

**The Muscovy Duck in the Pleistocene of Panamá.**—During the dry seasons of 1950 and 1951 Dr. C. Lewis Gazin, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology in the U.S. National Museum, excavated several Pleistocene fossil localities on the Azuero Peninsula on the Pacific side of the Republic of Panamá. In 1951, among abundant remains of ground sloths at El Hatillo, near the highway one and one-half miles west of Pesé, Province of Herrera, he obtained one bone of a bird, the distal two-third of a right ulna (U.S. Nat. Mus. no. 21312). This I have identified as from a Muscovy Duck, *Cairina moschata* (Linnaeus). Dr. Gazin considers the spring deposit from which this bone was obtained as Upper Pleistocene. The bone is stained light brown in color and is somewhat mineralized. It marks the first definite report of an avian fossil from Central America. The Muscovy Duck, well known in domestication, ranges in the wild in suitable habitats in the tropical lowlands from Sinaloa and Tamaulipas in northern México southward along both coasts of Central America and South America to Perú and Argentina. The species is locally common in lagoons and marshes in Panamá today where it is known to hunters as the *pato real*.

*Cairina moschata* has been found previously in cave deposits of supposed Pleistocene Age in southern Brazil so that it seems to have had an extended range over a long period of time.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D.C., May 3, 1956.*