

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS:

The passing of the first year as your president brings to mind the problems surmounted since January, 1962, when for various reasons three heads of committees resigned. After considerable correspondence new chairmen were appointed. A fourth, Dr. Stephen W. Eaton, shifted from Bibliography to Publications and Research, the latter held by Harold Mitchell of Buffalo for many years. Dr. Sally Hoyt is our new Bibliography chairman from the first of the year when her term as Corresponding Secretary ended, an office now held by our past Treasurer, Mrs. Dayton Stoner. Our new Treasurer is Kenneth D. Niven and we wish him every success.

Alfred Starling of Rochester, through securing advertisements in *The Kingbird*, has assisted greatly in keeping our treasury out of the red. There has also been a grateful response from our members, who in addition to the regular annual fee have become sustaining or supporting members.

There has also been a general compatibility between clubs and we are looking forward to adding one or two in the near future bringing our total up into the mid-thirties.

The Kingbird is a very worth-while publication and we are proud of it. The Federation from the start has been very fortunate in getting efficient editors, but unfortunately its number of papers were held down to some degree in the past by the state of our treasury, in some cases limiting it well under fifty pages. Our present editor has been an advocate of bigger issues and in 1962 each contained 56 pages. The changing of the December — 1962 issue to January — 1963 and the combining of the October-December issue is explained elsewhere in this issue. Mrs. Donald F. Radke, who is doing an excellent job on membership, can now work better with the four issues; January, May, July and October. Her main objection to those joining the Federation at the start of the year was that they had to wait almost six months, or until the May issue, before receiving *The Kingbird*.

The 1962 Albany convention was excellently handled by the host clubs and was well attended. We learned much from the paper session and from Dr. Olin S. Pettingill, the banquet speaker, who gave us a most interesting lecture, with intimate close-up movies of ground-nesting and other birds, of which I still hear much favorable comment.

The 1963 convention, presumed to take place at Syracuse and so publicized in the July *Kingbird* was cancelled. An agreement has recently been made with the Jamestown Audubon Society to have the '63 meeting at Jamestown, N.Y. April 26, 27, 28.

Our aims for the coming year are to increase membership, support our fine Conservation leader, Maxwell C. Wheat of Freeport as fully as in the past, to control the use of pesticides ourselves, advise against their use whenever possible, and contribute to the knowledge of bird life in the diversified habitat of our great "Empire State".

John Jackson Elliott