

route sufficiently to enable us to return to camp in safety. The Volcan de Agua is very similar to the Fuego, though somewhat less in height, but there is a fairly good mule track nearly to the summit. This track is frequented by the Indians, who ascend the mountain for the purpose of charcoal-burning and also in search of ice, which they found in the old crater in sufficient quantity to supply the needs of the Capital at that time.

Having made considerable collections, we returned to Guatemala City and, recrossing the Motagua River and the Chuacus Range of mountains, took up our abode at San Gerónimo, a sugar-cane plantation in the plain of Salama, in Baja Vera Paz. The surrounding mountains are clothed with forest composed of various trees, including pines. The plain itself is arid, except when irrigated for cultivation, as at the Hacienda of San Gerónimo. We next proceeded to Coban through the district north of the plain of Salama. The road soon leaves the plain, and the broken country is covered with scrub and forest, the rainfall being much greater as one approaches Coban than on the Pacific side of the Cordillera. During the rainy season there is usually a severe thunderstorm in the afternoon, followed by a clear sky, but during the dry season little or no rain falls and vegetation suffers greatly. In Alta Vera Paz and towards the Atlantic rain apparently falls at all seasons and all hours, and vegetation is consequently much more abundant.

At Tactic, a forest district near the head of the Polochic River, our porters failed to arrive, and we were forced to spend the night without our baggage. It was so bitterly cold that in the morning the ground and even the backs of our mules were covered with hoar-frost. A few days later, on our return journey, the effects of the unprecedentedly low temperature were plainly visible on the vegetation around. On reaching Coban we found a large Indian village where the inhabitants were born collectors, and very soon they brought in, in almost embarrassing numbers, specimens of birds, frogs, toads, lizards, snakes, and insects of all kinds. The natives there were specially expert in the use of the blow-pipe, with which they killed most of the smaller birds. The weapon consisted of a straight piece of hollow wood about eight feet long, and the projectile, a hardened pellet of clay, fitted closely into the groove of the pipe and was blown from the mouth by the marksman. In this way a large number of birds was obtained with little or no damage to the plumage. Such was the accuracy of aim that, even at a distance of from 15 to 20 yards, many humming-birds were killed.

After some weeks spent in collecting at Coban we visited Cubilguitz and Choctum in the low damp forest of Alta Vera Paz, thence travelling towards Salinas in the humid valley of the Chixoy or Rio de la Pasion, a tributary of the Usumacinta River. The roads or tracks made by the natives were extremely bad in this locality, the ground very broken, and the soil a stiff clay, so slippery in places that it was scarcely