

## THE EBBA ANNUAL MEETING, 1968

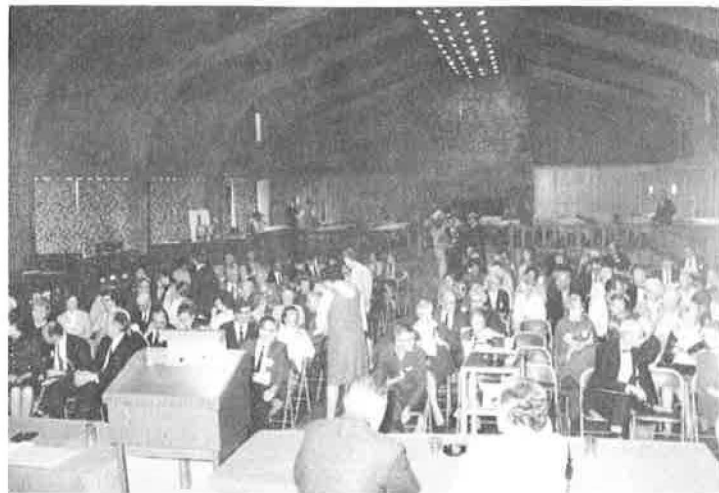
By Constance R. Katholi

The 1968 Annual Meeting was held for the first time in West Virginia at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, under the auspices of the Brooks Bird Club (BBC) an organization active in the tri-state area with members in many parts of the United States. Included within its ranks are a number of banders, members of EBBA and IBBA. Because of the convenient location of the convention this year several members of IBBA joined their colleagues of EBBA for the weekend. The total registration of members and guests was 164; thirteen states and Ontario, Canada were represented. Wilson Lodge, on a hilltop overlooking high rolling country, not truly typical of most of West Virginia, is an ideal convention site. It offers fine accommodations, spacious lobbies and dining rooms, all housed under the same roof as the large auditorium. The surrounding park offers the complete gamut of sports in season and such distracting attractions as the Mansion House Museum and the Garden Center. The landscape showed the first promise of spring and fine weather prevailed throughout the weekend.

The BBC entertained early arrivals on Friday afternoon, April 5, with an open house at their clubroom in downtown Wheeling. By three o'clock, however, members began trickling into the Lodge to be registered, to receive name-tags and a folder of information about West Virginia, and to begin their reunion with old friends. Here began the conversation which would form a continuous background to the weekend; sandwiched between the meetings, and continuing during meals there was a steady flow of information, an exchange of problem-solving ideas, which is one of the main attractions of these "get-togethers". Time was found somehow to examine the exhibits on display in the auditorium, which included the "new" nets, assorted traps and bird houses, shorebird decoys created by Bob Yunick, and an excellent display of nature photography lent for the meeting by Donald Heintzelman.

The Council met in the late afternoon and completed its business before dinner, by which time most of the members had arrived on the scene. In the evening, the BBC put on a program at the Nature Center, an excellent slide presentation entitled "Red Creek Operation Recovery", assembled and narrated by Mrs. Fred Temple of the BBC. It is the story of Allegheny Front Mountain near Davis, W. Va., in particular an area known as Dolly Sods or the "Roaring Plains" - its geology, wild flowers, and birds. There were slides of the hawk watching and bird banding at the Red Creek O.R. station - all enthusiastically received. Afterwards, EBBA was treated to what is traditionally known to the BBC as a "snack" - but better described as an epicurean repast.

The formal session was opened Saturday morning in Glessner auditorium with a speech of welcome by Charles Conrad, Executive Secretary of the BBC, to which President Becky Cregar of EBBA responded in appreciation of the



ABOVE: Top left: a view of the meeting in Glessner Auditorium of the Wilson Lodge. Right: three views of the exhibits - Donald Heintzelman's photography exhibit, Bob Yunick's shorebird decoys, and Ralph Bell's martin house built by Wesley Knisley. Below: two views of the banquet - at left, Mr. & Mrs. Merrill Wood and the back of Bill Pepper's head; at right, a part of the head table.

