

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Looking back over the more than twenty-five years since the boring days of the Federation in the late 1940's, I see that it has had a healthy growth and achieved a vital place in New York birding. Member clubs have tripled in number, individual members have increased many fold, the Kingbird has become an outstanding state ornithological publication, and the annual meetings have served to acquaint birders state-wide with each other and with the rich variety of the state avifauna and birding territory.

But as I come back into the Federation after almost twenty years out of its affairs, I sense a distressful feeling among some members that the Federation has come to rest on center, that it is not moving forward, that it does not meet its members needs — in short, that it needs revitalizing. I hear questions about the need for such an organization, about the usefulness and appeal of its activities, about what it might be doing that it is not.

As your new president, coming back to a responsibility I held in 1948-50, I find the expression of these queries, not a basis of pessimism but rather as a sign that its members value the Federation, that they want it to continue to prosper and grow, and to make a significant contribution to birding and birders in New York State.

With this in mind, I earnestly invite member clubs and individual members to convey to me their views on the questions of which I've spoken, and on what they conceive as the most appropriate and useful objectives and activities for the Federation. I look forward to hearing from many of you. And there is a real need for volunteers who will help in conducting our activities.

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