

To the Members of the Wilson Ornithological Club:

Many of you read the statement in the June *Bulletin* regarding the Club's need for additional income. A certain number of members responded, and a good start was made toward a substantial increase in the number of life memberships in the Club. Especially under present conditions, this modest beginning is encouraging. In the March *Bulletin* we shall give you a list of the new Life Members and tell you something about each of them.

At this time the Endowment Committee would like to inform you somewhat more fully on the requirements which must be satisfied if the Club is to fulfill in a satisfactory manner the role it undertakes and the obligations it assumes in the field of ornithology. And we wish to emphasize most strongly that only through your generous assistance, and that of the friends of the Club, can this very desirable end be attained.

Of the various activities of the Club, by far the most important is the publication and distribution of the *Wilson Bulletin*, for it is by means of the *Bulletin* that we make our major contribution to ornithology. Through its pages are presented the most recent observations and researches in the field; its book reviews and notes keep the membership up to date in this and in related fields; and it creates a sense of unity and of satisfaction in the work of the Club. Next to this in importance comes the holding of our annual meeting, and as you know, this event has come to be one of the outstanding meetings of its kind, both because of the uniform excellence of its programs and because of the quality and enthusiasm of its attendance. Still other activities are those of various committees, though in the main they carry on their work with little expenditure of Club funds.

Most of these activities are of an expanding nature, and so outgrow our ability at any time to carry them on to the fullest extent. For example, there is an urgent need for enlarging the *Bulletin* to permit timely publication of important papers that now must wait until space is available. More illustrations and an occasional color-plate would also be highly desirable. The work of scientific committees on worthy research projects should be greatly extended.

All these things call for additional income, and such additional income must be secured through an increase in endowment. The increase in endowment, in turn, will have to come from the following three sources:

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS: By the payment of one hundred dollars in one sum, or in four annual installments, one may become a Life Member, with exemption from further payment of dues. For those engaged professionally in the field of ornithology, or closely related fields, such payments are deductible from taxable income.

OUTRIGHT GIFTS: Those who wish to support the work of the Club are urged to make direct donations to the Endowment Fund. Such contributions can be ear-marked for specified purposes if desired, but it is preferable to leave the disposition of the income from such gifts to the discretion of the Club's officers and Council. Such gifts to a scientific organization are also deductible from taxable income.

BEQUESTS: We suggest that consideration be given to the matter of contribution to the Endowment Fund through gifts of this nature. An attorney should be consulted on the most effective method of bequest.

The Committee urges your earnest consideration of these matters to the end that you contribute to the extent of your ability to the furtherance of the aims and purposes of the Club. You believe that the Club is doing a fine work in its field, and that it should be enabled to enlarge its contribution; you would like to see the Club maintain its excellent position and go on to further eminence. It is up to you—the Club needs your help!

Respectfully yours,

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE
George B. Thorp, *Chairman*