

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Since this marks the beginning of a new administration in Wilson Club affairs, it would seem appropriate that some accounting of the official family be given. Club members have a right to know what they may expect from their officers, and what are the policies that will be followed.

After a long and devoted period of service to the Club, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. retires as one of your officers. As Secretary, as Vice-President, and as President, he has been untiring in his efforts for the welfare of the organization. Fortunately, through the wise provision of the Constitution which makes all Past-Presidents permanent members of the Executive Council, we shall continue to have the benefit of his experience and leadership.

Walter J. Breckenridge, of the University of Minnesota's Museum of Natural History, assumes the duties of First Vice-President. He has served as an elected member of the Executive Council, and, more recently, as Second Vice-President. Many members will remember the last Minneapolis meeting, for which he had the responsibility as Chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements. For its Second Vice-President the Club has chosen Burt L. Monroe, of Anchorage, Kentucky, who retires from the Treasurership. During a period of rising costs and financial difficulties, Burt Monroe has handled the fiscal affairs of the Club with great skill and complete devotion.

The Club's Secretary continues to be Harold F. Mayfield, of Toledo, Ohio. He brings to his duties a wide business experience, a thorough training in personnel management, and a spirit of cooperativeness which make his services invaluable. As the new Treasurer, James H. Olsen, of Columbus, Ohio, has been chosen. He, too, has had wide business experience and extensive contacts. He has grown up through the Brooks Bird Club, and is now serving as its President.

David E. Davis, of Johns Hopkins University, has felt that he must retire as Editor of *The Wilson Bulletin*. During his term as Editor, he has had to deal with the perplexing problems of sky-rocketing printing costs, and he has worked untiringly and with great scientific skill. As the new Editor, George Miksch Sutton has been chosen. In addition to his long service to the Club in many capacities, he brings to his new duties an international reputation as artist and writer, and a boundless enthusiasm.

The newly-elected member of the Executive Council is Fred T. Hall, Director of the Davenport (Iowa) Public Museum. He will also serve as Chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements for the 1951 meeting in Davenport. Members of the Council who continue in office are Richard H. Pough, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and William C. Vaughan, of Buffalo. Burt Monroe will continue to represent the Club on the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union, and S. Charles Kendeigh, a Past-President of the Club, will be our representative on the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of which we are an affiliate. To serve as a member of the Board of Trustees, Aaron Moore Bagg, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, has been named.

According to the retiring Treasurer, we have weathered the worst of our financial stresses, and the Club finds itself in sound fiscal condition. We shall strive to maintain our present membership rates, since members of the Council believe that our low dues are an encouragement to joining for students and other beginners in the field of ornithology.

It will be the policy of the President to bring into the active work of the Club as many as possible young and promising bird students. By tradition, ours has been a *young* organization, in which both professional ornithologists with a genuine liking for field work, and active and enthusiastic amateurs in bird study, can feel at home.

The fine spirit of Club members made manifest at the recent Jackson's Mill meeting is both a promise and a challenge. There is every reason for hoping that the organization can progress toward richer experiences for its individual members, and toward greater service for ornithology. To the realization of this hope your new President pledges his best efforts, and asks the fullest measure of your cooperation.

MAURICE BROOKS