

ANNUAL MEETING

Mr. Orville Crowder, Chairman of the local committee on arrangements, advises that the sessions to be held on Saturday morning, March 31, 1951 will be in the Enoch Pratt Free Library Building on Cathedral Street in Baltimore. Sunday will be devoted to a visit to the Patuxent Refuge. Incidentally, Mr. Seth Low chided your Editor for referring to the Patuxcot Refuge in the August issue. This trip should be extremely interesting to all members.

Each member should start planning now to attend this meeting.

AVIAN DISEASES

Two members have written regarding the examination of birds found dead. Mr. Beecher S. Bowdish sent in a copy of a letter which he wrote to Mrs. Dumont appropos of her recent experience with Brown Thrashers. He writes in part:

"A convenient and satisfactory method for New Jersey bird students is to send such specimens to Dr. F. R. Beaudette, Poultry Pathologist, Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, N. J. The Station is equipped to examine for pathological conditions, but has not the equipment for stomach analyses for the detection of poisons that might have caused death.

"My method is to send by first class, special delivery, by first morning mail; if possible avoiding mailing on a Friday and always avoiding Saturday mailing, so as not to have dead bird lie in the mail any longer than can be avoided.

"As soon as I come into possession of a bird which I wish to send in for examination, I roll it in wax paper and put it in the refrigerator until ready to mail. I often prepare it for mailing on the day when found, wrapping the mail package in oil paper and putting in the refrigerator until the next morning.

"To comply with postal requirements, package must be marked "Dead Bird" and responsibility assumed by mailer against offensive decomposition while in the mail. Meeting this requirement I follow the words "Dead Bird" with the further mark on package "Non-de-composition assured", a reasonably conservative guarantee, which is apparently satisfactory to Post Office authorities.

"A memo is enclosed in package mentioning the name of bird, sex if known, date and place of finding, any further data which might aid in determining cause of death; name and address of sender and time of mailing."

Dr. Carlton M. Herman also writes:

"I have noted with interest the reports concerning avian diseases in the August and September, 1950, issues of "Ebba News". It is indeed regretful that there are not a large number of pathologists available to examine such sick or dead birds for the purpose of making a diagnosis. A few pathologists who might be interested in this field of endeavor have specific projects which they are investigating. Most of them have very limited staffs and are therefore not in a position to add such duties to their already overburdened programs. Sometimes a limited amount of such service work is feasible, particularly if the problem ties in more or less directly with their regular program. Most of the pathologists who would be in a position to handle such material are working primarily on poultry diseases and could justify such work only insofar as it relates to the poultry problems.

"Among our problems under investigation here at the Patuxent Research Refuge we are studying the trichomoniasis disease of mourning doves. We are particularly anxious to learn of all observations of this infection and would be glad to receive any sick or dead mourning doves for examination."

BIOGRAPHY

EBBA News has mentioned Mr. Arthur Fast of Arlington, Va. from time to time. Herewith we publish his autobiography.

Arthur H. Fast (4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington, Va.) believes that his considerable interest in birds and wildlife generally dates from his participation in March, 1939, in one of the National Audubon Society's Okeechobee-Kissimmee Florida Tours, Alexander Sprunt leader. Shortly thereafter he and Mrs. Fast moved to their Arlington home where the grounds and surroundings were suitable for attracting birds. From January 18 to May 13, 1946 the rare (for the area) Evening Grosbeaks came regularly. See EBBA News Vol. 9, No. 12; and Vol. 10, No. 4. He obtained his banding permit about March 1, 1946 and banded 51 of the Grosbeaks. One of them was recovered in April, 1949 by the B. M. Shaubs in Northampton, Mass. In the spring of 1947 there was an irruption of Cedar Waxwings. From March 8 to May 13, 1947 Mr. Fast banded 875 Cedar Waxwings. See EBBA News Vol. 10, No. 12. In the $4\frac{1}{2}$ years to Oct. 1, 1950, he has banded over 4500 small land birds (none of them colonial) of 40 species. The list is headed by White-Throats (945), Cedar Waxwings (875),