

# DR. WILLIAM L. FINLEY NOTED ANIMAL EXPERT TO LECTURE IN CITY HALL

Though the subject of Dr. William L. Finley's coming lecture is "Camera Hunting on the Continental Divide," the Committee are hoping he will also tell something of his various pets, of which he writes so interestingly in "Wild Animal Pets". In writing about "Dinty, the otter porcupine," Dr. Finley said: "There was a certain human interest in Dinty's character which was always appealing. In several reels of motion pictures that I use in one of my lectures there were great bird colonies along the Texas coast, packing in the wildest mountains along the Canadian border. The wild moose and elk taken under the most difficult circumstances at the headwaters of the Yellowstone river and on the highest ridges of the Rockies. While these things all have a certain interest, the response was always greatest when Dinty walked awkwardly across the screen on his heels. As a moving picture actor, Dinty won the hearts of the audience."

"Then there were Tom and Bob, the bobcats, with long legs, stubby tails, tufted ears and silky hair that hung from their chops like side curls, only two days old, they were grown, but, when 'helpless and blind, only to days old, they were taken from a cave in the rocks at the edge of the sand and sage, they looked not unlike the kittens of the Persian mother cat, who, though she had a kitten of her own, and had adopted two others, still had mother love enough so that she gladly accepted Tom and Bob.

There is the story of Billy, the badger; of General, the California condor, and others, but none more interesting than that of Don Q., the quail. Found when very young, he became so very fond of humans that he preferred them to any of the feathered tribe. As Dr. Finley writes: "To Don Q., birds of any feather were foreign folk. He didn't recognize them at all, or, perhaps in his own mind, he had become a human being because of association. He would be sauntering about the lawn, jerkily nipping off snips of grass and eating them, apparently blind to the freshness of the morning, and shimmering green of the leaves, and the splashes of sunlight on the river's surface. Among the other bird notes would be the clear call of the quail from the river bank—and an answer from across the river. But no notice from Don Q.; only the busy snip, snip of grass blades. How could he stand there and not tingle to that vibrating entreaty to come away to the dim woods, where the quail folks were making the silence musical with their merry mutterings?" But he would notice quickly enough anything going on among his human friends and would immediately investigate. "He has forsaken his own kind for the friendship of men," says Dr. Finley.

Such were some of his pets, and whether Dr. Finley tells of these tame adventures or of his more thrilling wild ones, he is sure to be interesting and worth hearing when he appears in City Hall on the evening of March 5th, at 7.30 p. m.

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## Habits of Wild Birds To Be Told

### A Fascinating Lecture Soon Under Auspices of the Bird Club

Through the co-operation of the Augusta Nature Club with the Bangor Bird Conservation Club, Dr. William L. Finley will appear in Bangor on Wednesday evening, March 5th. The hour has been set at 7.30 that younger nature lovers may avail themselves of the opportunity of seeing these pictures and hearing the lecture by this outstanding photographer and naturalist.

In the National Geographic of August 1923, Dr. Finley tells that birds have been his friends from childhood. "Later the opportunities opened for me to hunt out the haunts of rarer birds and make friends with them. Finally, I have made business out of pleasure by lying in wait with camera and notebook.

"Behind the years of hunting lies an eagerness for the chase that has been fully satisfied in hunting and shooting with the camera. Outwitting has often come in outwitting a shy subject. Some call it patience, but it is a lasting joy that has come with the quiet chances to study at

bird homes and learn of the real character and individuality in these wild children of nature."

He has always tried to make his pictures from an artistic standpoint as well as true to nature whenever possible. His first intensive work with wild birds was done in company with H. T. Bohlman on the coast of Oregon, his home state. The success of this venture called them back two years later. They camped sixteen days in almost steady rain waiting for a chance to go with their equipment in a fourteen foot dory through the breakers and make a landing on "Three Arch Rocks", one mile off shore. "Every morning we crawled out in the gray light to see if we could detect a gap in the line of breakers. We lay in the sand by the hour with our field glasses, looking at the bird world offshore. The longer we looked, the more alluring the rocks became. One morning, when we had grown impatient, we tried to drive our boat through the lowest place in the surf barrier. Watching our chance, we jumped to the oars. The nose of the boat plowed through the foam of the first and second breaks, but they tossed her like a toothpick.

"She shot at the third like a hunter at a fence, but failed to reach the top before it combed. Crash! came half a ton of green, foaming water down my back. We swerved a little to the right and another monster rose like magic. Several tons of the next wave piled over us, and the third tossed us shoreward empty as a cracker box. We had taken the precaution of wrapping our camera equipment in water-tight bags and tying them in

the boat. We dried out the rest of the day and went at it again the following morning, with about the same success. The next day the surf dropped lower and we reached the smooth water beyond."

After this heavy labor a landing was successfully made and a place on the jagged rocks finally located large enough to place a 4x7 tent. Moving about over the cliffs to photograph the thousands of birds was a hazardous occupation. Often a misstep meant the end of it all. Fortunately no accidents befell them. Dr. Finley says of the days spent there: "The novelty of our situation had a great deal to do with relieving the hardships and dangers we had to undergo in living for five days among the sea birds on the vertical side of the rock island."

Such experiences as these have been the school in which this author and naturalist has spent the last 20 years photographing from Alaska to Mexico. His last adventures have been on the Continental Divide. Some of the work of two summers will be shown in Bangor. The Rocky Mountain goat, antelope, bear, quail, ptarmigan will be among the inhabitants of the Divide to whom you will be introduced in the course of the evening.