

EDITORIAL

This issue of *The Kingbird* begins what I hope will be a gradual, but continual change in the format of the Regional reports. I have asked each of the Regional editors to try to make about half of their report a narrative overview of the significant events of the season, to include the significant ornithological records that defined those events in that narrative, and not to repeat those records in the half of the report that lists individual records of species. I also have asked the editors to provide a brief explanation as to why each record appears in *The Kingbird* and threatened to remove any records of dubious significance. I have been most gratified by the response which you will see in the Regional reports which follow.

I have imposed these changes to make the Regional reports easier to read and to comprehend. Readers and contributors, especially, should note that a side effect of them will be that fewer credited individual records can appear in Regional reports. The over thirty years of records which have been published in *The Kingbird* give a good overview of New York's avifauna, one from which we can make solid statements about ongoing and future changes in it. The new format should make it easier to record these changes and to highlight new discoveries. This new format does not mean that your Regional editors need fewer reports from those who contribute your observations. Indeed, just the opposite is true. A narrative summary requires synthesis of even more data than are required just to produce a simple listing. To those who submit records, keep up the good work. To those who do not, your Regional editor would be pleased to hear from you.

A few changes in style also appear in this issue. Almost all periods after abbreviations are gone; the result is more consistent, cleaner, and used by other journals. Some long time abbreviations have changed. Each month now is abbreviated to its first three letters and each county in New York to its first four letters. A series of additional standard abbreviations will be used in every Regional report, and conflicting local abbreviations are forbidden. The standard abbreviations used in this issue appear after the Seasonal Highlights. Just as the changes in format should make the introduction to each Regional report more readable, these changes will make the lists of records more mechanical. As most of these records are only refinements to our present base of knowledge, I hope this change also will prove acceptable. We will continue to publish individual records, because an essential core are the harbingers of changes now too insignificant to be recognized.

These revisions are new to all of us. If you find these changes displeasing, then I accept the blame. I ask you to judge their effects carefully and patiently, and I welcome your constructive criticisms and suggestions.

A purely administrative issue that arose with this issue is the "floating boundary" between Regions 9 and 10, which came about through an informal agreement between Regional editors to resolve confusion over the actual boundary. For several years the map has not correctly reflected the division of reports which have appeared in these two Regional reports. As a similar problem also may exist between Regions 1 and 2, the Executive Council of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs has established a committee to review and fix the Regional boundaries. In this issue, some reports which originally were submitted to and included in the Region 9 report have been moved to Region 10 to make the provenance of reports agree with the map. In the course of making this transfer, a few of those records have disappeared; this is entirely my responsibility. Readers should note that many records, notably those from Rye, which have appeared in recent Region 9 reports also should be adjusted similarly.

The Editor