

Titmouse, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher and Worm-eating Warblers have yet to establish themselves.

Recently (at least since 1949) Turkeys have entered New York State from populations in the wild parts of McKean and Potter Counties, Pennsylvania. The New York State Conservation Department is augmenting this influx with the liberation of about 150 birds a year. So far this project, begun in 1952, seems fairly successful with a few broods of young reported in 1953 and more in 1954. If illegal shooting can be controlled and if sufficient feeders can be maintained during severe winters this species should be successful on the High Plateaus.

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INFORMATION WANTED ON PILEATED WOODPECKERS

I am in the process of working up several papers on the life history and ecology of the Pileated Woodpecker, based on the findings of my husband, the late Southgate Y. Hoyt, and my own recent investigations. In connection with this, I am most anxious for information from bird-students in New York State on changes in the status of this bird during the first half of the twentieth century. The Pileated is showing its ability to adapt to civilization to some extent, and has been reported as occurring within the boundaries of villages and cities in recent years. There have also been a few reports of Pileateds coming to feeders, for suet.

I will appreciate very much hearing from any readers who can give me details on the increase in numbers of Pileateds in any given area, changes in their behavior, their feeding habits, and any other interesting observations, particularly any accounts of their coming to feeding stations.

Sally F. Hoyt

"Aviana", Etna, N. Y.

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS . . .

This message will be my last as your president, and I welcome the opportunity to thank my fellow officers, Guy Bartlett, Elizabeth Manning, Elizabeth Feldhusen, and Hi Clements for their help and suggestions, as well as for the many hours spent in performing Federation duties.

The same unselfish efforts have attended the work for our several committees functioning in our interests, and have eased my own executive duties materially.

The work of our Membership Committee, led by Audrey Wrede, has been largely responsible for the increase in individual members to over 300, of which seventeen are sustaining members, three are supporting members, and five are life members. Our individual members are the main source of our financial support, so necessary for the publication of *The Kingbird*, and for other activities.

How pleased I was to awake the morning of November 9 and to learn that Amendment 7 (for construction of Panther Mountain Dam) was overwhelmingly defeated. Our Conservation Committee, led by its energetic chairman, Stanley Grierson, was in the thick of this successful fight, and also in the now apparently successful effort to prevent the flooding of much of Dinosaur National Park by the construction of the Echo Park dam.

The Program Committee, under the chairmanship of Al Fudge and with the help of Cecil Ryan and his local committee, functioned admirably and made our annual meeting at Elmira a most successful and memorable occasion.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee members, under Sam Madison's able leadership, will soon complete their work in arranging for incorporating the Federation under New York State Laws. They will also submit the proposed changes in our Constitution and By-Laws to implement the incorporation and to make other changes previously voted at our council meetings. Regarding the suggestion to shorten the name of our organization, the consensus of opinion so far received is to allow the present name to stand, as it well describes its entity.

For over two years we have had the benefit of the services of Stephen W. Eaton as Editor of *The Kingbird*, and I especially commend him for his excellent handling of this important and time-consuming job, and regret that he cannot continue beyond this present issue. His successor has been the concern of Fred T. Hall, chairman of the Publications and Research Committee, and we are pleased to announce that Mr. Gerald Rising of Rochester has been selected as the new Editor, commencing with the May issue.

In my last message I mentioned that the first questionnaire from the State Book Committee was expected to be mailed soon, but this mailing has been delayed in order to discuss it further at a committee meeting in Syracuse on December 3, when the final draft was approved. Robert Arbib, Jr., has done an outstanding job as chairman of this important committee, which will possibly soon complete its work in organizing, and in making rules and suggestions to be followed in the publication. All of the members of this committee, and its sub-committees, have given much time and effort to further the work on the State Book, and especially Allen Benton, chairman of the sub-committee on Bibliography, and William L. Webb, chairman of the sub-committee on Ecology, who have given so freely of their time and talents.

I wish also to thank, in the name of all Federation members, our Regional Editors for their painstaking and selfless efforts in providing us with such interesting information from all regions in our Empire State.

May I take this occasion to wish for the incoming officers the same fine cooperation which I have received during the past two years, and a most successful administration.

THE STATE BOOK QUESTIONNAIRE

As members of the Federation are well aware, one of the major reasons for the formation of the Federation, and one of the most important projects that it will ever undertake, is the publication of a new *Birds of New York State*. This project, which has been universally approved as desirable and necessary, has been under discussion and consideration almost since the inception of the Federation.

For the past three or four years a committee, representing all parts of the state, has been hard at work planning this book. Many different problems have been discussed and resolved: the division of the state in recording areas, standards and criteria, content of species write-ups, introductory chapters, editorial organization, and a host of other questions from ecology to illustrations.

The progress of the work has now reached an important stage, at which