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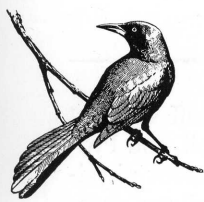
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GRACKLE

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

MARCH 1972

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 6

news and notes

Binoculars to the Ready! It's Bird Watching Time Again

"The year's at the spring," or almost, and by the time this issue reaches its readers campus bird watchers may already be greeting the grackles who nest each year in the ivy in front of Founder's Hall.

Once upon a time, before man covered the earth with DDT, more than 200 species of birds could be sighted in New York City during the March to June migration season, according to Farida A. Wiley, the American Museum of Natural History's famous bird walk leader. The numbers are sadly reduced now, she says, but another Wiley, R. Haven (no relation), thinks that a good watcher ought to

be able to spot 50 species around the University's campus. Dr. Wiley is currently serving as assistant professor in the Department of Zoology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, but from 1966 to 1971, when he was a Rockefeller graduate fellow and "postdoc," he was able to report a few modest bird watching triumphs—a silver-gray glaucous gull, which he claims is "very unusual," and "more spectacular," a long-eared owl, which he and some friends saw near the main drive two or three years back. He also has seen ovenbirds (a kind of ground-living warbler), and laughing gulls. As for the grackles, he's counted 20 nests in a good season. Around June, he says, parent birds can be spotted feeding their young in the round plant beds to the north and south of Founder's.

Another longtime observer is Daphne W. Morse, former assistant librarian who is now doing her sightings under Florida skies. At Rockefeller, Miss Morse remembers seeing American redstarts, orioles, and a rare house finch in the spring of '71 and in other years, yellow-throated warblers, brown thrashers, and a thrush.

Theodore S. Bella, the University's microanalyst, confirms thrushes, grackles, starlings, and early spring warblers, but his "pleasantest surprise" has been sparrow hawks, perched atop Theobald Smith Hall.

news and notes solicits other avian amateurs to add their observations to those reported here, with details of species, numbers, times, and places. Perhaps, with concerted effort, we can reach Dr. Wiley's list of 50.

For those who do their bird watching indoors, Mrs. Sonia W. Mirsky, associate librarian, gives assurance that the Audubon prints, so familiar to

former habitués of the Welch Hall dining room, will remain where they are while plans are developed for conversion of the area for library use. (Remember the tengmalius owls, the ferruginous thrush, the rough-legged



BROWN THRASHER



ORIOLE

falcon, and the smew?) There are 32 prints in Welch Hall and in the Hospital. A number of others have recently been reframed and will eventually be displayed in other areas on campus. In all, the University owns more than 50 Audubon engravings and lithographs, some dating from the 1830s and others from the 1860s.

The accompanying illustrations have been taken from *Enjoying Birds Around New York City* by Robert S. Arbib, Jr., Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., and Sally Hoyt Spofford for the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, copyright 1966 by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. This is an excellent general source book referred to *news and notes* by Bird Watcher Bella (see story).



SPARROW HAWK

CONVOCATION DATE

The 1972 convocation for conferring degrees, the University's 14th annual graduation ceremony, will be held on Thursday, June 1. A reception will follow. The convocation ball will be held that evening.



WOOD THRUSH



STARLING

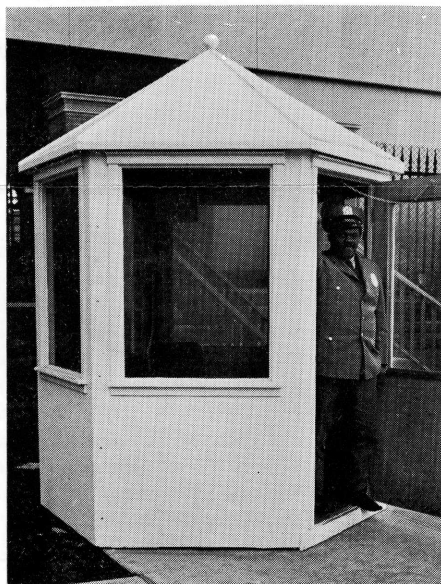
After seven years of greeting friends and helping visitors from her familiar post at the reception desk in Founder's Hall, Betsy D. Gibson has left the University to make a new life abroad. She plans to leave New York this spring to settle in Florence, Italy where she has lived before. Replacing her is Louise Johnson (left) who has served since 1965 as a chambermaid in Abby Aldrich Hall.



Off-Hour Safety Tips for Labs and Offices

As a further measure to insure optimum safety in University procedures and practices, Warren H. Munroe, manager of safety and security, urges that anyone working in a lab or office after 5 P.M., or on weekends or holidays, report his or her presence to the guard on duty at the Founder's Hall reception desk, extension 1248. This is especially advised for persons working alone and for those who do not normally remain after hours. All buildings and grounds on campus are regularly patrolled throughout the night, but because of special equipment and the many hazardous materials used in some experiments and with the broad expanse of the campus, it is extremely important for the men on duty to know who is in a building at off hours should an emergency occur.

