

THE GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON COLORPLATE FUND

George Sutton, twice president of the Wilson Ornithological Society and an illustrious editor of *The Wilson Bulletin*, has had an abiding interest in the Society which has been manifested in many ways. While his contributions of counsel, encouragement, and advice to young ornithologists, artists and writers and his unbounded enthusiasm are well known, only a handful of Wilson members have been aware of the immensity of his financial assistance, so modestly proffered over the years.

When the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Grants were established, it was George Sutton who was the anonymous donor who made the awards possible. When *The Wilson Bulletin* had the opportunity but not the wherewithal to publish a meaningful colorplate, it was George who quietly underwrote the cost. That the *Bulletin* has had such an excellent series of colorplates in recent years is almost entirely due to his generosity and his determination that the *Bulletin* be the outstanding ornithological journal of its kind. That the current volume, our outgoing editor's last after ten outstanding years, contains a colorplate in each issue, is again true only because George Sutton has made it possible.

This spring Dr. Sutton enthusiastically suggested that an endowment be established, with the goal of an income large enough to assure a colorplate in *every* issue. He envisages not only the use of outstanding bird art but good color photographs as illustrative material for important papers. He writes, for example: "That fine colored photo of the Steller's \times Blue Jay was, to paraphrase Bonaparte and many others, 'worth a thousand words.' It added greatly to the value of the paper and of the issue and of the volume."

When it was decided to name this fund the George Miksch Sutton Colorplate Fund, to be a permanent reminder of Sutton's many contributions to the Society and the *Bulletin*, George said he should raise it all himself! Through his generosity and his fund raising efforts, the fund is well on its way towards the immediate goal. With reproduction costs continually climbing, however, there is no assurance that self-sufficiency today will still be self-sufficiency tomorrow. The Society would welcome, therefore, contributions to the Colorplate Fund. It is hoped that many members, and especially those who have personally experienced the Sutton charisma, will participate with him in his endeavor to make *The Wilson Bulletin* an ornithological journal second to none in excellence of illustration.—*The Council*.