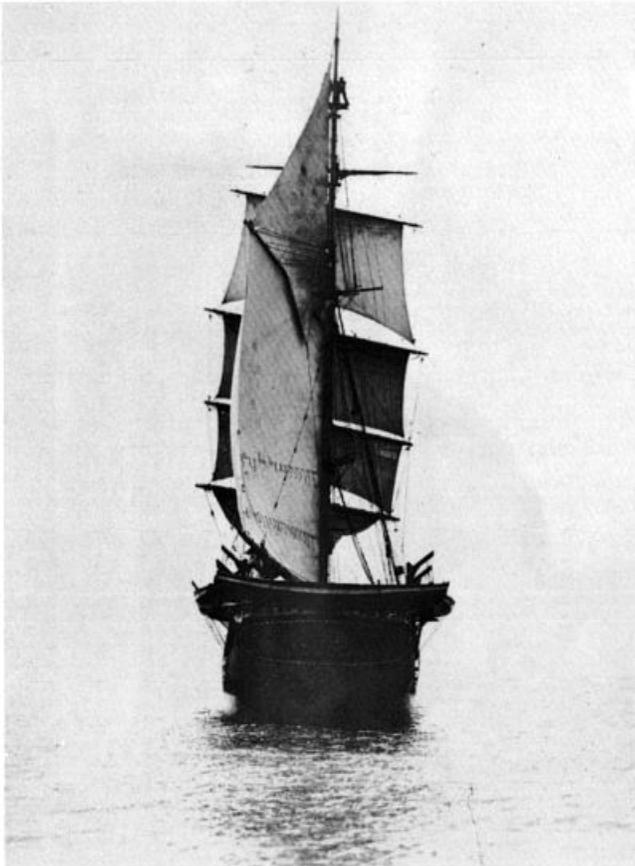
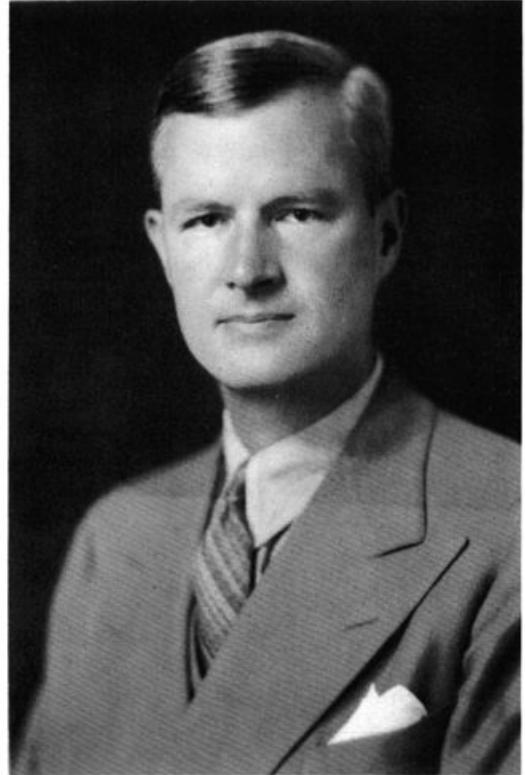


Time-line of the life of R.C.M.

ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY WAS BORN IN BROOKLYN, NEW YORK. While a young boy, his family moved to rural Long Island, where he grew up surrounded by the sea. The following is a series of dates and events in the life of Murphy, recorded here to give a hint of the rich life he led. All books mentioned here, unless otherwise credited, were written by R. C. Murphy. In this listing AMNH = American Museum of Natural History, Brkln Mus. = Brooklyn Museum.

- April 29, 1887 Born in Brooklyn, New York
- 1894 Murphy family moved to Mount Sinai Harbor, Long Island, New York
- 1906 Graduated from Port Washington High School, Long Island, New York
- 1906 Hired by Frank M. Chapman, Curator of Birds at the AMNH, to proofread galleys of his own (Chapman's) *The Warblers of North America*, for the handsome salary of \$40/month
- June 1911 Graduated from Brown University with a bachelor's degree (Ph.B.)
- 1911-1917 Curator, Department of Mammals and Birds of the Brkln Mus.