Mr. Munroe also reminds us that, although the University is fortunate in being located in a relatively safe area by city standards, it is always advised that valuables be locked away at night, keys to desks and files not be left in labs or offices, and any suspicious occurrence or loss be reported immediately to the reception desk at night and to Mr. Munroe, extension 1198, or to Buildings and Grounds, extension 1515, during the day.



Guard Frank Hoyte on duty at the new guardhouse located at the entrance to the parking lot of the Tower Building at 64th Street and York Avenue. Currently manned around the clock, the heated shed has a seat and phone for the man on duty who also keeps watch over the Children's School occupants next door at Sophie Fricke.

Thanks from Miss Morse

Daphne W. Morse, former assistant librarian who left the University in December to settle in Florida, has requested that *news and notes* convey her warmest greetings and thanks to her friends and former colleagues for the gifts and festivities before her departure. To those who asked her, "What will you do all day," she responds: "There is gardening, cooking, friends and family, and birds outside each window," and, of course, photographs of all this through the "exciting new camera lenses," which were among the going-away gifts she received. (Miss Morse was one of the University's most ardent bird watchers and it is to her that *news and notes* owes the impetus for and some of the information in this month's story about birds on campus, page 1).

BRIEFS

Professor **Henry G. Kunkel**, Immunology, was one of 10 recipients of the 1972 Distinguished Achievement Awards presented by *Modern Medicine*, a national medical journal circulated to scientists in many diverse fields. Dr. Kunkel was cited for his work in developing and applying procedures for identification of immunological phenomena related to disease.

Last May Professor **H. Keffer Hartline**, Biophysics, was awarded an honorary degree of doctor of medicine from the Albert Ludwigs University Freiburg in Breisgau, Germany. On January 26, the diploma was presented to him in his laboratory here by Dr. Johannes Dichgans, a member of the faculty of the University Freiburg who is currently working at M.I.T.

CURIOSA

While checking on the Rockefeller Audubons, *news and notes* learned that Dr. Virginia C. Littau, affiliate in cytology in the laboratory of Dr. Vincent G. Allfrey, is also a collector. She acquired her Audubon prints by patient foraging in little downtown bookshops.

The resurfaced Caspary dome adds

IN PRINT

Dr. Alvaro J. Cuadros, staff scientist with the Population Council, and Professor **James G. Hirsch**, senior physician, reported recent findings associated with the use of copper as a contraceptive agent in the January 14 issue of *Science*. Metallic copper has been known on the basis of clinical trials to exert a powerful antifertility effect. Results of observations in rats and monkeys now show that metallic copper alone or copper-clad polyethylene devices inserted in the abdominal or uterine cavities induce an accumulation of leukocytes (white blood cells) on the surface of the device and on the surrounding tissues. This white cell response persists for at least seven months without significant local or general damage to the animal. (Previous studies by Earl L. Parr, while a graduate fellow at Rockefeller, established that similar white cell accumulations in the uterus exert a contraceptive action.)

Four University scientists are represented in the volume, *Progress in Immunology*, published by Academic Press Inc., which presents the findings of the First International Congress of Immunology, held August 1-6, 1971 in Washington D.C. They are Professors **Gerald M. Edelman** and **Bruce A. Cunningham**, Biochemistry, Professor **John B. Zabriskie** and Postdoctoral Fellow **Stanley E. Read**, Microbiology and Immunology.

A report in the June 4, 1971 issue of *Nature* on "Solvophobic Interactions and Micelle Formation in Structure Forming Nonaqueous Solvents" by Research Associate **Ashoka Ray**, Physical and Biophysical Chemistry, was cited in "Highlights from Current Literature" in the June 26 issue of *Chemistry and Industry*. Both are British publications. Dr. Ray subsequently gave a more detailed account of her findings in a research colloquium in Caspary Auditorium on January 28, under the title Hydrophobic Interaction—A Special Case of Solvophobic Interaction.

more than vivid color to the campus. Opened in 1958, it appears strikingly contemporary, but probably owes its near-perfect acoustics to the creators of its prototype—the amphitheater of Epidaurus, circa 350 B.C.

Classroom in Africa

On February 3, Graduate Fellow Peter Waser, with his wife, Mary Sue, left New York for Fort Portal, Uganda where they will spend the next 16 months studying the behavior and ecology of the grey-cheeked manabey, a long-tailed, tree-living monkey. This will be a continuation of work begun last spring when Waser and four other Rockefeller students—Arthur P. Arnold, Owen R. Floody, Beverly N. Greenspan, and José Torre-Bueno—participated in a 13 week African field course in animal behavior and ecology led by Professors Peter Marler and Thomas T. Struhsaker and Guest Investigator Steven Green.

