

W. Frank Blair, President 1963

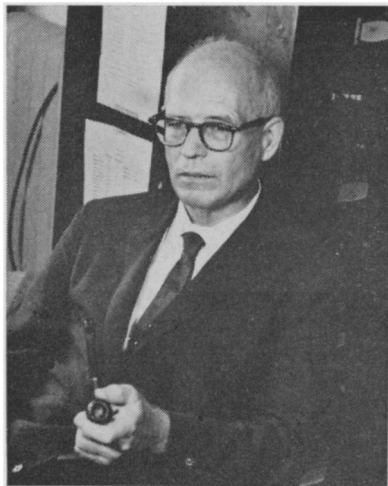
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PRESIDENT W. FRANK BLAIR

Our new President was born in Dayton, Texas and later moved with his family to Tulsa, Oklahoma where he studied at the University of Tulsa and received his B.S. in zoology in 1934. President Blair then went to the University of Florida where he received further broad experience in the field of vertebrate natural history and a Master of Science degree in 1935. Frank began his doctoral studies at the University of Michigan where his efforts were focused on field studies of mammal populations. He worked as an assistant in the Division of Mammals of the Museum of Zoology at Michigan before completing his Ph. D. in 1938. He began a rewarding association with the Laboratory of Vertebrate Biology at the University of Michigan in 1937 and this extended, except for his military service, to 1946. President Blair returned to Texas where he has moved up through the ranks at the University of Texas, obtaining his present rank of Professor in 1955.

President Blair's position as a leader in ecology is due in large part to his seemingly unlimited energies and enthusiasm for research and to the prolific writings resulting from his research. For example, Frank published six papers based on the one year's experience that he had in Florida while working for the Master's degree. During the late 1930's and early 1940's a multitude of papers appeared from his efforts to study the home range, dispersal, and population characteristics of small mammals. After he returned to Texas, his publications reflected a shift of interest to the study of population genetics and evolution of small mammals. Then, by the middle and late 1950's his research focus had shifted to the study of isolating mechanisms in the evolution of Anuran populations and especially to the study of frog calls and their importance as isolating mechanisms. Dr. Blair was senior co-author of *Vertebrates of the United States* published in 1957, author of *The Rusty Lizard, A Population Study* published in 1959, and editor of a book entitled *Vertebrate Speciation* published in 1961.

President Blair is a member and has served as an officer of many professional societies. Among these, he has served on the Board of Governors and as Vice President of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists; as Treasurer, Vice President and President of the Society for the Study of Evolution; as President of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists; as Secretary-Treasurer and President of the Herpetological Society; and on the Editorial Board, Vice President and President of the Ecological Society.

Frank Blair has stimulated a large and active group of ecologists and the influence of his careful, thoughtful work is now being felt through his students who are scattered in many types of jobs throughout the country. He is a warm and helpful leader with a good sense of humor. It is a distinct pleasure to introduce President W. Frank Blair and to wish him well during this year as President of the Society and for many years to come.