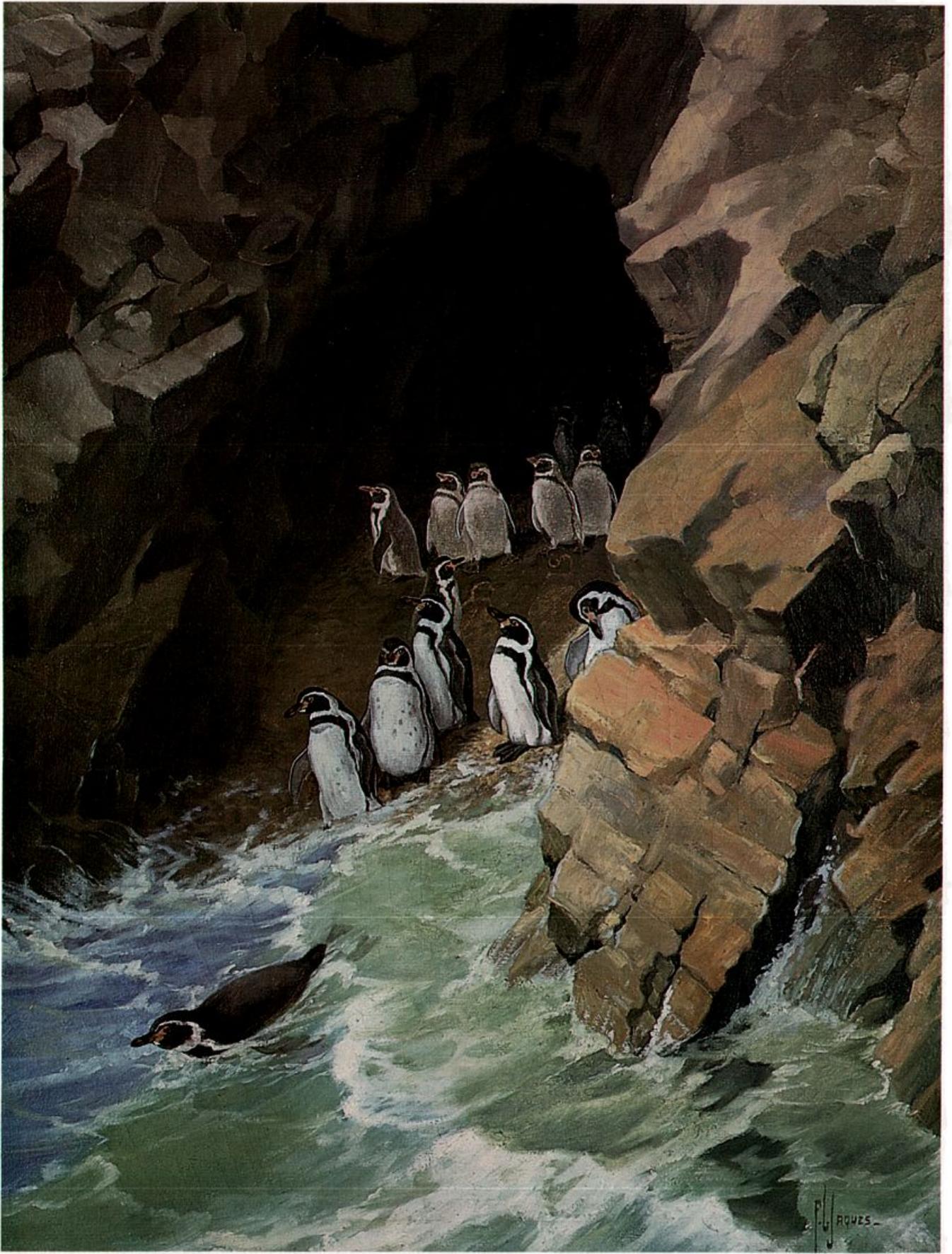


The Brig Daisy at South Georgia in 1912. Photo/R. C. Murphy, courtesy Department of Library Services, American Museum of Natural History.

