

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

15 Laurel Hill Road
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
9 February 1983

Emanuel Levine, Editor
The Kingbird

Dear Manny:

I noted your recent announcement that Letters to the Editor were being solicited. Would you consider printing the following?

I wept when I read the breeding season issue of *The Kingbird*. While only the other Regional Atlas Coordinators can be expected to share my peculiar behavior, I write in the hope of enlisting the sympathy or, preferably, the understanding of a larger group.

My tears fell on the accounts of the hummingbird nest discovered, the great blue heronry located, the Cooper's Hawk found nesting, and countless other items which have not made their way into the Breeding Bird Atlas. They are buried in the fine print of *The Kingbird*, to be resurrected, if at all, only by some desperate graduate student. How much more valuable they would be as a permanent record on the Atlas maps!

When I try to track down some of these "goodies," a response I frequently hear is, "But it wasn't in my Atlas block." In answer to that, I have adopted a motto for the Atlas: EVERYTHING IS SOMEWHERE. And, believe it or not, the Atlas Coordinators, given the proper information, know where that "somewhere" is. We are intimately familiar, at least on paper, with every inch of our regions and can locate anything in the right block.

Of course, some of these reports—and this is occasion for even greater grief—come from people who are obviously out in the field with their eyes open and notebooks handy during the breeding season, but, for whatever their reason, have not participated in the Atlas project.

As we enter the penultimate year of the field work, everyone who cares enough to contribute to *The Kingbird* should be working on the Atlas. It's the only chance most of them will ever get to participate in a work of major significance and, besides, it will help dry the eyes of ten Regional Coordinators.

Berna Weissman
Region 9 Atlas Coordinator