

ORNITHOLOGY

Two New Bird Species Found in Panama

➤ TWO NEW SPECIES of birds have been discovered in Panama.

The discoveries are rare occurrences since almost all bird species are believed known to the experts.

The first new species, discovered by Dr. C. O. Handley Jr. of the U.S. National Museum, is a hummingbird from Isla Escudo de Veraguas, Panama. *Amazilia handleyi*, the new hummingbird species, is deep green with a bronze sheen and has a large body.

The second species, a wood-quail, *Odontophorus dialeucos*, was found by Dr. Pedro Galindo of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, Panama, in the rarely visited area of Serrania del Darien and is unlike any wood-quail known.

The discoveries were reported by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, former Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and expert ornithologist.

• Science News Letter, 85:45 Jan. 18, 1964

Nature Note

➤ A QUEER INSECT with nasty habits and a beautiful name is the silverfish. Most primitive of all the insects, this wingless creature is covered with minute delicate scales which gives it a slick or silvery appearance.

If you try to catch a silverfish in your fingers, it feels quite slippery. When the creature runs for cover, it seems to slither and ripple swiftly over the floor or shelf, looking very much like a small fish.

Most silverfish prefer the great outdoors to civilization, and can be found under logs, leaves and rotting vegetation in the woods and hillsides, or under stones on the sea-coast. But a few species have taken up residence in man's home, where their appetite for anything containing glue or starch makes them most unwelcome.

Much devastation is caused by this shy little insect in the bookcase and closet, where he eats bindings of books, papers, boxes and wallpaper. Some prefer the kitchens and bakehouses where they can run around the shelves and floors in their search for sugary or starchy foods.

A member of the insect order Thysanura, the silverfish has a segmented body and long slender filaments extending from both ends of his body—two thin antennae extending from the head, and three or sometimes two long filaments stretching back from the tip of his abdomen. Because of these waving filaments, you have to look carefully to see which is the head and which the tail—but of course he is usually running headfirst whenever there is a human being nearby.

Silverfish have compound eyes, composed of many facets which make a mosaic of the eye surface. They are nocturnal creatures which means they do most of their eating and moving around at night—another reason you see them so rarely.

• Science News Letter, 85:45 Jan. 18, 1964

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