

Geographical distribution

In the first survey report for the year 1964 mention was made that two thirds of the heronries reported were located in a narrow belt 40–50 miles wide running north and south across the State from Binghamton north through Cortland, Syracuse and Watertown. The ensuing years have revealed more colonies in other parts of the State but this Binghamton to Watertown "heron belt" still contains forty percent of the heronries reported.

The counties of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany in southwestern New York account for about twenty percent of the colonies and the rest of western New York for an additional twenty percent. The remaining twenty percent are located in eastern New York. This area contains a vast amount of remote sections in the Adirondack and Catskill mountain regions. Lack of coverage by observers in these regions may account for at least a part of the seeming scarcity of Great Blue heronries in this part of the State.

Great Blue Herons tend to nest in inaccessible and inhospitable places. They often choose rough high terrain or deep forbidding swamps. They breed during the height of the mosquito season which adds to the rigors of a visit to a heronry. It takes a hardy individual to make an on the spot survey of many of our heronries. We are deeply grateful to the many persons and to the Bird Clubs of the State who co-operated and made this report possible. Thank you all. We hope observers will continue to check the heronries and send the reports to their Regional Editors for inclusion in the regional reports.

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FROM THE EDITOR

It is with regret and anticipation that I am resigning the *Kingbird* editorship. Regret because it has been a rewarding activity, feeling that I was helping with something important for New York State ornithology; regret that I did not implement more of the good ideas for improving the *Kingbird* that were suggested to me; regret that I will no longer have contact with the many birders throughout the state with whom I have had correspondence on *Kingbird* matters.

Anticipation because I am looking forward to seeing more New York State birds instead of just reading about other people's records; anticipation because I hope to see some of the birds of other parts of the world. Tied to a quarterly publication I found long trips impossible.

My sincere thanks go to the Regional editors and co-editors and also to those who have been regional editors during my tenure. This group does a fine job of gathering data from diverse observers and pulling it together into a coherent record of the seasonal picture. It is a time-consuming task and I appreciate their cooperation.

I wish also to thank the officers of the Federation who have given time to *Kingbird* problems. And most especially, my thanks to the two associate editors, Sally Spofford and David Peakall. They have answered innumerable questions, given much good advice. Without them there would have been no *Kingbird*.

My best wishes go to the incoming editor, Joseph Taylor. May he have as interesting and rewarding an experience as I have had.

Dorothy McIlroy