

81<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
*The American Museum of Natural History*



*July 1949, Through  
June, 1950.*



## THE DEPARTMENT OF INSECTS AND SPIDERS

Extensive field work during the year was primarily responsible for enriching the department by some 90,000 specimens many of which are new to our collections. These additions to the department bring the number of specimens in the collections to a total of 2,729,859 including some of the rarest and most unusual insects and spiders known to man.

The department's broad program of research, publication, education and field activity under the direction of Dr. Mont A. Cazier was highlighted by three significant field projects. Dr. Cazier continued his comprehensive studies of the interesting Tiger Beetles during a field collecting trip throughout eight eastern states and also during year round work in the laboratories. Dr. Willis Gertsch conducted a two months' trip into the Rocky Mountain region to obtain some valuable specimens of spiders and Patricia Vaurie, during a three months' trip to the north central states and southwestern Canada, made further significant additions to the collections of Tiger Beetles.

In addition, the research and practical applications of scientific knowledge to the problem of pest control at Bear Mountain, conducted by Dr. C. H. Curran, saw even further progress in this important field.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

The extensive research work conducted by this department has attracted the interest of other scientific institutions throughout the world and has contributed much to the scientific progress of this country.

Under the direction of Dr. Lester R. Aronson the staff has carried out a score or more of significant studies on behavior in insects, fishes and higher forms of animal life.

Dr. T. C. Schneirla continued his studies of army ant behavior at the Trinidad research station of the New York Zoological Society and Dr. Aronson devoted two months of field and laboratory study at Bimini investigating problems of fish behavior.

Dr. Eugenie Clark undertook an extensive study of the fishes of the Palau Islands on an expedition supported by funds appropriated by the Office of Naval Research under the sponsorship of the National Academy of Sciences and the Pacific Board of the National Research Council.



*"Around the World with Dance and Song," the museum's ethnic dance program, had another successful season under the direction of Mrs. Hazel Lockwood Muller. Among the highlights of the popular subscription series were appearances by Mara, far left, leading exponent of Cambodian and Siamese dances, and Pearl Primus, right, outstanding interpreter of African dances.*