

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."