RIGHT: Left side, top to bottom: Chuck Conrad as "Emcee", Robert Kletzly and Joe Rieffenberger discussing Woodcock, and Henry M. Reeves. Right side, top to bottom: Dr. Harold Burt (see p. 120), Ralph Bell announcing a speaker, and Chuck Conrad and the Editor caught unaware during the coffee break.

Photos by Frank Frazier Sr. and (a few) Jr.



hospitality and friendship of the host club. It seems opportune here to mention EBBA's appreciation of the work done by those who arranged the meeting and its program, Albert Schnitzer, Frank McCamey and Ralph Bell; and of the constant and successful efforts of Charles Conrad and Mrs. Edward Vossler of the BBC as co-chairmen of the Arrangements Committee as well as the many BBC members who assisted them so capably in carrying out the tedious minutiae of preparations for a meeting of this kind.

Ralph Bell, wearing the "two hats of EBBA and the BBC" officiated as chairman of the papers session which, interrupted by coffee breaks and lunch, lasted throughout the day. One of Ralph's introductions was in the form of a poem - with most original rhyme - to introduce sometime poet Earl Baysinger. The papers were of excellent quality; the contents, varied and interesting, some totally serious and others with an admixture of humor. The speakers ranged from research fellow to professor, from recent licensee to life-time bander. A complete list of papers follows:

- "Observations on the Fall Migration of Least Flycatchers" - Dr. Mary Heimerdinger Clench.
- "Research on Migratory Upland Game Birds" - Henry M. Reeves of the Fish and Wildlife Service.
- "Local Movements, Flocking Behavior and Trap Response of Juvenile Red-winged Blackbirds" - Charles R. Danner.
- "Behavioral Research as a By-Product of Banding" - Dr. Harold E. Burtt.
- "Banding Woodcock in Canaan Valley" - Robert Kletzly and Joe Rieffenberger of the West Virginia Dept. of Natural Resources.
- "News from the Banding Office" - Earl Baysinger.
- "Projects for Banders" - Chandler S. Robbins.
- "Notes on Statistics" - Dr. Charles H. Blake.
- "Automatic Traps with Solenoid Control" - Arthur Dunnell.
- "Skulls, Scale and Sequence Research" - Arthur Wiseman.
- "A History of Bird Banding" - Mrs. John Lueshen (Mrs. Lueshen was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting, but copies of her paper were distributed).

The Banding Office was represented by Earl Baysinger, Chandler Robbins and Larry Hood (editor of IBB News who recently joined the staff at Patuxent). Each of them covered a different aspect of "their side of the business". This year's report is generally optimistic; automation is proving itself, as all the old data is now on tape, and the enormous backlog continues to dwindle. The prognosis for the future is that more work will be done with the same personnel at greater speed and economy of operation through use of computers. Research continues for better formats for such items as recovery cards (to finders of bands), new metals for the bands themselves, and a new legend (address) for the band inscription. New plastic wallet-sized permits are being issued. Banders can look forward to the day when they will be reminded a month ahead of time to renew their permits - now, the notice reaches them only after expiration! The plea

again is for patience on the one hand, and for clarity and precision on all schedules submitted.

Chan Robbins talked on "Projects for Banders" and the Project Guide which he distributed was perhaps the most important single piece of information which each of us brought home from the meeting. In it Mr. Robbins offered answers to the questions, "How can I justify the band which I am putting on this bird?" and "What can I derive in the way of meaningful information from my data?". A great many suggestions are offered for special projects of all kinds for individual banders, or for banders working cooperatively, depending on one's abilities, circumstances and the material available. An excellent bibliography is included for reference.

The Annual Business Meeting was the last item on the program for the afternoon, and the minutes of this meeting are published elsewhere in this issue.

