

ZOOLOGY

Ostrich Running 70 Miles an Hour Bulldogged From Auto

"BULLDOGGING" ostriches from the running-board of an automobile speeding through the Syrian desert at more than 70 miles an hour was the exciting variant of the Wild West sport practiced in the Near East by Prof. A. Aharoni of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Prof. Aharoni led a zoological expedition into the Syrian desert recently, to collect specimens of its rare animals and birds. When he was not heard from for six weeks, fears began to be entertained for his safety, but finally a letter arrived, dated from Karyatein, in the Palmyra region.

"We have succeeded in reaching places in the desert which have never yet been touched by any scientists," Dr. Aharoni wrote. "Ostriches are growing scarcer and scarcer here, and they, too, like so many other rare animals and birds in Palestine, are threatened with rapid extinction.

"After two days of preparation, we started out on the chase. For eight days we just looked for ostriches. Finally we caught sight of a small group of four ostriches, through our telescopes.

"And now the real chase began, at a speed of 115 kilometers [71 miles] an hour. The ground which harbors the

Syrian ostrich is so unevenly bumpy that we were constantly in danger of overturning in our overpacked and overloaded machines. Besides Sheikh Medjhem and Sheikh Chalid, a number of simple tribesmen, who were considered the best shots, accompanied us.

"Fortunately the ostrich always runs in a straight line, but he must be attacked from the flank, because the stones he throws behind him in running fly with such force that the glass windshields of automobiles cannot withstand them. After a wild and bitter chase that lasted over two hours, we managed to get near enough to shoot at one of the ostriches, which, however, made its escape into the mountains, where no auto could follow it. A second ostrich was killed, but we left it lying where it was, so that we could pick it up on our way back.

Bedouin Grabs Ostrich

"The other two ostriches we planned to catch alive. So one of the tribesmen stood on the outermost edge of the running board of our machine and, bending over, grasped one of the ostriches, an almost black one, by one of his enormous wings, as we rode past at terrific speed.

The bird was so powerful that he would have dragged the Bedouin off his slight hold on the running board and killed him, had not one of his brother Arabs caught hold of him from inside the auto and held on with all the strength he possessed. So we tied the bird and took it into the already overcrowded machine and continued the chase after the fourth ostrich. This one was already so fatigued that he could be caught after scarcely a half hour's pursuit."

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Graves of Huns Are Found in Mongolia

DISCOVERY of some graves of the terrible Huns who ravaged southern Europe during the first few centuries after Christ aids in tracing the connection of ancient Mongolia with the East and West. The finds of P. K. Kosloff, Russian explorer, show both Chinese and Grecian influence. Almost all the tombs contained golden ornaments, tapestries, carpets, weapons, or idols. The remains of these Mongolian princes were badly preserved, only the hair being intact.

Approximately 150 of the Hun graves were located by the Kosloff expedition which proceeded with a caravan of 50 camels to the region near Urga, north-east Mongolia. The coffins lay in subterranean mausoleums constructed of ebony. Thieves had rifled many of the tombs, but while taking much of value did not destroy the rest.

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OLD SABER-TOOTH TAKES FIRST RIGHTS TO THE KILL

In one of the new paintings in the Field Museum of Natural History, Charles R. Knight, graphic chronicler of ancient life, has shown a dramatic moment in the turbulent days around the LaBrea tar-pits in California, some 50,000 years ago when the West was really wild and woolly. One of the great fanged cats stands off a flock of hungry condors and a pair of wolves, while his mates gorge themselves on the flesh of some luckless beast—possibly a horse—which they have found trapped at the outer edges of the sticky asphalt.