

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To Member Clubs of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs

As the new president of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs it is my earnest desire to further the purposes of the Federation as stated in the By-Laws which were adopted when the Federation was incorporated in 1956. This can be accomplished only with your loyal cooperation.

"The purposes of this corporation are:

- to further the study of birds, bird life, and bird lore
- to foster, inculcate and disseminate knowledge and appreciation thereof
- to preserve and protect birds and other wildlife and their environment
- to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas for birds and other wildlife
- and to educate the public in the need of conserving natural areas and resources.

"To achieve these objects, the corporation shall be empowered

- to conduct educational programs
- publish and distribute documents and other printed matter
- hold and sponsor meetings and lectures and exhibitions
- and cooperate with governmental agencies and other education and charitable organizations with similar objectives."

With the above in mind will you please let me know the following:

1. How the Federation can best serve your club
2. Specific ways in which your club can and will assist the Federation (such as: serving on a committee; securing more individual members for the Federation; keeping your members informed on Federation activities.)

Conservation

Our interest in birds and other wildlife implies a deep-seated interest in the conservation of our natural resources. Today, more than ever before, it is important to have strong leadership and support on the local, state and national levels. Conservation needs an ever watchful eye, a keen ear and an understanding and factual voice on every single level.

Many of our conservation problems are of a very local nature and can best be handled by the local member club in cooperation with sympathetic organizations in the local club's area. When you need help with problems involving an extensive area in the state, get in touch with the new chairman of the Federation's Conservation Committee, Joseph A. Blake, Jr., of Watertown, or any member of his committee. Tell him all the facts of the situation, what you have done locally and just how you believe the Federation can help you solve your problem.

State Bird Book

The State Bird Book Committee, a sub-committee of the Federation's Publications and Research Committee, has been working on the preparation of a new State Bird Book. This project has progressed at a slow rate of speed. This is true of most monumental jobs done by busy volunteers in their free time. However, the time has arrived when we have reason to believe that this pace will be accelerated this year. Each member club is

urged to help expedite the work by responding promptly to questionnaires and requests for records and other information.

The Kingbird

We are hopeful about getting *The Kingbird* to you on time. We believe that this can be done and no one is working any harder on this problem than our very capable editor, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland. The tardiness in the past was not due to our editor.

"In union there is strength." The Federation is only as strong as the members make it. Let us all be well-informed on Federation activities and see that the members in your own club are kept up-to-date on Federation matters. It is suggested that a brief resume of *The Kingbird* be given at the first meeting of your club after each *Kingbird* is received. Then circulate the magazine among your members or file it in the club's library where it will be available for reference.

Member Clubs

While many of the member clubs are older organizations and quite able to solve their own problems we also recognize the fact that the newer clubs may wish to have some assistance. The Federation stands ready to help in any way that it is possible to do so.

Frances H. Irving

THE JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT: VI

LEO J. TANGHE

The 1960 Waterfowl Count of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was carried out from January 17 to 25, 1960, and gave a total of 201,840 individuals. Of the five previous counts, two have been higher and three have been lower. In this year's count there were 40 species and the Mallard-Black Duck hybrid. The Common Eider which has usually been seen in small numbers on Long Island did not appear this year. However, this year's count included Whistling Swan and Blue-winged Teal from Howland's Island (Region 5), Mute Swan from the Oswego River, European Widgeon from Long Island, and Barrow's Goldeneye and Smew (*Mergellus albellus*) from Buffalo.

The Smew was discovered, identified and photographed by Robert D. Coggeshall, and it was seen by many competent Buffalo observers on Jan. 17, 18 and 22. There has been no previous satisfactory North American record for this species.

The aerial count by the New York State Conservation Department gave a total of 247,513 individuals. Details of this count were again supplied by Mr. Dirck Benson, Game Research Investigator for the Conservation Department. The aerial count on Long Island was 67,000 higher than the ground count, due largely to off-shore flocks of Black Ducks, Brant and Scaup. For the remainder of the state it was 22,000 lower than the ground count, due in part to missing some 12,000 Common Mergansers and 3000 Canvasbacks at Buffalo. Canvasbacks and Redheads in the Finger Lakes Region were down considerably from the record highs of last year. The Champlain Valley was not covered in the ground count, and the Susquehanna River was not covered in the aerial survey. X-b refers to Long Island, and X-a to the remainder of Region X.

I wish to thank all who took part in this census, either as observers or tabulators of the regional records.

852 Stone Road, Rochester 16