

The Diaries of James Chapin: Book 1

Book 1: (May 8, 1909 to July 17, 1909)

[Business card (loose)]:

Y. Le Boulbin, Directeur de l'Ongomo. Kakamoeka. Par Loango Gabon. (Back): Y Le Boulbin Goudelin; Cotes-du-Nord; France.

DATE: 5/8/1909 (Saturday)

LOCALITY: Sailed from New York, at 11am on SS "Zeeland".

WEATHER: Fair, a fresh easterly breeze.

Going down the bay we saw 10 or 15 herring gulls, and off Fort Wadsworth, Staten Id. a flock of at least 50 small gulls, almost certainly *Larus philadelphia*.

DATE: 5/9/1909 (Sunday)

WEATHER: Foggy almost all day, clearing in late afternoon. Light easterly wind.

LOCALITY: 349 miles east of Sandy Hook at 12m.

At 9:55am I saw the first petrel of the voyage. A number including 2 or 3 flocks of 30 or 40, seen before dinner; quite common, and almost always in sight, during first half of afternoon. The largest number seen together was about 150 or 175. Early in the afternoon a flock of about 25 terns was seen hovering over a spot where the water was disturbed by some large animals, perhaps sharks or porpoises. Late in the afternoon five or six terns were seen flying NE. At this same time I also saw a very dark-colored bird, about the size of a small gull, that flew close down along the water, exactly like a shear water, first taking four or five wing-beats, and then sailing. It might possibly have been a sooty shear water. In addition, three large gull-like birds were seen today, but were all too far off to be seen well. This afternoon, as Mr. Lang and I were standing on the port side of the stern, we saw a shark, some 3 or 4 feet long, close in by the ship's side. Not only its dorsal fin, but the tip of its tail as well, stuck out of the water.

DATE: 5/10/1909 (Monday)

WEATHER: Fair, sea calm.

LOCALITY: 717 miles from Sandy Hook at 12m.

Three terns, sitting on a piece of floating wood were the only birds seen in the morning. At about 1:30pm I saw 6 or 8 petrels following the ship, and they kept flying along in our wake, some 100 or 150 yards astern, until after 4:30pm.

DATE: 5/11/1909 (Tuesday)

WEATHER: Cloudy, one light shower in morning. Wind southerly early in morning, becoming stronger and changing to NW. In late afternoon it shifted to NE.

LOCALITY: 1122 miles from Sandy Hook at 12m.

At 6:10am Mr. Lang saw 6 or 8 petrels following the ship, and 2 or 3 could be seen in our wake at almost any time during the day. Between 11 and 12 o'clock I saw a white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) which flew around the ship, evidently trying to alight. About 2pm a ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) came flying along, and lit on one of the ratlines for a

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moment, so that I could look at it, thru my glass, at about a distance of 25 feet. At 5:40 or 5:45pm I again saw a ruby-crowned kinglet, perhaps the same individual alight for a few seconds near the same part of the boat. Between 2 and 3pm a white-throated sparrow was flying about the boat again; and around 5:20 and 5:50 two of these sparrows were seen trying to light on the boat. One of them finally hopped around on the deck where I could see it very well. It was in very dull plumage, and was probably, I suppose, a female. Early this morning Mr. Lang and I saw an adult gray rat near the stern of the ship.

DATE: 5/12/1909 (Wednesday)

WEATHER: Cloudy in early morning, generally fair the rest of the day. Strong north wind.

LOCALITY: 1506 miles from Sandy Hook at 12m.

No birds seen all day.

DATE: 5/13/1909 (Thursday)

WEATHER: Fair in morning and early afternoon, cloudy in latter half of the afternoon. Strong northeast wind.

LOCALITY: 1880 miles from Sandy Hook at 12m.

At 11am on the starboard side of the boat we saw a jaeger skimming along over the water. I flew like a gull, but more swiftly, and I could see its dirty whitish breast, but could not make out any elongated tail-feathers. It seemed to cross our bow, but I could not see it when I got on the other side of the boat.

DATE: 5/14/1909 (Friday)

WEATHER: Generally fair, strong NE wind.

LOCALITY: 2235 miles from Sandy Hook at 12m.

Only one bird seen today. It may have been a jaeger, but I could not see its color, or watch it sufficiently to tell.

DATE: 5/15/1909 (Saturday)

WEATHER: Fair, fresh E wind.

LOCALITY: 2596 miles from Sandy Hook, and 707 from Dover, at 12m.

Just after dinner this evening, at 6:45pm there were two gulls following the ship. They were apparently a little larger than *Larus philadelphia*, were built more like herring gulls (*L. argentatus*), had white heads, breasts, and tails, and pearly gray backs. The black on the tips of the wings was "cut off" very sharply, the feet were very dark, and the bill apparently greenish yellow. I think they

were almost undoubtedly *Larus canus*. They settled down on the water, and were joined by a third gull, of the same sort. This was the last seen of them.

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DATE: 5/16/1909 (Sunday)

WEATHER: Fair, fresh easterly breeze.

LOCALITY: 2969 miles from Sandy Hook, and 334 from Dover at 12m. Passed Scilly Islands at 1:30pm.

At 7:45am a flock of about 10 lesser black-backed gulls (*Larus fuscus*) began to follow our ship, and during the course of the morning their numbers increased to about 40. At about 11am the first herring gull was noticed, but by 3pm the herring gulls were about as numerous as the black-backs, and by 5pm apparently outnumbered them. During the afternoon there were fully sixty gulls following the ship, some flying alongside the stern, and some a few yards behind. At 7pm the number was reduced to 11 or 12, of which only two or three were black-backs. The lesser black-backed gulls were about the same size as herring gulls, perhaps a trifle smaller, and differed principally in the color of the back and the upper side of the wings. Their beaks were of an orange color, very much like those of herring gulls, but perhaps a little redder. Their feet were of a rich reddish orange color, very different from the herring gull's feet. The call of the black backs was quite like that of the herring gulls. A few immature gulls were seen, but I did not attempt to identify them, and they were very greatly outnumbered by the adults. During the morning I saw 2 or 3 large birds at a distance, which I suspected were gannets. At about 11 o'clock, however, an adult gannet was flying along parallel to the course of the ship. I could see its pointed tails, black-tipped wings, gray bill, and the buff color about the head. At about 1:30pm while we were passing to the south of the Scilly Islands, we saw three birds together, flying along close to the water, after the manner of shearwaters, which may have been Manx shearwaters. I saw the black back, and white belly, but they were too far off to observe the shape of the bill.

DATE: 5/17/1909 (Monday)

WEATHER: Cloudy, one or two slight showers, a little sunshine in late afternoon.

LOCALITY: We reached Dover, England, about 10am, and at 5:30pm cast anchor in the river between Flushing and Antwerp.

A little before 8am a flock of about a dozen gulls was following the ship; one of them was a lesser black-back, and the others herring gulls. At Dover there were many herring gulls in the harbor, and a flock of some forty or more were following the steamer when we left. But tho I saw no black-backs while we were near Dover, there were two immature gulls of that species, about an hour later, among the herring gulls flying behind us. During most of the remainder of the afternoon no gulls followed the steamer, tho occasionally one or two herring gulls would be seen at a distance. Up the river a little way from Flushing we saw a large heron, that looked exactly like an American great blue heron, and must have been *Ardea cinerea*, flying along over the water.

