

Field Trip to Havana

THE RESPONSE to the notice of a meeting to be held at Havana, Illinois, and the letter which followed giving the program, was very gratifying to the committee who had planned this new activity of our Society. As we appeared on the north side of the Courthouse Square, we were greeted by Dr. Frison and directed to the landing stage on the river front. Our party made a capacity load for the *Anax*, the laboratory boat of the Illinois State Natural History Survey and, while awaiting the word to cast off, old acquaintances were renewed and many new ones made. A number of Dr. Frison's staff and the officers of the Illinois Audubon Society were introduced to the party and then each of those present rose and gave his name and residence.



PHOTO BY EARL G. WRIGHT

*The Anax, laboratory boat of the Illinois State
Natural History Survey*

The trip up the river gave a chance to look at many of the water birds at fairly close quarters. A view from the top of the levee showed how a great deal of land which had been covered by water is now under cultivation. The waste grain here is a source of much food for the migrating ducks and geese which at times reach an estimated total of 500,000 birds. Another stop was made at Chautauqua Lake where other conditions were disclosed. This area was at one time drained but was again inundated when a levee broke, and is now a federal waterfowl refuge. Returning to Havana, we were shown the headquarters of the local branch of the U. S. Biological Survey which is co-operating whole-heartedly with the Illinois Natural History Survey of which Dr. T. H. Frison is Chief.

The ladies of the First Baptist Church served a chicken dinner Saturday evening and Prof. Eifrig took this occasion to express our appreciation of all that the Survey staff were doing to make the meeting a success. Dr. A. S. Hawkins outlined the life of a waterfowl research worker through the year, with particular emphasis on their efforts to restore the wood duck, and illustrated his talk with lantern slides. Suitable natural cavities are not now readily found and they have placed some 350 nesting boxes in various localities, about three-fourths of which were occupied by wood ducks. In one area where twenty boxes were placed, nineteen were taken. A tree in the square in the village of Bath, directly opposite the bank, has been the nesting place of wood ducks for fourteen consecutive years. Dr. Hawkins' remarks were highly entertaining and instructive and he answered many questions from the audience. Two reels of moving pictures of wild animal and bird life completed a most enjoyable evening.

Eight o'clock on Sunday morning found the group again gathering near the courthouse and the route this time led us south to the town of Bath, where we saw the tree of which Dr. Hawkins had told us the evening before, and then to another area of marsh and open water where more of the life of the region was seen. The cavalcade then headed back to the laboratory of the Illinois Natural History Survey on the shore of Quiver Creek. A hike along the levee led to the duck traps, but the ducks chose to be the only ones that did not co-operate and the banding traps were empty. A hike in the opposite direction took us to the fish traps, four of which were pulled and some 3,000 fish of about fifteen different species were examined, displayed and released.

Each member of the group had provided himself with a box lunch before starting out and as a final act of courtesy and generosity, the staff of the Survey provided fried fish and coffee for everybody. The day ended with but one common expression that the trip had been an unqualified success.

A composite list of the birds seen shows the following: pied-billed grebe, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, common Canada goose, mallard, black duck, gadwall, baldpate, American pintail, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, shoveller, wood duck, redhead, ring-necked duck, lesser scaup duck, bufflehead, ruddy duck, red-breasted merganser, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, broad-winged hawk, marsh hawk, duck hawk, sparrow hawk, greater prairie chicken, bobwhite, ring-necked pheasant, American coot, killdeer, Wilson's snipe, eastern solitary sandpiper, greater yellow-legs, lesser yellow-legs, pectoral sandpiper, least sandpiper, herring gull, ring-billed gull, eastern mourning dove, eastern belted kingfisher, flicker, red-bellied woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, phoebe, horned lark, prairie horned lark, tree swallow, bank swallow, barn swallow, purple martin, blue jay, crow, black-capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, brown creeper, Carolina wren, catbird, brown thrasher, robin, wood thrush, bluebird, ruby-crowned kinglet, migrant shrike, starling, English sparrow, eastern meadowlark, red-wing, bronzed grackle, cowbird, cardinal, purple finch, goldfinch, red-eyed towhee, junco, tree sparrow, field sparrow, white-throated sparrow, fox sparrow, swamp sparrow, song spar-

row. An eagle was seen but at too great a distance to be definitely identified. Red-headed woodpeckers were very common.

Those present who registered were: Melwood Arthur Berry, J. M. Buese, H. Van Collei, Alton, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Barody, Berwyn, Ill.; Francis X. Lueth, Champaign, Ill.; Leona Draheim, Minnie M. Newton, Millicent Stebbins, Harriet A. Egger, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Urbain, Frank O. Connor, Doris A. Plapp, Caryl D. Gustafson, James W. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Decker, Earl G. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Necker, Chicago, Ill.; James Schuyler, Earl A. White, Margery Scott, Mrs. Florence White,



PHOTO BY EARL G. WRIGHT

Some of the party about to board the Anax

R. C. Thomason, Decatur, Ill.; Louis G. Flentge, Desplaines, Ill.; Myrtle E. Hammonds, Dwight, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Langdon, Donald F. Hauser, Evanston, Ill.; Harold Ault, Harold Vernon Ault, Mavis Ann Ault, Fiatt, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Stofer, Glen Ellyn, Ill.; Rev. George M. Link, Grafton, Ill.; Horner L. Bradley, Havana, Ill.; Mrs. Ethel Schuyler, Macon, Ill.; Ferd Luthu, James H. Sedgwick, Peoria, Ill.; C. W. G. Eifrig, River Forest, Ill.; Ruth M. Woods, Charlotte A. Dubois, Lois Hopwood, Mrs. Guy Bonnie, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Baum, Mrs. Charles R. Talbott, Beatrice Hopwood, Edith A. Sutton, Ivah E. Moore, Mrs. Irene Skinner, Springfield, Ill.; A. S. Hawkins, R. E. Yeatter, Urbana, Ill.

The directors of the Illinois Audubon Society have for some time been considering the question of holding meetings at various places in the state and are very much gratified at the showing made at this, the first of a series they purpose holding at dates to be announced later. They desire to express their great appreciation of the help of Dr. T. H. Frison and his entire staff in making this meeting one which we shall long remember.