

## THE ANNUAL MEETING

Please remember the next Annual Meeting to be held at Baltimore, Md., on March 31, 1951. The secretary has not yet received a single title for a paper to be given at this meeting. Even though it may seem early, please plan your papers and send the title and an estimate of the time required to the secretary. Mr. Orville Crowder is chairman of the committee on local arrangements and promises us a fine time, with a visit to the Patuxcot Refuge tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 1, 1951. Don't wait until the last minute to make your plans.

## AVIAN DISEASES

Mr. E. A. Bergstrom of West Hartford, Conn. writes as follows:

"During the past three winters, we trapped fair numbers (about 140 last season) of tree sparrows at our former location in West Hartford. We ran the traps quite steadily, mostly large masons, either on a sheltered porch or on sites in the open. The sites did not change during the winter, and by March there were quite a few individual tree sparrows that had been taken 50 to 100 times since November.

"We were disturbed to note 5 to 10 birds with signs of foot disease, toes swelling up with white pus, tending to lose the nail. Our treatment was metaphen applied to the swollen portion, and this did seem to at least retard the disease. It did not become evident until March, mostly the latter half, and seemed to involve birds that had been the most frequent repeaters. It seemed possible the disease was spread either by infected trap sites or infected gathering cages.

"After writing to Mr. E. A. Mason at Arcadia Sanctuary, he comments, "Epithelioma contagiosum is sometimes given the foot disease of birds. Whether it is a sound name, I am not too sure; I think the authorities differ. Extreme moisture conditions seem to bring about infections. I don't recall seeing the disease active in New England in the wintertime. We used mercurachrome in the South ... I suppose trap site sanitation is sound, although in the South we moved so often it could hardly have been a factor."

"It is possible that some solutions to this problem have been published, but I don't seem to find anything specific. Perhaps some member of the E.B.B.A. can point out where this has been published; if the solution has not been found, perhaps we can pool our experience and arrive at one.