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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As part of its efforts to encourage research by students and amateurs The Wilson Ornithological Society sponsors a series of awards. Of these, the two oldest, named in honor of Louis Agassez Fuertes and Margaret Morse Nice, are not supported by endowment. Therefore, their distribution is not guaranteed. The Council and I prefer that support for their endowment be gathered from the membership rather than a single donor. The many small donations would provide a special kind of honor, both for the awards and the recipients, and the awards truly would come from the Society.

Most of you will shortly be returning your 1982 Dues Notice to the Ornithological Societies of North America. I have instructed Treasurer Robert D. Burns that any donations to the Wilson Endowment Fund for 1982 be credited to the Fuertes and Nice Awards. Treasurer Burns would also be happy to accept contributions mailed directly to him. The required amount is about \$6,000. The Society has just over 2,250 active members. Hence, a contribution from each of us of only \$3.00 would be sufficient.

Two years ago many of the "older" Life Members responded to a plea from then President George Hall with major contributions that helped the Society through a difficult period. I trust the general membership will now respond as generously to this solicitation for a much happier cause.

Abbot S. Gaunt, *President*