

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

Harriet L. Delafield died suddenly on February 15 at her home in Saranac Lake. For seven years, from January 1964 through July, 1970, she was Region 7 editor of *The Kingbird*. The wildness of much of the Adirondacks and the small number of permanent-resident birders, supplemented by a fluctuating group of visitors who send in reports for a day or a season at irregular times from odd places, make this a difficult Region to report. Harriet did it well. Somehow, she managed to find regular reporters from several communities to give continuity to her reports. And her copy always came in on time, most welcome to the writer of "Highlights" and the *Kingbird* editor.

Health brought Harriet from New York City and Long Island, where she had been an active birder, to the Saranac Lake area in 1957. For the last four years she had contributed a column of nature notes to the Lake Placid News, "Mountains and Meadows," about the birds and flowers, sunrises and seasons at Saranac Lake and elsewhere. Occasionally she would send me a copy of one that covered some special bird news. They were delightful reading.

Although she had been a Federation member since 1961, she attended annual meetings only occasionally, partly because of her health; therefore many of us did not get to know her well. Probably few of us outside of the Saranac Lake and New York City areas knew that she was a trained singer or that her writing was not confined to weather summaries for reporting periods and species data. She wrote poetry which appeared in several publications and nature sketches for the *Hampton Chronicle* which were later published in book form.

Harriet made a major contribution to *The Kingbird*. We shall miss her.

Dorothy W. McIlroy