

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Another Annual Meeting has come and gone since you last heard from me. It was a fine meeting, and all present agreed that our host clubs, the Naturalist's Club of Binghamton Inc. and the Tioga Bird Club, and the committees, headed by Harriet Marsi, did a tremendous job.

Although I am now a "lame duck" president, there are a few things I would like to accomplish before my term of office ends. Perhaps most important, I want to see if we can implement the proposed "Hawk Eccouragement Program", by means of which we would pay a bounty to any property owner who could demonstrate a successful nesting of Red-tailed or Red-shouldered Hawks on his land. We have an offer of \$1,000 for a trial run of this program in 1968. I can see only one administrative problem: the *clubs* would have to be responsible for checking the authenticity and identity of the nestings. Upon receipt of a written statement from a club representative, indicating that the nesting was authentic, the treasurer would pay the bounty (\$5.00 is suggested).

If we start now to publicize this program throughout the state, we should be able to put it into full operation in the spring of 1968. I would like to receive, from *each member club*, assurance that they will co-operate in this venture to the extent of checking alleged nests within their area. I do not think that there will be enough claims in any area to represent an intolerable burden. Indeed, one bird club, the Sullivan County Audubon Society, has gone ahead with their own program and is having no serious problem with it.

You will be hearing from me again on this. In the meantime, please write and let me know what you think of its possibilities. If the clubs approve, I will start our new publicity chairman, Ed Somers, to working on state-wide publicity. How about it? Will you cooperate?

Allen H. Benton