

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear Friends:

Having just returned from having a look at a very rare (for western New York and this season) Northern Phalarope, I am in the mood to send greetings to members of the Federation.

Every president has to have a platform, I suppose, so I present here-with my hopes for the Federation during my term in office.

- 1) Membership: Being in favor of larger membership is about equivalent to being against sin. Nonetheless, if each of us passes along the word, we can grow, and if we grow, we can accomplish more in the areas below.
- 2) Diffusion and influence of *The Kingbird*: Too few ornithologists, in and out of New York, use our journal. It is certainly one of the best of the state ornithological publications in the nation, and we should publicize it wherever and whenever we can. It should be in many local libraries, college libraries, as well as reaching more individuals.
- 3) Research: I plan to continue and expand the census of Great Blue Heron nesting sites; to continue the Mid-winter Waterfowl Census; and to encourage each club to conduct at least one breeding bird count each year in one of the best areas within their jurisdiction. Individual members in search of work suitable to their ability and ambition are urged to contact the Research and Publications Committee for suggestions.
- 4) Conservation: The general public remains ignorant of the interlocking relationships of all natural resources. Even professionals still speak of wildlife conservation or water conservation or soil conservation, as though each existed independent of the others. The Federation, through its Conservation Committee, must continue to do its part in this job of public education, while trying to exert our influence in particular cases which affect our interests.

Being a birdwatcher is exciting. Let's all get excited about making our Federation bigger, better and more influential in 1966.

Allen H. Benton