

The census is to be taken at the same time as The New York State Conservation Department's aerial duck count so that we can supplement their count and at the same time evaluate many of the results of the Federation count.

Choice of the date for the census was difficult because several groups in the state already take censuses at other times. The Buffalo group counts waterfowl in the Niagara Frontier Region in spring and fall; Long Island has been covered in the past usually on a date earlier than the committee's selection; The Cornell Field Ornithology Club has covered the Finger Lakes Basin in February. Since none of these dates fall at the same time it was decided to select the same date as the Conservation Department's Count. This date coincides with the Fish and Wildlife Service's Atlantic Seaboard Count. It falls during the period in New York State in which (1) the population of ducks is fairly static and (2) many smaller water areas are frozen forcing ducks to congregate in areas more accessible to observers.

Although not finally set at this time the procedure for the census will probably be as follows: Special forms for tabulating results of the count will be sent in quantity to Regional Editors of *The Kingbird* who will in turn forward them to certain observers in their regions. The results of the census should be forwarded to the Regional Editors who in turn will forward them to the committee in Rochester. The observations will then be organized for summarization in *The Kingbird*.

The committee in charge of the Census requests that clubs publicise the census and that both club and individual members of the Federation co-operate with the Regional Editors to see that their area is adequately covered.

Gerald Rising, Rochester, N. Y.

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS . . .

The turn-out of over two hundred members and guests at our annual meeting at Ithaca was very gratifying to your officers. Many of those who attended indicated that they had a most enjoyable week-end. The highlights of the meeting were Dr. Allen's outstanding pictures of the bird life near Churchill on Hudson Bay and the sound recordings by Dr. Kellogg. We wish to again thank the Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University, the Cayuga Bird Club, the Cornell Field Ornithology Club, and the Local Committee for their very efficient handling of the many details of the meeting and for their wonderful hospitality.

Following a delicious early breakfast at Dr. Allen's home on Sunday morning, we started our trip to Montezuma Refuge with some misgivings, as it rained rather hard for nearly an hour. However, it soon cleared up and we were rewarded by a sight of many species, including approximately seventy American Egrets, a Whistling Swan, Bald Eagle, Osprey, and a variety of woodpeckers. Among the latter were Pileated, Red-headed and Red-bellied, the last named feeding young at a nesting hole.

We were pleased to receive the invitation of the Chemung Valley Audubon Society to hold the 1955 meeting at Elmira. The date has tentatively been set for the week-end of May 28 to 30. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend this meeting.

HAROLD D. MITCHELL