DATE: 5/18/1909 (Tuesday)

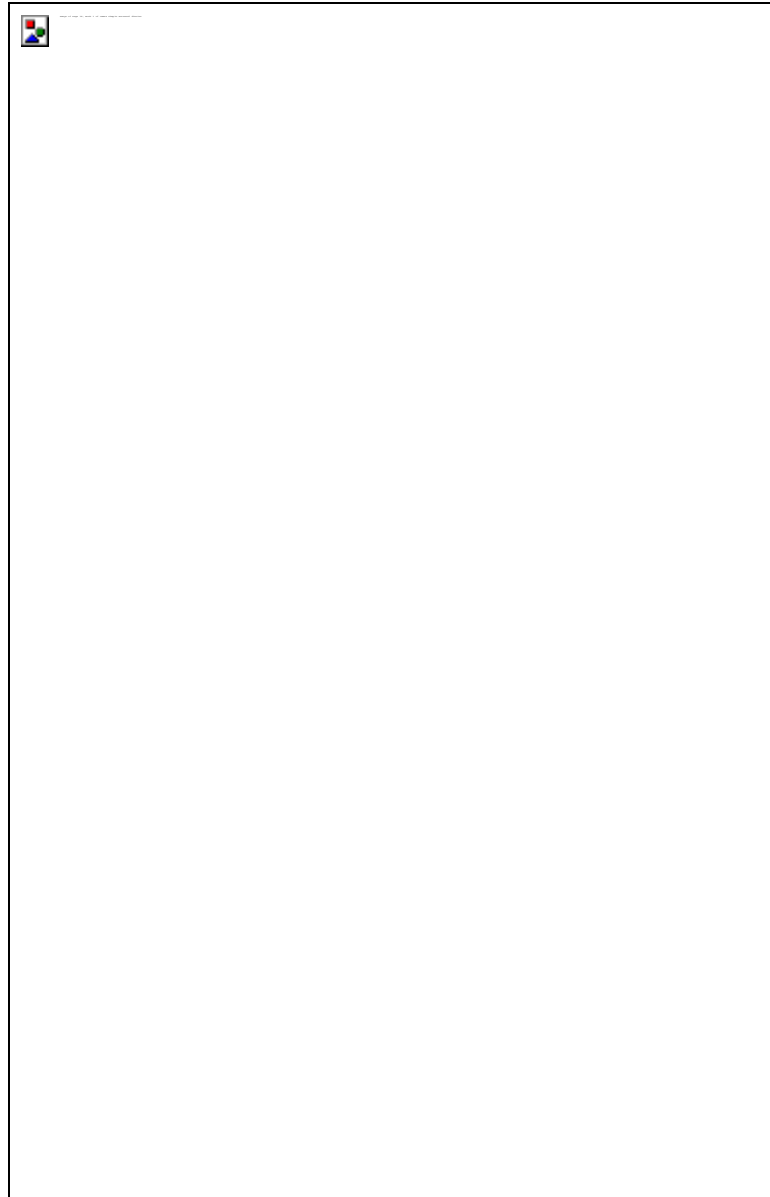
WEATHER: We have fair weather all day.

LOCALITY: The "Zeeland" started up the Schelde again at 8:30am and reached Antwerp at 11.

Just as we weighed anchor I was watching a flock of six or seven black-headed gulls. *Larus ridibundus*, that came close to the stern. At least three of them were fully adult, with dark slaty heads, and red bills. They were very much like *Larus philadelphia* in color, even having a similar white area on the front of the wing. Of the young birds I saw three very well. One had a grayish head, but much lighter than that of an adult, another had the head white, with only a dark spot on

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the ear, and the third was intermediate between these two. On the way up the river we saw fully twenty-five gulls, many of which were probably of this same species. The River Shelde is very wide, in many places, with a great many sandbars exposed at low water, and must provide a feeding ground for many shorebirds. Last evening, at 7:50 we heard the whistle of some bird that bore considerable resemblance to that of a yellow leg, and this morning I saw a large flock of some small plovers or sandpipers, and a bunch of six shore-birds fully large enough for black bellied plover. A tern the right size and color for *Sterna hirundo* flew close to the ship on our way up the river, two birds that looked like small cormorants were seen sitting on a sort of signal set up in the river, and a swallow (*Hirundo*) flew overhead. Along the shore, where sloping muddy banks were exposed by the falling tide, we could see a great many V-shaped traps, evidently for fish, made by planting stakes in the mud to form two converging barriers, and placing a sort of wicker basket at their junction to hold the victims. (See Illustration)



In the afternoon we visited the Zoological Garden in Antwerp. The grounds tho rather small, are very well designed and are kept in excellent condition. The collection of large mammals is good, containing Burchells, Grevy's and the mountain zebra, two giraffes, an Indian rhinoceros, four American bison, and a calf, both the Indian and American tapirs, three European elk (*Alces*), polar bears, brown bears, black bears, a grizzly bear, and many other interesting things. The antelopes are well represented, but there are no mammals smaller than a viscacha, an European beaver, coypu rats, and an agouti. The collection of large birds is very fine, all of them being kept in outdoor cages and enclosures. There are many shovellers (*Spatula elypeata*), European widgeons (*Mareca penelope*), European green-winged teal, Tufted ducks (*Marila cristata*), pintails, garganeys (*Querquedula circia*), Muscovies, Mandarin ducks, Pochards (*Fuligula ferina*), Australian ducks (*Anas superciliosa*), four Golden-eyes (*Clangula clangula*), and a few wood-ducks (*Aix sponsa*). There are a few black swans, and five geese of the genus *Anseranas*, with very slightly webbed feet. Flamingoes are represented by two large flocks, and Porphyrios by one large flock. We also

saw a great many different cranes, some coots and moorhens, a screamer (*Palamedea*), two king condors -one adult and one young, two Bateleur eagles, a *Haliaetus vocifer*, two Buteo jackal, an eagle-owl, an African horned owl (*Bubo lacteus*), a snowy owl, and a spectacled owl (*Pulsatrix personata*). Some black-crowned night herons in the large flying cage had nests in one of the trees. The smaller perching birds were not very numerous, and consisted largely of native Belgian species, tho there were some weaver-birds, a hill-tit (*Liothrix butea*), a jay-thrush (*Garrulax*), and soon. A lark, some chaffinches, and a blackbird were singing. The blackbird's song is quite robin-like, but louder and more varied. Just as we were looking at the caged blackbird, a wild one flew overhead. Over the railroad station, which adjoins the zoological garden, some 15 or 20 swifts (*Cypselus apus*) were flying. The collection of reptiles and amphibians is small, and is located in the lion house. Under the label "*Rana catesbiana*" "North America", were some immense toads.

DATE: 5/19/1909 (Wednesday)

LOCALITY: We are staying in Antwerp, at the Grand Hotel.

This morning there were many swifts flying about, and on two occasions three or four of them came down and flew around in the hotel court, making a long, rasping, whistling noise. They fly like *Chaetura pelagica*, first flapping their wings very rapidly, and then holding them rigid. Their forked tails, and larger size are the main points of difference. At 3pm, while walking up the Place de Meir, I saw a starling fly across the street. This is the first wild one I have seen in Europe. This afternoon we visited the Zoological Garden again, and Mr. Lang secured the permission of the director to take photographs there, after which he made about three dozen exposures, largely of birds. I watched three ducks, of at least two different species (one of them was *Dendrocygna viduata*), and saw them dive completely under water, and stay down for some seconds. We visited the museum attached to the Zoological Garden, which we did not see yesterday. It

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contains mainly mounted birds and mammals, including an okapi, of which there is also a complete skeleton. In the large flying cage there is a great black-backed gull (*Larus marinus*), several herring gulls (*L. argentatus*), and about four smaller gulls, which I am sure, by examining mounted specimens in the museum, are *Larus canus*. Their plumage is colored about the same as the herring gulls, but the iris is brown, and the edges of the eye-lids red, the bill grayish green, with a dark ring near the tip, and the feet light gray. They have well developed hind toes, at least for gulls. As I stood by one of the large mammal yards, a turtle dove flew down and lit on the ground. It may have been only a domesticated individual, but perhaps it was wild. On our way back to the hotel in the evening we saw numbers of swifts, some of which I saw alighting under cornices and about columns on the fronts of buildings. When we reached the hotel there were a couple trying to light around inside the court there.

DATE: 5/20/1909 (Thursday)

LOCALITY: Came to Brussels from Antwerp, on the 10:04 train this morning. Stopped at the Hotel de l'Europe.

Early this afternoon we paid a short visit to the Royal Museum of Natural History. The Palentological collection there is very fine, consisting exclusively of Belgian material, and

containing a number of Iguanodons, cave bears, and even material from supposed fossil owl pellets. The systematic collections of mammals and birds are very complete, and well labeled. Of reptiles, amphibians and fishes I saw only the species occurring in Belgium.

DATE: 5/21/1909 (Friday)

LOCALITY: This afternoon we rode out to Tervueren on the trolley, visited the Congo Museum, and walked back along the line of the trolley through the famous beech forest.

