PICTURA FILMS presents

"THE WORLD AROUND US"

A SERIES OF TEN 16 MM FILMS IN COLOR DEVOTED TO THE LIVING WORLD OF NATURE
INTRODUCTION

During the past three years, Pictura Films Corp. has devoted its full energies to the completion of The Pictura Portfolio, a library of films on the lives of great artists, as well as to the production of a feature film on Leonardo DaVinci, the fabulous genius of the Renaissance.

Having completed and released this first cycle of films in which the artists' painted figures are the actors in the dream world imagined by the painter, Pictura is proud to present a series of films devoted to the living world of nature in which the camera vividly portrays in natural beauty the struggle for real life survival in "The WORLD AROUND US".

"THE WORLD AROUND US" is a series of ten nature films, produced by John H. Storer, which we believe achieves what few other series have attempted. The theme of conservation is developed throughout, using Storer's brilliant color photography of the creatures who inhabit the land, the water and the forest. Sometimes it is the trackless path of a soaring condor, sometimes the crawling of a worm, the ripple on a swamp, the leap of a toad that reveals how the web of nature is woven.

The life history of many of our country's most interesting birds is shown in slow motion including close-up scenes of feeding, fighting, courting, hunting and playing. Against the eerie reflections of cypress trees on dark waters, we see forest plants come alive, flowers bloom, a large polyphemus moth emerge from its cocoon unfolding its embryonic wings to their full beauty. An Osprey dives and rises with a fish in its talons. The great Steelhead and humpback salmon leap and seine up cascading falls of green water.

There are many other examples of the wonders of our nation's wildlife, stressing their interrelation and the need to use our great resources of land, water and forest with foresight and care.

We of Pictura believe that you will find "THE WORLD AROUND US" a memorable film record, beautiful, interesting and instructional.
"THE WORLD AROUND US"

"Throughout history, in war and peace, Americans have constantly destroyed the things they have fought to save, the land that supports them, the wild life that supports it."

1. THE CHAIN OF LIFE
Nature's method of making food chains which tie together all the living creatures in a community. Film includes scenes of environment, close-ups of tadpoles eating algae, crawfish catching and eating tadpoles, links in the food chain through green bass, fish eggs, turtle eggs, snakes, raccoons, alligators. A Polyphemus moth is hatched from its cocoon, a spider builds its web...all in spectacular action shots in nature's color.

2. LIVES OF THEIR OWN
The highly specialized environment of the Wood Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Ward Heron, American Egret, Purple Gallinule, Coot, Cormorant, and Osprey provide the background for this study of how nature suits the bird to its habitat and the habitat to the bird. The film contains beautifully composed close-up action scenes showing how each bird is especially adapted to catch its own particular kind of food.

3. JUST OFF SHORE
Among the most interesting and beautiful of all birds are those who wade as they hunt. This film shows in tight close-ups and slow-motion scenes, the actual hunting, courting, feeding and nesting of the white and glossy Ibis, Florida Crane and Roseate Spoonbill.

4. SEE HOW THEY SWIM
Continuing the theme of special adaptation, in this film the Canadian Goose, Whistling Swan, Mallard Duck and White Pelican are shown in some of the most spectacular bird photography ever recorded. The brown pelican is featured in a variety of humorous antics, which only this best known of bird comedians can display.

5. VANISHING BIRDS
Devoted to a study of those birds who are facing extermination in our land due to their inability to adapt themselves to the man-made changes in their habitat. Shown are unusual shots of the Limpkin, the Everglades Kite and, probably for the first time, a flight of rare California Condors with eleven foot wing spread soaring on great cross currents of air in the Rockies.

"The first farmer was the first man and all true nobility rests on possession and use of the land." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

6. WHITE SPLENDOUR
"The Bird On Nellie's Hat", title of a popular song of years ago, was unconsciously a reflection on a near catastrophe in the world of one of our most beautiful birds, the Egret. Here in spectacular color is an exciting visual story of the life of this bird, and what has been done to restore it from the brink of extinction, through the use of laws, protection, education and sanctuary.

7. KING OF THE RIVER
One of nature's most remarkable life cycles is reflected in this exciting visual story of the Salmon. Development of this king of the river from spawn to full growth makes a fascinating film record. Seldom if ever before has the camera caught the magnificent beauty of the Salmon. Solid masses of fish leaping waterfalls as they move upstream are doubly impressive in slow motion.

8. THE INVADER
The inevitable conflict arising from the demands of a highly mechanized civilization is depicted in relation to the life cycle of the Salmon. Described in the film are the main problems threatening their existence...the building of huge dams along the rivers used by the fish, the pollution of the waters by industrial plants, inadequate sewage disposal in cities. These and other man-made obstructions highlight one of our most serious conservation problems.

9. SEE HOW THEY FLY
Through the eyes of the slow motion camera, the graceful beauty of bird flight is accentuated. The fast changes in shapes and positions of the wings and feathers are among the most precise and beautiful in the realm of nature. Here, we compare their similarity in design and function to the airplane propeller and wing. The film includes performances by a cast of such masters of flight as the Swallow-tailed Kite, the Black Skimmer, the Wood Ibis, the Scaup Duck.

10. BREAKING THE WEB
The effects of injudicious economic development and land mismanagement on the wildlife of this country are graphically exposed in this unusual documentary film. The destruction of soil by fire, the effects of improper drainage on water tables and vegetation, and other poorly-planned and careless acts of man, are only a few of the causes of the breaking of the web of life.

STUDY GUIDES ON EACH FILM ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE.

Please address all requests for rental or preview prints to: Dept. N - PICTURA FILMS CORPORATION • 487 PARK AVENUE • NEW YORK 22, N. Y.