

EDITORS' MESSAGE

This will be the last issue to appear with the names of Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr., on the masthead. We have jointly edited *The Kingbird* for more than a decade, starting with Volume XXV, No. 2. In that time, we have been privileged to document many important events in the life of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, but three stand out above all the others. They are the publication of Susan Roney Drennan's *Where to Find Birds in New York State*, the creation of The New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), and the conception, birth, and growing pains of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. That trio of events alone is proof of the vitality of our organization, and the success of recent membership drives bodes well for continued growth.

Before writing this note, we looked at Joe Taylor's farewell words as previous editor. He says, "I have enjoyed being editor for the past six years, even though it was sometimes disheartening and frustrating . . ." We can echo those sentiments. The joy came from the friendships made throughout the state among the birding community, and the sense of accomplishment when the issue we were working on was finally completed. The frustration came in not having enough good material at times, and the deadlines that were missed.

We are being succeeded by Paul A. DeBenedictis, present Editor for Region 5 and Chairman of the NYSARC, both of which positions he will relinquish. We wish him well and hope that he gets the same cooperation that has been given to us.

There are many people who must be thanked for their valued contributions over the years. It goes without saying that *The Kingbird* could not exist without the Regional Editors, both past and present, the present Highlights Editor, Robert Spahn, and before him the late Robert Smart. There are two other people who must be singled out, Thomas H. Davis and Constance Wilkins. All one need do is thumb through the issues of the last ten years to see how many articles bear Tom's authorship. We hope that he will continue to contribute to *The Kingbird*. And if it were not for Connie's careful stewardship at Wilkins Printers, it would not have been possible to bring out a publication of such excellent quality.

Finally, we would like to thank the Federation itself for the opportunity to participate in its important activities.

Manny Levine
John A. Farrand, Jr.