

## Field Museum of Natural History

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893  
Roosevelt Road and Field Drive, Chicago

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### FIELD MUSEUM NEWS

CLIFFORD C. GREGG, *Director of the Museum*....Editor

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

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK—

#### Conservation

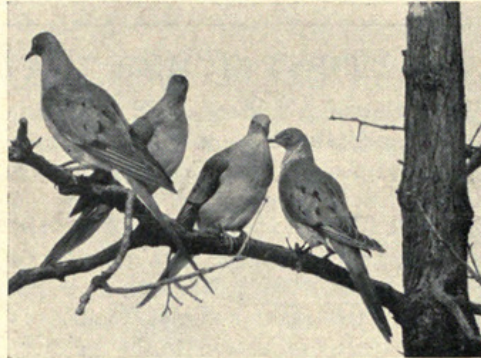
During the past month the local newspapers have carried some information regarding conservation. Conservation Week was officially proclaimed from April 9 to April 15 in the State of Illinois by the Acting Governor. It is fitting that we should turn our attention from time to time to the problem of conservation and all that it means.

Unfortunately the term is rather generally misunderstood. To some it means the abolition of the privilege of hunting and fishing at any time. To others it means the establishment of game preserves and the restoration of wild life. Still others regard conservation as the preservation of all natural things as we find them.

Conservation actually does not mean prohibiting the use of our natural resources, but it does imply that we must use them with intelligent understanding so that they will not diminish or be lost to the world, but may be passed on substantially as we find them to succeeding generations. This implies more than building fish hatcheries to restock our streams, and closing seasons for a year or two on the hunting of birds and animals. Not only the hunter, but the farmer, the lumberman, the miner, the industrialist, and almost all of the rest of us at some time, by our carelessness or lack of knowledge, tend to destroy the natural things that cannot be replaced. In short, what must be learned is that it is dangerous to destroy the balance of nature.

Elimination of predatory birds and beasts has sometimes permitted rodents and grasshoppers to overrun the grain fields of the farmers. Ill-advised irrigation projects have taken the water from one watershed and

transferred it to another, reducing ground water levels and making deserts out of former prairies. Industrial wastes in our streams have poisoned the fish and made the waters uninhabitable for the new crop of fish from the hatcheries. Sloughs have been drained to add to the area of marginal farm lands, resulting in the reduction of wild fowl by the elimination of their nesting-sites. All these and many more abuses against the balance of nature have done far more harm even than the fisherman or hunter who does not limit himself to a fair day's catch.



Extinct Passenger Pigeons

A lesson in conservation. These birds are believed to have been exterminated by excessive shooting for food (not only for humans but for fattening hogs). The last wild one was seen in 1907; the last captive died in 1914 in the Cincinnati Zoological Garden. Shown above is part of a group in Stanley Field Hall.

In the belief that our natural resources are being wasted more because of ignorance than because of greed, Field Museum takes its place among the conservationists in an effort to acquaint people with the problem. An appreciation of wild life, whether flowers, trees, or animals, is perhaps the first element in creating the desire to retain them for posterity. An understanding of the surroundings which make wild life possible, and an appreciation of the inter-relationships of the various forms of wild life are basic factors in solving the problem. It seems then that every intelligent person who understands these matters and who desires to pass on the beauties of nature to posterity must become in one way or another an ardent conservationist.

—CLIFFORD C. GREGG, *Director*

### ADOLF CARL NOE

October 28, 1873–April 10, 1939

Dr. Adolf Carl Noé, Professor of Paleobotany of the University of Chicago, died April 10, 1939, after a short illness. He had been associated with Field Museum for many years, and had been a member of the staff of the Department of Botany as Research Associate in Paleobotany since 1933, having become interested especially in the Department's reconstruction of the coal forest vegetation.

Dr. Noé's researches and publications in coal formations and coal balls are well known to scientists. He placed the use of

his collections and his large knowledge freely at the disposal of the Museum. His most important collections were made chiefly in Illinois, for the Illinois State Geological Survey, and in Iowa, Kentucky, Texas, Mexico, and Russia. In order to gain some first-hand knowledge of the flora of the tropics for comparison with fossils, he spent a season in Panama, at the Barro Colorado Island laboratory.

Scion of an old aristocratic family of French origin and long Austrian tradition, Professor Noé was born in Graz, and served in his youth as an officer in an Austrian Hussar regiment. He was an enthusiastic horseman, fencer and marksman. His first experience in his chosen science of paleobotany was as a demonstrator at the University of Graz. In 1899 he came to the United States, studied at the University of Chicago, and there obtained his A.B. degree, and later his Ph.D. degree. In later years he was awarded honorary degrees by the University of Graz and the University of Innsbruck. He was well-known as a scholar in the field of German literature as well as in science.

His publications include *Fossil Flora of Northern Illinois*, and *Ferns, Fossils, and Fuel*. After his participation in the Allen and Garcia Commission for the study of the coal beds of Russia in 1927 he wrote *Golden Days of Soviet Russia*.

The Museum staff regrets keenly the loss of a valued friend and associate.

The evolution of the horse from a small four-toed animal to a large one-toed animal is interestingly illustrated in Case 22 of Stanley Field Hall.

### A FEW FACTS ABOUT FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum is open every day of the year (except Christmas and New Year's Day) during the hours indicated below:

November, December,	9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
January, February.....	9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
March, April, and	
September, October.....	9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
May, June, July, August....	9 A.M. to 6 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 Museum's Library is open for reference daily except Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

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

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

Free courses of lectures for adults are presented in the James Simpson Theatre on Saturday afternoons (at 2:30 o'clock) in March, April, October, and November.

A Cafeteria serves visitors. Rooms are available also for those bringing their lunches.

Chicago Motor Coach Company No. 26 busses provide direct transportation to the Museum. Service is offered also by Surface Lines, Rapid Transit Lines (the "L"), interurban electric lines, and Illinois Central trains. There is ample free parking space for automobiles at the Museum.





Gregg, Clifford C. 1939. "Conservation." *Field Museum news* 10(5), 6–6.

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Field Museum of Natural History Library

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