

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology

RAINS OF FISHES

For some years past Dr. E. W. Gudger, of the American Museum of Natural History, has been collecting accounts of cases in which fishes are said to have rained from the sky. Some of these accounts were found in published literature while others were communicated to him by letter, and he has assembled a total of 71 records ranging in time of occurrence from 200 B. C. down to the present. The reports come from 15 different countries, including 12 cases in the United States and one in Canada. Dr. Gudger believes that these numerous records leave no doubt as to the fact that showers of fishes actually occur, and he accepts the usual explanation, that the fishes are carried aloft by waterspouts.

He points out, however, that in some reported cases of this phenomenon the fishes did not really fall from the sky. Thus not long ago a Canadian newspaper published an account of a rain of fishes at Dundas, Ontario, but the next day's paper brought the explanation that an angler had dumped into the gutter, during a heavy rain a pail of minnows, which had been collected for bait but not used. There are other cases in which the fish have been left behind by the recession of inundating waters. Fish are occasionally dropped by birds, such as fish-hawks.

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21st and B Sts.,  
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