



## The Bird Watcher's Guide

By Henry Hill Collins, Jr. Golden Press:  
New York. 123 pages. \$3.95.

This is a once-over-lightly, how-to-do-it book that tells how to build an active, sporting hobby around birds. Pleasantly written, easy to read, its 22 chapters cover the following: becoming a bird watcher, equipment, first steps; identification (five pages); how, where and when to see birds; trips for birds; the sport, lists, censuses; houses, baths, cover and planting for birds; photographing, banding, conserving birds; bird clubs (including lists of) and a set of selected references. The chapter on the sport of bird watching covers the following topics: "Big day," "Big morning," "Small day," "Round up," and "Rare bird alert."

As nearly half of the 123 pages is taken up with illustrations, some of them excellent color photographs, some informative art work, and some patches of garish color, the text is skimpy. This makes necessary a reference to one of the publications listed in the back, to locate a book where an adequate coverage can be found.

A. L. RAND  
Chief Curator of Zoology

## The Giant Snakes

By Clifford H. Pope. Alfred A. Knopf:  
New York. 290 pages, 25 photographs.  
\$6.95.

Probably no one else is as qualified as Clifford Pope to write this book. The Museum's former Curator of Reptiles kept an Indian python named Sylvia from the time it was an infant scarcely three feet long until it was ten feet, nine inches long five years later. As Sylvia lived most of this time in Mr. Pope's home, the observations on growth, physiology, and behavior made by Pope were detailed and supplied the impetus for this book.

Sylvia's presence also supplied the impetus for many stories, true and untrue, in the suburb of Winnetka. Neighbors gradually became accustomed to

the occasionally strange habits of museum curators. The Village of Winnetka took all ten feet of Sylvia in stride and merely noted on the Popes' card in the official files: "Snake in basement," for the benefit of water meter readers.

In this book Pope has brought together all that is known of the biology and habits of the six giant constricting snakes: the boa constrictor, the Indian python, the amethystine python, the African rock python, the reticulated python, and the anaconda. The subjects covered include senses, locomotion, strength, food, growth, reproduction, and relations to man. Information on these snakes is buried in hundreds of scientific papers, and it took Mr. and Mrs. Pope years of digging in libraries to assemble it all.

Some of the information on the giant snakes can be understood only in terms of the biology of snakes in general. For this reason Pope has presented a remarkably complete and concise summary of this larger subject.

The writing has Pope's customary clear style. While fascinating to adult readers, the book can be read and understood by an intelligent twelve-year-old. I read this book with eagerness and I can imagine that I would have done the same if it had been available when I was in seventh grade.

ROBERT F. INGER  
Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians

## Chicago Area Archaeology: Bulletin No. 3, Illinois Archaeology Survey, Inc.

Edited by Elaine A. Bluhm. University of Illinois: Urbana. 175 pages, 81 illustrations. \$2.00.

Following are the contents of the Illinois Archaeological Survey's most recent publication:

- "An Archaeological Survey of the DuPage River Drainage," by Sanford H. Gates
- "Evidence for an Archaic Tradition in the Chicago Area," by Philip D. Young
- "Report on a Back Yard Digging," by Jane MacRae

- "Two Early Burial Sites in Lake County," by Philip D. Young, David J. Wenner, Jr., and Elaine A. Bluhm
- "The Skeleton from the Doetsch Site, Lake County, Illinois," by Georg K. Neumann
- "Old Copper Artifacts from Chicago," by George I. Quimby
- "The Bowmanville Site," by Gloria J. Fenner
- "The Adler Mound Group, Will County, Illinois," by Howard D. Winters
- "The Anker Site," by Elaine A. Bluhm and Allen Liss
- "The Oak Forest Site," by Elaine A. Bluhm and Gloria J. Fenner
- "Indians of the Chicago Area ca. 1650 to 1816," by Emily J. Blasingham

These eleven papers, two of which are by staff members of the Museum's Department of Anthropology, summarize the results of recent study, survey, and excavation of Chicago-area archaeological sites, and review the ethno-history of the area. Included in the papers are reports of work sponsored and carried out by Chicago Natural History Museum, the University of Illinois, and the Illinois Archaeological Survey.

*Bulletin No. 3* can be read with interest by many throughout the Chicago region and neighboring areas, not only for the information it contains, but for



"Gentian Trio" by Fred E. Unverhau, Danbury, Connecticut. A top medal winner in the 17th Chicago International Exhibition of Nature Photography presented at the Museum in February.

the way it points up the archaeological losses we have sustained in these areas and the critical nature of the sites that are left in northeastern Illinois.

ALLEN S. LISS  
Department of Anthropology



Inger, Robert F. 1962. "The Giant Snakes." *Bulletin* 33(6), 8–8.

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