

The Following year he built a house at the foot of the bluff near the Hudson River, naming his estate "Minniesland". At this time he was working on the "Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America" in conjunction with John Bachman. Only the first volume was destined to appear during his lifetime. After 1846 Audubon's health and eyesight were poor. He died on January 27, 1851 and is buried in the cemetery surrounding the Chapel of the Intercession, not far from his home.

"Minniesland" was known for many years as "Audubon Park" but has disappeared due to the many changes that have taken place in this part of New York City.

Watertown, N. Y.

A CALL FOR PAPERS

On Saturday, May 21, there will be a Saturday afternoon program of short papers at the 1960 Annual Meeting of the Federation of the New York State Bird Clubs at Buffalo. Federation members are invited to participate.

At least one field trip to Canada has been planned. Members who were **not** born in the U. S. A. should bring the necessary papers concerning place of birth and any other pertinent information for presentation to the Canadian Immigration Officers.

Papers should be based on subjects relating to New York State ornithology or to problems affecting our Member Clubs which may be of interest to other Clubs. Talks, illustrated by slides or motion pictures, or with tape recording accompanying them, are usually very popular, but talks without such features will also be acceptable.

Members who wish to present papers at this meeting are requested to contact the writer at their earliest convenience, giving the subject, time desired, and what equipment will be needed.

H. D. Mitchell, Chairman Program Committee of Buffalo Meeting,
238 West Royal Parkway, Williamsville 21, N. Y.

FIELD NOTES

The Cattle Egret in New York State: The history of the Cattle Egret in New York State began in May 1954 when a bird of this species was seen at East Moriches, Long Island. Since that time others have been reported, more in 1959 than in any previous year, and further increases can confidently be predicted. Birdwatchers in New York State should be on the alert to observe and report occurrences of the Cattle Egret to their respective regional editors in order that this development may be fully documented.

Open pastureland is the preferred habitat, birds usually being found in close association with cattle. Look for a small stocky heron with a yellow or orange bill. The plumage is white, except for some buffiness on the head and back of the adult.

The Cattle Egret is a native of Africa, the warmer parts of Asia, and is also found in Spain and Portugal. During recent times a few birds reached South America, apparently crossing the Atlantic Ocean under their own power. Just when this event took place is not known, but the Cattle Egret had become established in northern South America by the 1930's. From there it spread to the West Indies and Florida, where it was found nesting in 1953.

It is a prolific, aggressive species and seems destined to spread rapidly in the United States. By 1959 it had been found breeding at widely scattered points in this country, including southern New Jersey. Its future as a breeder in New York State is uncertain, but nesting in the warmer parts of the state is a distinct possibility — John B. Belknap, 92 Clinton Street, Gouverneur.