

ABOUT THE NEW COLOR COVER

There seem to be two schools of thought on whether the new millennium started in the year 2000, or the year 2001. For the purposes of *The Kingbird*, I am arbitrarily choosing the year 2001, as the first issue of this year brings with it a sensational color cover to celebrate the new millennium.

The first fifty years have been served well by Douglas Howland's black-and-white portrait of this perky flycatcher as the immediately recognizable logo of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Doug passed away recently and a short article about him will appear in the next issue. But progress and competition demand color.

The new cover is the creation of our staff artist, Andrew C. Vallely, whose sketches have appeared in these pages for the last two years. Andrew is an artist and naturalist and active birder who lives in the Hudson Valley. The layout of the cover is the work of Lester Feldman, graphic designer and retired Art Director of a major agency, and a life-long birder, who resides on Long Island.

While both gentlemen donated their services, the cover comes with increased production costs which can only be offset by additional Federation memberships.

The next step would be the use of color photographs within, instead of the black-and-whites we now use. Whether or not we can get to that point is moot. May I suggest, nay not suggest, but implore that you show this issue to your fellow birders, encourage their joining, and perhaps, in time, we can move on to the glossy color publication that everybody seems to want.

The Editor

