

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Charles H. Rogers, of the Princeton Museum of Zoology, and Alexander Wetmore, of the Smithsonian Institution, share a particular distinction in the Wilson Ornithological Society. Both Mr. Rogers and Dr. Wetmore joined the Society in 1903. This means that they have been members of this organization longer than anyone else presently listed in our membership roll. I wrote to both gentlemen to express congratulations for all of us on the distinction which they share, along with our thanks for their continued interest in the Society. I also asked for any comments they might have, on any subject.

In a telephone conversation early in January, Mr. Rogers described his lively interest in three timely matters. He spoke about the 1966 Christmas Bird Count at Princeton, N.J., for which he was leader and compiler for the 46th consecutive year. Actually, since he has participated in every census from the first one in 1900, this latest one was his 67th Christmas Count. Two other subjects of special interest to Mr. Rogers were (1) the inshore occurrence of Dovekies, in late-1966, along the Atlantic coast, and (2) the spread of House Finches from the New York City area during the past 25 years, since birds of this species were released near New York.

Dr. Wetmore wrote: "I recall the thrill that came to me with arrival of the first number of our *Bulletin* in March 1903, not only for its news of *Leucostictes*, previously only a name, but also my name on the membership roll of my first ornithological society! This connection has been a steady source of satisfaction to me. In my opinion our editors and other officers concerned have kept the *Bulletin* abreast of the times, changing emphasis as the method and emphasis in our science have changed. Format and content to me seem excellent. I would hope that we may continue in future as we have in the past."

In February 1859, Thoreau wrote: "Measure your health by your sympathy with morning and spring. If there is no response in you to the awakening of nature, if the prospect of an early morning walk does not banish sleep, if the warble of the first blue-bird does not thrill you, know that the morning and spring of your life are past. Thus you may feel your pulse."

Similarly, it seems to me, Charles H. Rogers and Alexander Wetmore have indicated, indirectly, criteria by which we can judge to what extent we retain a youthful excitement about ornithology. How lively an interest do we have in the changing aspects of bird-life around us? How flexible are we in keeping abreast of contemporary ornithology—in "changing emphasis as the method and emphasis in our science" change? Thus we may feel our ornithological pulses.

It seems clear that the ornithological pulses of two gentlemen who joined this Society in 1903 were never more lively and vigorous!

AARON M. BAGG