

water Cypress Company of a parcel of land and a stand of virgin cypress which became an important addition to the famous Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in southwest Florida.

Thus we must sorrowfully speak our farewells to Watson Hastings. We will miss him greatly... his warm greeting and ready smile, his expert knowledge and counsel in the field of nature, his always willing helpfulness, his supervision of our motion picture program with professional equipment and projection.

We extend to his wife, Myrtle Hastings, the profound and heartfelt sympathies of us all.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Jordan, reprinted from The Scarsdale Audubon Society Bulletin, Vol. 22, No. 4, April 1968

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I would like to thank all the officers and committee chairmen of the Federation for their support during the period following the untimely death of Watson Hastings.

I had originally intended not to write a presidential message in *The Kingbird* until later. However, two matters arising at the council meeting of the Federation call for comment.

(1). The question of whether or not to affiliate with the New York State Conservation Council was hotly debated. Persons whose opinions I value spoke on both sides of the issue. Finally the decision to affiliate was passed by a substantial majority. This step is not an irreversible one; should the minority prove to be correct it will be possible for the council to reverse its 1968 decision. However we have already begun discussing with the chairman of the Conservation Council ways of halting the slaughter of hawks on game farms. Had we been affiliated sooner we would have seen the proposed falconry bill (S. 4255) sooner and a member of our Federation and a national authority on hawks, Walter Spofford, could have worked on this bill at an early stage. In short I think that the affiliation is a good move that will aid our conservation efforts. Let's give it a fair trial.

(2). Almost hidden in the reports dealing with membership was the fact that we had a net loss of members last year. Ed Somers, chairman of the publicity committee, is spear-heading a drive for new members. It is also important that we work at recruiting among the members of the local clubs. I would like to have in each member club a person to act as the representative of the Federation. This person would report the activities of the Federation at the meetings of the member club. This could serve as a means of communication in both directions. Conservation issues of importance to the member club could be communicated by this representative to the conservation committee for advice and action. I would like volunteers or names of persons who might be persuaded to volunteer for this work for each member club.

David B. Peakall