

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

*The Kingbird* publishes papers on all aspects of the ornithology of New York State. Articles should adhere to the standard journal format: Title - Abstract - Introduction - Methods - Results/Observations - Discussion - Conclusion - Literature Cited. **Titles** tell what the article is about. The birds involved should be named, either specifically or as some appropriate higher taxa. **Abstracts** must be terse, but able to stand alone, separate from the article. The **Introduction** should provide the background necessary to understand what follows. The **Methods** explains how the information being reported was obtained. The **Results/Observations** reveals what was found. The **Discussion** puts those results in perspective with the current knowledge base. The **Conclusion** is essentially the punch line, stating what the authors want the readers to take away. The **Literature Cited** tells where any information other than the authors' came from. It must state the exact pages! If you have no literature to cite, then your manuscript is not ready for submission; you have more work to do.

Some types of articles cannot readily conform to the above structure. Essays, literature reviews, letters, opinions, corrections, and so forth can have their own structures. But, they must have some structure.

Articles should be as short as feasible. All authors should eschew long paragraphs and pages of monotonous text. Use subdivisions to enhance communication. Strive to make articles user friendly. Tables and figures must be separate from text, so that they are not split by possible page breaks. Write to communicate with readers. Do not bury your punch lines; put them where they can be readily seen. If you are reporting a new record or a new discovery, say so. But, be sure to identify the previous record or explain why your discovery is new. Use the golden rule; write the kind of articles you like to read.

## MECHANICS

Manuscripts must be typed single-sided, with at least one inch margins on all sides. Follow similar articles in recent issues as guides to style or consult: Huth EJ, Council of Biology Editors. *Scientific Style and Format. The CBE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*. 6th Ed. NY: Cambridge University Press; 1994. 825 pages. Names of bird species follow the most recent A.O.U. Check-list and its Supplements.

Place each table on a separate page. Figures should be drawn in black ink. Photographs should be submitted as black-and-white glossy prints, although 35 mm slides can be converted. Place all captions on a separate page.

Submission of manuscripts on computer disks is preferred and encouraged, but only on HD (high density) disks, no DD (double density). Please identify the word processing software and its version. A paper printout, double-spaced, must accompany each disk. However, manuscripts not on disks should be single-spaced, so as to minimize electronic scanning costs. Manuscripts may be submitted to the Editor or to the Chair of the Publications Committee. Please include your phone number. Discussion with the Editor prior to submission may be beneficial.

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