

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This letter is in the nature of hail and farewell. *The Wilson Bulletin* already has a new Editor and Associate Editor, and before the next issue appears the Club will have a new Secretary and a new President. It is scarcely necessary to say that those who are retiring wish these new officers well.

I cannot let the occasion pass without expressing, on behalf of the Club, our appreciation for the long and unselfish service which George M. Sutton as Editor, Andrew Berger as Assistant Editor, and Harold F. Mayfield as Secretary have given. During the five years of World War II, the Wilson Club held no general meetings. Following this trying period, George Sutton took over as President, and later as Editor. His work went far toward re-knitting our membership into a compact group. With Andy Berger's assistance, he maintained the high standards of *The Wilson Bulletin*. The generosity of many Club members has made possible the publishing of more color plates than in any similar period of the *Bulletin's* history.

To the Secretaryship, Harold Mayfield brought a wide business experience and a deep understanding of human values. He is one of the devoted amateurs in our ranks, and his work on Kirtland's Warbler has demonstrated an ability to match the professional in scientific competence. More than any other person, he is responsible for the excellent programs of our annual meetings during the last five years.

No person may serve the Wilson Club without gaining a sense of the vigor of its membership. The Club is sixty-two years old, fairly venerable as such organizations go in this country. Yet it has not run out of ideas, nor of members to put these ideas into execution. Its early interest in life history and ecology has flowered and borne an abundant harvest. In a very real sense, it has helped in shaping the direction of ornithological work throughout the world.

Mark Twain, in "A Connecticut Yankee," has a wonderful statement as to his concepts of government and society. To paraphrase his ideas, officers come and go, but the Club is the enduring thing. All strength derives from it, and it will flourish just so long as its members share in the responsibility for its welfare. I am happy that at this year's Annual Meeting we seem likely to wipe out for all time the artificial barriers imposed by different classes of membership in the Club. There will no longer be an Associate grade; all members will be equal in their duties and their privileges. This is as it should be in a democracy.

One source of deep gratification lies in the close cooperation between the Wilson Club and its sister organizations, the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Club. Through some happy circumstance, each organization has found its sphere of usefulness, and no clashes of interest have arisen. This comity has made possible the service of Sewall Pettingill as President of the Wilson Club while he was also Secretary of the A. O. U., and has allowed Josselyn Van Tyne to maintain an active interest in Wilson Club affairs while he is President of the A. O. U. It is fortunate indeed that such relationships exist.

My personal thanks go to all who have so unselfishly given of their time and money during the past two years. This has made the President's lot a happy one. I'll see you in Gatlinburg.

MAURICE BROOKS