## A Flamingo "City"

**The most striking spectacle in the bird world.**

*One of the Twenty-eight Famous Bird Habitat Groups in the American Museum of Natural History*

UNTIL fifteen years ago the habits of the flamingo, without doubt the most remarkable of all living birds, were a tantalizing mystery to naturalists. In 1904 the first photographs of nesting flamingoes were secured by Dr. Frank M. Chapman, of the scientific staff of the American Museum. The group was constructed from photographs and notes made during his investigations, and from specimens secured by him.

Flamingoes occur in the warmer parts of both hemispheres. The American flamingo—the most brightly colored of the genus—ranges from the Bahamas and Southern Florida to Brazil and the Galapagos.

For nests flamingoes erect curious mounds of mud, from eight to thirteen inches high, and measuring about twenty-two inches in diameter at the base and fourteen inches across the top. A depression, about one inch deep, in the top of the nest, holds the single egg, laid in May. Both male and female incubate. When the young are hatched they are covered with a down like that of young ducks. They develop their brilliant plumage in their second year. For their first three or four days they remain in the nest, and are fed by the parents on pre-digested food. At about three weeks of age they enter upon their adult diet of crustaceans.

## Florida Cypress Swamp

*An exact reproduction of a bit of Northern Florida, teeming with tropical life.*

THE pale trunks of the tall swamp cypresses gleam in the full afternoon sunshine of a Florida September. Drooping from the branches, delicate green and white tropical vines and "Spanish moss" form a lacy canopy. On the bed of a river cove, dark with aquatic plants and grasses, rests a great soft-shell turtle. Glistening wet alligators bask on the warm sand in the sunshine, or lie cool in the shade cast by the dark, spreading leaves of a cabbage-palm. A diamond-back rattlesnake is coiled to strike a terrified cottontail rabbit. Moccasins, rattlers, coach-whip snakes—there seems to be no end to the variety of reptile forms in this warm, damp world. And from the thick foliage everywhere flashes the brilliant plumage of colorful birds.

The Florida Group was assembled and constructed by a score of able assistants, working under the direction of Miss Mary C. Dickerson, Curator of the Department of Herpetology.