A new museum building had just been built, and the hall containing the vertebrates in the old museum was closed during the transfer of the collection to the new building; but by applying to the conservatoire we obtained permission to go in. [See drawing]. The collection of mammals was the most important zoological exhibit. It contains about 4 mounted okapis and 2 mounted skeletons, 1 head and one complete specimen of the square-lipped rhinoceros, a great variety of antelopes, and most of the other interesting mammals from the Congo Free State. The bird collection, tho of considerable size, does not compare with the mammals. The collection of reptiles, amphibians, and fishes is composed of specimens preserved in alcohol. I did not see any salamanders, the only amphibian, being two or three species of frogs, about two tree-frogs, and one or two toads. The collection of fishes contains a great many curious forms, some with long snouts. After leaving the museum, we walked about the grounds a little and then followed the tramway back thru the beech forest. Near the museum we heard two cuckoos sing, and found a dead "blind-worm" (*anguis fragilis*). The European beech is a much taller tree than the American, and has a long, straight bare trunk, with darker bark. There were no bushes in this wood, and one could see a long distance thru it, especially as the beeches are planted in rows. Just before we reached the trolley station at Tervueren, on our way out this afternoon, we saw a green woodpecker (*Gecinys viridis*) sitting on a lawn alongside the track.

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DATE: [5/23/1909]

[Drawing of a bird]: *Motacilla (cinerea)* in Anvers Zoo. Soc. Mus. (female with top of head gray). *Motacilla* (2) 1, *Hirundo rustica* 12, *Turdus merula* 1, *T. musicus*? 1, *Cuculus canorus* 1 or 2 (s), *Rana (esculenta?)* 1.

DATE: 5/22/1909 (Saturday)

LOCALITY: Stay in Brussels all day.

DATE: 5/23/1909 (Sunday)

LOCALITY: I went alone to Tervueren this afternoon, and walked about the park, but did not go in the museum.

There were a great many birds singing, but they were mostly quite high up in the trees, and there seemed to be a lack of ground-living birds, possibly because there is no underbrush in the woods. The only birds I recognized were as follows: *Cuculus* H/or 2 (s), *Hirundo* s. 12 or 15 c., *Passer domesticus*, *Motacilla* s. 1 male and 1 female s. 1 [male], *Turdus merula* s1, *T. musicus* s.1. The swallows were very much like barn swallows (*H. erythrogaster*) except for the color of the belly,

which seemed considerably lighter. Their twittering was very much like the barn swallow's. The wagtails were probably *Motacilla* (alba? or cinerea). First I saw a pair of them, the male -his sex was judged only from the black feathers on the crown, was chasing the female- the top of her head was only gray. Later I saw a single individual, in the plumage of a male. While walking on the ground, these wagtail's heads bobbed forward and backward; as soon as they stood still, their tails wagged up and down. In one of the ponds at Tervueren I caught a frog (*Rana esculenta?*). Its vocal sacs were placed at the side of the mouth, as in *Rana pipiens*. Its voice, which I heard later, while I had it at the hotel, also resembled that of the Leopard Frog. [See drawing]: Under parts white, general color of upper side of head and back light green, yellowish on cheeks. A light median line running from between the eyes to the anus, two lateral folds golden brown, hind legs greenish and light brown, mottled with blackish. Some dark spots on lower part of back, and dark mottling on side of body. Vocal pouches at sides of mouth, as in *Rana pipiens*.

DATE: 5/27/1909 (Thursday)

LOCALITY: This afternoon I went to a rifle range just outside Brussels, to try our Mannlicher rifles. There I saw a lark, a blackbird, and 4 or 5 swallows (*Hirundo*). Later in the afternoon, in the park on the Rue Royale, near the hotel, I saw 3 or 4 jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*) and a titmouse (*Parus caeruleus*). [See drawing].

DATE: 5/28/1909 (Friday)

LOCALITY: We visited Tervueren with M. Kervyn late this afternoon, and saw the interior of the new museum building.

From a window I saw 2 or 3 martins (*Chelidon urbica*) flying about and lighting on the ground.

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DATE: 5/30/1909 (Sunday)

LOCALITY: This afternoon I spent in the Antwerp Zoological Garden, and in the park.

In the museum of the zoological society I identified a number of the birds I have seen in Belgium. In the garden I saw a wild goldfinch (*Carduelis*) and jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*). In the park I saw 3 blackbirds (*Turdus merula*), one of them singing, and one hunting earthworms exactly like an American robin. On a lawn there were two starlings (*S. vulgaris*), one an adult, and the other a young bird with the tail not yet fully grown. In the eastern corner of the park, on the edge of the pond, were two flycatchers (*Muscicapa grisola*). They, perched, flew, and acted in general exactly like American "tyrant" flycatchers. Swifts (*Cypselus apus*) are very abundant both in Antwerp and in Brussels, and are especially numerous, or at least conspicuous, at sunset.

DATE: [6/1/1909]

[Drawing of a bird]: Park: *Muscicapa grisola* 1 (2), *Fringilla coelebs* 1 male (s), *Turdus merula* s1, H.1 (s) s1, *Hirundo rustica* s1. Zoo: *Cypselus apus* abdt., *Corvus monedula* (3), *Turdus merula* 1, *Hirundo rustica* 1.

DATE: 6/1/1909 (Tuesday)

LOCALITY: This afternoon I visited the park and the zoological garden in Antwerp.

The birds seen in the park were as follows: *Fringilla coelebs* 1 male (s), *Hirundo rustica* s1, *Musicapa grisola* s1 s(2), *Turdus merula* s1 H/(s) s1. The wild birds seen in the zoological garden were: *Cypselus apus* abdt., *Corvus monedula* s(3), *Hirundo rustica* s1, *Turdus merula* 1.

DATE: 6/3/1909 (Thursday)

LOCALITY: We sailed from Antwerp at 11am on the S.S. Leopoldville.

On the way down the Schelde I saw about 6 black-headed gulls (*L. ridibundus*), 4 swifts (*Cypselus apus*), and 2 swallows (*Hirundo rustica*).

DATE: [6/3/1909]

LOCALITY: Anvers-Port. Les departs pour le Congo.

(Periodical): S'embarqueront encore, le 3 juin prochain: M. Paul Kempf, commis-chef, 3me depart, qui a, durant un deuxieme terme de service, exerce le commandement du poste de Lorva, zone de Ponthierville, district de la province Orientale; M. Conrard, J., commis-chef, 2me depart, qui a sejourne durant 3 annees au district de l'Equateur, ou il a exerce les fonctions de chef de poste; M. Carlsten, capitaine de steamer au long cours, 3me depart, qui va reprendre a Banana ses anciennes fonctions de pilote. M. le sous-lieutenant Spiltoir, du 6me regiment de ligne, lieutenant de la Force publique, qui a accompli un premier terme de service de 3 ans au territoire de la Ruzizi Kivu et qui a fait partie du personnel des zones d'Uvira et de la Ruthshuru; M. Cecilio Valle, engage en qualite de commis de 2me classe; M. l'agent d'administration de 3me classe Wennegers, 3me depart, qui a durant tout son second terme de service de 3 ans dirige l'important service des transports a Matadi; M. l'agent d'administration de 3me classe Rieux, 2me

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depart, qui a sejourne durant 3 1/2 ans a la zone du Haut-Ituri ou il a exerce le commandement de divers postes; il vient de passer l'examen de sous-lieutenant de reserve au 2me regiment de ligne et a egalement subi l'epreuve pour l'obtention du rang d'agent d'administration. MM. Dechamps, magistrat, 2me depart; Renville, 2me depart, Hagnout et Hennebert, agents administratifs; Delatte, lieutenant de la Force publique; Titeca et Jadot, sous-lieutenants; Kraft, 2me depart, et Van Herck, 3me depart, commis-chef; Lusyne, 2me depart, Cornet et Gilles, commis de 1re classe; Bronze, Menestrel et Vaerewyck, commis de 2me classe; Vise, mecanicien-chauffeur, 2me depart; Smulders, electricien, et Drousie, chef de culture de 2me classe, 3me depart.

DATE: 6/4/1909 (Friday)

WEATHER: Cloudy with light rains in morning, clearing in afternoon.

In the morning a flock of gulls, about half of them *L. argentatus* and half *L. fuscus*, numbering about a dozen began to follow the ship. During the early afternoon there were between thirty and

forty of them, mostly black-backs. About 10:15am we saw a small warbler (Sylviidae) on the boat. It flew around, lit on rails, chairs, lifeboats, and once in a while caught a fly on the wing. I was not well enough acquainted with the members of this family to identify it. The back was brownish, with a green tinge, and darkest on the crown. Both the upper and lower eye-lids, and a line over the eye, were light yellowish. Throat gray, breast and belly a light brownish yellow. Bill rather large, sides of lower mandible flesh-colored; upper mandible dark brown. when we first saw this bird we were within sight of the coast of France, probably near Cherbourg; but it stayed on board until late in the afternoon at least. Around noon I saw at least 10 puffins (*Fratercula*). They were sitting on the water, either singly or in pairs, and seemed to be scared up by the ship. They almost always appeared to fly away toward the land to the south, but three or four of them I saw pretty well.

