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GALAPAGOS ISLANDS YIELD RARE SPECIMENS TO LEON MANDEL EXPEDITION

BY WILFRED H. OSGOOD

CURATOR EMERITUS, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

The Leon Mandel Galapagos Expedition which sailed from Havana, Cuba, on January 8, docked at New Orleans March 10 after a very successful voyage. This expedition was

generously financed by Mr. Leon Mandel, of Chicago, and transported on a 247-foot yacht which he chartered. Field Museum was represented by Mr. Rudyerd Boulton, Curator of Birds; Mr. Loren P. Woods, Assistant Curator of Fishes; Staff Taxidermist Leon L. Walters; Mr. Melvin Traylor, Associate in Ornithology; Ronald

During this time, by the skillful co-operation of Captain John R. McGuire, the ship was maneuvered backward, forward, and from side to side as needed. The fish proved to be a striped marlin weighing 340 pounds, a species not previously taken in these waters.

Quite unprecedented also was the feat of hooking and landing a fish of this type from a large vessel going at full speed. The position of the ship at the time was about Lat. 6° N. and Long. 81° 10' W. A few days later a black marlin, weighing 347 pounds, was taken by Mr. Mandel near Tower Island, but at Banks Bay, Albemarle Island, and other localities where marlin have been reported, none were found.

The expedition began systematic collecting of Museum specimens at Tower Island, and from there worked southward through the entire archipelago, touching at all the larger islands and nearly all the smaller ones. Landings were made at the following islands: Tower, Bindloe, Abingdon, Bartholomew, James, Seymour, Albemarle, Narborough, Charles, Champion, Onslow, Indefatigable, Barrington, Chatham, Gardner, and Hood. This extensive itinerary was covered in

twenty-four days, but although stops were brief, important collections were made at every island, thus producing a result in total that is exceedingly varied and comprehensive. Special efforts were made to secure the land birds and reptiles of each island, and collecting of fishes and invertebrates was carried on continuously.



Merrill-Chase photo

Mr. Leon Mandel

Lambert, volunteer assistant taxidermist and submarine diver, and the writer. Other members of the party, besides Mr. and Mrs. Mandel, were Mr. William Gray, well-known fishing guide of West Palm Beach, Florida, and Mr. Fred Whaler, of Balboa, Canal Zone. Guests on the return trip were Dr. Herbert Barker, of Chicago, who joined at Talara, Peru, and Dr. W. P. Armstrong, Jr., who came aboard ship at Balboa.

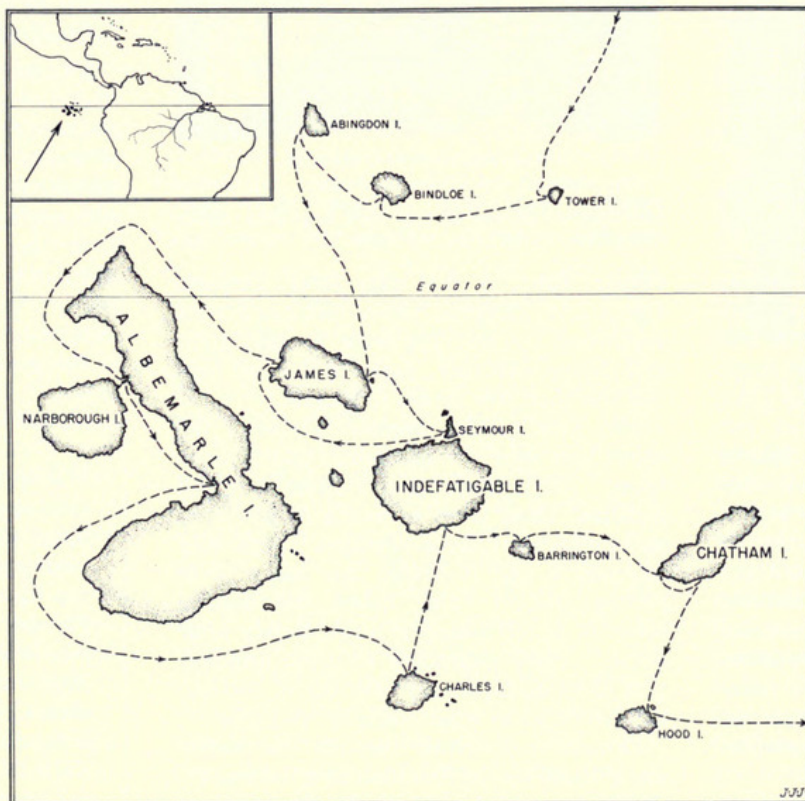
From Havana the expedition proceeded to Panama and after passing through the canal went directly to the Galapagos Islands. Mr. Mandel, who carried special equipment for big game fishing and devoted much effort to it, lost no time in trying the Pacific waters. On the first day after leaving Panama, a line was put out from the stern of the yacht while it was going at a speed of about twelve knots. This experiment, which was intended more to locate than to catch fish, was rewarded with almost immediate success, for within ten minutes the bait was struck by a large marlin. After a fight of an hour and thirty minutes, the fish was hauled on board.



