

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

April 12, 1983

To the Editors,

I greatly enjoyed Ken Able's prognostic piece in the Winter 1983 issue (*Kingbird* 32: 6-12)—may my list of predictions triumph! I would like to add some earlier historical background and comment to Ken's article in which he cites a N.Y.S. total of 432 species at the end of 1981 and 397 species in 1944:

- DeKay, 1844 (*The Zoology of New York*, Part 2, Birds, NYSM) lists about 309 species (including how many "forms"?).
- Lawrence, 1866 (List of the Birds of New York and Vicinity. *Proc. of the Linn. Soc. of N.Y.*) lists about 327 species (including how many "forms"?).
- Eaton, 1910 (*The Birds of New York*, N.Y.S.M.) lists about 371 species.

From To

Comment

1844-1866	18 species added in 22 years	period of early exploration
1866-1910	44 species added in 44 years	increasing population, prosperity
1910-1944	26 species added in 34 years	2 wars, depression
1944-1981	35 species added in 35 years	prosperity, much improved transportation, burgeoning interest.

Cheers,
Thomas H. Davis