DATE: 6/5/1909 (Saturday)

WEATHER: Cloudy in morning and evening, clear in middle of the day, fresh west wind.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Lat. 45 degree 54 inches N; Long. 7 degree 20 inches W.

The only bird seen today was a murre (*Uria*) at about 9am. It flew up from the water on the starboard side of the ship, crossed our bow, and lit again on the port side.

DATE: 6/6/1909 (Sunday)

WEATHER: Generally fair all day, wind west.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 10 degree 26 inches W, Lat. 41 degree 13 inches N.

During the morning I saw 2 gannets, *Sula bassana*, both flying northward, also 4 birds that were probably terns, and about 4 petrels, *Procellaria pelagica*? At about 11:30am a flock of about 25 petrels began to follow the ship, and from that time until late in the afternoon a few of them could always be seen in our wake. They seemed smaller and browner than Wilson's petrels, but I could see that, in flying, their toes stuck out a little beyond the ends of their tails. At 12:30pm there was also an immature lesser black-backed gull, *Larus fuscus*, following the ship.

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DATE: 6/7/1909 (Monday)

WEATHER: Fair, sea extremely calm.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon. Long. 12 degree 30 inches W. Lat. 36 degree 26 inches N.

We were followed all day by a flock of petrels. At one time late in the afternoon I saw fully forty of them fluttering down on the water where there was some refuse from the ship. I watched these birds carefully today, and could see that their toes, in flying, stuck out considerably beyond their tails; but I could not see that there was any yellow on the webs of the feet.

DATE: 6/8/1909 (Tuesday)

WEATHER: Clear all day, a very light breeze from the west.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 14 degree 42 inches W. Lat. 31 degree 56 inches N.

About 9am there were a half-dozen petrels (*Procellaria*?) following the ship. During the day one or two could almost always be seen behind the ship, and at 6:30pm there were fully a dozen. At about 6pm I saw 4 or 5 petrels of another sort (*Pelagodrona*?) [See Cambridge Nat. Hist. Birds, p. 65]. The upper side of their wings and tail were very dark gray, and the belly and under wing coverts white. The one at which I had the best look seemed to be striking the water, continually with its feet. They all flew very close to the surface of the water, and without flapping the wings much.

DATE: 6/9/1909 (Wednesday)

WEATHER: Fair all day.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 16 degree 17 inches W, Lat. 28 degree 11 inches N. We reached Teneriffe at 6:30 this morning, and cast anchor in the harbor of Santa Cruz. Mr. Lang and I were on shore from 7:15 to 9 o'clock.

First we bought 13 fishes in a market on the dock, and then we walked out to the rear of the town. There were some cultivated fields; but the ground was exceedingly dry and stony. There were many birds singing, but the only ones I saw well were some sparrows, and 2 wagtails, with yellow breasts, gray backs, and black throat patches. The sparrows were like *Passer hispaniolensis* having very white cheeks, and black streaks down the sides. Their notes, however, seemed exactly like those of *P. domesticus*. We saw many lizards but they were very active, and always sought shelter among the rocks when we approached. They were of at least two different colors, some brown, with longitudinal stripes, and some blackish, with blue patches on the sides. On some large cacti, like the American prickly pears, there were a great many plant lice, with a white fluffy substance adhering to them. I took a few and put them in alcohol. We also collected four spiders and two or three ants on these cacti. I saw two bees, rather large and hairy, black all over except for the hind part of the abdomen which was white; but I could not catch them. On this part of the island the vegetation was rather scanty except in the village. As we went back to the steamer in a launch, we saw one or two gulls like herring gulls, and at about 11 o'clock, shortly after the Leopoldville left Teneriffe, I saw two large shearwaters, with gray backs and white bellies. At 6am, while we were approaching Teneriffe I had also seen a shearwater of the same sort. Late in the afternoon I noticed a flock of a dozen or more petrels (*Procellaria*?) following in our wake.

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DATE: 6/10/1909 (Thursday)

WEATHER: Fair, wind moderate, North.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 17 degree 7 inches W, Lat. 23 degree 24 inches N.

Before breakfast this morning I saw three flying fish, the first I had ever seen alive. They shone brightly in the sunlight as they sailed along on their expanded fins, and somehow they made me think of huge insects rather than fish. At 10:15am three large black swifts (*Cypselus*?) flew past the

ship together, making for the North, toward the Canary Isles. A little before lunch Mr. Lang said he saw a swallow (*Hirundo*) alight on the steamer. A flock of petrels (*Procellaria*?), varying in number from 15 to 40 followed us all day long, and I saw several ahead of, and at the side of the ship.

DATE: 6/11/1909 (Friday)

WEATHER: Fair, moderate northerly breeze.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 17 degree 45 inches W, Lat. 18 degree 35 inches N.

Before breakfast this morning I saw fully 25 flying fish, and during the rest of the day they were quite numerous. A couple of schools I watched must have contained at least 60 or 70 each. Petrels were very numerous today, at one time in the afternoon there were fully 75 following the ship. About 7:45am I saw three shear waters, like those seen at Teneriffe last Wednesday. This afternoon we caught a moth like a Sphinx, sitting on the side of a bench near the stern. In the evening, looking down into the water beside the ship, and in our wake, one could see many small flashes of bluish light, emitted by some small organism, I suppose, such as *Noctiluca*.

DATE: 6/12/1909 (Saturday)

WEATHER: Fair, light westerly breeze.

LOCALITY: Reached Dakar at 9am, left at 12m.

Before breakfast this morning, there was a flock of petrels (*Oceanites*?) following the Leopoldville, and, as we approached Cape Manuel, there were a great many terns, one flock of which must have contained at least 125. I also saw a gull, about the size of a herring gull, with gray back, and white breast, head, and tail, but with a peculiarly shaped black patch on the wing tips. [See sketch]. There was also a swallow flying about the ship this morning. It had a moderately forked tail, white throat, breast and belly, and metallic green upper parts, except for the rump, which was white, as in *Chelidon*. When we entered the harbor of Dakar, all the petrels left us. There I saw a gull that looked exactly like *L. fuscus*, and also another resembling an immature individual of that species, except that the sides of the breast were spotted, whereas they were white in all the young *L. fuscus* I have seen. Around the town and harbor of Dakar were a great many kites (*Milvus*). I counted 36 at one time, all circling around over the town. Shortly after we left Dakar I saw another gull like that seen before breakfast this morning, and also some 15 or more terns. During the whole of the afternoon; too, after we left Dakar, petrels were very numerous. I have noticed recently that many of the petrels are molting their wing quills, and this, together with the length of their legs, makes me think that they are probably *Oceanites* rather than *Procellaria*. From about 3 o'clock this afternoon until dark shear waters, like those seen at Teneriffe were very numerous, as many as 18 or 20 being sometimes in sight at once. At about 2:45pm I saw a jaeger (*Stercorarius*) following the Leopoldville. It was in full plumage, with dark cap, light cheeks and breast, and I think it had the middle tail feathers somewhat elongated, tho I could not be sure.

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Later in the afternoon I saw two more of these jaegers together. One was an adult, the other was in a darker plumage, with grayish breast. While we were in Dakar today, the natives brought live green parrots on board to sell, and one also had some birdskins. Of these, several were rollers

(Coracias), several were starlings with resplendent green plumage, and one was a green parrot. We did not go ashore, but expected to be able to buy some fish from the natives, who, we were told, almost always came alongside with fish for sale. But as no fishermen appeared, we could not get any. Late this afternoon there was another swallow flying about the ship. This time it was a *Hirundo*, very much like *H. erythrogaster*, as far as I could see. I think I must have seen 150 or 200 Portuguese Men of War (*Physalia*) this afternoon, on one side of the ship. They are exquisitely colored, the upper rim of the pneumatophore being a bright pink, shading into purple on the lower side. [See drawing]. The pneumatophore is very flat, and sticks up out of the water like a sail, so that the animal is carried along by the wind. We tried to catch some of these animals in a basket on the end of a rope, but did not succeed. This morning, when I went out on deck I found two negroes engaged in stuffing a flying fish which came aboard last night. This evening a few phosphorescent animals could be seen in the water alongside the ship, but not so many, I think, as last night.

