

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The idea in the minds of the founders of the Wilson Ornithological Club was undoubtedly the exchanging of records and experiences about birds. Soon the group's increase gave rise to the publication *The Curlew*, the purpose of which was to keep members in touch with each other's studies and findings. This still is the major purpose of *The Wilson Bulletin*.

There is another commendable objective of a club such as ours, however, which I feel has not been realized to the extent it should be. There are many persons in the W.O.C. with financial means to spare, some of whom may be older, perhaps, and lacking physical fitness for strenuous field work, but who still are enthusiastic about furthering the study of ornithology. On the other hand, there are many capable young ornithologists with initiative and energy but with distinctly limited financial means. The W.O.C. is ideally situated to act in a liaison capacity for these two groups. In other words, why not make a definite effort to expand our program of research grants? This was exactly what was in the mind of one of our members when he anonymously contributed \$500 back in 1947 for establishing the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Grant in honor of that outstanding bird artist. It was the donor's very laudable hope that this memorial grant might be perpetuated indefinitely through continued, but not necessarily anonymous, contributions from others. I feel that all too little publicity has been given to this project. Although there are comparatively few W.O.C. members today who knew Louis Fuertes personally, we are all very much aware of his remarkably life-like portrayals of our birdlife and a continuing memorial to Louis Agassiz Fuertes is certainly highly appropriate. At present only \$25 remains in this fund; this is actually the amount of the only additional contribution that has been made to this fund to date, a contribution from one of our very active life members. Shall we award this small remaining amount to some promising candidate and allow this fine research grant to go out of existence? I say "No." Can't we find other generous contributors who will follow this member's lead and build up this fund again in order that further promising students may receive much-needed aid? Anyone interested in making such contributions, please contact me or our treasurer, Leonard Brecher.

All funds that W.O.C. members wish to contribute for such grants need not necessarily be placed in the Fuertes Fund. The Wilson Club will be happy to establish additional research grants either in the name of the donor or in honor of others. One such grant, the S. Morris Pell Fund, provides for \$25 annual awards for three more years to be assigned to promising bird artists. This fund was established in 1948 by another anonymous donor in memory of S. Morris Pell, whose major interest was also in bird art. Applications for these awards should be sent to Dr. John Emlen, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

Another grant, the Chalif Award, was an annual grant of \$200 for research in Mexico, furnished by Mr. Edward Chalif, also a W.O.C. life member. Although this is not available this year, we understand that there is a possibility that next year it may again be awarded.

I hope that each year we can list an increasing number of research grants available for students in many ornithological fields. Won't you consider such contributions or talk to your friends who might be interested in extending such aid?

W. J. BRECKENRIDGE