The banquet held in Glessner Auditorium was opened with an invocation by Raymond Middleton. The after-dinner speeches were few but occasionally hilarious. President-elect Robert Yunick took over the reins from Becky Cregar with the presentation of a gift to the retiring president in appreciation of her services to the organization, and told a joke or two along the way. By a show of hands the delegation from each state was recognized; and a "Ralph-Bell-Special" bluebird house was awarded to the person who had come the greatest distance to the meeting - Mary Heimerdinger Clench, who demurred at accepting the gift on the grounds that she actually belongs to Pennsylvania although she is currently teaching in Florida; but she was told that the gift might serve a second purpose, as a wedding present in honor of her recent marriage. Souvenir ashtrays bearing the EBBA insignia were presented to all participants by Conrad Crafters, of Wheeling.

After dinner a two-screen slide program entitled "This Land of Ours" was given by Jack Englert of the Eastman Kodak Company. The beautiful nature pictures were enjoyed by all, and especially by camera buffs who picked up many helpful pointers after the presentation. This formally concluded Saturday's program, although a few gregarious souls responded to the BBC's invitation to indulge in further conversation in the Hospitality Room.

After breakfast on Sunday, the members set out in caravan on guided field trips, planned in generally homeward directions, to Powdermill Banding Station, to Ralph Bell's farm near Clarksville, Pa., to Seneca Lake, Ohio, and to the Census area at Oglebay Park.

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SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS Left column, top to bottom: Gathering for the Oglebay Park trip; at Ralph Bell's farm - Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Middleton, Mr. & Mrs. William Pepper and Dorothy Mendinhall identifiable; the caravan on the way to the Bell farm. Right, top: Albert Schnitzer preparing for the journey; bottom: Ralph Bell demonstrating a bird-house/trap atop his chicken-house roof; and a Bluebird house examined...and eggs found.

## SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS

Six people went on the field trip led by Pat and Fred Temple, to beautiful Seneca Lake, Ohio, a large lake 60 miles southwest of Wheeling. As expected, some of the wintering as well as migratory ducks were present, including a flock of 40 Red-breasted Mergansers and a few Ringnecks, Blue-winged Teal, Buffleheads, Scaup and Shovellers. The ponds at the adjacent National Fish Hatchery did not produce the expected shorebirds, but a Sharp-shinned Hawk put up a flock of Redwings, Grackles and Cowbirds that had been probing in the mud. A nest-building Phoebe, a Tree Swallow and two early Barn Swallows were seen, and it was gratifying to see several Bluebirds and four Cedar Waxwings as well. The species count for the trip was 51. (Contributed by Ilse Kind Kuch, to whom we are grateful for this report. -Ed.)

Led by Glenn Phillips of the Brooks Bird Club, a group of some 20 members walked through the 15-acre area in Oglebay Park where the BBC is making an annual breeding bird census. In addition to receiving a full and interesting explanation of census procedures, the group observed more than 25 resident birds and early migrants, and had the added excitement of early wild flowers such as colt's-foot and carpets of spring beauties.

Farmers on the back roads of Greene County, Pa., were treated to the sight of a 19-car caravan wending - and winding - its way to Ralph Bell's farm. On the way, the participants in this trip went through an old covered bridge, possibly a new experience for some, and at a number of stops on the way had the opportunity to examine some of Ralph's Bluebird houses which contained nests and, a few, eggs. Once at the Bell farm, bird houses and traps were examined, walks were taken around the property, and, of course, cameras worked overtime. Some went from here to the Powdermill Banding Station (as well as directly from Oglebay Park) where more banding methods, results and ramifications were demonstrated and discussed.



EBBA NEWS To complete a full set of back issues of EBBA News for the  
BACK ISSUES New Jersey State Museum, Dr. Kenneth W. Prescott, director of the museum and EBBA member, needs five issues: Vol. 12, No. 11 (Dec. 1949); Vol. 17, Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4 (1954). Anyone who has extras of these and is willing to give or sell them, is asked to contact Dr. Prescott or the Editor; we are particularly interested in locating Vol. 17, Nos. 3 and 4 (May-June and July-August, 1954) and if no extras are forthcoming, we would like to borrow these two issues from a willing member in order to make photocopies. Anyone willing to help, please write the Editor or Dr. Kenneth W. Prescott, N.J. State Museum, Cultural Center, Trenton, N.J. 08625.