(Loose page) [SS Leopoldville]:

Programme: des jeux olympiques pour sloirs donnees a loccasion du passge de l'Equateur: le samedi 19 juin 1909 a 14 heures: (1) Courses d'obstacles - 1 prise 2,5 - 2 prise 1,25 (2) Combat de cod - 1 prise 2,50 - 2 prise 1,25 (3) Rouge et Blanc - 1 prise 2,50 - 2 prise 1,25 (4) Courses aux jambes liees - 1 prise 2,50 - 2 prise 1,25 (5) Courses dosa dos - 1 prise 2,50 - 2 prise 1,25 (6) Courses en sac - 1 prise 2,50 - 2 prise 1,25 (7) Diner descolin-Maillard - 1 prise 2,50 - 2 prise 1,25 (8) Snak de Cocagne.

(Loose page) [*Dendropicus gabonensis*]:

Adult male. Back, scapulars, rump, and upper tail-coverts uniform bright olive, the wing-coverts uniform deeper olive; quills blackish brown, the outer webs of the secondaries and the margins of the outer webs of inner primaries at the base bright olive, the outer primaries having a few dull white spots on the outer webs, the inner webs of all the quills with larger spots of white; shafts dark brown; tail blackish brown, the central feathers margined with olive at the base, the lateral ones having fulvescent whitish spots on both webs, and the whole with a trace of blackish bars or transverse marginal spots; shafts clear brown; nasal plumes brownish black; forehead greenish brown; crown and occiput scarlet; sides of the face and neck greenish white striped with black; a narrow black malar stripe; chin, throat, and fore neck yellowish white, with triangular spots and stripes of black; the whole of the under parts and under tail-coverts greenish yellow; the chest and breast in reality striped with black, but having a spotted appearance, owing to the stripes contracting in the centre, and also from the yellow tips of the feathers concealing the basal part of those beneath; the thighs are barred, but all the remaining underparts as well as the under tail-coverts are spotted with black; under wing-coverts and axillaries barred with the same. Total length 5 inches, culmen 0.8, wing 3.1, tail 1.55, tarsus 0.57; toes (without claws) outer anterior 0.42, outer posterior 0.5, inner anterior 0.35, inner posterior 0.2. Female. From Malherbe's description of this sex, it would appear to differ from the male mainly in the absence of red on the head, the whole of the top of the head being brown slightly washed with olive. Hab. Gaboon.

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DATE: 6/13/1909 (Sunday)

WEATHER: Fair, sea calm.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 16 degree 14 inches W, Lat. 10 degree 20 inches N.

We were followed all day by petrels (*Oceanites?*). This morning I saw a few flying fish, and a number of Portuguese Men of War (*Physalia*). As a rule, flying fish just sail as far as they can, without any movement, and then drop into the water again, but I have seen some which, when they began to touch the water after a flight, would keep up a little longer by striking the water with their tails, and thus pushing themselves forward. This morning I saw 2 terns about the size of Caspian terns, and at 10 o'clock there were about 10 of them following behind the steamer. Some of them had the whole crown black, while others had a dark patch only on the back and sides of the crown. [See drawing]. Their bills were large and reddish, and their tails rather short, but forked. I heard one make a loud rasping noise. This morning I saw one booby (*Sula leucogaster?*) and this afternoon seven, six of which were in one flock. [See drawing]. In the afternoon a tropic bird -*P. aethereus*, I think it was- hovered about the ship. Its bill was a brilliant red, and the two elongated tail-feathers, which trailed out far behind the bird as it flew, were apparently pure white. There was an elongate black patch on the primaries. (=red-billed tropic bird, *Phaeton aethereus*). [See drawing].

DATE: 6/14/1909 (Monday)

WEATHER: Fair.

LOCALITY: Reached Freetown, Sierra Leone, at 6am; left about 11:15am. Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 13 degree 19 feet W, Lat. 8 degree 30 feet N.

As we approached the anchorage at Freetown, I saw a number of small terns, and a heron, of medium size, perhaps as large as *Florida caerulea* (*Demigretta gularis*), dark slate color all over, with the face bluish, legs dark blue or black, and feet yellowish green. We were on shore from about 7 to 10am. First we visited the fish market, but found only two kinds of fresh fish on sale there. One of these was a small skate, and the other, of which we purchased two specimens, was a medium sized *Felcostome*, white on the belly, silvery on the sides, and dark gray on the back, with a silvery iris. Afterwards we walked about the town a little. Everywhere there were vultures (*Neophron* sp.), sitting on the housetops, or on dead trees, or even in coconut palms. The bare skin on their faces was pink, and the plumage brown, lightest on the back of the neck. We also saw two shrikes, together, one of them black and white, the other brownish with fine black bands on the breast. Both had very long tails. Two small greenish kingfishers (*Halcyon senegalensis*), with part of the bill, at least, red. At least two species of weaver birds, one black and white, the other, of which we saw a pair, brown, with a red head and rump (*Lagonosticta*). Some swifts, blackish, with forked tails, about the size of *Chaetura pelagica*. We caught a few small ants, a green grasshopper, and some small blue-gray butterflies that were very common there. I also saw 2 or 3 species of larger butterflies, almost certainly *Papilio*, but could not secure any. We bought some mangoes and a "cocur de bocuf". The former are about the size of a Bartlett pear, with a smooth yellow or orange skin, and a large pit, containing a white kernel, with a bitter taste. The edible portion, lying between the pit and the skin is soft yellow layer, full of fibers to stick between one's teeth, and with an odor like that of turpentine, but nevertheless an agreeable taste. The "cocur de bocuf" (sour sop) is a large green fruit, of an oval shape -some eight inches long-with soft green spines all over its surface. The interior consists of a sweet juicy white pulp, containing large dark seeds. Both the

mango and the "cocur de bocuf" we saw growing in the village, as well as some bananas, and many coconuts. On board the ship, at lunch, we ate still another fruit, "l'avocat", about the size of a small musk-melon, smooth and

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green on the outside, but yellow inside. When served to us, they contained no seeds, but I suspect that the interior contains a large pit. The yellow interior, at any rate, is edible, and about the consistency of cheese, but has no particular flavor at all. While we were in Freetown, we saw many chickens, some Muscovy Ducks, and about 10 turkeys. All afternoon, after leaving Freetown, the Leopoldville was followed by some 6 or 8 petrels (Oceanites?).

DATE: 6/15/1909 (Tuesday)

WEATHER: Rained all day.

No birds seen, only some porpoises.

DATE: 6/16/1909 (Wednesday)

WEATHER: Fair.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 6 degree 39 inches W, Lat. 4 degree 16 inches N. Passed Cape Palmas at about 9am.

No birds seen, only a few flying fish and a very large school of porpoises.

DATE: 6/17/1909 (Thursday)

WEATHER: Cloudy, rain in afternoon.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 1 degree 31 inches W, Lat. 3 degree 34 inches N.

No birds seen. At dusk this evening I saw a flying fish fly right across the rear of the ship. There was a strong wind blowing, and the fish came with the wind, striking a cable when about three fourths of the way across, and falling over the side into the sea again.

DATE: 6/18/1909 (Friday)

WEATHER: Partly cloudy all day.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 2 degree 6 inches E, Lat. 1 degree 21 inches 30 feet N.

Only a few flying fish, and no birds, seen today.

DATE: 6/19/1909 (Saturday)

WEATHER: Fair.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 5 degree 31 inches E, Lat. 0 degree 24 inches S.

No birds seen today.

DATE: 6/20/1909 (Sunday)

WEATHER: Generally fair, the air rather hazy. Came in sight of the coast late this morning, and followed along it the rest of the day.

LOCALITY: Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 9 degree 25 inches E, Lat. 2 degree 24 inches S.

This morning we saw 3 or 4 gannets (*Sula capensis*?) and this afternoon they were very numerous, and could be seen diving continually, from the air. They would fly around about 25 feet over the water, and suddenly close their wings half way, stretch their necks out straight, and drop into the water like stones, with simply a little splash. After a few seconds they would reappear on the surface of the water, and sit there, probably eating the prey they had secured. There were birds in three different plumages; immature birds in first winter plumage, very similar to the young of *S. bassana*; fully adult birds, exactly like *S. bassana* except for the blackish tail, and with the same buff color about the head and the same grayish beak; and lastly, birds intermediate between the two above-mentioned plumages. These may have been birds of the second year, at any rate, their heads were usually of a dirty white color, and the back and wings dark brown. The fully adult birds were greatly outnumbered by the immature individuals. Shortly after sunset we passed several flocks of these gannets sitting in the water, where they perhaps intended to spend the night. The largest of these contained 76 birds. At 5:30pm three petrels (*Oceanites*?) were following in our wake. At about the same time I saw a flock of 7 terns, like immature black terns (*Hydrochelidon*) flying shoreward; and a few minutes later, a flock of some 20 terns was seen hovering over a spot where the water was agitated by a school of fish. There were some of the same sort of terns that I had just seen, and also some adult terns of the genus *Sterna*, about the size of *S. hirundo*. Three or four whales were seen from the ship this afternoon, but unfortunately I was down visiting the engine room, and did not see them. At about 8:30 this evening, a steward brought us a Wilson's petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) which had flown on board the ship.

