



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It seems appropriate at this time in my second term as your president to make a report because I do think some forward movement has been occurring. At the same time it is proper to look at our deficiencies.

For me, a goodly portion of 1974 was taken up with getting reacquainted with the activities and people of the Federation after 20 years outside New York state. The other officers and committee chairmen gave generously of their time and thought to meet with me on several occasions for discussions in depth of our problems and plans.

At the 27th annual meeting in Fredonia last October our efforts began to bear fruit. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a summary of what happened. But let me briefly review some of the things that have been accomplished during the past year. The number of member clubs has increased by two to 40; our treasury ended 1973 in the black; important changes have been made in our by-laws providing for speedier approval of membership applications and the establishment of a widely representative executive committee; and an increase in dues to enable us to keep abreast of inflation and to maintain and expand our activities.

Some new activities have been initiated—identification workshops at the annual meeting, Federation-sponsored pelagic trips, and a state-wide spring migration peak count. Other new activities have been proposed (see summary of annual meeting in this issue) and will be put into action as soon as feasible and volunteers to undertake them come forward.

One of the most gratifying events at the annual meeting was receipt of a substantial contribution from Mrs. Dayton (Lillian) Stoner—one of our Founders and most loyal members—as a fund to enable one college student each year to attend our annual meeting.

A beginning has been made in establishing conservation policy guidelines and in enhancing Federation activity in conservation matters. Resolutions have been adopted recommending repeal of New York's enabling falconry law but encouraging retention of laws permitting the taking of falcons for purposes of research and reproduction programs. Another resolution urged the prohibition of crow shooting within the Adirondack Park to preclude the mistaken shooting of ravens. These have been sent to appropriate persons and agencies.

On the other hand I feel there are still areas where we are deficient and should begin to advance. With as many birders as there now are in New York State I see no reason why the individual membership should not be as high as 1,000—this would enable us to enlarge and improve the *Kingbird* and *New York Birders*, and to do other beneficial things. And it would add weight to our conservation efforts.

I would like to see much closer relationships between the clubs—joint meetings, field trips and action projects.

The material collected in the Regional Reports over the past 25 years provided a wealth of material for John Bull's fine book, *Birds of New York State*. Now we should move on to detailed, careful breeding, distribution and other types of censuses and studies.

Should we consider holding a second state-wide meeting in the spring devoted entirely to the pleasure of meeting other birders, birding in new areas and all that goes with such recreational birding? Other state bird societies do this with great success. Our annual fall meeting would remain the time for business, the scientific papers, workshops and the more serious business of self-appraisal.

And it would please me very much if there were a greater appreciation on the part of individual clubs and their members of what the Federation is, does and can do for them. It is rather shattering to hear of birders and occasionally club officers who seem never to have heard of the Federation.

To all of you who have helped and are continuing to help to make the Federation a healthier, more worthwhile organization goes my warm appreciation.

Gordon M. Meade, M.D.