

ZOOLOGY

Ten-Rayed Sea Star Found in Pacific

➤ **THREE SPINY** members of a new species of deep ocean sea star were collected in a shrimp trawl in northeastern Pacific Ocean off northern Oregon.

Named *Asthenactis fisheri*, the new species of sea star has ten long tapering flexible rays, reported Miles S. Alton of the Exploratory Fishing and Gear Research Base, Seattle, Wash.

When alive, the sea stars had rainbow colors. They were rust colored on the upper part and light orange on the lower part, blending into salmon pink around the "mouth," while the tiny tube feet were violet tinted, Mr. Alton reported in the British journal, *Deep Sea Research*, 13:1, 1966.

The new species, collected about 2,400 feet beneath the sea, is part of a small group of sea stars called Myxasteridae, which are found throughout the world in waters that range from about 3,550 to 10,500 feet in depth.

The three new specimens were collected May 30, 1964, by a research vessel chartered from the College of Fisheries, University of Washington.

The collecting was done during the deepwater investigations off the mouth of the Columbia River by the Cooperative Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

• *Science News*, 89:477 June 11, 1966

ZOOLOGY

Bird Believed Extinct Discovered on Island

➤ **A BIRD** previously thought to be extinct, the Auckland Island rail, was discovered on desolate Adams Island, a wind-swept islet of the Aucklands group 600 miles south of New Zealand.

The rail is a small ground-living bird about the size of the quail. It is a subspecies of the Australian Lewin water rail and had been regarded as extinct.

The discovery was made by a seven-man team of New Zealand scientists.

Only one specimen of the bird was collected by the party. Adams Island is less than a mile from the main Auckland Island, but the leader of the expedition, Dr. E. J. Godley, said that the main reason for the bird's survival there may be that there are no introduced animals on Adams Island as there are on the main Island.

Vegetation on Adams Island showed what the original vegetation on the Auckland group was once like.

In 1948 a scientific party made world headlines when it discovered in a remote corner of New Zealand's Southland province the rare bird *Notornis*, which for many years had been considered extinct.

• *Science News*, 89:477 June 11, 1966

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