Mrs. Mandel (right), with Senora Alvear, wife of the Governor of the Islands, and Dr. Osgood, aboard the expedition yacht at Chatham Island.

One of the principal objects was the securing of specimens, under-water studies, and color photographs for a large habitat group of the interesting fishes of the islands.

Everything needed for such a group was obtained and specially prepared. It will show a bottom scene based mainly on conditions as found in Tagus Cove, Albemarle Island, where there is a varied wealth of smaller animal life such as star-fishes, sponges, sea anemones, sea urchins, bryozoans and crustaceans. Against a background in which these animals are featured there will be a display of the incredibly numerous fishes of small and medium size which inhabit the waters about the islands. Many of these are of brilliant coloration and bizarre form. Among them is the famous golden grouper, a fish entirely bright golden yellow in color like some varieties of domestic goldfish, but reaching a weight of 40 to 50 pounds. Altogether, some 1,500 specimens of fishes, belonging to nearly 200 species, were taken. Most of these go to enrich the Museum's study or reference collections, but many were



Route of the Mandel Expedition Through the Galapagos Islands

especially selected and prepared to fill immediate needs for exhibition.

Of especial interest is a manta, giant ray, or "devilfish," a species which grows to enormous size and one which offers many difficulties both in its capture and in its preparation. One of these was harpooned by Mr. Mandel near Seymour Island, and hauled out on a sand beach where Mr. Walters and Mr. Lambert spent two days



"Devilfish" in Plaster

Members of the expedition making casts of the giant ray, or manta, on Seymour Island. This strange sea denizen will make one of the most spectacular Museum exhibits to result from the Mandel expedition.

and nights working with all possible speed to make careful studies and a complete plaster mold of it before the burning equatorial sun rendered it unfit. The heavy molds, reinforced with iron piping, were then transported to the ship and safely dried and crated for subsequent shipment to the Museum.

Collecting of birds was carried on at every stop, and all the more important species characteristic of the different islands were obtained in sufficient numbers to demonstrate the variations which have such interesting bearings on problems of evolutionary changes in living species. In addition to the land birds, many large water birds were taken, including all those peculiar to the Galapagos Islands, that is, those found there and nowhere else.

The large land tortoises, for which the islands were named, and which were formerly so numerous on all the larger islands, are now either extinct or confined to remote and almost inaccessible parts of certain islands. Owing to limitations of time and weather conditions, no attempt was made to penetrate far into the interior and none of these giant tortoises were collected, but several were purchased by Mr. Mandel from local residents and brought back alive for presentation to the Chicago Zoological Society. Especially due to the interest of Mrs. Mandel, various other live animals were obtained, carefully fed and ministered to for some weeks, and ultimately presented in unusually fine condition to the Brookfield and other zoos. Among them were Galapagos penguins, albatrosses, frigate birds, boobies, and several of the large land iguanas peculiar to the islands.

