

## THE ANNUAL MEETING

State College, Pa., April 11-12, 1959

By Frank P. Frazier, Jr.

Once again EBBA held a most successful annual meeting, bringing together one of the largest gatherings of bird banders ever held in this country. The program, arranged under the direction of Eleanor Dater, was one of the best we have ever had (brief notes on the program follow and some of the papers are being prepared for this and succeeding issues.) The arrangements committee, under the leadership of Merrill Wood, functioned perfectly and earned everyone's unstinted thanks.

## MORNING PAPERS SESSION

Mr. Lyman E. Jackson, Dean of the Penn State College of Agriculture, welcomed the Association, noting that this was the first time EBBA has met at State College. He mentioned that State College is in the geographic center of Pennsylvania, and "equally inaccessible from all points".

Albert Schnitzer opened the morning papers session, speaking on plans for Operation Recovery at Island Beach in 1959. Volunteers were requested to contact Mr. Schnitzer in order that arrangements may be made well in advance, and efforts will be made to secure more organized field observations to supplement the actual banding.

John Schmid showed a remarkable collection of color slides portaying people and birds at Island Beach during Operation Recovery in 1958, and Mrs. Schmid narrated for the showing. Many of those present saw themselves as others saw them - in a healthy but often haggard outdoor life. Needless to say, the bird photographs were excellent.

Gilbert Raynor wound up this series on Island Beach with a discussion of his studies of the migration experience there during September, 1958, as compared with weather conditions over the regions from which the birds presumably came.

Dan Campbell of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service spoke on age and sex determination of the Common Grackle. The relative amount of brownish coloration of the under wing coverts was given as a way to gauge the relative age of grackles.

John Webb read a paper by himself and David Wetherbee, both of the Fish and Wildlife Service, on the extension of the breeding range of the Cowbird into the southeastern part of the country.