- February 17, 1912 Married Grace E. Barstow of Providence, Rhode Island
- July 3, 1912 Began first research cruise from Dominica, West Indies, to South Georgia Island, 1000 miles east of Cape Horn on the whaling brig DAISY. Job was formally Assistant Navigator, although, in fact, he was ship's scientist and naturalist on expedition (AMNH)
- October 28, 1912 Saw the first albatross of his life (see . . . from the editor's desk, inside front cover)
- 1912-1913 While on the brig DAISY, charted the original map of the Bay of Isles in South Georgia, naming inlets, headlands, fiords, and several glaciers; called one "Grace Glacier"
- May 9, 1913 Said farewell to the DAISY crew. First oceanic expedition over
- 1915 Led expedition into Lower California and Mexico (Brkln Mus.)
- 1917-1920 Curator, Department of Natural Sciences, Brkln Mus.
- 1918 Earned Master's degree (Sc.D.) from Columbia University, NYC
- 1919-1920 Led expedition to coasts and island of Peru (Brkln Mus., AMNH, and American Geographical Society)
- 1913-1920 Grace and Robert Murphy had three children: Alison, Robert and Amos



Wandering Albatross and Wilson's Storm-Petrels, and a double circular rainbow painted by Francis Lee Jaques and based on a sketch by R. C. Murphy executed in the South Atlantic. Taken from Oceanic Birds of South America. Courtesy of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.



Peruvian Penguins at the mouth of a sea cave, Independencia Bay. Painting by Francis Lee Jaques. Taken from Oceanic Birds of South America. Courtesy of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.



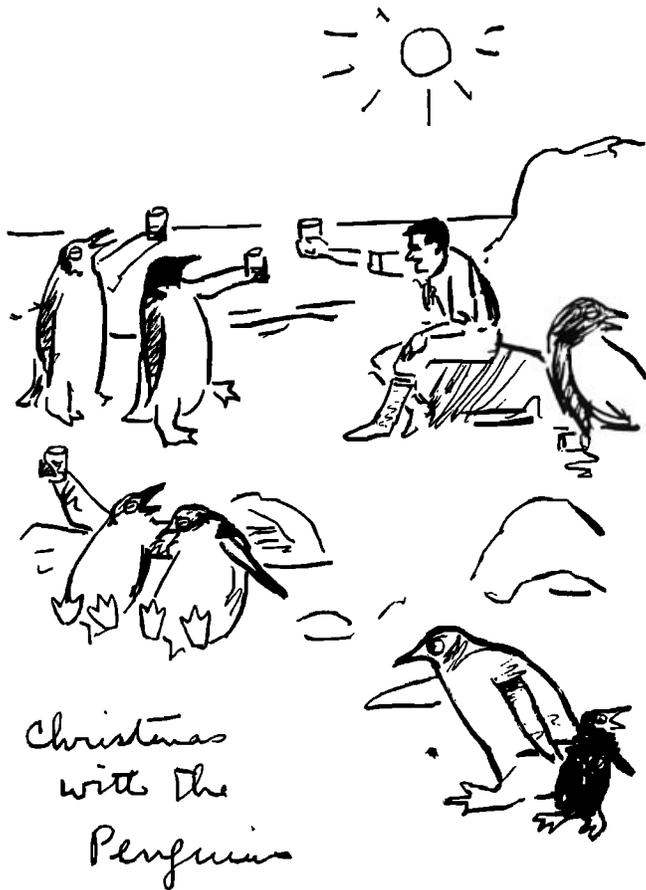
Fairy Terns and Black Noddies, South Trinidad Island. Painting by Francis Lee Jaques. This painting was the frontispiece of Volume II of Oceanic Birds of South America. Courtesy of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.



The Brig Daisy at anchor in Cumberland Bay near the Norwegian whaling station at Grytviken, South Georgia. November 1912. Photo/R.C. Murphy, courtesy Department of Library Services, American Museum of Natural History.



King Penguins on South Georgia Island. Painting by Francis Lee Jaques from Ocean Birds of South America. Courtesy of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.



An original sketch by Murphy from "Logbook for Grace."

