

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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"Progress and competition demand color." Seven years ago, Editor Manny Levine welcomed the new millennium with a new color cover for *The Kingbird* (About the New Color Cover. *Kingbird* 51: 504). Since that time, our organization and its journal have seen many changes. I've noticed that the number of us who habitually say "Federation" rather than "New York State Ornithological Association" is shrinking. *The Kingbird* itself has gone through changes in mailing, printing, production design, peer review, and editorship. Some of these changes have presented frustrating challenges. Brenda Best, Patricia Lindsay, Bill Ostrander, Bill Reeves, Bob Spahn, and many others can attest to the difficulties posed by such seemingly simple tasks as updating our postal status and mailing procedures. Mike Petersen has endured the irritation of seeing as many as five of his always punctual and outstanding Region 7 reports piling up in a sluggish publication queue. Today, the memory of sorting 700+ issues in my living room, then driving them from Long Island to a Catskills rendezvous with Jane Graves, is amusing, because, with patience, and the help of many, the publication schedule of *The Kingbird* is back on track.

Many of the changes mentioned above are inter-related. The change in our organization's name was motivated, in part, by recognition of the increasingly important role of individual memberships in all of our functions. In strictly economic terms, individual memberships represent a major portion of all revenues. In turn, *The Kingbird* represents both the primary reward for individual members, and the foremost expense of the organization.

Among *The Kingbird's* missions are "to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need for conserving natural resources, and to document the ornithology of the State." The contributions of many expert reviewers over the last four years have greatly enhanced the journal's rigor, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge the following reviewers for their efforts of behalf of articles published in recent volumes: Timothy H. Baird, Andrew Bernick, E. Thomas Brown, P. A. Buckley, Robert DeCandido, Andrew Farnsworth, Richard Guthrie, Paul Kerlinger, Daniel Klem, Patricia Lindsay, Jillian Liner, Kevin McGowan, Carolyn Mostello, Timothy O'Connell, Christopher Rimmer, Christopher Raithel, Dominic Sherony, Charles Smith, Robert Spahn, and Angus Wilson.

Among the many changes outlined above, *The Kingbird* has also, at last, caught up with one of Manny's long-held goals—color photographs. It is my sincere hope that *The Kingbird's* quality and appeal will continue to increase, and that this publication will continue to deserve the support of NYSOA's individual and institutional members.