



pects to be able to learn more about the pattern of evolution in land snails during the last half-century.

Dr. Robert F. Inger, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles, has recently returned from a study trip to Florida where he examined the habitats of numerous amphibians, tested various field techniques essential to the conducting of certain scientific experiments, and also did some general collecting. On leaving Florida, Inger traveled to Austin, Texas, for the annual meetings of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

Visitors

Student groups from the University of Illinois and Valparaiso University visited the Museum's Department of Botany recently to become acquainted with its herbarium, library, and exhibition techniques. Of special interest to the Valparaiso group—students of paleobotany—was the Museum's giant fossil plant, *Cycadoidea*, reconstructed in the botany plant reproduction laboratory (see June BULLETIN) and now awaiting installation. The *Cycadoidea* reproduction is based on studies of silicified fossil specimens that reveal the minute anatomical details of the extinct plant.

Membership Gains

The Museum gained 1,638 new members during 1960, to bring its total membership to 7,350, the largest in the institution's history.

This upswing, which is part of a trend that has been developing over the past few years, appears to indicate a heightened public interest in research and scientific progress. Membership dues and contributions assist greatly in supporting the research and educational work carried on by the Museum's staff, and offer

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Mark Catesby— The Colonial Audubon

George Frederick Frick and Raymond Phineas Stearns. University of Illinois Press, Urbana, 1961. 137 pages. \$5.00.

Mark Catesby has been called the first great naturalist in America, and the founder of American ornithology (not the father, a title reserved for Alexander Wilson). He was primarily a botanical collector when in America, but is best known for his sumptuous, two-volume *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*, published in London, 1731–43. This was a general, illustrated work, but in it was the first series of identifiable plates of American birds, each arranged with a spray of vegetation, etc. A tradition was thus established that was followed by Wilson and Audubon.

Despite the historical importance of his published work, Catesby the man has remained a shadow. He was an Englishman who made two trips to America, to Virginia and Carolina, in 1712–19 and 1722–26. Back in England he devoted 20 years to writing the text and engraving the illustrations (to lessen expense) of his great work. The dates of his birth and death were discovered only recently. Though a writer, none of his papers or journals has come down to us; though an artist and an engraver, there is no likeness known.

Only by searching out references to and comments on Catesby in the correspondence of his contemporaries, entries in their journals, the records of scientific societies, and civil records have the two authors, both professors of history, reconstructed a dim outline of the man, and this we have here in a copiously footnoted document.

Mark Catesby—The Colonial Audubon is obtainable through The Book Shop.

A. L. RAND

Chief Curator, Zoology

1001 Questions Answered About the Seashore

N. J. Berrill and Jacquelyn Berrill. Grosset & Dunlap, New York. 305 pages, illustrated. \$1.75 (paper covers).

The abundance of identification manuals available today tends to obscure the fact that finding a name for a given plant or animal, mineral or rock, is only the first step taken by the naturalist. It provides the key which unlocks the door to a fuller knowledge of the object.

Through this compact (5 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 8") volume, the Berrills open this door by providing the amateur naturalist with answers to 1001 questions about the seashore and the plants and animals found there. The book's 27 "chapters" cover collecting, tides, sea water, plankton, phosphorescence, seaweeds, jetsam, the major invertebrate animals, fishes, turtles, marine mammals, and shore birds. A 21-page index enables the reader quickly to locate information on any topic or organism, under either its common or scientific name.

Designed as a supplement to identification manuals, to be carried into the field with them, the book makes no claim to cover all phases of seashore life. However, it probably includes the most commonly asked questions, as well as a number that will occur only to the more serious student. Sample questions are: What makes the sea blue? Where does the water go when the tide is out? Why are some seaweeds red? How does sand get into the case of a horseshoe crab? How are the two shells of a bivalve made? How do shrimps breed? How can limy-tube worms best be seen? How deep can a gannet dive?

Visitors to the Museum may wish to expand their knowledge of the seashore and its life by carrying "Berrill" with them through the exhibition halls.

ERNEST J. ROSCOE

Division of Lower Invertebrates



Rand, Austin Loomer. 1961. "Mark Catesby: The Colonial Audubon." *Bulletin* 32(7), 5-5.

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