The two-part project involved studies in two contrasting environments—the rain forest of the Kibale Forest Reserve and the tropical grassland, or savanna, of the Queen Elizabeth Na-



Waser (left) and Marler net African bird.

tional Park, both located in Western Uganda. Individual research covered behavior patterns in a wide range of animals including monkeys, safari ants, fish eagles, bushbucks, and the Uganda kob, a species of African antelope.

Education Symposium

A symposium on The Idea of a Contemporary University, at which some 80 distinguished members of the academic community were invited to consider issues of concern in the field of higher education, was held on February 18 and 19 in Caspary Auditorium. President Seitz acted as host to the meetings which were chaired by Sidney Hook, professor of philosophy at New York University. Dr. Hook is president of University Centers for Rational Alternatives, the organization which sponsored the symposium. Speakers included Daniel Moynihan, Nathan Glazer, Oscar Handlin, Arthur Bestor, Irving Kristol, Robert Nisbet, Fritz Machlup, Patrick Suppes, John Searle, John Bunzel, Paul Seabury, Cyril Zebot, Abba Lerner, Seymour Lipset, and Dr. Hook.

About That Flag

Several readers have wondered from whence came the Rockefeller flag proudly held by the canoeing graduate fellows featured in the January issue of *news and notes*. It has a history. In 1966, Professor Samuel C. Silverstein scaled the high mountains of Antarctica as part of an expedition sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, and the American Alpine Club. Just before

Dr. Silverstein left, it was suggested that he should have a Rockefeller banner to raise over the Antarctic ice fields. Only problem, no banner. The indomitable Tony Campo, then head of the purchasing and supply service, came to the rescue. The flag, a shining gold seal on a field of blue, was ordered on a Monday, delivered—miraculously—the following Friday, and, in due course, was hoisted aloft at its destination. From that moment of glory until last summer, it had rested quietly in Purchasing. The enterprising students heard about it from Dr. Silverstein and resurrected it for their Canadian adventure.

PERSONAL MENTION

Helen Papen, a helper in the laboratory of Dr. Gerald M. Edelman, became a grandmother for the first time. Her daughter, Susan Coughlin, formerly of the purchasing and supply service, and her husband, John, became the parents of a daughter, Heather, on January 19.

DEATHS

January 22, **James McGarrah**, 59, a guard. He had been at the University one year.

January 11, **Stella Hecht**, 83, a cafeteria maid at the University from 1943 to 1948.

A Special Greeting for Dr. Clara Lynch

After 53 years of continuous association with this institution, Dr. Clara J. Lynch left New York last fall to resettle in Alexandria, Virginia. Since she declined a celebration in her honor and slipped quietly out of town, 143 of her friends and colleagues signed their names to a greeting (part of which is reproduced here) which also included excerpts from her writings. It was she who introduced in this country the so-called Swiss mouse widely used as a research animal—carrying the first immigrants across the Atlantic in a shoe box kept in her stateroom.

Dr. Lynch's scientific contributions have included studies in the genetics of cancer. Dr. Lynch was a colleague of the late James B. Murphy, whose

GREETINGS TO

Dr. Clara J. Lynch

WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE WORLD AROUND HER ENDURE



DECEMBER 1971

laboratory was located on the second floor of Smith Hall. In later years, she studied genetic susceptibility to tuberculosis, using special strains of mice. This work was carried out in collaboration with Dr. Cynthia Pierce Chase and others in Dr. René J. Dubos's laboratory.

New Title for Elliot

Roger C. Elliot, former director of budgets and special services, has been named director of administrative services. The new title reflects the transfer of budgetary functions to the office of the controller and the assignment to Mr. Elliot of responsibility for supervising the property management activities of the University. Mr. Elliot will continue to administer faculty benefit plans and all forms of general insurance, including fire and liability, in addition to various nonacademic services at the University.

