

Bird Experts Report From South America

By WALTER P. NICKELL,
Special Writer

This letter is being written from our lodging in a private home near the Caribbean at Stann Creek, British Honduras, which is about 2,500 miles south of Detroit as the Indigo Bunting flies.

After exploring the possibilities at a number of bird sets from Vera Cruz through the Yucatan Peninsula, we have decided to spend the next 10 days here in this region.

WE MOVE to a new type of location every day setting the traps along streams and the edges of citrus groves.

Several of our common Michigan bird species are here and are passing slowly toward the north where they will make the big flight 500 miles across the open sky.

WE HAVE HANDED REPRESENTATIVES

of about one-tenth of all the species found in the Mexican, British Honduras region.

Some of the commonest U. S. and Canadian migrants we have captured in addition to the orchard oriole and indigo bunting are the rose-breasted grosbeak, catbird, mourning dove, northern water thrush, ovenbird, magnolia warbler, redstart, yellow-breasted chat, black and white warbler, hooded warbler, and a ruby-throated hummingbird.

Our lone, small ruby-throat almost becomes lost in the great numbers of larger and more colorful hummingbirds of this region.

SOME WESTERN and southern U. S. species which have been common from Vera Cruz southward are the derby flycatcher, Cassin's kingbird, grove-billed ani, and painted bunting.

The white-eyed vireo has been found in nearly every type of habitat from the dry brushlands to the moist coastal lowlands and the high tropical jungles.

The flycatcher and hummingbird families of birds are probably the most confusing as they comprise together about 130 species with sometimes only minor differences in measurements and color.

BY MEASURING each bird caught and keying down its description minutely, we are able to identify a large percentage with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

Our evenings are spent in writing reports and letters and sometimes handing our last catches before we take the nets down.

We have learned that in these hot regions the birds, too, take extended siestas. Like the people, Netting is best from dawn to 11 a.m. and from 3 p.m. until dark. We have learned, too, that the canyons, waterholes and streams are the great areas of concentration for most species of birds. This is it at the edges of such places where we set our nets.

SPACE does not permit our making an extended report at this time, but we believe that our Grand-trunk Institute of Science expedition has been reasonably successful (from the standpoint of our major objectives, which is birdbanding).

There are many supplementary objectives, such as the overall studies of habitats in which the birds are found, behavior of species and photography. It is our intent to present to our membership (sometime next fall or winter) a color motion picture illustrating our travels and experiences. This will include many colorful birds, wildflowers and humans, their habits and houses.

Please send us a few shiploads of your glorious Michigan snow. While you may be dreaming of the Florida beaches, we are dreaming of snow in our Michigan homeland. We expect to see many of you within a few days after you read this account.

Our very best regards to our friends and to the institute of science membership in general.



Sunshine and Palmtrees

Enjoying a vacation at the Left-of-Rebber, N. Y., and Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Sylvester of Snowshoe (left) Dr. and Mrs. Libby Pulsifer circle, Birmingham.

B-C THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC April 7, 1960

Grand Trunk Switches Freight to Birmingham

The Grand Trunk Western railroad, just recently the last of the major lines to give up the use of the "Steam locomotive," has consolidated another operation for "economic and efficiency reasons."

The railroad freight office in Birmingham, 245 S. Eton, has been designated as the new south Oklahoma freight center.

THE MOVE establishes Birmingham as the LCL (less than a car load) shipping and receiving point for the surrounding area.

Harry J. Wichman, Birmingham passenger and freight agent said, "the new move will speed up shipping by 48 hours." "Until recently, the railroad would ship all freight to Detroit first," he said, "now freight will come in directly from Port Huron, which means faster service for our customers."

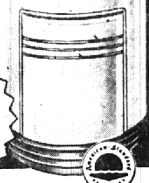
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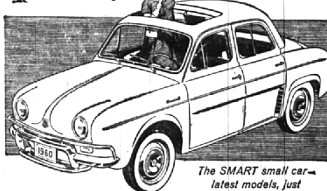
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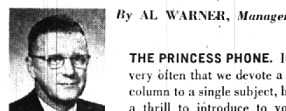
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BIRMINGHAM



By AL WARNER, Manager

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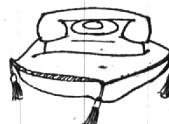
IT'S LOVELY! Five attractive decorator colors: white, beige, blue, pink, and a brand new color for telephones—turquoise. There's a pretty Princess Phone to go with every color scheme—in every room in your house.

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