

ZOOLOGY

Chairman. A. E. REYNOLDS, DePauw University

Rev. John W. Baechle, C.P.P.S., St. Joseph's College was elected chairman of the section for 1948.

ABSTRACTS

Observations on the behavior of nesting turkey vultures. HOWARD H. VOGEL, Jr., Wabash College.—The nest of a turkey vulture was located in a hollow sycamore tree near Crawfordsville in late May, 1947. When discovered, an adult bird was brooding two newly hatched young. The adult, when disturbed in the nest, feigned death. This behavior was repeated several times on different occasions. Vocalization of the young was a loud, inhalent hissing sound, which increased in intensity and duration with age. Development of the young was studied from May 30 until July 19. Types of social behavior, habits of feeding, development of locomotion, and changes in plumage were observed and described. The paper was illustrated with kodachrome motion pictures and standard lantern slides.

The effect of thiouracil on the development of the chick embryo. W. M. VERNBERG, DePauw University—1. Single doses of a 0.5 c.c. of a 0.1% thiouracil solution have no effect on chicken embryos at any stage of development between 36 hours and 9 days. 2. Single doses of 0.5 c.c. of 0.2% solution of thiouracil have no effect on chicken embryos under 96 hours, but cause death and slight hypertrophy of the thyroid gland in embryos injected nine days after incubation. 3. Two injections of 0.5 c.c. of a 0.1% thiouracil solution injected at 18 and 36 hours of incubation, result in marked hyperplasia of the thyroid gland. Identical results were obtained when injections are made at 28 and 48 hours of incubation. 4. Two injections of 0.5 c.c. of a 0.1% solution of thiouracil at 36 and 65 hours of development cause three-fourths of the embryos to die, and cause severe hyperplasia of the thyroid gland in the surviving embryos.

Colored portraits of some common birds. JOHN W. BAECHLE, C.P.P.S. St. Joseph's College.—A series of about 40 colored portraits of birds was shown, with comments on each. These pictures were made in connection with the banding of 11,000 birds of 80 species during the past six years.