

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

November 6, 2001

Dear Mr. Levine:

It is with some concern that I note in the last issue of *The Kingbird* (Vol 51 #3) the inclusion of a "Big Year" list.

In keeping with the mandate expressed on the introductory page of *The Kingbird* "to document the ornithology of the State"; non-vetted personal lists, in my opinion, fall short of maintaining the often shaky bridge which connects birdwatching and listing to ornithology.

Fortunately, we have a venue available in our newsletter, *New York Birders*, where such activities as county, state, year and life lists should be properly placed.

Very truly yours,

Anthony J. Lauro
8585 New Suffolk Ave.
Cutchogue, NY 11935

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Again I ask the readers to submit short notes on interesting field occurrences. If such a note is accompanied by a photograph all well and good, but a photo is not a necessity. I have been receiving sufficient feature material, but lack those little items that would make up a "Notes and Observations" section.

Also, I would welcome anyone who wishes to write creatively, i.e. material not necessarily specific to a particular species or seasonal phenomena, but on some philosophical or other aspect of birding.

The Editor