- 1921 Associate Curator of Birds at AMNH
- 1924–1926 Assistant Director of the AMNH
- 1924–1925 Led expedition to Peru and Ecuador (AMNH)
- 1924 United States Delegate to the 3rd Pan American Scientific Congress, Lima, Peru
- 1925 Given the degree of *Doctor honoris causa* by the University of San Marcos, Lima, Peru; the oldest university in the New World
- 1925 *Bird Islands in Peru* was published
- 1926–1942 Curator of Oceanic Birds (AMNH)—a unique position
- 1926 United States Delegate to the 6th International Ornithological Congress, Lima, Peru
- 1926 Led expedition to the western Mediterranean (AMNH)
- 1926 United States Delegate to the British Association for the Advancement of Science Meeting, Oxford
- 1929 Joined the staff of the National Audubon Society as its Treasurer
- 1936 *Oceanic Birds of South America* (2 vols) was published by AMNH
- 1937 Led expedition to Pacific Coast of Colombia (AMNH)
- 1937 Won the John Burroughs Medal for excellence in natural history writing

- 1938 Won the coveted Brewster Medal of the American Ornithologists' Union
- 1938–1940 President of the National Audubon Society
- 1940 Won the Cullum Geographical Medal of the American Geographical Society
- 1941 Won the Francis K. Hutchinson Medal
- 1941 Led expedition to the Pacific Coast of Colombia (AMNH)
- 1941 Given the degree of Doctor of Science from Brown University (Ph.D.)
- 1942–1954 Chairman, Department of Birds (AMNH)
- 1943 Won the Daniel Giroud Elliot Medal of the National Academy of Science
- 1945 Led expedition to the Pearl Islands (AMNH)
- 1946 Won the Raimondi Medal of the Geographical Society of Lima, Peru
- 1947–1949 Led expedition to New Zealand and the islands south of New Zealand (AMNH)

For nearly two decades of his life Murphy worked on one of his most impressive creations: the Whitney Memorial Hall of Pacific Bird Life in the American Museum of Natural History. Much of the material for this exhibit was obtained on the New Zealand expeditions. For example, two of the dioramas, which all share a common horizon on the backgrounds, were obtained in New Zealand. These are the Snares Islands and the wilderness of Lake Brunner to the west of the New Zealand Alps. During this expedition Murphy excavated 64 skeletons of the gigantic, flightless, extinct birds known as moas. He was permitted by the New Zealand government to bring eight back to New York City.

- 1947 *Logbook for Grace* was published by MacMillan (and republished in paperback in 1955 by Time-Life Books)
- 1948–1955 Lamont Curator of Birds (AMNH)



The Beachmaster

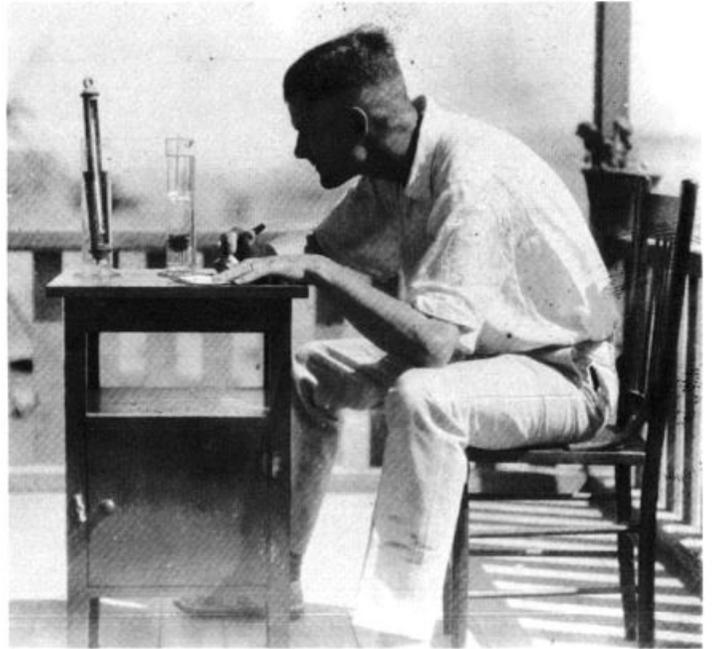
This drawing by R. C. Murphy of a male Elephant Seal made on his first voyage to the Antarctic eventually became his personal book-plate. From "Logbook for Grace."



