

## HELP YOURSELF—AND THE WILSON CLUB

The mails these days are filled with appeals for contributions to innumerable philanthropic, educational and scientific institutions. We do not decry this necessary part of modern life—most of the institutions are worthy and there is undeniable satisfaction in helping a worthy cause and in so giving pleasure and benefit to others.

However, we would like to mention an opportunity to contribute to the conservation of our birdlife by supporting an organization active in sustaining interest in and concern for this birdlife, while at the same time benefiting yourself.

We refer to Life Membership in the Wilson Ornithological Club. Life membership contributions are placed in the Endowment Fund. If you are a member of the Wilson Club and especially if you have been a member for some years, it is probable that you derive some, perhaps much, pleasure and benefit from your membership and that you deem the Club worthy of your support. If you belong on an annual basis, you and the Club benefit from your dues as long as you pay them, but when you pass on to study the birds of paradise, your benefit to the Club ceases. Or if, because of adversity of some sort, you can no longer pay dues, both you and the Club cease to benefit. A Life Member, however, not only is spared the annual bother of sending in his dues, but he has also made a financial investment which will pay interest annually and is free from income tax throughout his life. He knows that he will reap the benefits and pleasures of membership as long as he lives. Furthermore, he is aware that the Club has invested the sum he paid and so should continue to receive interest from it long after he is gone. What better example of *mutual* benefit can you find than this?

If the Chairman may be pardoned for twanging a personal string, he will say that long ago when he was young, singularly blessed, and moneyed more than sufficiently for his needs, he showed more wisdom than he has sometimes since by joining for life the W.O.C., the A.O.U., and sundry other organizations, and now that he is *pater familias* and the dollar is not what it used to be, he is very glad he did so. No dues to pay, but still *The Wilson Bulletin* and *The Auk* and the others keep coming! He would like you to be glad, too, so pick up your pen and battered checkbook and assure for yourself and for your Club a bit of that "security" which has become such a shibboleth.

While Life Membership is of *greatest* benefit to younger members, it helps your Club at whatever age you take it out. Besides, don't forget that people are living a lot longer than they used to and life is fun—especially to a Life Member of the W.O.C. with no more worries about paying dues. Try it and see.

The Endowment Committee  
Charles H. Rogers, *Chairman*