

IN MEMORIAM BERNA B. LINCOLN

Long-time Federation of NY State Bird Clubs and NY Ornithological Association leader Berna B. Lincoln passed away November, 2017 in Somers, NY. Her service to our organization dates from 1978 when the former Berna Weissman joined the Federation. Her first official position was as Recording Secretary in 1984, and over that decade she served as Vice-President and President. In 1990 she began a 10 year stint as Treasurer, followed by several terms as a director and chair of the Finance Committee.

However, these formal titles were only a part of Berna's contributions. Her behind-the-scenes work as circulation manager was likely the most time consuming and perhaps important job for NYSOA. Berna single-handedly kept membership records, received dues payments, prepared mailing lists and membership reminders, dealt with printers, fulfilled merchandise orders and

generally served as the interface between the organization and members. This effort required a sharp, organized, detail-oriented mind, which Berna fortunately possessed.

Other less visible tasks included proof-reading NYSOA publications including *The Kingbird* and *Bull's Birds of New York State*, published in 1998. She was named Associate to the Editor for the latter book.

Berna initiated the county listing project in 1992, intended to "stimulate more interest in birding, but especially to encourage birders to better appreciate New York's diverse birding habitats." County listing remains a popular activity today.

Berna had large roles in both NY State Breeding Bird Atlases, serving as a Regional coordinator in the 1980-85 survey, and on the Steering Committee and Records Review Committee for the second Atlas. County coordinator Barbara Butler noted, "She was tireless in attending to block assignments, reviewing reports, and encouraging better block coverage."

She also contributed some significant bird finds, including the first state record California Gull in 1978, the second state record Yellow-nosed Albatross in 1976, and a Sooty Shearwater on the Hudson River following passage of Hurricane David in 1980.

Former President Valerie Freer recalled that Berna and Stan Lincoln (also a large figure in Federation/NYSOA history) arrived at a 1991 Federation board meeting a little late and in a happy mood, and announced that they had just been married! As noted in Stan's memoriam in 2015, "Stan and Berna together were an even stronger presence and sustaining force for the organization. Their long time collaboration has served the organization well over many years. In 1998, Stan and Berna received the Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Federation and NYSOA. Stan and Berna took many birding trips around the country in their camping van, listing along the way."

Berna Lincoln was the institutional memory for NYSOA for many years and the organization would not and cannot be the same without her. We thank Berna for her love of birds, for her commitment to NYSOA and for her friendship. Our deepest condolences go to Berna's family.

Andrew Mason and Barbara Butler

