

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS . . .

May I take this opportunity to express not only for myself, but for all Federation members, our thanks to Eugene Eisenmann and all other Federation officers of the past year who have given so freely of their time and effort in our behalf. The committee chairmen and the committee members, as well as the Editor of the **Kingbird** and his staff, are also deserving of commendation for their devotion to activities of the Federation.

It has been found necessary to reschedule the date of our annual meeting for 1954, due to an unforeseen conflict with the A. O. U. meeting at Madison, Wisconsin on September 8-12, inclusive. The date of our meeting at Ithaca will be the weekend of August 28 and 29, with some committee meetings on Friday, August 27. Details of the plans are being formulated and will be mailed to all member clubs and individual members. I hope that you will all find it possible to attend not only our meeting, but the field trip to the Montezuma Swamp area. The sponsors will be the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, the Cayuga Bird Club, and the Cornell Field Ornithology Club.

Offers from member clubs to be hosts to the Federation for the 1955 Annual Meeting will be acted upon at the Ithaca meeting.

This year we will start our systematic recording of data in connection with the proposed new state birdbook. The State Book Committee will call a meeting of all Regional Editors, District Editors and Club representatives on Friday evening, August 27, when it is hoped that a uniform statewide code of procedure in acceptance of records, criteria of abundance for each species, migration data and related subjects will be adopted. All will have a chance to ask questions and to give constructive suggestions to the State Book Committee. You will hear more about this from Dr. Gordon M. Meade, Committee Chairman.

I suggest that we all reread pages 62-64 in the October, 1953, **Kingbird**, with particular reference to the coverage of neglected areas in the state, and come to the Annual Meeting with suggestions as to individuals or prospective new clubs to cover such areas. In this connection I am pleased to announce that plans are under way to form a new bird club in Utica.

In the field of conservation, the Cormorant protection bill, initiated by H. Everest Clements, and proposed for enactment by the Conservation Committee, has been followed up assiduously by Stanley Grierson, Chairman, Sam Madison, Dr. Alvin G. Whitney, Guy Bartlett, and others. The bill was also approved by the State Conservation Council. It has been passed by both houses of the legislature, and signed by Governor Dewey. This is a notable accomplishment of our Conservation Committee. Stanley Grierson prepared a brochure on the Cormorant, which is available to all members by addressing him at Todd Road, R. F. D. No. 1, Katonah, New York.

We are fortunate in having Miss Audrey Wrede continue as Chairman of the Membership Committee. Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg has consented to serve as Chairman of the Program Committee which insures us an outstanding program for our 1954 meeting.

Mrs. Lester R. (Hazel Ellis) Loomis is completing her last year of teaching at Keuka College, and will make her future home at Hammond, La. She will be obliged to relinquish the chairmanship of the Publications and Research Committee, which she has held with distinction since its organization, but she will continue to serve on the committee and attend its meetings during the summer months. Fred Hall will assume the chairmanship of this important committee, under which the new State Book Committee, Dr. Gordon M. Meade, Chairman, and the sub-committee on Ecological Regions, Dr. William Webb, Chairman, will function.

While attending the Syracuse Sportsmen's show during the last week of February, I was pleased to see that the Onondaga Audubon Society had a booth in the show. They displayed mounted specimens of birds of prey, with particular accent on the hawks and their value to farmers and to sportsmen. This point was stressed in a mimeographed sheet which was picked up by many hunters and fishermen who stopped at the booth. May I suggest that other member clubs might well consider such an exhibit in their localities, when occasion arises, as the continued education of the general public is essential if we expect to conserve many of our threatened species for posterity.

If you feel that the Federation can be of aid to you in solving some particular problem, please do not hesitate to contact me, or any of my very efficient staff of officers.

HAROLD D. MITCHELL.