

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS:

Attendance and enthusiasm of Federation members at the Annual Convention at Jamestown, April 26-28, Friday to Sunday, exceeded all expectations. On Friday night committee meetings were well attended and little gestures such as serving refreshments that evening showed a thoughtfulness on the part of the host club.

Large numbers of delegates were present for a very enthusiastic Saturday morning council meeting and an equally well-attended paper session under the guidance of the ever helpful Dr. Allen Benton was presented in the afternoon. The Saturday evening banquet was most enlivening with 263 in attendance and our beloved internationally known Roger T. Peterson as the guest speaker. The Federation owes much to the Jamestown Audubon Society for its flawless handling of this 1963 convention.

As to our very excellent and active Conservation Committee, the report was that every effort on the Federations part was successful in curbing the forces and keeping the Great Horned Owl and Golden Eagle on the protected list, and also preventing bounties on several birds and animals in New York State.

On pesticides, which one great authority says presents a problem of contamination even greater than fall-out regarding human and animal life, Roger T. Peterson had a great deal to say in his evening talk (see Conservation News in the last issue). The old adage "in union there is strength" rings a bell with the aligning of our western Long Island bird clubs with hunting and fishing clubs and conservation groups in trying to preserve Town of Hempstead wetlands or salt marshes. A broader scale of alignment — state wide if not nation wide — offers itself in the battle against indiscriminate use of pesticides. Even if the spread of all DDT and stronger pesticides were immediately stopped, there is still sufficient contamination in some areas to threaten our wildlife for some time to come.

Small airfields have been opened up in the forests on the Gaspé peninsula and in other Canadian provinces solely to spray the woodlands and thus spread the contamination further, unless used discriminately, moose, deer and other game feed on the sprayed vegetation and birds eat the affected insects and all these accumulate poisons. One famous salmon stream in Canada has lost its fish apparently through an over-accumulation of pesticides. A recent warning was sent to one of our legislators that already much of our fish and game is coming to the point of being dangerous to human consumption and here's where the alignment of our Federation clubs with gunning clubs comes in.

Over the years the prowess of the hunter and fisherman has been emphasized in our great gunning and fishing clubs. Thousands of acres are leased each year, millions of dollars are spent for expensive fishing equipment, guns and ammunition, supplies for trips into the forests and those of the Canadian provinces. Many thousands of dollars swell government funds in the furnishing of required hunting and fishing licenses. With con-

