

JOURNAL
OF THE
Tennessee Academy of Science

VOL. XXXV

JANUARY, 1960

No. 1

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REELFOOT
LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION**

C. L. BAKER

*Professor of Biology
Southwestern College, Memphis, Tennessee*

This session was the twenty-ninth consecutive season for this cooperative research activity between the State of Tennessee and the Tennessee Academy of Science. The appropriation from the State enables the Academy to continue its offerings of scholarships to investigators and research students and to furnish a base of operations for scientists who are engaged in research in the area.

Dr. Robert J. Schoffman of the Spalding Institute, Peoria, Illinois, spent his twenty-second consecutive summer of investigation on the study of the age and growth rate of the fishes of the Lake. He found that the white crappie are increasing in number but decreasing in their growth rate as a result of restrictions imposed on their catch.

The laboratory building and equipment remain in excellent condition. An unfortunate situation, however, exists in the lack of an access road to the Station. The private road, which under ordinary conditions has been maintained by the Station, was cut by an extensive drainage ditch two years ago for possible drainage of submerged areas near the lake, and, until the present time, access to the Station has been limited to use of a boat on the Bayou de Chien. The convenience of privacy is outweighed by the advantages of more convenient modes of transportation by automobile.