

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It is perhaps fortunate that the winning of the Presidency of this esteemed Federation requires neither a competition nor a political campaign, for surely were either required, another President would be writing these, or similar, words today.

But having elected me to this position of responsibility (total) and authority (limited) with nary a campaign promise nor a platform to hang me on, it might be deemed the better part of valor for your President to keep his counsel, and voice no promises, no programs, no goals. But being rash, we will do just the opposite. We do have some goals and a plan for the year ahead.

At this moment in our history, the beginning of our 17th year, we find the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., in excellent fettle. From small beginnings we have grown to an association of 35 member clubs representing almost ever corner of our state; in total associated membership we muster more than 4500 strong. Our two most important objectives, the exchange and advancement of ornithological information, and the cause of conservation, have been well served — by The Kingbird itself, by bulletin exchanges, by cooperative field work projects such as our annual waterfowl count, by our annual meetings, and by the work of our many committees. The power of our combined voices has made itself felt in Albany and in Washington.

But we have far to go. In many ways (and in actual years) our Federation is a teen-ager still: learning, groping, still growing up, still having trouble getting organized, a little uncertain in some areas of activity, but with tremendous potential energy, creativeness, and power. Our greatest days and greatest deeds are all ahead of us! How far, and how fast, can we go in the year ahead? Here are the goals we set for ourselves:

1. We seek to continue the growth of the Federation, with the addition of at least two new clubs, hopefully in areas where we are presently unrepresented. Among these are eastern Suffolk County, the Rome area, the Plattsburgh area, and the northern tier. We will make special efforts in this direction this year. We would like many more individual members to join our Federation. The number is now over 500; we set our goal for 1964 at 750. If every club will enroll just five new members, we will be well on our way. Finally, we would like to see far more participation by clubs and individuals in our affairs. We seek 100% representation at the Poughkeepsie meeting, May 22-24, for which plans are well advanced for an exciting and rewarding program.

2. We seek to continue the effective role we have played in conservation matters, locally, statewide, and nationally. In Maxwell Wheat of Freeport we have an outstanding chairman of a fine committee; we will depend on them in the months ahead to keep us alerted to present and future dangers, and opportunities and advise us on how to take the strongest possible action when action is called for. Our response should be swift and forceful.

3. We hope to see our journal, *The Kingbird*, become ever more professional and valuable in its content and appearance, under the able editorship of Mrs. Alice E. Ulrich and her capable staff of editors. We urge each reader to search his notes and memory for subject matter for papers long and short, and then put his hand to them. We want to expand our rather select circle of authorship, and introduce new authors to the pride of publication.

4. After years of discussion and planning, we hope (and pray) that 1964 will finally see the selection and sponsorship of a full-time author for our *State Bird Book*, and the serious work of writing this book well started.

5. In brief, we hope to find this organization, at the end of the current year, sound of body and bank balance, strong of purpose, and filled with the pride of recent accomplishment. I ask every member club and every club member to help us attain these goals.

At this time it is traditional that the incoming President announce his appointments for chairmanship of our various committees. The list is at this writing incomplete. The following committee chairmen, however, have agreed to serve for the coming year:

Conservation: Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., 333 Bedell Street, Freeport.

Membership: Alfred Starling, 75 Brooklawn Dr., Rochester 18.

Publications and Research: Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., State Museum, Albany 1.

Bibliography: Mrs. Southgate Y. Hoyt, Box 428, Etna, 13062.

Waterfowl Count: John L. Mitchell, 345 Conrad Drive, Rochester 16.

Chairmen for the following committees will be announced shortly: Bulletin Exchange, Finance, *Kingbird* Finance, *State Book*. Your President reminds you that every committee chairman welcomes interested, active volunteers. A purely voluntary organization such as ours only exists and functions to the extent that its members actively participate. An organization, or a committee, merely existing as names on paper signifies nothing, if the names do nothing. Let us all resolve to work to help make this organization go.

At the suggestion of a number of members, your President has appointed a John J. Elliott Memorial Committee, consisting of eleven members. This committee, under the Temporary Chairmanship of Cornelius Ward, of Freeport, has been directed to elect a permanent chairman, determine a suitable memorial, and establish the machinery by which funds may be collected and the memorial accomplished.

At this time the President wishes to pay tribute and thanks to all previous chairmen, in particular to the dedicated, devoted work of Eleanor Radke of Chatham, long a member and most recently chairman of the Membership Committee. Mrs. Radke is moving to California; we are sorry to see her go and we wish her well.

A year of progress to you all!

Robert S. Arbib, Jr.