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maps are actually impassible to ordinary motor vehicle.

Your car, in addition to being equipped with new tires, should have a good set of tire chains. The paved roads are excellent and standard in every way except one--damaging chuk-holes, some a foot deep, are left unmarked. Driving these roads requires constant vigilance and a keen eye for such death traps. The one thing that remains vividly in my mind is the precariousness of the secondary roads and the lack of places to pull off the road to camp. The price of gas and oil varies according to the distance from centers of distribution. I paid from 40¢ to 90¢ per gallon for gas.

The enclosed map shows areas (red dots) I was able successfully to reach by car. Many other areas are also accessible by roads. The Pacific lowlands can be reached by excellent paved roads in any season but elsewhere in the lowlands the roads are impassible in the rainy season. The northern country of Peten can be reached only by plane.

Guatemala is such a fantastic country that I could not specify one part of it as being more interesting or profitable for investigation. Nor is there one area that could be considered as more important for collecting than elsewhere. There are unlimited problems for biological research, several of which come to mind--and to mention only a few of them: variation of fauna and flora of the ~~lowland~~ zones of the geographically separated volcanoes and high mountains; tracing the southern extension of the lower semi-desert life-zone through Guatemala and likewise the northern extension of the tropical elements from the south; conducting a general survey of Peten; study of bats in general. Of the individual species of mammals I would say that the taxonomy and geographical distribution of the gophers of Guatemala would constitute a problem high on the agenda of important research to be done. In fact, there is not a single species that could not be studied profitably from either the taxonomic or ecologic approach. Ornithological-wise there remains much to be investigated. In botany the successional studies of areas used and abandoned by natives is important. Prof. Stewart of the University of Michigan has been working methodically for many years with herps but still there is much to be done.

Of the archeological sites that I visited--Zaculeu, Bananera, Tikal and Uaxactun are notable. I would suggest seeing Zaculeu because of its accessibility and because of its complete reconstruction. The United Fruit Company, because of its Middle American association, restored this example of Maya civilization and is only one of a series of cultural projects that they have undertaken. This company could give you certain logistic support. Start your archeological exploration by first contacting the Guatemalan Institute of Archeology and History in Guatemala City. Your archeologist should establish his headquarters there. And while you are in the city, and before you begin your field work, be sure to see the relief model of Guatemala which is located in the northern sector of the city.

If these generalities on the problems of field work in Guatemala have perchance evoked specific questions I will be glad to answer them in detail.

Sincerely yours,

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