DATE: 6/21/1909 (Monday)

WEATHER: Fair.

LOCALITY: Arrived off Loango, French Congo, about 7:30am. Cast anchor inside Banana Point about 5:30pm. Position of the "Leopoldville" at noon, Long. 11 degree 53 inches E, Lat. 5 degree 10 inches S.

We saw several gannets (*Sula capensis*) today. There were about three just off Banana. This morning Mr. Lang took some pictures of the petrel that was caught on board last night. I was surprised to see that it did not stand up straight on its legs at all, but usually rested on the whole length of the metatarsus. [See drawing]. In walking, however, the hells had of course to be raised a little. This bird's iris was dark brown, its bill wholly black, and its feet black, with large yellow patches on the webs. In the afternoon I made a skin of it. It was a female with a very transparent and undeveloped ovary. The stomach contained only a few small hard objects like cinders. [Seedrawing]. At Banana, this afternoon we saw several large birds of prey -about the size of *Pandion*-colored as shown in the above sketch. The bare skin of the face makes me think they were some kind of vulture. I also saw some terns, some large, others quite small (*S. balarum*), and a

very large number of swifts (*Tachornis parvus*). At Loango, in the morning, there was a large coelenterate -perhaps 10 or 12 inches long-swimming beside the ship. It was light brown in color, and progressed by contracting the rim of the []. [See drawing]. This evening I caught a number of moths, a butterfly, and a few other insects that came on board the steamer, attracted by the lights.

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DATE: [5/12/1942] (Tuesday)

[Periodical; maps (loose)]:

The New York Sun, Tuesday May 12, 1942. Vichy's Atlantic Outposts. Maps including Dakar, Martinique, Guadeloupe, South Atlantic Theater, French Guiana.

DATE: 6/22/1909 (Tuesday)

LOCALITY: We left Banana about 7:30 this morning, and reached Boma a little before 2 in the afternoon.

Just off Banana point a school of about a dozen large porpoises were disporting themselves. As we came up the river I saw several of the large white and black birds of prey (*Gypohierax*) mentioned in yesterday's notes, some unidentified swallows and terns, two large brown kites (*Milvus aegyptius* sp.), one small kite (*Elanus*), with white head and breast, and black wings, sitting in the top of a baobab tree, raising and lowering its tail continually. I saw a large gray heron, with brownish neck, and several white cattle-herons (*Bubulcus*) were seen by Mr. Lang. Along part of the river bank was a sandy bluff, containing numbers of small holes like bank swallow's nests; and I saw a number of swallows from the ship, but could not tell that any of them were bank swallows. Maybe *Merops malimbicus*? In the afternoon, however, at Boma, I saw some swallows that were exactly like *Riparia riparia* in color, flight, and size. *Riparia congica*? Under the veranda roof at the American Consulate (Mr. Handley, Consul General), there were three swallow's nests, made of pellets of clay, with tube shaped entrance at the side. In another part of the building I saw some more of these nests that had fallen down, and found that they were lined with grass and a few feathers. The owners of the nests were perhaps members of the genus *Hirundo*, *H. puella*. They had long forked tails which were of a metallic blue color. The upper back and wings were of the same color, but the head and rump were chestnut. The under parts were white with numerous dark streaks. The vice-consul (Mr. Kirk) showed me a few "white ant" nests, and we caught also a number of true ants. In the evening, in the grass along the shore I heard a number of animals making a peculiar noise that reminded one of cowbells. They were probably tree-frogs. Later in the evening a sound almost exactly like the song of Fowler's toad was heard in the same place.

DATE: 6/23/1909 (Wednesday)

WEATHER: Fair.

LOCALITY: We were in Boma all day. Visited the Governor General at 9am.

We walked about Boma today, saw some of the same birds as yesterday, and also a few new ones. In the afternoon, out toward the back of the town, there were 4 or 5 large swallows (*Hirundo senegalensis*) in the top of a tree. They were a little smaller than the purple martin, and had metallic

blue backs, long forked tails, white throats and chestnut breasts. {Saw one carry excrement of young birds out of nest (doubtful)}. I also saw a medium-sized black and white kingfisher, a *Ceryle* (*C. rudis*, I guess). In the afternoon we walked over to the British Consulate, situated a little way up the river from the town. On the way we saw two columns of "army ants" crossing the path. These columns were about 1 or 1 1/2 inches in width, and the middle was composed of small individuals hurrying along, bearing white objects which prove to be their pupae. On both sides were closely packed walls of ants not moving, but evidently intended to protect the center. There were also some very large individuals, with immense jaws. We collected a number, and put them in a small bottle of alcohol, by themselves. A Negro brought a small live snake, in a beer bottle, on board today, and we bought it from him. (No. 1). It was

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black on the back, dark gray on the belly, but near the neck had light gray bars on the sides. (A rare species, see Schmidt's report).

DATE: 6/24/1909 (Thursday)

LOCALITY: The "Leopoldville" left Boma about 6am, reached Noqui (in Angola) about 8:15am.

On the way up the river I saw about 25 of the black and white vultures which are so common along the lower Congo. At Noqui Mr. Lang and I went ashore (9:30am to 12:30pm). There were at least four kinds of swallows flying around there. First, there were many bank swallows, *Riparia congica*. Next there were some of the same swallows with streaked breasts, chestnut head and rump, and blue back, wings, and tail that we saw in Boma. Thirdly, we saw about three swallows like *Hirundo erythrogaster*, but with the tail almost square, and with the white patches on the rectrices very large. Lastly, there were a number of swallows with metallic blue backs, white bellies and throats, but chestnut crowns. [See drawings]. The commonest bird in Noqui was a little weaver bird, gray, with a blue face, breast, sides and tail. These little birds were exceedingly abundant and very tame. Two or three of them were sitting around some nests of grass in a thorn tree. {*Uraeginthus angolensis*}. At Noqui we also saw two black and white kingfishers (*Ceryle rudis*) together, and a large brown kite (*Milvus parasitus*). There were three species of lizards to be seen, one small, striped, and brown, very common; another medium-sized gray, mottled, saw 3 or 4; and a third, of which we saw only one individual, with a brown head, blackish body, and the tail brown near the base, but dark gray towards the tip. [See drawing]. We caught two of the small striped sort. This evening at Matadi I heard the same bell-like noise in the grass near the shore that I noticed at Boma. Ant-lion holes were very numerous in sandy places in the roads at Noqui and Boma. We caught several at Noqui.

DATE: 6/25/1909 (Friday)

WEATHER: Fair.

LOCALITY: We walked around Matadi a little today, and caught a few insects.

One of the most interesting things I saw today was a flock of five colies (*Colius nigricollis*) in a bush in Matadi. The positions they assumed as they climbed about were extremely peculiar. Sometimes they would hang down from a horizontal branch, again they would sit up right on it, and more rarely they would walk right up a small perpendicular branch, propping themselves up with

their long wedge-shaped tails. [See drawing]. The accompanying sketch was made while I watched them. Their feet were brilliant red, the beak grayish, the face black, with a gray patch just behind. The wings, tail, and most of the body plumage were brown, lightest underneath; but the feathers of the crest were buff white. I could not see any color in the eye, so the iris was probably dark brown. Two of the birds had longer and more richly colored tails than their companions. This may have been a sexual difference, or they may have been the parents of the other three. I tried to see how they held their toes, but was unsuccessful except that I saw once that one sat with two toes in front and two behind, but the outer toe sticking somewhat sidewise, instead of straight behind. They made a scolding note, "ch-ch-ch-". The flight was quite direct, but slightly undulating. The other birds seen today were one black and white kingfisher (*Ceryle?*), some swallows with streaked breasts, about four swifts (*Tachornis*), several kinds of small weaver birds, one dull-colored sun-bird, and a few others which I could not tell anything about. I saw but one lizard today. It was sitting on a branch up in a bush, and was one of the middle sized gray sort that we saw yesterday at Noqui. In the bush where I saw the colies, there was a peculiar cocoon hanging by one end to a horizontal twig some four feet from the ground. A

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picture of it is shown on the next page. I brought it back to the ship, laid it down, and was very much surprised, when I picked it up again to see that there was an opening near the point of its attachment to the twig, and that it closed when I picked it up. Later the caterpillar detached its cocoon from the twig and walked off with it. Both the cocoon and caterpillar were preserved. [See drawing of a plant: *Psychidae*]. Late this afternoon, near the dock at Matadi I found a place where there were many curious long slender grasshoppers in the grass. There were both green and brown ones, and most of them were immature, but I succeeded in finding adult specimens of both colors. [See drawing]. The usefulness of their peculiar shape was, of course, to render them less conspicuous in the grass.

