

Photo 550402-7 of Uaxactun, Guatemala showing village in foreground and lowlands to the east. Airstrip to right. Photo taken from top of one of the old Mayan ruins. Photo 550402-9 at Uaxactun N of village showing lowland jungles to E. Photo 550402-10 of Mayan ruins NW of the village at Uaxactun, Peten, Guatemala. Red trees anchored on temple ruins no dead. In the jungles W of this ruin found several round cap stones on the ground that covered cists excavated into the ground thus: (all empty). Photo 550402-11 of Uaxactun village (warehouse for rubber gathered from trees in jungle: There is a large spring just W of these huts that supplied water for the village which at this time seems to be deserted. The spring was clear and water appealing. As I was nearing my stay in Guatemala I decided to test my immunity to village water and drank a full cup. This proved to be disastrous and I paid the penalty for the next week.



Remained in Uaxactun all this day:

April 3, 1955

Checked area of Uaxactun.

April 4, 1955

Traveled to Tikal by horseback, visited ruins in afternoon.

April 5, 1955

Last night after dark hunted the native Ocellated Turkey Agriochrysolophus ocellata. These turkeys roost in the tops of dead trees that tower above the other trees of the jungle. The birds are spotted using the moon and its sky light as a background for spotting the turkeys. When found we maneuvered so that the pellets of the shotguns would penetrate from the back of the bird into the body along feathers. To shoot from the front was less successful because of the deflection action of the feathers. Birds not hit would leave the trees and fly elsewhere in the dark. The high position of their roosting limbs allowed good positions for gaining flight power when they departed. Photo 550405-27 is one of the birds killed last night. Photos 550405-28, 550405-29, 550425, 30 are other specimens of this species of turkey. This turkey is a diminutive form and has characteristics that separate it from meleagris gallopavo. The contour feathers are tipped with green and bronze