

THE EX-PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By now the Federation members are probably tired of hearing from me but our by-laws require the president to give an accounting of his stewardship.

First, let me thank all of you who have helped me during the past two years to accomplish whatever has been done to invigorate the Federation. My thanks are especially warm to my able successor, Dick Sloss, the other officers, and the members of the Executive Committee who have given so generously of their thought, time and effort. And not least, I must thank my secretaries, Cheryl Bevan and Jean Lynch without whose ever willing help I, and the Federation, would have been in a deep darkness of non-communication.

What has been accomplished? Here are some of the things that I see as positive. A quickening of interest in the Federation and its potential for helpfulness to the clubs and individual members. Important changes in the by-laws to expedite our operations and to establish an Executive Committee which has proved invaluable in planning and executing our business and activities. Initiation of new programs and activities such as—pelagic trips, state-wide spring migration count, identification workshops at the annual meeting. Planning for additional activities such as a spring “birding only” meeting, a “Where To Bird in New York State” Baedeker, a listing of birding consultants who will give advice on “where to find what” in their areas, a conservation activities manual for clubs and possibly a state-wide breeding bird survey, etc. We have new editors and printer for *The Kingbird*, a new editor for “Highlights of the Season,” and a splendid new printing format for *New York Birders* which is being published more regularly. All these things have come about through the interest and work of members who believe in the Federation as a positive force.

And I must not forget the establishment of the Lillian C. Stoner Award by one of our oldest and most loyal members. This provides money to bring a student to our annual meeting. The John J. Elliott Award for outstanding articles in *The Kingbird* has been revived.

But my two years have definite negative factors which I regret. Chief among these has been my inability to develop a strong, con-

sistent conservation program. This requires—first, agreement on principles and guidelines for our involvement in conservation issues, and second, finding an individual with enthusiasm, drive and the necessary time to act as chairman. A beginning was made on the first point but the quest for the second has not succeeded. My second sense of failure is in the essentially static number of Federation individual members. Out of a total of over ten thousand persons in the member clubs less than 5% belong to the Federation—it should be at least 20-25%. If membership does not increase we will be in serious jeopardy of not being able to maintain our gains and to accomplish the exciting things which lie ahead of us.

For the years to come I stand ready to assist the Federation in any way that I can. May I say thanks to you all for giving me the privilege of being your president in 1974 and 1975.

Gordon M. Meade, M.D.
President—1974-75

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

We are starting a new feature called "*Letters to the Editors.*" Letters may be of a general nature as long as they pertain to New York State ornithology, or may be of a specific nature with reference to something that has appeared in *The Kingbird*. The editors reserve the right *not* to accept a letter for publication, or to edit a letter in accordance with space requirements. All letters received will be acknowledged. Your participation is invited.