

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Kingbird has new hands at the wheel—or new pens at the desk is perhaps the better way to phrase it. After six years of devoted and diligent service, Joe Taylor has relinquished the editorship. We are most appreciative of the time-consuming, painstaking work he has put into this primary activity of the Federation. While it hasn't slowed him down much in his climb to the pinnacle as America's No. 1 lister—the Ross' Gull gave him No. 708 (new A.O.U. style)—perhaps now he'll move onward and upward to 800. Our warm thanks, Joe.

Now we have *Kingbird* co-editors—Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr.—who begin their work with the May issue. Manny Levine lives on Long Island, is a manufacturer's representative, a member of the Federation since 1958, a former editor of the Linnaean News-Letter, and a past president of the Linnaean Society of New York. John Farrand, Jr. lives in New York City and is a member of the ornithology staff of the American Museum of Natural History. He is a member of the Linnaean Society, the American Birding Association, the American Ornithologists' Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society and the British Ornithologists' Club.

An editorial staff, however competent and dedicated, cannot alone make a successful journal. They need a continuing flow of material for publication, of suggestions and criticism, and of financial backing through a growing number of subscriptions. *The Kingbird* is our journal and if it is to be an increasingly important ornithological publication it must have our vigorous support.

I hope you liked *The Kingbird's* new look in the January issue. It was created by our new publisher—Wilkins/Printers of Cortland, N.Y. In addition to being fine artisans, Mr. and Mrs. Chase Wilkins are birders, belong to the Cortland County Bird Club, and do considerable printing for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. So to their work they bring a knowledge of birds, and of bird watchers and their interests.

And I'm sure you were impressed with the handsome new type faces and format of the March "New York Birders" for which we can thank Albert Bell, a Federation member of Sea Cliff, who has volunteered to prepare the master copy on his new IBM composing typewriter. We owe him our warmest thanks for this very generous contribution.

Other publications are in the early planning stages. Members of the Cayuga Bird Club are undertaking to compile for the Federation a listing of birders who are willing to give advice about birding in their home area to visiting birders. And we now have several expressions of interest in helping to produce a "Birding Baedeker," or "Where to Bird in New York State." That's still in the thinking phase and is some time ahead of us.

All these things are only outward evidence of movement and change for the Federation. My earnest hope is that they also signal and will generate a wider and more active interest in the Federation on the part of the state birders. We very much need many more people who belong to the Federation, and are committed to and working for its objectives and activities. Only then will it realize its full potential.

Let me hear from you if you want to become involved—there's work for you to do. And come to the Federation meeting in Oneonta September 26-28. You don't have to be a Federation member to attend.

*Gordon M. Meade, M.D.
President*