

The Editor's Page

In the first number of The Kingbird there was a page entitled, The Editor's Page, which disappeared somewhere down through the years. Now, on the tenth birthday of our Federation's publication it seems appropriate to include again such a page.

A birthday, especially the tenth, deserves a celebration and this is the reason for a Special Anniversary issue. We hope that you will enjoy reading it.

There was a good beginning made in November-December, 1950 when the young Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, then only eighteen clubs, published its magazine with these Salute, "To the birders of New York State, The Kingbird bids welcome."

Great hope accompanied this venture. Perhaps this is the time to take stock, to assess which has been achieved and what may be ahead. What were the goals? One was to have a magazine devoted exclusively to bird life in New York State. This has been accomplished through many Articles, through the Field Notes and Regional Reports. These contributions have been written by Federation members, for the most part, and printed by the same patient and helpful printer over the years. Special commendation should go to the Regional Editor, a staff member who edits the Regional Reports, and to those reporters who send him their records, one of whom has been serving throughout the ten years. The Kingbird has had continued support by avid birders in all parts of the State, as evidenced by the fact that six of the first contributors have written for this special number.

Another goal, reached during the decade, was to provide a journal that would acquaint the Member Clubs, now twenty-nine, and individual members with birding activities carried on throughout New York State. Among these have been the establishment of sanctuaries, migration studies, breeding bird censuses, waterfowl counts in January, tree and shrub crop summaries, educational programs, and annual bibliographies. Conservation news has been an important feature. There have appeared ecological, historical, and biographical accounts. Reports of Annual Meetings of the Federation have been included regularly and the announcement of the new by-laws and new name, Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., was printed in the October, 1956 issue of The Kingbird. The latter stated that as of August 20, 1956 the Federation "ceased being a nebulous association and became a distinct being in the eyes of the law".

(A Ten Year Cumulative Index of The Kingbird will appear as a separate supplement in the Spring of 1961.)

With this record behind it, what can be hoped for the future of the Kingbird? The answer rests upon the loyalty and assistance of the present membership and the building of a greatly increased roster of birders in New York State as well as those beyond our borders. In 1950 it was hoped that the new publication would grow. I quote from the President's remarks in the first Kingbird, "It will become what you, the readers, make and want it. It will depend upon the cooperation of each and every person in the State who reads this publication. . . . How we grow and what we can do depends upon you. We need hundreds of individual members. . . . There is still room for additional clubs". How applicable these words are today.

With the best of wishes for a Happy Birthday in 1970 to The Kingbird and its sponsors, your editor closes The Editor's Page of this Tenth Anniversary number.

M. B. S.

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APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee, Albert W. Fudge, Larchmont Road, Elmira.

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