

## New York Not All Concrete And Steel

**NATURAL HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY.** By John Kieran. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1959. 428 pages. Illustrated by Henry Bugbee Kane. \$5.75.

New York is more than the canyons of steel and concrete one sees from a downtown hotel. In the five boroughs (Manhattan, Richmond or Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx) there are 28,000 acres of parks, also truck gardens, farms, and even a grove—a remnant of the original forest that once covered Manhattan Island. There are the ocean beaches, the harbor, and the mighty Hudson River. This means a host of plants and animals, from bedbugs, pigeons, rats and mice in the thickly built-up areas, to deer that wander into its landward areas, and even a sperm whale stranded in Brooklyn. Poachers still trap muskrats within the city limits.

Kieran, veteran of radio's "Information,

Please," and author of several books on natural history subjects, gives an encyclopedic store of information about the plants and animals, selecting those he has seen, or those likely to be seen. The treatment is a loose arrangement by groups from the life in a cup of water dipped up from sea or pond, to birds and mammals, flowering plants, and trees.

From this volume the nature lover can get a view of the great variety and wealth of life that flourishes in and about a great city—some because of man, some in spite of him.

A background of the geology and history of the island, and a chapter on the cycle of the seasons introduces one to the factors which determined the flora and fauna upon which man has placed a heavy hand. The pencil drawings by H. B. Kane are a very decorative feature of the volume.

AUSTIN L. RAND  
Chief Curator of Zoology

## GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Following is a list of the principal gifts recently received:

### Department of Anthropology

From: Dr. William Bascom, Berkeley, Calif.—ethnological specimens, West Africa; Mrs. Maude A. Farber, Chicago—ethnological specimens, Australia, Melanesia; Mr. & Mrs. Clarence L. Frederick, Chicago—62 ethnological specimens, Africa; Capt. and Mrs. A. W. F. Fuller, London, England—carved Maori Tiki, New Zealand; Mrs. John A. Holabird, Chicago—Navajo textiles, Southwest USA; Mr. & Mrs. Fred Mueller & Mrs. Pauline Tuck, Chicago—ethnological specimens, Polynesia, Samoa; Mr. Robert P. Thacker, Chicago—model house, Kusai, Micronesia

### Department of Botany

From: Mr. H. R. Bennett, Chicago—536 phanerogams, Oregon; Dr. E. E. Sherff, Hastings, Michigan—13 phanerogams, Hawaii

### Department of Geology

From: Mr. James E. Canright, Bloomington, Ind.—a fossil insect, Nova Scotia; University of Chicago—fossil reptiles, Texas; Mr. August Pivorunas, Chicago—slab of fossil pelecypods; Dr. & Mrs. Robert H. Whitfield, Evanston, Ill.—fossil plant specimens, Wyoming and Tennessee

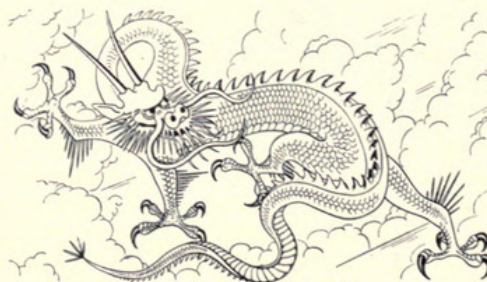
### Department of Zoology

From: Dr. James Brennan, Hamilton, Montana—slides of chigger mites, North and South America; Dr. C. M. Burgess, Honolulu, Hawaii—snail specimens; Dominion Museum, Wellington, New Zealand—3 bird skins; Mr. Stanley Dvorak, Chicago—3 marine snails, Philippines and Sonora, Mexico; Dr. Robert L. Fleming, Katmandu, Nepal—110 bird skins, 3 lizards, 7 snakes; 1 hairworm; The Florida State Museum, Gainesville, Florida—a bat skull, B. W. I., Jamaica; University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida—7 bats, Bahama Isl., Panama, Antigua; Mr. Harry Hoogstraal, Cairo, Egypt—32 mammals, 213 bird skins, 7 frogs, 14 lizards, 8 snakes, a lot of turtle eggs, uterus of a mammal, Sudan, Egypt; Mr. Gunnar Hoy,

Argentina—408 bird skins; Mr. Ralph Jackson, Cambridge, Maryland—land snails, Ibarra, Ecuador; Miss Bess Kennedy, Grafton, West Virginia—a pair of miniature ivory dogs; Dr. N. L. H. Krauss, Honolulu, Hawaii—15 reptiles and amphibians, Mexico and Central America; Mr. Borys Malkin, Seattle, Washington—inland mollusks, Europe; Dr. J. I. Menzies, Sierra Leone—17 frogs, 3 lizards; Mr. John C. Poynton, Pietermaritzburg, Natal—a frog; Mr. Kim T. Rawlinson, Greencastle, Indiana—8 fishes; John G. Shedd Aquarium, Chicago—3 fishes, Iowa; Walter Suter and John Wagner, Evanston, Ill.—10,919 feather-wing beetles, Eastern United States; Mr. Robert W. Tansill, Evanston, Ill.—sea shells, Yap Id., Carolines; U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rogers City, Michigan—2 fishes; Dr. Conrad E. Yunker, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada—4 lizards, Egypt

### Rarest Waterfowl

The nene or Hawaiian goose, a peculiar species that evolved from a colonization of the islands by Canada geese in the long ago, is probably the rarest species of waterfowl in the world. In 1950 there were only 17 in captivity and another 17 in the wild. Since then, the wild birds have increased to perhaps 50 birds, and in addition 36 young have been raised in captivity in Hawaii and 53 in England. The nene's breeding grounds were discovered only in 1957, and a study made of the possibilities of management of the species to ensure its further increase and safety



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CHINA—  
LAND OF THE DRAGON  
JOURNEY  
Continues Through May



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