



Hunted Eagles

EAGLES in Alaska, persistently reported to be in danger of extinction through reckless shooting by bounty hunters, are far from last-stand conditions, Ralph Imler of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service states. Mr. Imler, now in Washington, spent the summer in a study of the eagle population along the Alaska coast.

There is no denying that the number of eagles in Alaska has been greatly reduced, he says. How great the reduction has been it is impossible to determine now, for there never was anything like an accurate census of the big birds before 1917, when the bounty system first went into effect. However, even now there is hardly a mile of shoreline without its eagle somewhere in sight.

Alaskan eagles are apparently all of the bald species. Mr. Imler did not see any golden eagles all summer.

The bounty on eagles, established by the Alaska territorial legislature in 1917, is paid on their feet, not their heads. At first, it was 50 cents a pair, but when this did not bring in many eagle feet it was raised to \$1 a pair. At present no bounties are being paid, because the Governor of Alaska vetoed the last appropriation bill. The bounty law itself, however, remains unrepealed.

From 1917 to the present, records show, bounties were paid on 110,000 eagles shot, and it is estimated that at least another 100,000 of the great birds have died as a result of wounds, but in such inaccessible places that the hunters could not get at them to cut off their feet.

Several groups have been interested in having eagles killed. Blue fox raisers claim that eagles steal their pups when about half grown. Deer hunters accuse them of preying on fawns. Fisheries

men declare they are voracious fish killers. Finally, there are a good many miners and other men who are quite frankly in the game merely to get the bounty, which supplements their cash incomes during seasons when they are otherwise unoccupied.

The present studies of the Fish and

Wildlife Service are intended to get at the real facts about eagles' food habits. Nobody knows to what extent, if at all, eagles prey upon fox pups and fawns. They certainly eat great quantities of fish—about 80% of their total diet, probably—but most of the fish they eat is picked up along the shore, already dead.

Science News Letter, November 22, 1941

ANTHROPOLOGY

Skeleton With Bulgy Brow Found in Pennsylvania

Discovery of Prehistoric Indian Skeleton in Vault With Stone Lining Draws Scientists to Conference

DISCOVERY of a prehistoric Indian skeleton with narrow, bulgy forehead, buried in a stone-lined vault recently drew scientists from Washington and other cities to a conference in Warren, Pa.

The discoverers tentatively declare that the new-found Pennsylvanian, and another similar burial badly preserved, means that some of ancient America's Hopewell Mound Builders of the Mississippi Valley moved East through the mountains long ago to settle there. Hopewell culture is rated by archaeologists as the highest and most progressive ever achieved by Indians of the eastern United States.

The stone-lined vaults came to light when an expedition of the State Historical Commission was making an archaeological survey of the upper Allegheny valley under leadership of C. E. Schaeffer.

At the session of the Warren County Historical Society called to discuss the finds, support for the theory of ancient Hopewell migration to Pennsylvania was advanced by Dr. T. D. Stewart of the Smithsonian Institution. Having examined the well-preserved skull, Dr. Stewart pronounced it characteristically Hopewell in its narrow forehead with marked bulging curvature. The long, high, vaulted shape of the skull is also Hopewell in type. The Indian, he said, was fairly tall, as Hopewell Indians go, but not beyond the stature range of these Indians.

Objects of mica, galena, copper and other materials which Hopewell Mound Builder Indians were accustomed to use appeared in the Pennsylvania stone vaults. The Hopewell culture is famed

for its wide and distant trade activities for minerals and other materials it wanted. Mica cutouts decked garments. Copper was used in hatchets and personal armor. Galena was admired for its shine.

Science News Letter, November 22, 1941

ETHNOLOGY

Tribal Rule Requires Marriage to Step-Cousin

A STRANGE marriage rule that permits an individual to take as spouse only a step-cousin was described recently by Prof. Alfred L. Kroeber, of the University of California. This complex basis for wedded life was thought up—no one knows why or how—by the Shoshone Indians of the west. It combines the requirement of cousin marriage, prescribed in some primitive groups, with the forbidding of cousin marriage that prevails in others; for the contracting parties, though they call each other cousin, are not blood kindred.

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