

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

July first brings to a close the first full year for the Alabama Ornithological Society. Although we look with impatience on many things that were left undone we feel that our first year, as a whole, has been a successful one.

Much of our effort, this first year, has been devoted to the tedious job of organization. It is always a difficult job to organize any group and these difficulties have been accentuated by the statewide scope of this organization. We believe that for any organization to be successful it must adhere to democratic principles and, as we realize, they can sometimes be painfully slow. We have chosen this first year, therefore, to withstand the rebuffs of the impatient few and try to lay a firm foundation based on the ideas of the entire Society as expressed through your directors.

Many members have worked hard to make this first year a success. I believe I express the feelings of the entire Society in thanking Mrs. Blanche Dean for the wonderful job she did in the original organizational work which led to our first meeting. Many of us, I am sure, have thought of the need for such a statewide organization but it was Mrs. Dean's energy and enthusiasm that made it a reality.

The committee which framed the constitution should be commended for a job well done. We believe that the objectives of the Society are plainly stated and the Articles and By-Laws are adequate to operate the Society.

The Membership Committee has turned in a good report. The membership has reached a total of 65 which we feel is very good for the first year. As our program broadens out to reach more people we hope the membership will continue to grow.

It is with great pride that we bring out this first issue of the publication. The obstacles, both technical and financial, have been large. Our congratulations and warm thanks are given to our editor, Dr. Julian L. Dusi. We believe the editorial policies are sound and will result in a publication that will be a credit to our Society and to our State.

As this first year ends I would like to express my appreciation to all the members of the Society who have worked to make this year a success. It has been a pleasure, and indeed, an honor, to serve as the first president of the Alabama Ornithological Society. It is my sincere hope that as we move forward into our second year that we keep before us the objectives as set forth in our Constitution. May we leave the lighter side of bird watching to our local bird clubs and garden clubs and strive "to promote scientific and educational activities in the field of ornithology."