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

C. L. BAKER

*Professor of Biology, Southwestern College, Memphis, Tennessee*

The twentieth summer session of this research station was characterized by problems and difficulties that have confronted us for several years, namely: lack of suitable living quarters, increasing operating expenses and the lack of any support from any educational or conservation organization of Tennessee.

Moris Shore, graduate of Southwestern College, Memphis, Tennessee, made a thorough study of the chemistry of the waters of Reelfoot Lake during a three months period in an attempt to determine whether these waters are similar in oxygen content, alkalinity and hardness to other fishing areas.

Dr. Robert J. Schoffman of Peoria, Illinois, was in residence for a part of the session and continued his studies on the growth rate of game fishes with particular emphasis on crappie and blue-gill. Other studies made during the past ten years furnish valuable data for a comparative study of the present productivity of the lake.

Karl H. Maslowski of Cincinnati, Ohio, spent several weeks making colored motion pictures of various phases of the natural history of the lake. These pictures will be used to illustrate a lecture entitled *Earthquake Lake*.

The laboratory building and equipment remain in excellent condition. The upkeep of the road leading to the biological station presents a serious financial problem, for, although it is used extensively by visitors, fishermen and sightseers, neither the county nor state will grade the road or repair the bridge since they are on property of the Department of Fish and Game. The Station does not have sufficient funds to keep this public thoroughfare in proper condition other than to spread some gravel and repair parts of the bridge. A new bridge is needed and is estimated to cost \$1,000 to \$1,200.

The foot-bridge across Bayou du Chien from the Station to Goat Island was damaged during the winter by a falling tree and had to be rebuilt by Station funds. The board-walk leading across Goat Island to the open lake has been covered annually with water and in recent years has required considerable repair each year. Unusual high water during the past year damaged this walk so severely that it has been abandoned.