

The report of the Auditing Committee is to be published in the *Kingbird*. Robert McKinney, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers, who were elected for 1956:

President—Dr. Peter P. Kellogg, Ithaca.

Vice President—Albert W. Fudge, Elmira.

Corresponding Secretary—Elizabeth S. Manning, New York.

Recording Secretary—Elizabeth A. Feldhusen, Saratoga Springs.

Treasurer—Allan S. Klonick, Rochester.

A resolution was made and accepted authorizing Dr. Kellogg and Mr. Klonick to take over the Treasurer's accounts in January, 1956.

The Council voted the following to the Nominating Committee for 1956:

Watson G. Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, Chairman.

Winston Brockner, Buffalo.

Mrs. William English, Amsterdam.

The following were voted to the Auditing Committee for 1956:

Mrs. Neil Moon, Rochester, Chairman.

Dr. Gerhard Leubner, Rochester.

In the absence of an invitation for the 1956 Annual Meeting, the present and future officers were instructed to select a place for next year's meeting.

A letter was read by Mr. Mitchell that had been written by him to Mrs. Walter Elwood, and her reply, concerning the death of Walter Elwood, April 28, 1955. It was voted to send \$25.00 to the Mohawk Valley Cerebral Palsy Association in memory of Mr. Elwood, who had expressed this wish in preference to flowers.

The members were told of the recent publication by Eugene Eisenmann referred to as Transaction 7, Species of Middle American Birds. This book is on sale and can be obtained from the secretary of the Linnaean Society, Miss Lois J. Hussey, American Museum of Natural History, West 77th Street, New York 24, N. Y.

There was much discussion regarding the Federation joining the Conservation Forum. It was decided that members of the Conservation Committee could join as individual members if they so desired to do so. Miss Mabel H. James explained the early history and purposes of the Conservation Forum.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Chemung Valley Audubon Society for their very kind hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH A. FELDHUSEN,
Recording Secretary.

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS

Thanks are due to the very efficient local committee for a most successful and stimulating annual meeting at Elmira. From the time we arrived at the Mark Twain Hotel for our committee meetings on Friday, until we departed, following our box luncheon at Rorick's Glen on Sunday, our every want was anticipated and satisfied by our hosts.

Saturday's meetings and luncheon at the spacious Harris Hill Glider Base proved a happy choice of locations, as a constant breeze on the hilltop helped greatly to alleviate the otherwise oppressively hot day. Our group photograph, following the luncheon, turned out very well indeed. If you

desire a copy, send your dollar to Albert W. Fudge, 326 Larchmont Rd., Elmira, New York.

Our guest speaker at the banquet, Maurice Broun, of Hawk Mountain, took us on a wonderful year round excursion to his domain, by means of his exquisite colored slides, and his enthusiastic commentaries. I am sure that many of you who heard him and who are, as yet, uninitiated, will wish to associate with the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and spend many happy hours there.

Our President-elect for 1956, Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg, contributed greatly to the success of the meeting by acting as toastmaster at the banquet, by introducing us to the "symphony of the birds", composed entirely from his recordings, and by playing songs of many of our New York State warblers at Harris Hill during the afternoon meeting. These were played out of doors and the songs seemed to come from actual birds in the surrounding woods.

Papers read at the afternoon session by Dr. Leo J. Tanghe, Gerald Rising, Robert S. Arbib, Jr. and Dr. Harold H. Axtell were all very interesting, and I hope that all of them can be published in the *Kingbird*.

An open forum discussion on the "Forever Wild" clause of Article XIV, Section 1, of the State Constitution, relating to the Forest Preserve, was well handled by Eugene Eisenmann, as moderator. Speakers included Dr. Robert Rienow, Professor of Political Science at Albany State Teachers College and Chairman of the Eastern New York Chapter of Nature Conservancy; Dr. Arthur Newkirk, President of the Adirondack Club; P. W. Ham, Vice-President of the Forest Preserve Association of New York State; Dr. Stephen W. Eaton, Biology Department, St. Bonaventure University; H. Everest Clements of our Conservation Committee; and Miss Mabel James, President of the Conservation Forum of New York State. We are indebted to all of these speakers for giving their time to acquaint us with many points regarding the Forest Preserve, with which many of us were not previously familiar.

The breakfast on Sunday morning and the field trips were very enjoyable and the Worm-eating Warbler near Mrs. York's house was most cooperative, showing itself to practically all of the four parties into which the group was divided. Of especial interest was the walk through the breeding bird area and the count of the singing birds found therein. I sincerely hope that participation in this breeding bird census has taken the mystery out of such an undertaking and that similar censuses will result from a great variety of habitats in New York State during the next few years.

We regret to report that one of the Founders of this Federation, and our first President, Dr. Gordon M. Meade, has left New York State to take a position in Washington, D. C. As chairman of the State Book Committee in recent years, he has done an outstanding job in organizing and guiding that important undertaking. We are glad to say that Dr. Meade will be available for advice on any problems that arise and we wish him well in his new venture.

The Chairmanship of the State Book Committee has been assumed by Mr. Robert Arbib, Jr., who has done a large share of the work which has been accomplished so far by the committee. I know you will all cooperate with Bob in answering his requests for information needed by his committee.

HAROLD D. MITCHELL.