

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As usual there are a number of points to be reported to the membership. First and foremost there is to be a change in the editorial staff of *The Kingbird*. Dorothy McIlroy is retiring after serving as editor for longer than any other person. Besides being a fine editor Dorothy did many other things including putting the finest state journal into envelopes for mailing. She is planning to travel to Australia and the best, if envious, wishes of the Federation go with her. The new editor of *The Kingbird* will be Joe Taylor of Rochester. Do not forget that Federation support in terms of articles and field-notes are essential for any editor to function satisfactorily. Also, Allen Kemnitzer is taking over the writing of "The Highlights" as of the October issue.

Conservation is the key issue facing us as bird-watchers. I think that it is a valid criticism that, in general, we have expected a free ride. It is going to be more and more necessary to spend money and energy in this regard. In the field of conservation — despite some fine achievements — I have felt that we were lacking a state-wide conservation network that would rapidly obtain, transmit, and respond to conservation needs. The basic structure that I have started to set up is shown diagrammatically below.

Conservation Committee. A small (to be effective) committee to decide Federation policy on various issues (within the frame-work of the conservation platform) and, more importantly, to decide which issues to make a major issue out of. Sub-committees are being set up to study specific issues.

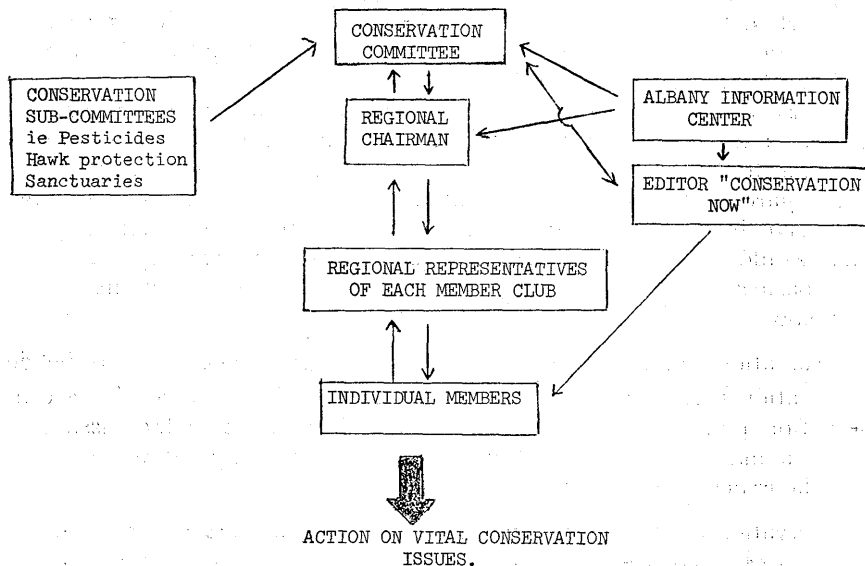
Conservation platform. The first version of this was passed at the Annual Council Meeting. Alterations and additions will be made at future council meetings. This platform is necessary since the council is the main decision making body of the Federation but most conservation needs cannot wait for the Annual Meeting.

Albany Information Center. With the assistance of the National Audubon Society we are planning to set up machinery whereby important conservation bills are obtained, examined, and information on them transmitted either via the regional chairman set-up or via "Conservation Now" to the membership. The NAS are vitally interested in a state-wide conservation network and are prepared to give us assistance in setting up and running it.

Conservation Now. We are already sending this newsletter to all our membership. It is proposed to send it out at irregular intervals so that it can be used when the need is greatest. Clubs can obtain extra copies for their membership at cost.

Regional Chairman – Club Representative Set-up. It is hoped that this will be a major two-way avenue of communication. In the case of an emergency situation regional chairmen would be contacted by phone. They in turn would contact the club representatives who would get busy alerting their membership. I hope that all clubs that do not have a club representative will speedily appoint one.

David B. Peakall



Address of the new editor is:

Mr. Joseph W. Taylor
1166 Clover Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14610