

AMERICAN BIRD CARVING EXHIBIT

By Frank P. Frazier

The Kent County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, of which EBBA member Dorothy Mendenhall is president, staged a remarkable exhibit of American bird carvings, assembled from all parts of the U.S., at Chestertown, Maryland early last November.

More than 20 craftsmen from Maine to California, many of them present in person, were represented by over 200 carvings ranging from life size wood sculptures of birds to small models. Two of the craftsmen, Maine's Wendell H. Gilley and Maryland's James M. Corrigan, gave demonstrations of bird carving. The exhibit also included antique decoys, paintings, early duck hunting guns and the now outlawed "sink box" gunning rig.

As Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson, President of Washington College and Chairman of the Exhibit, stated: "This is probably the most representative exhibition of American bird carvings of this kind ever assembled."

Our visit to the Exhibit was most rewarding and we are wholeheartedly grateful (as were the hundreds of persons fortunate enough to be there) for the planning and plain hard work (imagine being faced with uncrating and unpacking all those bird carvings and then packing them safely up again for dispatch to their creators!) that went into this unique show.



Mrs. Edward Mendenhall and Mrs. Joseph Suydham pose before one of the exhibits they planned and worked on.



James Corrigan shows how he carves models of birds



Table covered with bird carvings by James Corrigan (all photos by Frank P. Frazier)

Dottie Mendenhall bands a Saw-whet Owl at "Damsite" - her home banding station

Oliver J. Lawson and Lemuel T. Ward, two of Maryland's craftsmen, with some of their creations

