

EDITORIAL

We have made some changes in *The Wilson Bulletin* beginning with this issue—a dues increase is not one of them. Inflation is seriously affecting scientific publications (see Abelson, *Science* 186:693, 1974), but rather than raise dues now we have opted to make changes that will reduce publication costs and make maximum use of page space without reducing the quality or number of papers published, the clarity of writing, or the aesthetic appearance of our journal. The changes have been made after long deliberation and consultation with Allen Press, members of the Wilson Council, and others. Most noticeable, page size has been reduced slightly at the recommendation of Allen Press. The amount of printing on a page has not been reduced, thus effectively we have reduced margins and also saved paper and postage. Our cost savings for this change will be substantial. Second, I have made numerous style changes to save space. These include greater use of standard abbreviations for all measurement units, the use of % instead of percent, greater use of numerals to replace spelled out numbers, deletion of some commas in literature citations, and elimination of repetition of author's names in the literature cited. (See also *Suggestions to Authors* printed elsewhere in this issue.)

This space-saving will in some cases save the society money. It will frequently save page space that can be used for news, announcements, reviews, or additional general notes. Other changes, such as a change in grade of paper, reduction of type size in major articles, not starting major articles at the top of a new page, and a change in method of printing, have been discussed but considered of no economic benefit or aesthetically objectionable. We could at the moment save about \$25 per issue by mailing the *Bulletin* in plastic envelopes. Since plastic is a petroleum product this advantage is not likely to last, and since we are a conservation organization it seems more appropriate that we continue with paper envelopes.

I am particularly grateful to Kenneth Parkes, George Hall, John Hubbard, and Arly Allen for their careful study and advice with regard to these changes. The final decision on style changes was mine, however, and I accept responsibility for it. I will be grateful for any comments regarding these changes, for after all, this is your journal and I am anxious to serve and satisfy the ornithological community that is the Wilson Ornithological Society.

As a recent past-treasurer of the Wilson Society I would like to suggest some additional ways we can minimize our operating costs. Please pay your dues as promptly as possible. By doing so you save the society the expense of sending a second notice. Furthermore, our treasurer keeps only what is necessary to pay operating expenses in a checking account and the balance of our general funds is kept in savings accounts and earns interest. Thus, by paying dues promptly the society realizes an additional financial benefit. Failure of a member to promptly notify the treasurer of an address change not only results in the member getting his *Bulletin* late, but also costs the society additional postage if the journal is returned to Allen Press. Please notify the treasurer of your address change as soon as possible and help us reduce these expenses. Finally, I encourage you to consider voluntary contributions to the society to support publication of our journal, the continuation of our various awards, and the maintenance of the Josselyn Van Tyne Library.