

A CHANGING OF THE EDITORIAL GUARD

For the past ten years, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs has enjoyed the benefit of an exceptional editorial team with Co-editors Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr. Their term of office has spanned nearly one-third of the thirty-five year history of *The Kingbird*. Together, they have been responsible for the publication of 2720 pages of text since their work began with the May 1975 issue of *The Kingbird* (vol. 25, no. 2)—more than half the 4617 pages of text published in *The Kingbird* since it began. My mind boggles to contemplate the countless pages of manuscripts that had to be reviewed, accepted, rejected, and distilled for final publication by Manny Levine and John Farrand over the last ten years. As I review past volumes of *The Kingbird*, its quality of editing and printing consistently have been exemplary.

Our first seven editors (Allan Klonick, Stephen Eaton, Gerald Rising, Minnie Scotland, Alice Ulrich, Dorothy McIlroy, and Joseph Taylor) set high standards which Manny Levine and John Farrand have maintained. At the same time, the Federation has had ten years of quality service from our printer, Wilkins Printers, under the very professional guidance of Connie Wilkins. In behalf of the membership of the Federation, I am pleased to extend hearty thanks to Manny Levine, John Farrand, and Connie Wilkins for a job well done.

With this issue of *The Kingbird*, we continue to enjoy the fine services of Wilkins Printers, but we welcome a new Editor, Paul DeBenedictis. Those of you who are members of the American Birding Association may be familiar with Paul's contributions, "Gleanings from the Technical Literature," published from time to time in *Birding*. Since 1978, Paul DeBenedictis also has served the Federation in a dual capacity. He has contributed regularly to the pages of *The Kingbird* as Regional Editor for "Region 5-Oneida Lake Basin." In addition to that responsibility, Paul has served as Chairman of the New York State Avian Records Committee since its inception in 1978. Now, he has relinquished the second of these commitments to become Editor for *The Kingbird*, to continue to serve the Federation, and to share with us the benefits of his past experiences.

While the Editor manages our official publication, it is the responsibility of you, our members, to assure that *The Kingbird* continues to be published. Your dues, and the dues of new members whom you recruit, pay the costs of publishing *The Kingbird*. Our Editor works as a volunteer, receiving no remuneration for his services. And you, too, serve as a volunteer by submitting your accounts of observations for publication in *The Kingbird*. It is through your efforts that we officially document for future generations important information about the occurrences, distributions, abundances, and behaviors of the rich and varied avifauna of New York State. The observations and experiences of countless volunteers like yourself make possible such landmark publications as *The Birds of New York State*, by John Bull, *Where to Find Birds in New York State*, by Susan Roney Drennan, and the forthcoming Atlas of the Breeding Birds of New York State, as well as the quarterly issues of *The Kingbird*. With the Editorial leadership of Paul DeBenedictis, and with the contributions of our members, the Federation will be able to continue the fine tradition begun thirty-five years ago when Allan Klonick launched the first issue of *The Kingbird*.

Charles R. Smith, President