

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

W.O.C. members who have never attended an annual meeting of their organization are missing the enjoyable experience of mixing socially with other members and of listening to papers and the discussions following the papers. These members realize the existence of the organization almost exclusively through *The Wilson Bulletin*. They peruse the papers that appear in each *Bulletin* and perhaps wonder who the people are who carry on such studies and under what circumstances they work—probably college professors or enthusiastic college students with full time to devote to their work and with excellent, expensive equipment at their elbows to aid in the work. This is by no means always the case. Consider, for example, the indefatigable Lawrence H. Walkinshaw, a practicing dentist in Battle Creek, Michigan. He has his dental practice, a wife and family, and yet he finds time to do exhaustive work on several species, including Chipping Sparrows (1944. *Wils. Bull.*, 56:193-205), Prothonotary Warblers (1941. *Wils. Bull.*, 53:3-21), and Sandhill Cranes (1949. *Cranbrook Inst. Sci., Bull. No. 29*, x + 202 pp.), not to mention a large number of other shorter articles. Although few of us are endowed with the time, initiative, and energy to accomplish so much in our spare time, no doubt many readers of the *Bulletin* have pet problems they would like to pursue further, and would, with some encouragement and perhaps some financial aid. Even the simplest problems usually require, for special field equipment or travel, funds which are not always available, especially to younger workers. In this connection, two research grants are available this year through the W.O.C.

The first, the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Grant of \$100 annually, coming from an anonymous friend of ornithology, has as its basic requirement that work to receive aid must deal with some phase of ornithology. One need not be connected with an educational institution nor have extensive formal education to be eligible. This is the one of the two grants which presents possibilities for helping W.O.C. members in their local bird research problems.

The Pell Fund makes \$25 annually available to assist promising young bird artists to develop their art. This fund was given in honor of the late S. Morris Pell.

These grants are awarded through our W.O.C. Research Committee. Dr. John Emlen (Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wisconsin) has accepted the chairmanship of this committee for another year, and applications or requests for further information may be sent to Dr. Emlen.

For amateurs and students in small institutions, may I also suggest the research funds from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which are distributed to recipients through the state academies of science. Funds to state academies are allotted according to the number of members of the particular academy who are also members of the A.A.A.S. In Minnesota, for instance, during 1951 this fund amounted to \$112. Applications for such aid should be sent directly to your state academy of science.

For those interested in knowing what types of work are being carried on and which might be appropriate studies for which to apply for research aid, I suggest reviewing the listing entitled "Graduate Research in Ornithology" by Bagg and Swanson (*Wils. Bull.*, 1951, 63:62-64; 1952, 64:60-63) as well as the note on lists of research in progress at 16 Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit schools (1951. *Wils. Bull.*, 63:212).

Undoubtedly the great majority of W.O.C. members are simply interested in birding as an enjoyable hobby and have no publication ambitions. However, here and there is the capable person with initiative who can make outstanding contributions to ornithology. Such persons, we hope, can be located and given aid in case the financial barrier is proving an effective block to their accomplishments.

W. J. BRECKENRIDGE.