by

Robert Cushman Murphy

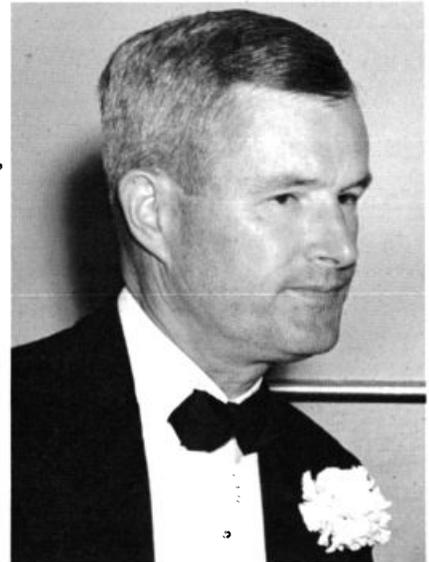
- 1949 United States Delegate to the 7th Pacific Scientific Congress, New Zealand
- 1948–1950 President of the American Ornithologists' Union
- 1949 Described Murphy's Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*), although he had known that this bird was distinct for at least 20 years prior to 1949
- 1950–1951 Led expedition to Bermuda (AMNH)
- 1951 During the Bermuda Expedition while searching for the Cahow, Murphy slipped a noose on a pole into a rock tunnel and extracted a live Cahow from its nest. No modern scientist had studied a living Cahow; in fact, most of the world had thought it extinct since 1625.
- 1952 Led expedition to Venezuela and Caribbean Islands (AMNH)
- 1953 *Land Birds of America* was published by McGraw-Hill
- 1953 United States Delegate to the 8th Pacific Scientific Congress, Pearl Islands
- 1953–1954 Led expedition to Peru (AMNH)
- 1953–1954 Led expedition to Bahama Islands (AMNH)
- April 1954–1960 Founder and first President of the Nature Conservancy of Long Island
- May 1955 Retired from post as Lamont Curator of Birds (AMNH)
- 1955 Was appointed as Lamont Curator Emeritus of Birds (AMNH)
- 1957 United States Delegate to the 9th Pacific Scientific Congress, Bangkok
- 1960 Biologist on expedition to Antarctica, aboard the naval icebreaker, GLACIER, for the first penetration of the Bellinghausen Sea to the coast of the Antarctica Continent. This was known as Operation Deep Freeze '60. Expedition was funded by the National Science Foundation.
- 1964 Given the degree Doctor of Philosophy from Long Island University (Ph.D.)
- 1964 *Fish-shape Paumanok* was published by the American Philosophical Society
- 1965–1969 Member of the Advisory Commission of the Fire Island National Seashore
- 1967 *A Dead Whale or a Stove Boat* was published
- 1967 Won the Explorer's Club Medal



Murphy taking water densities while on expedition in Peru in 1925. Photo/V.C. Heilner, courtesy Department of Library Services, American Museum of Natural History.

- December 1968 Dedication of Robert Cushman Murphy Junior High School in Stony Brook, New York
- 1969 Won a Congressional Medal (U.S. Antarctic Service Medal) for his participation in Operation Deep Freeze '60
- 1970 Won the Distinguished Service Citation of the Long Island Press
- March 20, 1973

Robert Cushman Murphy died in his home at Stony Brook, Long Island, New York, at the age of 85



In recognition of his contributions to geography, two mountains have been named for Murphy. One, the 7000-foot Mount Murphy, looms at the head of Amundsen Sea on the Antarctic Continent. The second, in South Georgia, has been called by British cartographers Murphy Wall "because it embraces Grace Glacier [see 1912–1913] on the west." There is also an Antarctic Inlet named for him.

During his long and distinguished scientific career he also had a louse, a fish, several birds, a plant, a lizard, and a spider named after him.

—*American Birds*