DATE: 6/26/1909 (Saturday)

WEATHER: Sunny and hot, as usual.

LOCALITY: Spent a part of the afternoon on shore, in Matadi.

There were 2 kingfishers (*Ceryle?*) and a kite (*Milvus*) around the ship today. [See drawing]. On shore I saw a number of little weaver birds, 3 sun-birds, 4 or 5 colies (perhaps the same ones as yesterday) and the same 3 kinds of lizards that we saw in Noqui. Mr. Lang found a small brook where there were a number of frogs, but they were far too shy for me to catch.

DATE: 6/27/1909 (Sunday)

WEATHER: Fair and warm.

LOCALITY: Spent the latter part of the morning on shore.

I saw a dead snake in the street in Matadi, the same kind we bought in Boma, June 23rd, but considerably larger. On the hill behind Matadi we found about 15 very curious white ant nests, shaped exactly like gigantic mushrooms, from 8 inches to a foot high. They were made of gray

clay, were very hard, and were full of little chambers, connected by small round passages thru which a single termite could just crawl. Inside one of the nests we broke open we found 3 or 4 small cocoons, perhaps of some commensal insect. [See drawing]. Many of these termite nests had stalks of grass sticking up thru them, one very large one was built against a bush, and another was constructed on the side of a stone. The very large nest mentioned as being built against a bush had a peculiar structure, like a small inverted funnel on one side. It was also made of clay, and may have served as some sort of entrance. [See drawing]. {This funnel is the entrance to the nest of *Odynerus Anceps* Gubodo, see way page n. 157} A number of the inhabitants of one nest were preserved. Near the place where these white ant nests were situated we saw a clump of some sort of papilionaceous bushes, in which there were a couple of dozen large beetles hanging to the flowers. Some of these beetles, the larger ones, and probably the females, were black, with a yellow spot and two yellow bars on each wing cover. The smaller ones had the marks on the wings reddish, but one of the females (?) had them decidedly orange. These insects flew readily, and made a loud buzzing noise while in the air.

DATE: 6/28/1909 (Monday)

LOCALITY: While we were walking along the railroad track in Matadi early this morning.

A vulture flew overhead -one of the black and white ones so common on the Congo (*Gypohierax*) and let a fish fall from its claws, which dropped within a few feet of us. The fish was only slightly mutilated, and so we preserved it (No. 16).

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DATE: 6/30/1909 (Wednesday)

LOCALITY: This morning at 6:30 we took the train from Matadi for Leopoldville, arriving at Thysville about 5:30pm.

The country is very rough all the way, but the most precipitous part, I think, is just a few kilometers outside of Matadi. As one gets farther and farther from Matadi, the vegetation increases, until most of the valleys have patches of forest, but the tops of the mountains are always clothed with high grass and a few small trees and bushes. The course of the railroad is extraordinarily tortuous, in order to avoid all grades possible, but the track is well laid, and well ballasted with crushed stone. Our train consisted of an engine, a baggage car, a second-class coach, and a first-class coach. We changed engines at Songololo, but before reaching there had stopped five times to take in water, and several other times, in addition, to oil the engine, and so on. Between Songololo and Thysville we had to stop 7 times more for water. The engineer, fireman and brakemen were all Negroes. We saw a good many birds -but mostly small ones- as we passed along, many weaver-birds, 2 colies, several kites (*Milvus*), and four or five of the black and white vultures we saw so many of on the river. We also saw several trees full of bird's nests. Termite nests were very abundant, the majority of them being of the mushroom shape that we examined at Matadi, June 27. These were usually gray in color, but a few were built of yellowish earth. I saw a number with double roofs, from the train, and one which supported another complete, but smaller nest on its top. [See drawings]. At one of our numerous stops I had the opportunity of examining a nest with a triple roof. The other kind of termite nest seen from the train today was usually made of yellow clay, and was much more irregular in shape. Both kinds of nests were frequently seen together. I also saw some of the

galleries of mud which white ants make to ascend trees and bushes. [See drawing]. On the side of one of the mushroom-shaped nests, just beneath the roof, I found a small gray lizard (gecko) clinging. It was very sluggish, and did not move when I knocked over the nest, but did try to wriggle out of my hand when I picked it up.

DATE: 7/1/1909 (Thursday)

LOCALITY: Left Thysville at about 6:45 this morning, and arrived in Leopoldville about 2:30pm.

The woods are much more extensive on this side of Thysville. Mushroom-shaped termites nests were to be seen almost all the way, many of them having 3, or even 4 roofs. At one stop we made Mr. Lang caught a lizard (Agama), one of the large brown-headed ones. At another place, I saw a number of toad tadpoles in a little pool. At a third I heard a couple of frogs (?) making a noise just like the song of *Rana palustris*. We stayed overnight at Leopoldville with Mr. Morgan, and in the evening caught a fruit bat that came into the house (No. 1).

DATE: 7/2/1909 (Friday)

This morning we went out and shot three birds, one of them a coly (No. 2) of the same species I saw in Matadi. It was, to judge by the size of its testicles, an adult male, but the skull was in exactly the condition of that of a young passerine bird. A number of other birds were collected, including a couple of sun-birds and two kinds of pigeons.

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DATE: 7/3/1909 (Saturday)

LOCALITY: We are still staying with Mr. Morgan at Leopoldville.

We collected some more birds today. Just outside our door is the hole of a large iridescent black carpenter bee, and today we caught it, and also secured one of its young from the hole in the wood.

DATE: 7/4 to 11

LOCALITY: This whole week we stopped in Leopoldville with Mr. Morgan.

We collected some birds, insects, and a few mammals and reptiles, mainly on the west side of the town, near the shore of Stanley Pool. On Tuesday (July 6) we walked over to Kinshasa and back. Friday evening we caught a large toad on Mr. Morgan's back steps, and every night a chorus of some sort of batrachians, probably the same toad, could be heard in a swamp just across the railroad track. Around Leopoldville we saw, and collected two or three species of lizards, the brown-headed and gray kinds that we saw in Matadi, and also a long, slim brown-backed species, with yellow lines, that would run down into holes in the ground. We saw not a single snake, tho Mr. Howell, of Kinshasa spoke of "boa constrictors" (pythons?) and the spitting snake, as being found there. His wife, we were told, had the poison of the latter serpent thrown into her eye, and according to Mr. Howell, this fluid would burn like acid when it touched the skin. The country near Leopoldville is remarkable for the scarcity of large birds. The largest birds we secured were

pigeons. There was a small brownish dove (*Chalcopelia afra*) very common, and found even on the mission grounds. We secured two specimens, an adult female, and a young female. Pigeons were not uncommon, and we secured two specimens. There was said to be a "pigeon vert" -fruit pigeon- *Vinago calva* I suppose- but we did not see it. Birds of prey were surprisingly scarce, the only one we saw being a kite (*Milvus*), single individuals of which visited the mission grounds two or three times, evidently in search of chickens (?). Two kinds of kingfishers were observed, the black and white *Ceryle* seen on the lower river, and a small *Halcyon*. Bee-eaters were not uncommon, and two examples were taken. There were at least two kinds of swifts, a medium-sized *Tachornis* with a long, deeply forked tail, and a larger swift, with a short stubby tail, and apparently a white rump *Chaetura*. The former was much the commoner of the two. No woodpeckers were seen. Colies, of the same species as those seen in Matadi were observed about three times, usually in companies of 4 or 5. Strangely enough, I saw no crows or magpies at Leopoldville, but there were at least three kinds of shrikes, and we killed one specimen of each. The only starling I saw was a small white-bellied one, with an iridescent purple head and back, that I shot near Kinshasa on Tuesday (*Cinnyricinclus l. verreauxi*). Of weavers there were a number of species, several of which we secured. One rather large black one, with yellow eyes (*Melanopteryx nigerrimus*) was observed to eat the outer coat of the palm nuts, which it sometimes dropped from the trees to the ground. There was a small brown species, that often fed, in large flocks, in the grass or on the ground. Some had black heads, and one of these we killed and found to be an adult male, but out of seven immature birds collected, those which had the greatest number of new dark feathers about the head were females. The day we went out to Kinshasa we saw a couple of large flocks of a kind of large weaver-bird, most of them in a streaky brown plumage, but two or three of them with long black tails (*Coliuspasser macroura*). The brown individuals as they perched on the long stalks of grass, bore the strongest sort of resemblance to bobolinks in the winter plumage. We saw at least 3 kinds of sun-birds, and secured adult males of two. The commonest was the one with the bright red breast. Its song was a warble somewhat like that of the American Goldfinch. There were a good many bank swallows near the shore at Leopoldville, but I saw no nests. The small black and white flycatcher (Nos. 12 & 13) was rather common, and had a loud song consisting of three clear whistled notes. The large brown, crested flycatcher (*Bias musicus*) I shot was the only one seen.

