

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Everyone is well aware of the inflationary spiral that has occurred in recent years, and the costs of running an ornithological society has not escaped this process. The bulk of our expenditures relate to publishing *The Wilson Bulletin*; these rise with the ever increasing costs of ink, paper, and supplies. From 1976 to 1977 alone there was a 15% rise in printing costs. As a result the Society's income has steadily fallen behind annual expenditures. It became apparent from the Treasurer's report to the Executive Council at the past annual meeting in West Virginia that this financial deficit had become critical. Treasurer Ernest Hoover announced that costs had risen so much that we currently were paying for 2 back issues of the 1977 volume of the *Bulletin* out of 1978 dues income. Obviously this condition could not continue very long before there would be no funds for future issues.

An ad hoc committee chaired by James Karr considered the problem and rejected the possibility of using endowment funds to cover deficits because this measure eventually would lead to bankruptcy. Also it was decided not to recommend reducing the size of the *Bulletin*, which would only exaggerate the current pressures felt by ornithological journals and ornithologists, i.e. increasing numbers of papers submitted and through space limitations too many good ones rejected. It was concluded that the ornithological community simply would have to "bite the bullet" and adequately support *The Wilson Bulletin*. This required increasing both dues rates and publication page costs. These recommendations were adopted at the meeting.

New dues for individual members are \$14.00 per year. Student members will continue to pay \$10.00 a year, but may do so for only 4 years. They can apply to a life membership the total student dues paid if this option is initiated immediately on graduation or at the end of the 4-year period, whichever comes first. Institutional memberships are now \$20.00, couples can join for \$16.00, and life memberships become \$250.00. (Membership dues were upped \$2.00 in 1976, but this increase proved inadequate.)

The new page cost charge for papers published in *The Wilson Bulletin* is \$55.00 per page. Recognizing that some authors cannot pay this, authors who are members of the Wilson Ornithological Society can apply to the editor for a grant from the Society covering up to \$50.00 per page of the page cost. However, a grant is limited to a maximum of 12 pages per article, and a total of 20 such pages per author per year. Authors who are student members can apply for a grant covering full page charges.

The committee estimates that the increased income from the sources described above will eventually eliminate the spending deficit and will also keep pace with current expenditures. The Executive Council in the past has been handicapped in perceiving the overall financial condition of the Society by not having at hand a prospective budget for the upcoming year. The budget for 1977 was not sufficient by itself. Therefore, I asked Horace Jeter to compile a projected budget for use at the West Virginia meeting. This proved very useful and the practice will be continued.

A measure that will save the Society money in the future also was adopted by the Council. The Society will support together with the American Ornithologists' Union a central membership office charged with compiling and maintaining a computerized joint membership list for use in mailings for both organizations. The Cooper Ornithological Society has been asked to join the enterprise too and will decide later. Because of the many people that belong to all 3 or 2 of the 3 organizations, there has always been duplication in the 3 membership lists. Compiling a joint list will eliminate this duplication at a saving to the organizations. Even so, the system will recognize who belongs to which organization or organizations in mailing journals and so forth.—DOUGLAS JAMES.