

REGULAR PUBLICATIONS

***The Kingbird* (State Journal):** From our first formative meetings, one of the key objectives of the founding members was to start a state journal dedicated to documentation of the state's ornithology. Just two years later, in December 1950, the first issue of *The Kingbird* was published, and since then it has appeared quarterly without interruption. In that first year of publication the Federation could count but 18 Member Clubs and so, to make the cost of such a journal manageable, encouraged and sought individual members and subscribers to make the effort viable.

The first page of the first issue of *The Kingbird* contained comments from its first Editor, Allan S. Klonick. After making reference to Elon Howard Eaton's *Birds of New York*, he stated, "The staff submits for you, the reader, our first edition of *The Kingbird*, our Federation publication, with the hope that it will serve as a guide and an inspiration to all the ornithologists of our State." The staff he referred to included himself, Joseph W. Taylor and Eugene Eisenmann, Associates, and H. Everest Clements, Business Manager.

Then Klonick continued, "With the first issue we are introducing a new bird artist from the Rochester area, who our staff feels shows great promise. Our thanks to Douglas Howland for our cover illustration." All readers will recognize that the cover design of *The Kingbird*, including the use of Howland's artwork has been used on every issue since, including this one.

Klonick recalls that as editor he was greatly indebted to his wife, Sandy, who was not only his proofreader and a "pluperfect editor's mate," but also the one who first suggested the name for the journal. As he recalls, they decided the Empire State needed a "regal" bird name. They felt that since *Tyrannus tyrannus* was well represented in almost every area of the state, its vigor and attitude would certainly add authority to our statewide journal.

Throughout, we have been served most admirably, and with great and tireless dedication, by a series of fine *Kingbird* Editors, starting with Klonick from 1950 to 1953. He was followed by Stephen W. Eaton until 1956, Gerald D. Rising until 1958, Minnie B. Scotland until 1961, Alice E. Ulrich until 1964, Dorothy W. McIlroy until 1969, and Joseph W. Taylor until 1975. Then the team of Emanuel Levine and John Farrand Jr. served as co-editors for 10 years until 1985, followed for the next 10 years by Paul A. DeBenedictis. This fabulous roster continues with our current editor, Donald A. Windsor, who took on the daunting task at the beginning of 1996.

By the time of this Golden Anniversary celebration, exactly 190 quarterly issues of *The Kingbird* will have been published. Each one has usually contained from six to eight timely articles and reports on current aspects of the state's ornithology, followed by the regularly appearing quarterly reports from each of the 10 Regional Editors, giving detailed information on the season's bird activity in their Region. These Regional Reports are then summarized by the Seasonal

Highlights Editor to provide an overview of the season statewide.

In the opinion of many members, the most underappreciated and under-recognized example of dedicated volunteerism in the Federation involves the 118 individuals who have routinely, season after season, year after year, collected, summarized and prepared the Regional Reports and the Seasonal Highlights.

While all of the Regional and Seasonal Highlights editors have made memorable contributions, we simply must mention those few whose level of volunteerism far outdistances the average. At the top of the list must be Leslie Bemont for Region 4 and Edward D. Treacy for Region 9 who, over a quarter century or more, compiled 108 and 100 reports respectively. They are closely followed by Sally Hoyt Spofford for Region 3 and Fritz Scheider for Region 5, each with 75 reports. Scheider also prepared 15 Seasonal Highlights, and Spofford, for years, also edited another *Kingbird* series called "Field Notes."

In a unique class is Robert Spahn who has not only prepared 23 Region 2 reports, but in addition, starting in 1980, has written 64 Seasonal Highlights reports, for a total of 87 and still counting. It should be noted that while 22 others have also prepared the Seasonal Highlights reports in earlier years, only David B. Peakall with 29, and James K. Merritt, Fritz Scheider, and Robert W. Smart, each with 15, prepared more than nine of them.

Then, of course, there are the many Regional Editors who, while not quite among the select group noted above, have certainly made a fantastic contribution, in some instances still do, and may in time pass those noted above. The others who have passed the arbitrary break-point of 10 years, at least 40 reports, are Kevin C. Griffith and John M. C. Peterson, each with 61 and counting, John J. Elliott with 60, Theodore D. Mack with 49, Howard S. Miller with 48, and Frank A. Clinch, Kenneth L. Crowell, and Lee B. Chamberlaine, each with 46. Margaret Rusk has done 40 reports, all in partnership with various co-editors.

To single out these top Regional and Seasonal editor volunteers, while appropriate, fails to do justice to the many others whose contributions to the Regional Reports are certainly also noteworthy and outstanding. Please do check the complete list in **TABLE 4** to see them all, and find the way to share with them how much their contribution is appreciated.

New York Birders (Newsletter): In the early 1970s, Maxwell C. Wheat Jr., who had earlier chaired our Conservation Committee, started issuing a periodic bulletin called *Conservation Now*. Out of this grew our regular newsletter, *New York Birders*. It first appeared in 1972 with Wheat and Mary Ann Sunderlin as co-editors until 1978, when Wheat assumed sole editorship until the end of 1995, for a remarkable tenure of 23 years. While still writing his regular column, "With Birders and Birds," Wheat was succeeded as editor at the start of 1996 by Phyllis Jones, who has admirably and with skill continued the fine tradition. Among her immediate contributions was the introduction of a "desk-top publishing" capability so that camera-ready copy could be supplied to our printer.

Over the years, *New York Birders* has come to be the primary way that information and news about the Federation has been conveyed to the members. It is now, and usually has been, published quarterly, but for a short time was issued six times a year. It always contains a rich blend of articles, announcements and other news about the activities, members and Member Clubs of the Federation. It is also a primary means of disseminating pertinent conservation advocacy information and other general material about birds and birding in New York.