

Dear Member:

So much has happened at the Laboratory over the past year that it is difficult to know what to include in a relatively brief annual report. In the last two reports we have emphasized the Laboratory's programs and staff, but we have made little mention of our administrative board. However, the board is so crucial to the Laboratory that I would like to take this opportunity to describe some of its functions and to tell you a little about each member.

First, some background: the Laboratory of Ornithology is organized as a separate department of Cornell University. The management, control and operation of the Laboratory is entrusted to an administrative board of 26 members, four of whom are selected by the university and 22 by the board itself. In making appointments, the board and university try hard to appoint members with a diversity of talents. We need professional ornithologists to contribute to the substance of our scientific programs, amateur participants to make sure our programs address the needs and interests of birders, and business experts to direct our operations.

Scanning their biographies, one is impressed with the board members' achievements, but hard pressed to find the common denominator, except for their interest and concern for the Laboratory. The list reads like a *Who's Who* and includes corporate executives, biologists, lawyers, university administrators, a carbohydrate chemist, a pediatrician and at least one part-time poet.

It's not even safe to say they all watch birds; **Morton S. Adams**, for example, is more interested in bugs, his passion being butterflies and moths. He's a pediatrician, but he could have been a professional biologist. His understanding of biology from an amateur's standpoint has been very helpful in guiding our education and information program which strives to bring together the experiences of the birder and the knowledge of the ornithologist.

Sam is a visiting scientist in the

entomology department at Cornell and has worked with taxonomists at the U.S. National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. His interest in entomology has taken him to such exotic places as French Guiana and the cloud forests of Trinidad.

Naturally, the board has a few avid bird watchers. **Ann Gaylord**, who describes herself as "a nut on the subject of conservation," has been birding virtually all her life. She started looking at birds at the age of six when her uncle gave her a book by Thornton Burgess. Burgess even signed her first checklist.

Ann lives in Niantic, Connecticut and has been instrumental in the reintroduction of osprey to the Pataguanset Marsh. She has trained families who live around the marsh to monitor nests, and is particularly involved in the Lab's education and information projects. In addition, her concern for conservation has helped us to focus our programs on a broad range of issues.

Rex Bates has a long-standing interest in birding and has participated in Christmas Bird Counts and other cooperative research ventures. His first memories of bird watching are as a Boy Scout in the Pacific Northwest during the Depression.

"We couldn't afford binoculars so we sat in the bushes and attracted birds by whistling," he told me. "After the war, my interest was rekindled when I joined the investment firm of Stein, Roe, and Farnham. Farnham discovered the Michigan nesting place of the rare Kirtland's warbler. We went birding regularly and spent time around Lake Calumet, which is now all industrialized."

Rex is a financial analyst and financial vice president for the State Farm Insurance Company in Bloomington, Illinois, and one of the board's recent appointees. He brings with him a wealth of expertise as a birder combined with an understanding of financial management. We look

Who's he?