

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It is the tradition for retiring presidents to send a last message, if only to exhort their successors to do the things they failed to do themselves.

One of the potentially most valuable ideas that has come forward in my term of office was that of regional vice-presidents. I see this concept as useful in forging a stronger band between the Federation and its member clubs. It goes hand-in-hand with the regional conservation chairmen recently set up. It should aid conservation and bird study in the State. For example, more complete coverage of the heronry survey should be possible if each of the three areas had someone directing this survey. To digress from the main theme for a moment, I hope that this survey will be continued. A sharp decrease of heron numbers as shown by the National Survey Heronry Census in Great Britain did not occur until recently. Thus, if pesticides are the cause, it appears to be a slower chain reaction than with some species of hawks. Federation field-trips, perhaps regionally organized but open to all members has recently been suggested to me by our new recording secretary, Mary Ann Sunderlin. I hope that this idea will be tried in 1970. Since the annual meeting is to be in the fall, perhaps a spring foray could be arranged.

I would like to offer one suggestion to the Federation based on my experience as your President. It is necessary either for the President to have a good deal of free time or a secretary on to whom he can place a good deal of the routine work. This imposes restrictions on persons available for this office which could be easier if the corresponding secretary was near enough to assist the President.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Federation for their support and to wish the new officers of the Federation all the best.

David B. Peakall