

legible, but has robbed the dramatic picto-maps by Bob Hines of much of their clarity and detail. It is a pity that in their zeal to keep down costs the publishers could not have spent a few dollars to correct the typographical errors in the list of scientific names in the appendix. The subject matter, culled from the works of many authors in technical journals and the Fish and Wildlife files (the partial bibliography is included), is presented in popular, readable style, and worthy of far wider distribution than it could possibly receive from government handling. In its present form it should reach and interest in birds and banding a host of readers who would otherwise never "get the word." We hope it has a wide sale. It will certainly be picked up and read by the many people who buy books off store counters, but who would never trouble to write the Superintendent of Documents, even if they knew of the better and cheaper original edition.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

#### JAMES LEE PETERS

It is with very deep regret that I inform the members of the Association that James Lee Peters died on April 19, 1952, after a short illness. Mr. Peters had been a vice-president of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association from 1938 to 1952 and was editor of *Bird-Banding* from 1939 to 1950. I found him ever a source of wise counsel, often wittily expressed. Probably few members ever realized how much he contributed in his quiet and self-effacing way to the work of our Association. The gap he leaves cannot really be filled.

Mr. Peters held a banding permit from February 2, 1922. He was a selective rather than a large-scale bander. That he should have banded for many years is but one of many evidences of his interest in the whole bird rather than just the skin in a museum drawer. His wide and detailed knowledge of all sides of bird life was freely at the disposal of serious inquirers.

At the time of his death, Mr. Peters was Curator of Birds at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, President of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, President of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and a permanent member of council of the American Ornithologists' Union. Seven volumes of his *Check-list of the Birds of the World* have been published and will stand as an enduring record of his remarkable knowledge and sound judgment.

The depth of our own sense of loss is the gage of the sincerity of the sympathy we extend to Mrs. Peters.

Charles H. Blake

#### A SECOND COOPERATIVE STUDY OF NOCTURNAL BIRD MIGRATION

Readers of *Bird-Banding* will recall a review, in the January issue, of George H. Lowery's "A Quantitative Study of Nocturnal Bird Migration" (University of Kansas Publications, Museum of Natural History, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 361-472). This paper describes the very interesting data obtained by an analysis of counts of birds passing before the disc of the moon. These data compel us to revise some of our time-honored concepts of nocturnal migration. This study was possible because of the cooperation by 200 observers who, in the spring of 1948, watched the moon for varying periods through small telescopes at 30 stations scattered over the North American continent. The progress already achieved is only a modest indication of what may be accomplished with this promising new approach. During the past decade I have carefully examined scores of papers from many countries on many aspects of migration. There can be no question that the methods and techniques developed by Dr. Lowery and his associates represent one of the very significant advances of this period. Although information on individual species cannot be obtained, the method has produced, and will continue to produce, much important information on the basic aspects of nocturnal migration common to many species.

The method, being one that yields results of a statistical nature, requires great quantities of data in order to produce tenable conclusions. In 1948, the mathematical processing of the raw counts was such a time-consuming undertaking that it seriously limited the scope of the entire project and in many important instances, prevented decisive results. Since then, Dr. Lowery informs me, improved techniques have been developed, permitting the handling of data in unlimited quantities.