

by Howard Walton Clark

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XVIII

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM
AND OF THE AQUARIUM FOR THE YEAR 1929

BY

BARTON WARREN EVERMANN

Director of the Museum and of the Aquarium

The Annual Report of the Director for the year 1928 was presented to the Academy at the Annual Meeting, February 20, 1929.

The present report submitted at this Annual Meeting, February 19, 1930, sets forth briefly the scientific and educational activities of the Academy for the calendar year 1929.

PERSONNEL

The employees of the Museum as of January 1, 1930, were as follows: Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, Director and Executive Curator of the Museum and of the Aquarium, and Editor of the Academy publications; Susie M. Peers, Secretary to the Board of Trustees; Joseph W. Hobson, Recording Secretary of the Academy; Alice Eastwood, Curator, Kate E. Phelps and John Thomas Howell, assistants, Department of Botany; Edward P. Van Duzee, Curator, J. O. Martin and Amy Williamson, assistants, Dr. Edwin C. Van Dyke, Honorary Curator, Dr. Frank E. Blaisdell, Research Associate, and Dr. Frank R. Cole, Associate Curator in Dipterology, Department of Entomology; Frank Tose, Chief, and Richard Cayzer, Russell Hendrick and Cecil Tose, assistants, Department of Exhibits; Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, Curator, and H.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHES

In the year 1929 the Curator and the Assistant devoted considerable time to reading proof of the new Check-List of the Fishes and Fishlike Vertebrates of North and Middle America north of the northern Boundary of Venezuela and Colombia, by Jordan, Evermann and Clark, which was published by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries February 8, 1930.

As this Check-List includes 4137 species and subspecies admitted as valid, together with the reference to the original description of each, also to each of the more than 4,000 synonyms, it is really a check-list of all the names that have ever been applied to American freshwater and saltwater fishes. The publication contains 670 pages of which 158 are devoted to the Index in which there are more than 15,500 page references. This will give some idea of the great amount of labor and time that the proof-reading required.

The report on the fishes collected by the Academy's expedition to the Revillagigedo Islands in 1925 was completed in 1929, and the manuscript is now ready to send to the printer.

For several years the Assistant Curator has been assisting *Biological Abstracts* in the preparation and editing of abstracts of current ichthyological publications.

Abstracts prepared by the authors or others are referred to us by Biological Abstracts office from time to time for editing or completing. In many cases they are prepared here.

As a side product of this work, all new genera were card catalogued as they appeared, for use in a supplement to Jordan's Genera of Fishes, thus bringing that publication up-to-date. New species described from the territory covered by the new Check-List of Fishes were noted for inclusion in an addendum to that Check-List to be published in the near future.

From June 9 to June 16, was spent by the Assistant Curator with the aquarium collector on a trip to the desert about Salton Sea in search of desert minnows, *Cyprinodon macularius*. It was found that in the irrigation ditches this species had been mostly or altogether replaced by the Mosquito fish, *Gambusia affinis*. The desert minnows, of which a good number were finally secured, were found only in the highly saline waters of the lower stretches of San Felipe Creek, and in the Salton Sea itself. The Gambusias were at first not recognizable, being a brilliant turquoise blue, which is, indeed, the color of the male *Cyprinodon*. After a half-year's sojourn in the Aquarium they lost much of this color.

The general collection of fishes has been gone over from time to time and fresh alcohol added as needed. In addition to the general catalogue of serial numbers, a card catalogue has been made of all specimens as they are arranged on the shelves. Puzzling specimens when brought in are identified, and if not in the collection, or desired for any other purpose, are added, accessioned and cared for.

The most important event of the year in connection with the Department of Fishes was the securing of the Jordan-Eigenmann collection of fishes, by purchase from Indiana University.

This enormous and valuable collection of more than 220,000 specimens was begun in the early eighties by Dr. David Starr Jordan and his students at