

centages of calcium hydroxide solution as a means of removing the flesh from the bones in the final scraping. These attempts resulted in equal varying degrees of success. A too weak solution, on one hand, accomplished little whereas a strong solution of 5% tended to soften and in a few cases even dissolved completely the carpal and tarsal bones. A solution of about 1%, if carefully checked periodically, did the job fairly well. However, the old process of simply hand scraping, using grades of fine sandpaper, and drilling still produced the finest results.

At the beginning *all* the students wished to prepare an articulate rather than a non-articulate or flat mount. As was to be expected, most of these aspirations fell by the wayside as the more rigid requirements for the commercial articulate mount became apparent. As a result we ended with only three articulate mounts with most of the others of the flat mount type. Also a few of the students ended up the work with partially assembled skeletons. Grades were issued on the basis of the "quality" rather than the "quantity" of work accomplished. We did secure some excellent mounts as the reader can see from the accompanying pictures, and these will serve as teaching tools

for the Biology I-II classes this year. The main transfer value of the entire ten week procedure was centered around the acquiring of a quite extensive background in basic anatomy and physiology which we hope will reveal itself later on at the college level. The students gained an appreciation of the detailed techniques which characterize all phases of scientific work. The student papers were a refreshing departure from the often rote memorization too frequently encountered at this age level. At this writing, the author is busily making a periodic check on the pet stores to obtain dead specimens of the more intricate type such as chipmunks. These, as you know, are too delicate for normal skeletal procedures and consequently are very expensive on the supply market. Perhaps our beetle friends may solve this problem for us this year in the matter of microscopic cleaning technique.

Note

We were able to buy the expensive set of bone drills due to a \$200.00 research grant awarded to the school for a research paper on our "Living Biology" program. This grant was given by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

Warnings Hoisted for Wildlife Refuges

The inability of the Department of the Interior to control the route of a highway across its Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama raises warnings for other refuges across the country.

News about the department's retreat at the Wheeler refuge barely came out, when it was learned that right-of-way for another interstate highway has been bought up to the boundary fence of the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, South Carolina and Georgia. Again, the Department is at a disadvantage, with a highway all but thrust down its throat before it is aware of what is afoot.

Interior's withdrawal on the Wheeler refuge road location caught conservation interests by surprise, because Secretary Udall has been saying that the right-of-way could

not be granted at the site sought by the road builders. The objections were withdrawn early last month, with the road builders getting virtually everything they wanted.

Road builders use the same arguments at every proposed refuge crossing. First, they object to alternate routes that are suggested to spare wildlife values on the grounds of added construction costs. Next, they compute a cost-to-the-public figure based on the theoretical expense to theoretical motorists who may travel the slightly longer stretch of highway. These figures ignore the fact that right-of-way across a wildlife refuge or other public land is free. They also fail to take into account damage done to wildlife refuge developments as well as the permanent loss of wildlife lands occupied by the highway and the decline in usefulness of nearby land because of traffic disturbance.