Colin M. MacLeod Dies

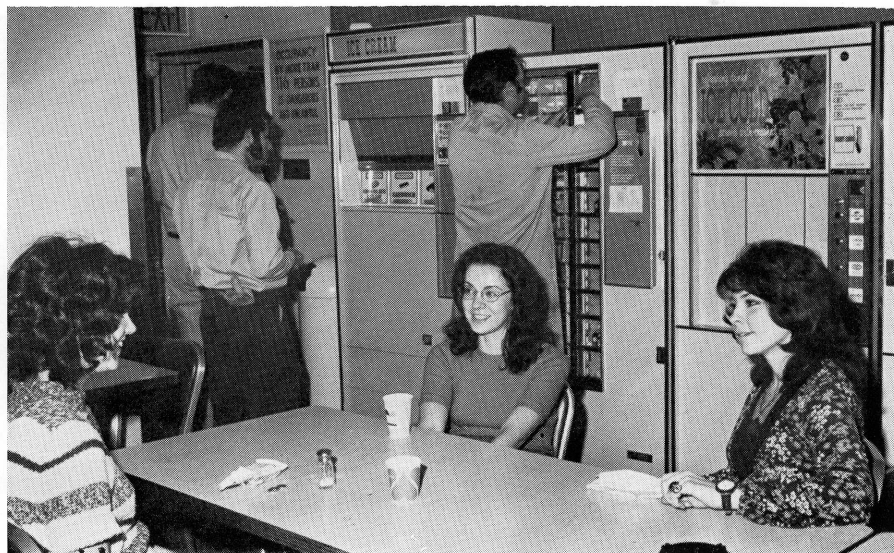
Microbiologist Colin M. MacLeod, whose work with Oswald T. Avery and Maclyn McCarty at The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research led to the first demonstration of the biological role of DNA, died February 12 in London at the age of 63. A recent article in *Nature* (see story below) states: "It is generally accepted that molecular biology began with the paper by Avery, MacLeod, and McCarty in 1944."

Dr. MacLeod served on the scientific staff of The Rockefeller Institute from 1934 to 1941. His work with such men as Avery, McCarty, Walther F. Goebel, René J. Dubos, and Rollin D. Hotchkiss, was related to the search for a cure or preventive of lobar pneumonia. This search, which extended over half a century, had begun with Simon Flexner and Rufus Cole in the early years of the institution. An unforeseen outcome of this investigation of the pneumococcus was the first demonstration that DNA is the substance that transmits hereditary information.

At the time of his death, Dr. MacLeod was director and president of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. He was in London en route to Bangladesh, India, and Malaysia where he was to visit research training centers for the National Institutes of Health. In 1963, he was selected by President Kennedy to serve as deputy director of the White House Office of Science and Technology, a post he held until 1966, when he returned to the faculty of the New York University School of Medicine as a research professor.

A Complex Network

In an article entitled "When Does Information Become Knowledge?" (*Nature*, January 14), H. V. Wyatt of the National Cancer Institute examines the content of and the reaction to the historic scientific paper, published in 1944, which announced the first demonstration that a nucleic acid—DNA—was the effective agent in inducing an heritable change in a living organism. The paper, written by Oswald T. Avery, Colin M. MacLeod, and Maclyn McCarty, reported research conducted at Rockefeller and was published in *The Journal of Experimental Medicine*. Dr. Wyatt uses this pivotal scientific event as a framework for exploring the means by which scientists communicate with each other, or fail to.



The new Theobald Smith Hall snack bar opened late in January with freshly painted walls. Chairs and tables are still there for snackers, but the comestibles come out of machines. Push a button for sandwiches (several varieties each day), cake, pie, cookies,

fresh fruit, yogurt, juices, soft drinks, milk, ice cream, candy, and cigarettes. The coffee machine also pours hot chicken soup. Hours are 7:30 A.M. to midnight, seven days a week. Bring plenty of change (but no foreign coins, please; they jam the machines).

Indian-Giver

Dr. Marie Nyswander has discovered truth in the old cliché that it's often harder to give something away than to sell it. A westerner by birth, she brought east with her from Nevada, years ago, her grandfather's century old collection of fine Washoe and Paiute Indian baskets and ceremonial beadwork. Recently she decided, regretfully, that she could no longer provide adequate space and care for the pieces in a city apartment. Besides, she had long felt that these irreplaceable products of a bygone indigenous culture ought to be made more available to interested students.

After some preliminary feelers she discovered, to her surprise, that the museums she queried locally were not very interested in objects of material culture. Social anthropology, the why and how rather than the what, is the emphasis now, and she was warned that her collection might wind up in a storeroom. Several schools would have welcomed it, but only if students were allowed to handle the pieces—a good educational practice but not so good for delicate beads and baskets. There would have been no problem selling them to private collectors who pay well and readily for good examples of Indian handiwork, but that's not what Dr. Nyswander wanted.

Not to be discouraged, she launched a letter-writing campaign farther afield,

and she is pleased to report that Omer Stewart, professor of anthropology at the University of Colorado, would be delighted to arrange for her collection to be displayed in one of the several new Indian museums being opened out west.



Newly installed outside Caspary Hall, Mouth of River (1966), by Minoru Niizuma. Carved from German marble, it measures 49½-by-24-by-16 inches. It was acquired for the University in December through the David Rockefeller Fund for Fine Arts.