

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Fifty-one members and eleven guests registered for the Annual Meeting held on April 1 and 2 in New York. A business meeting and scientific session was held on April 1 and two outstanding stations in New Jersey were visited on April 2. It was the opinion of those present that this was one of the best meetings of the Association held in recent years.

Mr. J. T. Nichols of the American Museum of Natural History delivered an address of welcome to open the meeting on Saturday morning. Ten councillors responded to the roll call to begin the business meeting proper. The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary and approved. Mr. R. J. Middleton, Chairman of the Publication Committee, reported that although there had been numerous problems encountered in publishing the News during the past year, they had been worked out and were now under control.

President Groskin read a communication from Mr. R. T. Fuller resigning as Editor of the News and announced the temporary appointment of Mr. Bender to this position. The secretary read a letter from Mr. Bender concerning the proper disposition of data received during the preparation of symposia on selected species. This subject will be discussed later in this issue.

Treasurer Merrill Wood presented the following report:

Treasurer's Report - 1949-50

Receipts

Balance from 1948-49 (on April 21, 1949*)	\$452.05
Membership dues	517.50
Subscriptions to BIRD-BANDING	320.00
Contributions	11.38
Sale of banding equipment (made by Geoffrey Gill)	21.75
Trap auction at annual meeting	10.00
Total Receipts	<u>1,332.68</u>

* The 436.43 balance announced on April 21, 1949 should read 452.05.

Disbursements

Publication of the EBBA News	413.20
Expenses of Treasurer	35.25
Bank charges (foreign exchange fees)	1.83
Expenses of annual meeting	78.80
Subscriptions to BIRD-BANDING	<u>320.00</u>
Total Disbursements	849.08

Balance Sheet

Total receipts	\$1,332.68
Total disbursements	<u>849.08</u>
Balance (on April 1, 1950)	<u>\$ 483.60</u>
Number of new members	22
Number of members dropped (in arrears or resigned)	22
Number of members deceased	3
Number of members in EBBA on April 1, 1950	321

Of these 321, only 253 have paid their dues, 39 are in arrears, and 29 wish to resign.

April 1, 1950
Merrill Wood, Treas.

Mr. Astle announced that a bill extending protection to several additional species of Hawks and Owls, including the Snowy Owl, was now on Gov. Dewey's desk for signature and moved that the Association send a message to the Governor requesting him to sign this bill. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Subsequent to the meeting President Groskin sent the message.

It was unanimously voted to extend the thanks of the Association to the American Museum of Natural History for providing the meeting place and to Mr. C. K. Nichols and his Committee on Local Arrangements for their splendid efforts which did so much to make the meeting a success.

The meeting then proceeded to the presentation of the papers of the scientific session.

Prof. Merrill Wood presented the first paper "Terms for Abnormally White Birds". It will be published in an early issue of the News.

A color film "Some Birds at Churchill, Manitoba" by Mr. Oscar Hawksley followed. Excellent shots of the bird and mammal life of this interesting locality made this paper very interesting.

Mr. Leroy Wilcox then gave his paper on "Banding Ospreys on Long Island", which was illustrated with a number of beautiful colored slides. The photographs of the ground nests of this bird on Gardiner's Island were of particular interest.

Mr. Seth Low who is in charge of banding activities for the Fish and Wildlife Service then reviewed "The Notable Recoveries of 1949". In an early issue we hope to bring some of these to your attention, but the most interesting of all cannot wait. A Pintail which was banded in California was shot three months later in good condition on the northern end of New Zealand.

"An Improved Sparrow Trap" was demonstrated by Mr. Geoffrey Gill in his inimitable manner. This trap was later auctioned off by Dr. Wood for the benefit of our treasury. Mr. Gill's expression when Mrs. Gill bid on it was something to behold. We hope to give you the plans for this trap in one of the coming issues.

The morning session closed with a paper by Mr. Richard Fischer on "Bird Photography for Bird Banders". This paper, which was filled with helpful suggestions and ideas, was illustrated with many beautiful colored slides.

After luncheon in the Museum's cafeteria, the afternoon session began with Mr. R. J. Middleton's paper on the "Length of Stay of Migratory Birds in Southeastern Pennsylvania". This paper, which was based on a careful study of repeat records for the twelve to thirteen thousand birds banded by Mr. Middleton, was very informative.

President Groskin then told us about "Banding Purple Finches". He was in the midst of another invasion at the time of the meeting. This paper was followed by a spirited discussion, principally by Mr. Bowdish, of the migratory status of this species.

Mr. Low then discussed the banding program covering such items as the availability of color bands, the code to the band numbers, availability of new placards for the protection of traps, and the phone number of the banding office, which is Tower 6430--ask for Manual Line 2, Ring 3. Since the old Biological Survey took over banding activities until April 30, 1949, 5,690,000 birds have been banded. We plan to present Mr. Low's information in detail in a future issue of the News.

"Laughing Gull Records" were discussed in the next paper by Mr. J. H. Buckalew who has banded over 10,000 of these birds. He is planning to try to capture some adults on the nesting grounds during the coming seasons. Perhaps his most unusual recovery was of a band which was taken with a part of a bird's leg from the air intake of an airplane making the run from Miami to New York. Since the place where the bird was encountered is not known, it is perhaps the most indefinite recovery ever obtained.

Mr. Chandler S. Robbin's paper "Anyone Can Trap Warblers" was a description of the various types of traps used so successfully at the Patuxent Research Refuge.

The last paper of the meeting was a discussion of the Evening Grosbeak invasion which has kept banders as far south as northern New Jersey so busy this winter. This discussion was led by Mr. E. A. Mason and by Mr. B. M. Shaub. One of the problems encountered by the banders working with the Connecticut Valley Evening Grosbeak Project has been to find enough colors for color bands. They are experimenting with designs stamped on the white wing patches of the males and with the use of nail lacquers for coloring bills. We hope to have more to say about these studies in future issues.

Following the conclusion of the scientific session, the report of the Nominating Committee was given by Mr. Joseph Cadbury, Chairman. The secretary was instructed by a motion which was duly seconded and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for the officers and councillors recommended by the Committee. You will find the new officers and councillors listed on the inside cover of this issue. The meeting was then adjourned.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Men's Faculty Club of Columbia University on Saturday evening. Afterwards Mr. Oscar Hawksley presented his color film "Tides and Terns" which was taken in the Bay of Fundy region while he was conducting special studies of the Arctic Tern. This unusual film was greatly enjoyed by all present.

On Sunday, April 2, those members who could stay over visited the banding station of Mr. Beecher S. Bowdish at Demarest, N.J. and also the banding station of Mrs. Herbert S. Carnes at Tenafly, N.J. The variety of traps at both stations proved to be of great interest, and in addition, at the Bowdish station we had the pleasure of observing at close range a number of different species of birds, including Purple Finches and Evening Grosbeaks. At Mrs. Carnes' station they were entertained with luncheon and also observed Pine Siskins almost within arm's length. It was a very beautiful spring day and made a very enjoyable field trip.

One could not conclude this report of the meeting without expressing the gratitude of those who attended to the American Museum of Natural History for the facilities which they so kindly made available, to Mr. Charles K. Nichols and his Committee on Local Arrangements, to Mr. Hobart M. Van Deusen of the Museum, and to Mr. Bowdish and Mrs. Carnes for their hospitality.