

Papers should be concerned with New York State ornithology or should consider problems closely related to those of New York State. Although most papers in past years have dealt with field activities and ecological studies, it is appropriate to include talks on club activities which could be copied in other regions. Of particular interest are papers illustrated with slides, motion pictures or tape recordings.

Members willing to present a paper at this meeting should contact as soon as possible the chairman of the paper committee. This communication should include the subject of the proposed talk, its approximate length, and whether or not there will be pictures. Arrangements can be made for blackboards and projection equipment.

In the past a few clubs and a few individual members have borne the "burden" of presenting these programs. It is sincerely hoped that other members especially from new clubs in the Federation will describe their activities.

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A REPORT TO READERS

This issue marks my completion of two volumes. Although I will edit the next issue also, volume eight really belongs to the new editor, Dr. Minnie Scotland of the Schenectady Bird Club. It seems appropriate at this time then to report to Federation members on my tenure in office.

One thing is certain: editing this magazine is a demanding task. I can really appreciate the fine work of Allan Klonick and Steve Eaton after having tried to cope with the many problems of publication. Much of the work is tedious, painstaking, and most of all lonely. There is a great deal of worry for despite hundreds of pages of correspondence each issue brings with it a crying need for more material. No one of us who has served as editor has ever had enough material for two issues at any one time.

On the other hand, serving as editor has been one of my most rewarding experiences. It has been pleasant to receive exchange copies of ornithological publications and to correspond with ornithologists interested in our publication and Federation from all over the world. But most of all it has been a pleasure associating with those who have contributed to the magazine. Many readers have no idea how much time and effort some of our contributors have put into their work; none of you realize how willing to cooperate they have been. It was wonderful to be able to print McAtee's lengthy paper on folk names of birds, a paper representing many years of research. It was wonderful too to be able to print a note by Randolph Little, a keen observer just now going into high school.

Special note should be taken here of two most important groups, the regional editors (who provide material for half or more of each issue) and the members of the editorial board (whose supply of material has kept the magazine going). An examination of the staff will show that several are serving in both capacities. From these, all of whom have made major contributions to the magazine, I should like to single out three. Sally Hoyt has not only done fine work in accumulating notes for the magazine, but she

has also been encouraging when encouragement was most needed. John Elliott and Fritz Scheider each represents to me the finest combination to be found in amateur or professional ornithology: splendid field observers, they are also willing and able to do the necessary research and to organize their material in interesting form for publication. To these people should go credit for the stature of this journal.

Much was undertaken during the last two years: the studies in New York State ornithological history by Allen Benton and John Belknap, the systematic descriptions of areas in the state which provide excellent birding by Fritz Scheider, the short notes on bird behavior by Sally Hoyt, all have been made a part of the magazine. But much is still to be done. Several projects which I hoped to take up were deferred and are now still not done: among these are systematic indexing of the journal and a reworking of the introductory material about the journal and the Federation. Failure to accomplish these goals is solely the responsibility of the editor because at least in the case of the indexing Mrs. William English volunteered to do the work.

Where do we go from here? There is no question in my mind but that this magazine is as always in critical condition. This can only be improved by the cooperation of many members of the Federation. Much more material must be delivered to the editor by many more people. It was with this idea in mind that the "Notes" section was introduced. This section was designed not only to give observers a chance to record their experiences, but also to give writers a place to break in with none of the anguish of the longer paper. Virtually every birder in the state could search his experience for an interesting record which would make a good note. Writing such a note is not tedious and the author would receive every assistance in preparation from friends, local regional editors or the editor himself. If each person who reads this article would write a note and send it to me or to Dr. Scotland, it would make her job much more satisfying.

One final comment seems appropriate at this time. To my family and especially to my wife, Muriel, must go much credit, for without their cooperation and their willingness to overlook the many jobs around the house I have left undone, there would have been no journal for these two years.

GRR

NOTES

Purple Martin colonies in central New York State. — Believing that it may be of interest at some date in the future to know the numbers and approximate location of colonies of Purple Martins in past years for comparative studies, I have attempted to collect such information for the central New York area for the years 1956 and 1957. When possible I have also indicated the length of time the colony has existed at the particular location. It is emphasized that this is only a partial list, but it is hoped that its publication will elicit additional data and that other areas of the state will compile similar material.

The area included is roughly bounded on the west by a north-south line through Canandaigua, on the east by a similar line through Oneida, on the north by Lake Ontario and Pulaski, on the south by the state line.