

LETTER — MORE INDEPENDENCE FOR REGIONAL EDITORS

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As a former Region 5 coeditor, I have strong opinions about Regional reports format, and you've invited their written expression. So, for the first time, I'm explaining a major reason why my coeditor and I quit about 24 years ago: we were spending more time trying to fit the report into an editor-directed Procrustean bed (re format and length) than on soliciting and evaluating observers' data.

This was just too frustrating! Let each Regional editor use her/his preferred format, within flexible, jointly decided, parameters.

A frequent researcher of Regional reports, I find my tasks far easier if all species are in checklist order and, if "special" enough to be in the introduction also, with a clear reference from the main body of the report. The introduction, I think, should be used mostly for reporting on meteorological trends and (their effect on) families or habitat groups of birds.

Thanks for asking!

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