

The use of numerals and strike lines (2/7, 12/10) for dates is not recommended because of the obvious confusion that may result, and the ease of occurrence of typographical errors. Months should be written with an acceptable abbreviation. Number (of birds) below ten should be written out; above ten they may be given as numerals. Reporters are urged to refer to the criteria of abundance as published in the February 1957 issue of *Audubon Field Notes* for terms to be used in giving counts or impressions.

To help your long-suffering Regional Editors in their often overwhelming job of sorting, evaluating and organizing a mass of material, I urge you to put your report in checklist order if at all possible. A tabular form of report is also helpful, with sparing use of comments other than truly significant ones: (In other words if you had a fascinating experience with a Kingfisher, include it in a separate letter to your Editor, not in the tabular list of species on which you are reporting). The name of the bird should appear in the left hand column — followed by a dash or colon, then the comment and any pertinent data. Be brief, but stress in some way the significance of the report. In preparing his summaries, your Editor is greatly aided if he can run his eye down your page and pick out the species he is working up at the moment. Tell him also anything which might explain a drastic change in bird population that has occurred: drained swampland, a reforested area that has had a spurt of growth, new abandoned fields, an unusually heavy seed or fruit crop.

Finally, let's have more contributors all around. We need many of you, to make our reports complete and accurate. There is no closed corporation of Kingbird writers and contributors. We have many gaps in our ranks that need filling.

Laboratory of Ornithology,
Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION — MIGRATION OF BUFFLEHEADS

A study of the Bufflehead is under way, and information on the migration of that species is needed. Data required include first arrival dates, peak date of migration and peak numbers, and departure dates. Only birds actually believed to be migrants should be listed, but, where pertinent, other dates on wintering or summering numbers should be included. If only infrequent visits are made to areas frequented by Bufflehead, the statement "present by (date)" is preferable to "arrival (date)", and last seen (date)" to "departure (date)". Information is solicited particularly for the spring migration of 1962 but it is hoped that interested observers will report any data they may have obtained in the past; requests for fall migration data will be made later. It is planned to colour-mark some Buffleheads in Maryland, New York, and Oregon during the winter of 1961-62, and observers should take particular note of any Buffleheads bearing bright patches of red, yellow, or orange. Please send information on the Bufflehead to:

A. J. Erskine,
Canadian Wildlife Service,
P. O. Box 180,
Sackville, New Brunswick,
Canada.