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One of the very commonest birds was a bulbul (*Pycnonotus tricolor*), with a dark brown back, slightly crested head and yellow under tail-coverts. We took but two specimens. A couple of flocks of gray parrots were seen at Leopoldville, but they are said not to breed there. Of the mammals, the hippopotamus was undoubtedly by the most interesting. Along the shore beyond the mission there were at least three, which could often be heard grunting loudly. Mr. Lang saw one alive, and on Saturday (July 10), at the state beach, I saw the head and limbs of a dead hippo, that had probably been killed in the vicinity, some time previous -to judge from the odor. I saw two squirrels, in thick brush, and some natives brought us one alive. It had very short ears, and was striped like a chipmunk, but had a bushy tail. Mr. Morgan had one of the same kind in a cage. There were a great many rats about the houses, much like *M. norvegicus*, but with larger ears, I think. We saved a half dozen or more skins. Of bats we got three, representing three species. The first was a fruit bat, already mentioned. The second was a small brown bat that a chicken was carrying in her beak. The third was a brown bat, of medium size, with very broad ears, and a very queer bare space around the nose. It flew into the house in the evening. On the morning of July 4 a crocodile was seen near

the shore, and a boy on the S.S. Livingstone fired at it, but missed. Just behind Mr. Morgan's house, there was a fan-palm (*Borassus*) under the leaves of which both paper and mud-wasps built their nests. A diagram of a nest of the latter is given on the next page. [See drawing]. In the cell marked "adult", and old wasp sat, with a white larva behind it. Frequently another adult, with much larger mandibles (?) than the first one, was to be seen sitting on the outside of the nest, but I could not catch it. A common form of termite nest at Leopoldville was a mass of dark clay, honey combed by galleries, and set up in a crotch of a tree, frequently a mango. The tree itself also bore many covered passages built by the termites. Mr. Lang took a photograph of such a nest, and I collected some of the "ants". A few mushroom-shaped termite nests were seen out toward Kinshasa. On Sunday (July 11) I found, near the shore, a large tree about the base of which was a clay structure like a termite nest; but when I pulled off some pieces of it, I found only a number of large millipedes rolled up in holes inside what was evidently an old deserted nest of "white ants". Ant lions were very abundant at Leopoldville, wherever the ground was soft enough to allow them to excavate their conical pitfalls. In one place I counted seven in a place not a foot square.

DATE: 7/12/1909 (Monday)

LOCALITY: We sailed from Leopoldville at 7:30am on the barge Ibis for Stanleyville. Passed steamer with Prince Albert in Stanley Pool. We touched at Kinshasa, and stopped for the night at Maluku, a wood station on the left bank of the river a little above Stanley Pool.

Just after leaving Leopoldville, I saw two birds very like the black skimmer, with the same coloring on the back and head, and with red bills. Unfortunately I could not see the shape of the bill, but after seeing two or three more sitting on a sand bar late in the afternoon. I was pretty certain they were skimmers (yes - *Rhyncops flavirostris*). At Kinshasa there was an immense flock of bank swallows (*Riparia congica*, perhaps), some 8 or ten of the streak-breasted swallows (*Hirundo puella*), seen nesting at Boma, a couple of *Hirundos* very like *H. rustica* (= *H. angolensis*), and a pair of another species (*Hirundo nigrita*) metallic blue all over, with the exception of a small whitish spot on the throat and white patches on the tail feathers. The tail was short, and very slightly or perhaps not at all forked. These two were the first of this sort I had seen. There we also saw a black and white *Ceryle*, and three rather large black and white wagtails. During the day, on the islands in Stanley Pool we saw two ibises (*I. sacra*), with bare black heads and necks, white plumage and black wing tips, about six pelicans, a fish hawk (*Pandion*) standing on the sand, a jacana, and a number of unidentified birds. There were a few kites (*Milvus*), which sometimes lit on the sand, a few shore birds, and some large storks (?) (*Leptoptilus*, I believe), which circled around high in the air.

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DATE: 7/13/1909 (Tuesday)

LOCALITY: I went ashore this morning at Maluku, from 6 o'clock to 6:45.

There were 6 or 8 rollers (*Eurystomus afer*) flying about over the forest and alighting on dead branches in the tops of the high trees. While perching they sometimes uttered a hoarse cry that made one think of a parrot. I killed one. Two gray parrots were also seen, but there were also seen, but there were few small birds in evidence.

DATE: 7/13 to 16

LOCALITY: Going up the river; we stopped on the evening of the 13th along the shore a little above Lisha; on the 14th at Kwamouth; at the mouth of the Kasai; on the 15th along the shore; on the 16th at Yumbi.

On the 13th I saw an eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) sitting in a tree on the river bank. A few snake-birds and black and white vultures were seen every day. Kites (*Milvus*) were also noticed, but were not very common. Pigeons were very often seen, both on the sand, and in the trees. Black and white kingfishers (*Ceryle*) were numerous. A plantain-eater (*Musophaga?*), with a horny protuberance on the forehead, dark blue plumage, and red patches on its wings was seen on the 13th from the steamer. On the 15th and 16th, we saw many bee-eaters (*Merops malimbicus*) with bright red breasts and bellies, and some crows with a white patch on the breast that also extended around the back of the neck. These crows have a hoarse "caw". [See drawing of a *Corvus albus*]. Along the bank we frequently saw some sort of a large lapwing (*Xiphidopterus albiceps*), and at Kwamouth, Mr. Van de Kerchove, a fellow-passenger, killed a *Pternistis* and a Stone-curlew (*Oedipodius vermiculatus*). Late in the afternoon of the 15th, I shot a monkey that was sitting motionless in a tree, some 35 feet up, in a swampy wooded place along the shore, where the steamer stopped overnight (*Allenopithecus nigroviridis*). At Tshumbiri, the same day, a young striped rat (No. 15) was sent aboard to us from the mission. At Yumbi, in the early evening I saw five or six large goat-suckers (*Scotornis climacurus*) flying around just over the bushes, and killed one, a male, which had the remains of a few beetles in its stomach. At the same place, as well as one or two places further down the river, I heard the same tree frogs with the bell-like song, that was noticed at Boma and Matadi.

DATE: 7/17/1909 (Saturday)

This morning I saw a hippo's head stick up out of the water while we were passing a low, grassy part of the shore. We also saw a crocodile, sitting on a sand bar, with its mouth wide open. Mr. Lang fired at it, but long before we were out of sight it was up on the sand again. We stopped tonight at the Telegraphic post 34, where I saw 3 or 4 hornbills, and shot 4 kingfishers, representing 3 distinct species. [See drawing]. The European in charge here was Mr. E. Antoine, who had the usual variety of wild stories on tap, but redeemed himself by presenting us with the skins of a Crocodile Bird and a Skimmer.

[Second to last page of the book: List of names and addresses]

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[Business card (loose)]:

Mrs. A. Billington, American Baptist Missionary Union, Bwemba, Tshumbiri, Upper Congo, Congo Independent State, S.W. Africa. 15, Knatchbull Road, Camberwell, London, S.E. (Back): For the American Gentlemen who are collecting rats, etc. with Mr. Billington's compliments. If some dead rats reach the steamer, they are to show the kind found here up 15' 16 inches, nose to tip of tail.

[Last page of book]:

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