

UNIQUE BIRDS OF CHILE DESCRIBED BY NEW YORK SCIENTIST

Remarkable birds of the Pacific coast of South America, including a wild duck that cannot fly, a penguin that makes its nest in the midst of a jungle instead of on a rocky islet where one would expect to find penguins, and gulls that are a menace to sheep, were recently told about before the American Ornithologists' Union by Dr. Frank M. Chapman of the American Museum. Dr. Chapman has recently returned from a rapid study tour of the waters and coast lands of western South America.

The coast of Chile, he said, is especially well adapted for the study of bird life and other natural history problems. In the first place, the climate ranges all the way from very wet in southern Chile to absolute rainlessness in the nitrate deserts of the north. Then, the sea penetrates deep into the Andes range, and indeed in the southern part actually pierces it in several places, so that products of southern Patagonia can be loaded on ships from the Pacific. These long fjords, as well as Magellan strait itself, are simply flooded mountain valleys, and the offshore islands are simply isolated peaks and ranges.

In this region, where Darwin spent more than a year when he was on his famous voyage in the "Beagle", a longer series of studies is planned for the near future.

Among the most interesting of the birds studied and photographed by Dr. Chapman was the loggerhead duck, also called the steamer duck, because of its peculiar method of half swimming and half flying. Its body is much too heavy for its short wings, often weighing ten or twelve pounds, and when it beats the air with its wings it rises partly out of the water, like a hydroplane, and thrashes up so much spray that it suggests the action of a sidewheel steamer, whence its name, "steamer duck".

The Chilean penguin is closely related to the penguins of the antarctic region but instead of living on rocky islands in great rookeries near the shore, builds its nest in almost impenetrable jungles on forested islands. And though the forests are of a semi-temperate zone type, they harbor such birds as parrots and hummingbird, most unlikely companions for penguins. It was like finding polar bears and elephants together, said Dr. Chapman.

The Sheep ranchers of Patagonia are much disturbed over two birds, the speaker continued. One of these is the kelp goose, a large and very beautiful bird, and much devoted to his family. But the goose eats a great deal of grass - six geese as much as one sheep, the ranchers say - and hence is regarded as an enemy. The second bird that is "in bad" with the sheep men is the black-and-white Dominican gull. These birds have thriven marvellously on the offal of packing plants of the region and have become very numerous. But the sheep raisers claim that when their usual bounty of offal runs low the gulls attack and devour young lambs. So geese and gulls are both under the ban in Patagonia.

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

IMMUNITY IN NATURAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES: By F. d'Herelle. Translated by George H. Smith. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Co. 1924. 400 pages. \$5.00

This translation of d'Herelle's book in which he enlarged upon his revolutionary theory of "contagious health" will be welcomed by bacteriologists and physiologists, regardless of the stand they take upon the bacteriophage concept. Of course the book does much more than present this one specific idea; d'Herelle goes exhaustively into the physiology of immunology and the theory of specific reactions of living matter generally.
