

and W. D. Armstrong (Elk Island Park). The project was financed by a teaching assistantship and a grant from the University of Alberta, and by a bursary from the National Research Council of Canada.

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TWO GREAT RARITIES

ON March 15th, 1963, Dr. H. Elliott McClure caught a striking little red-headed thrush in a mist net, 6,660 feet up on the peak of Mt. Brinchang in the Cameron Highlands in Malaya. It could not be identified, and after being colour photographed, measured and ringed it was released. The colour photograph is reproduced in black and white on Plate 13, opposite page 297. The experts were nonplussed by the bird. After some difficulty it was eventually identified in the British Museum by Dr. I. C. J. Galbraith as the rufous-headed robin *Luscinia ruficeps*, of which only three specimens had ever been recorded. These had all been taken in 1905 in the Tsin-ling Mountains, in central China, sent to Tring and described by Hartert in 1907. They are now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The rufous-headed robin, writes Dr. McClure in the *Malayan Nature Journal*, is certainly "one of the rarest birds in the world". The head and neck are bright orange-rufous, with white throat, broad black stripe under the eyes and round the throat, and slate-grey back and rump.

The other rarity, reproduced on Plate 14, opposite page 297, by kind permission of *Animals*, is a fish that until last year was known only by one specimen captured near Durban and also a painting, done in Mauritius about 1870 by the American consul, Nicolas Pike. From this painting Professor J. L. B. Smith named it *Lepidaplois albomaculatus*, and described the first specimen captured near Durban, which died before he saw it, as "the greatest find since the coelacanth". He urged Dr. H. J. A. Wright, an amateur skin diver in Durban who told him of it and who specialises in hunting for rare fish, to find another. Dr. Wright spent many anxious hours searching before eventually, on Boxing Day, 1963, he found one lurking in a deep rock cavity, 20 feet down. After some anxious manoeuvring he managed to get it in his net. It proved to be a juvenile and since then he has caught another juvenile and seen an adult.