen obtained by the Philip M. Chancellor-Field Museum Expedition to the South Pacific is shown in an adjoining case, is 200,000 times larger than the tiny gecko. The spiny-tailed iguanas of Central America are particularly well represented by a male and female from Honduras. Other new exhibits represent the European glass snake and the large ocellated lizard of Spain.

The new amphibian exhibits include those of the blind cave salamander of Austria; the spotted and the tiger salamanders of the Chicago area; Jordan's salamander with brilliant red cheek patches, which is found in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee; and the brilliant fire salamander of Europe.

These exhibits are reproductions of original specimens, made in cellulose-acetate by Staff Taxidermist Leon L. Walters, who originated a process now extensively used in Field Museum for exhibits of this nature. By this process it is possible to make more life-like exhibits of certain animals than can be done by mounting the original skins.—K.P.S.

Herbarium Specimens Cited in Research

During the first quarter of 1932 there were published several papers citing specimens from the Herbarium of Field Museum.

Dr. Johann Mattfeld of Berlin described as new, in Fedde's *Repertorium*, a handsome plant of the saxifrage family called *Astilbe heteropetala*, collected in Szechwan, China, in 1929 by Herbert Stevens, who accompanied the Kelley-Roosevelts Expedition to Eastern Asia for Field Museum. In the same journal Rev. F. E. Wimmer of Vienna described *Burmeistera estrellana*, a showy-flowered plant of the lobelia family, the type specimen of which was collected in Costa Rica and presented to the Museum by Professor H. E. Stork of Carleton College.

In the *Repertorium* Dr. O. C. Schmidt of the Berlin Museum has published *Aristolochia Williamsii*, collected in Peru by Llewellyn Williams, Assistant in Wood Technology at Field Museum, during a recent Marshall Field expedition. In the *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* E. C. Leonard of the United States National Museum has published accounts of two new species of *Sanchezia*, likewise collected in Peru by Mr. Williams.—P.C.S.

BEQUESTS AND ENDOWMENTS

Bequests to Field Museum of Natural History may be made in securities, money, books or collections. They may, if desired, take the form of a memorial to a person or cause, named by the giver. For those desiring to make bequests, the following form is suggested:

FORM OF BEQUEST

I do hereby give and bequeath to Field Museum of Natural History of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois,

Cash contributions made within the taxable year to Field Museum not exceeding 15 per cent of the taxpayer's net income are allowable as deductions in computing net income under Article 251 of Regulation 69 relating to the income tax under the Revenue Act of 1926.

Endowments may be made to the Museum with the provision that an annuity be paid to the patron for life. These annuities are tax-free and are guaranteed against fluctuation in amount.



1932. "Additions Made To Exhibits of Beetles and Amphibians." *Field Museum news* 3(5), 2-2.

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