The expedition encountered somewhat unusual weather conditions during the time it

was in the archipelago. No evidence of the Humboldt current was found, and surface temperatures of the water ranged from 77° to 86°, most of the time nearer the latter figure. Vegetation was green and luxuriant throughout, not only at the higher levels but down to the shore, and temporary lagoons or small streams of fresh water were not infrequent. Rain fell nearly every day, often in heavy downpours. Although the season was that when a certain amount of rain is expected, it was evident that somewhat abnormal conditions prevailed, doubtless due to some alteration in the usual relations of the ocean currents.

After leaving the islands, the expedition moved to the coast of Peru at Talara and Cabo Blanco for a few days' game fishing, and then set a course for Cocos Island. On the way there, fishing with night lines resulted in the acquisition of a giant squid, an almost fabulous animal well deserving the title "sea monster." In the vicinity of Cocos Island further additions to the collections were made and a number of Pacific sailfish were caught by Mr. Mandel, including some of almost record length but proportionately small weight, and others of unusually small size and weights below 50 pounds. This aroused the suspicion that we might be at or near one of the unknown principal breeding grounds of this



Harpooned by Mr. Mandel

Dr. Osgood and Taxidermist Leon L. Walters examining dolphin hauled to the deck of the yacht. Mr. Mandel skillfully landed many magnificent fishes, some with the harpoon, and more with rod and reel.

famous fish. A few days later, between Cocos and Panama, these suspicions were confirmed by catching with a night light and dipnet two tiny, perfectly formed sailfish less than five inches in length.

Not least of the tangible results of the expedition were the numerous photographs taken. All in color, both motion and still pictures, these form a record of activities and supplement the collections. Especially interesting and valuable are many color photographs of living fishes, the natural colors of which disappear immediately after death. These guarantee accurate preparation of exhibits, to say nothing of settling arguments as to what changes can occur.

Permission to cruise through the islands was granted by the Ecuadorean government, and its representative on Chatham Island received the party most courteously.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON LECTURES CONTINUE THROUGH APRIL

Four more lectures in the spring course for adults, presented by Field Museum on Saturday afternoons, remain to be given during April. Noted scientists, naturalists, and explorers will appear, and their lectures will be illustrated with motion pictures and stereopticon slides.

Due to illness, Mr. William B. Holmes who was originally scheduled to lecture April 5 on "Peru Today—Land of the Incas," will be unable to appear. His place will be taken by Mr. Edgar R. Hoff, who will lecture on "Birds and Animals of the Rockies," illustrating his subject with several reels of motion pictures in natural colors.

All the lectures will begin at 2:30 P.M. and will be presented in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. The demand for seats makes it necessary to restrict admission to adults; but on the mornings of the same Saturdays the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation will present free motion pictures especially for children.

Following are the dates, subjects, and speakers for the adult programs:

April 5—BIRDS AND ANIMALS OF THE ROCKIES.

Edgar R. Hoff.

April 12—ANCIENT AMERICA'S MOST CIVILIZED PEOPLE.

J. Eric Thompson.

April 19—TROPICAL RAIN-Forest OF BARRO COLORADO ISLAND, PANAMA.

Dr. Ralph Buchsbaum.

April 26—AN ALASKAN ADVENTURE.

Bradford Washburn.

No tickets are necessary for admission to these lectures. A section of the Theatre is reserved for 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 9410) or in writing, and seats will be held in the Member's name until 2:30 o'clock on the day of the lecture. All reserved seats not claimed by 2:30 P.M. will be made available to the general public.

WILD FLOWER LEAFLETS—

Of special interest and usefulness to those who seek ability to recognize wild flowers appearing at this season are illustrated leaflets, *Spring Wild Flowers*, and *Spring and Early Summer Wild Flowers*, published by Field Museum. J. Francis Macbride, Associate Curator of the Herbarium, is the author. The booklets are on sale at THE BOOK SHOP of the MUSEUM—25 cents each.



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