

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Members and member clubs have already received their invitations to our 17th Annual Convention, and from advance information our first visit to Poughkeepsie promises to be one of the best organized and most rewarding in our history. The meeting, from Friday evening, May 22 to Sunday afternoon, May 24, will bring delegates and other members from all over New York State at a time when spring migration through the remarkable Hudson River valley should be at its peak. Important committee meetings, the annual business meeting, the papers session, and the annual banquet will offer real competition to the attractions out-of-doors. And of course one of the pleasantest features of these meetings is the seeing of old friends and the meeting with new ones of kindred interests from many parts of the state. The President can only add his invitation to that already sent to you by the host club, the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, of Poughkeepsie. We look forward to 100% representation of our member clubs this year, and a new high in total attendance.

One item of new business that could not wait for our 1964 Annual Meeting was the establishment of a memorial for our late President, John J. Elliott. The many friends of John Elliott wanted to start the project now, while his memory is so vividly alive. Last October your President appointed a John J. Elliott Memorial Committee of eleven members, all of them old friends and birding companions of John's. This winter, discussions and meetings have been held, and a memorial plan proposed.

With Cornelius J. Ward as Chairman, and Adrian Dignan as Treasurer, the committee has decided to set up a perpetual memorial fund, whose annual proceeds shall be used for the encouragement of the publication of knowledge of the bird life of our state. The Elliott Memorial Prize shall be given each year at our annual banquet, to that author of a paper published during the preceding year, in the *Kingbird*, deemed most worthy by a panel of judges. Details of the prize, eligibility, and judging will be announced at our Poughkeepsie meeting. Meanwhile, a letter asking for contributions in the memory of John J. Elliott has gone out to all of us. In your President's view, this is a worthy and appropriate memorial; one that will last over the years, one that is in perfect keeping with John Elliott's interest in seeing our ornithologists, no matter how amateur, publish their findings, and one that, (even if it were not a memorial to a fine man) will be an excellent stimulus for the improvement of quality of the contents of *The Kingbird*. Your President, he hopes, sent in the first cheque.

Although it has taken most of the winter, the many committees of our Federation now have active and interested Chairmen, many of them newly-appointed. There is, of course, always a vacancy on any committee you are interested in, and there are committees concerned with every aspect of our Federation's work. If you would like to lend your services, if you would like to take a more active part in our work, and have a voice in our decisions, don't hesitate. Contact one of the chairmen listed in this issue of the *Kingbird*. Your participation will be gratefully welcomed.

See you all at Poughkeepsie! And bring a new member with you.
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