

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

In 1964, Robert S. Arbib, then President of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, announced the creation of an award to honor John J. Elliott, while “his memory remains so vividly alive.” Remembering John J. Elliott is still an easy and natural matter; not only has the award in his name lived on for half a century, linking his legacy to a long series of outstanding contributors to *The Kingbird*, but the very passage of time, ironically, has made Elliott’s work ever more accessible to contemporary students of New York State ornithology, via the online archives of *The Kingbird*. Today, anyone can within seconds find any of Elliott’s dozens of quarterly Regional Reports, or any of his voluminous other notes and articles in our quarterly journal. The following is just a partial list of his works, selected to convey a sense of the breadth of his interests and knowledge: “Wheatear on Western Long Island” (1950, KB 1: 90-91), “Ipswich Sparrow on the Northeastern Seaboard—Part 1” (1955, KB 4: 91-96; Part 2 followed in 1956), “An Old Report of Eskimo Curlew on Long Island” (1956, KB 6: 86-87), “Behavior Notes on the Olive-sided Flycatcher” (1958, KB 8: 7-9), “Phenomenal Appearance of Wood Ibis on Long Island” (1958, KB 8: 109-110), “Ways of the “Sea Gulls—Part 1” (1959, KB 9: 116-121; this, along with Part 2, is a fascinating account of the early to mid-20th Century changes in status of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls on Long Island), “Falcon Flights on Long Island” (1960, KB 10: 155-157), “Evening Flights of Migrating Waterbirds on Long Island” (1961, KB 11: 28), and “Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows on Long Island, N.Y.” (1962, KB 12: 115). Although memories are destined to mellow over time, and few remain with us who knew John J. Elliott personally, our current understanding of New York birds has been woven in part from his work.

When Manny Levine passed away last year, and our organization received donations in his memory, Berna Lincoln noted that the Elliott Award was now exactly 50 years old, that its fund was nearly depleted, and that Manny’s contributions via *Bull’s Birds of New York State* and as two-time Editor of *The Kingbird* were, remarkably, similar in scale to Elliott’s. Berna, past President of NYSOA and our invaluable institutional memory, suggested that our still vivid sense of Manny’s personality might be well served in rekindling—and renaming—the award for best article of the year in *The Kingbird*.

Thus, the NYSOA Board of Directors, at its meeting of 25 April in Montezuma, passed a motion that “The John J. Elliott Award and Fund will be renamed the Emanuel Levine Award and Fund, its purpose, annual \$100 award and other parameters and procedures shall remain unchanged. It shall be funded by its current balance of \$272.38 plus all contributions received in memory of Emanuel Levine to be transferred from the General Memorial Fund.”