Oddities of Some Philippine Jungle Birds

One That Makes Soup Stock: The Feathered Tailor

Among the birds of the Philippines are the most remarkable variations, the nests of some of them turning up regime to soup, Bird-nest soup is a delicacy with the Chinese, and the Malaya risk that the Chinese, and the Malaya risk that the Chinese, and the Malaya risk that the chinese the chinese, and the Malaya risk that the chinese the rests, the birds, stance of swifts, exude a galatinnal suprest the nests they all the source that the rest of the chinese the source the mets, the birds, stance of swifts, exude a galatinnal suprest the nests they altonch them to steep cliffs. *Perion de Couro*, between Culion, the leper island, and Busunge, is a favorite repository. Guimars and Siguijor are others. To rob the birds of their nests the natives let themsolves down the sides of the cliffs with long rations, which may be found in the forests of the Philippines to the length of 600 feet. When the birds are too persistently robbed, they eke out the secretion with bits of moss and fine grass, from which fact arises the erroneous conjecture that their nests are really built of sea moss.

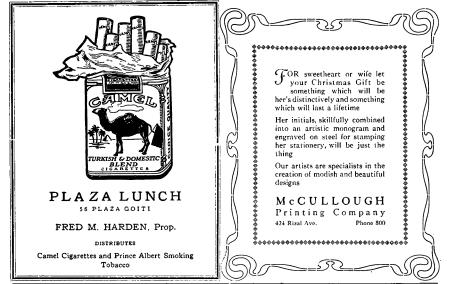
The mound builders have other plans for evading man's incessant depredations. They build mounds on sandy shores or in the soft earth of forests and deposit their eggs in them at a depth of three or four feet, the base of the mounds sometimes having a diameter of fifteen feet. The eggs are larger than hen eggs and very rich in yolk. Complete incubation occurs in the mounds; the younglings scratch their way to the surface and shift for themselves from the beginning. The natives prize the eggs as food, and resort to a cruel means of getting them. They dig the top of the mound sway and cover the base with boards. The parent birds cannot dig through chees boards; they finally deposit the eggs on the boards, where their despoilers easily gather them up. Even if left on the boards, they would not hatch. The success of this scheme depends wholly upon the habit of pairs of mound builders of returning to the same nesting spot year.

same nesting spot year after year. Enormous hornbills are found in the Philippines. One grotesque variety is the *kelaue*, as the Filipinos name it. The male is very cantankerous with his spouse; he does not countenance modern ideas for a moment. He selects for her a hollow tree. Here, when she has laid her eggs, he walls her up, using a thick mortar of mud for the purpose and leaving only a small aperture through which he deigns to feed her variant is birning their brood into thy and squawks to her the news of the day, and squawks to her the kalaw calls off the hours of the day and is as good as a town clock.

On the sides of the cliffs of Balete pass, on the road penetrating the Cagayan valley. Ig-rots have dug a kind of roosting place of their own. These are bird traps of an ingenious sort. They are just big enough for a man to crouch within, over a candle or oil taper kept burning through the night. The lights decoy the birds, which fly swiftly into them and are bruised sufficiently to be easily captured by the Igorot on watch. Bats are no doubt included in a night's takings. The traps, apparently all aflame, give the cliffs a weird aspect at night.

It is well known, of course, that bats of many varieties are so numerous in the Philippines as to constitute a nuisance only mitigated by the enormous guano deposits in the caves they haunt by day, which material furnishes an excellent phosphoric ingredient for chemical fertilizer. The imestone cliffs of Moralban gorge, tho end of a beautiful drive from Manila, are, one might almost say, impregnated with bat caves. The noisome and pilfering inhabitcants of these caves fly out of them at sunset in myriads that fairly blacken the sky. Hawks await these twillight forays of midnight foragers, and swoop down and take a luscious supper.

Inscious as population of the philipping there are no less than 45 species, 22 of which are poculiar to the islands. They vary in size from a tiny falcon the size of a sparrow to the huge harpy eagle that feeds upon monkeys and catches them in its sure talons as they leap from tree to tree. Specimens are very difficult to take. Many birds of the Philippinges are brillingly colored, but few are good songsters: to share the brood-ing silence of the jungle seems a part of their protective coloring. Jungle life is prolific beyond ordinary description. The devices of the birds to perpetuate their species, stitch the living leaves of a tree inspecies, stitch the living leaves of a tree branch together web for thered, which there are interspecies, stilch the living leaves of a tree branch together web for thread, which they pass back and forth through the holes. Their nest shus made are living green sacks still attached to the tree, and almost perfectly concealed.



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