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# *The* **KINGBIRD**

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## FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS HISTORY OF THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS 1948 - 1998

Stanley R. Lincoln

### CONTENTS

THE BEGINNINGS	3
Origins	3
First Annual Meeting	4
Charter Members	5
INTERESTING FACTS OVER THE YEARS	6
Host Clubs	6
Banquet Speakers	6
Members	6
Finances	6
MANAGEMENT and OPERATION	8
Management Structure	8
Council of Delegates	8
Executive Committee	8
Officers	8
Permanent Representatives	9
Committees	10
REGULAR PUBLICATIONS	15
The Kingbird (State Journal)	15
New York Birders (Newsletter)	16

OTHER PUBLICATION PROJECTS	17
Birds of New York State	17
Where to Find Birds in New York State - The Top 500 Sites	18
The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State	18
Checklist of the Birds of New York State	19
Bull's Birds of New York State	19
AWARDS	20
Lillian C. Stoner Award	20
John J. Elliott Award	20
Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award	20
Member Club Grants	20
Elon Howard Eaton Memorial Award	21
Other Awards	21
OTHER ACTIVITIES	21
The Kingbird Index	21
County Listing	21
Patches	21
Federation Web Page	22
Atlas 2000	22
Speakers' Bureau	22
Library Sponsorship	22
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	23
SELECTED SOURCES	23
TABLES	24
Table 1 Member Clubs	24
Table 2 Annual Meetings and Host Clubs	26
Table 3 Officers and Directors	28
Table 4 Regional and Seasonal Highlights Editors	31
REFERENCES	35
Annual Meeting Minutes	35
New York State Avian Records Committee Reports	35

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## FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

### HISTORY OF THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

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**Introduction:** Fifty years old, going strong, and never healthier! Certainly an achievement worthy of pause and reflection. So let's do it. This Golden Anniversary record of our history will describe some of the most noteworthy events and activities during these last fifty years. It will also try, with sincere apologies to all not mentioned, to capture for posterity the record of at least some of the hundreds of wonderful volunteers who have made reaching this Golden Anniversary possible.

### THE BEGINNINGS

**Origins:** As Gordon Meade, the Federation's first president said in his 1988 *Origins*, after the end of World War II "it became inescapably self-evident that some mechanism was needed whereby the birders of the state could get to know each other, to share their ideas and experiences, to jointly promote research and education in the field of ornithology, and to secure a stronger voice in conservation matters."

The first steps to address this need took place in Rochester in 1946, starting with an informal brainstorming dinner meeting on March 22nd, followed by another on October 26th. Those meetings set the stage for a formal meeting at the Rochester Museum of Arts and Science on December 7th. That meeting, hosted jointly by Buffalo Ornithological Society and Genesee Ornithological Society, and to which all known bird clubs in the state were invited, was convened to discuss the feasibility of forming a statewide organization. Twenty-one delegates representing 12 organizations attended this historic meeting. The organizations present, in addition to the two hosts, were Buffalo Audubon Society, Burroughs Audubon Nature Club, Cayuga Bird Club, Eaton Bird Club, Elmira Garden Club's Bird Section, Keuka Park Conservation Club, Sassafra's Bird Club, Watertown Bird Club, Watkins Glen Bird Club, and Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. Interest had also been expressed by others who were unable to attend.

Winston Brockner fondly recalls this gathering of "a remarkable group of enthusiastic people" that included, among others, Dr. Gordon M. Meade, who presided at the meeting, Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg of Cornell, who was given Secretary pro tem duties, Dr. Foster L. Gambrell of Geneva, Dr. and Mrs. Harry C. York of Elmira, Edwin G. Foster, Albert Bussewitz, Fred Hall, and Fred Raetz, all of

Rochester, Hazel P. Ellis of Keuka Park, Alice B. English of Amsterdam, Mrs. James A. Common of Watertown, and Louise Helfer of Watkins Glen. Meade and Brockner led a discussion, from which it became obvious that interest in forming a statewide organization was unanimous, as was the opinion that both a state ornithological journal and a new state bird book should be part of the objective. With this enthusiasm, Meade and Brockner were empowered to appoint a committee to prepare a draft constitution.

This work progressed throughout most of 1947, including meetings in Kellogg's office at Cornell as well as one in New York City at the American Museum of Natural History, and culminated in an organizational meeting in Amsterdam on October 27, 1947. Twenty-one people attended, representing 13 clubs, and at the end a proposed constitution was approved and ready to submit to the charter clubs for formal adoption. Temporary officers were also identified to hold office until the constitution was adopted and regular elections could be held. They were: President, Gordon M. Meade; Vice President, Winston W. Brockner; Corresponding Secretary, Peter Paul Kellogg; Recording Secretary, Fred M. Hall; Treasurer, Guy Bartlett. Most people, with sound reasoning, think of this as the actual beginning of the Federation. Indeed, to this day our stationery says, "Organized in 1947."

Actually, however, it took another year to deal with the necessary legal and organizing matters. Then, on November 13–14, 1948, the first formal Annual Meeting of the members of the newly created Federation was held. As initially organized, the Federation was unincorporated; incorporation didn't occur until 1955. State law requires all such organizations to hold an annual meeting of its members for basic business matters such as approving by-laws and holding elections. From the beginning, the Federation has included this required "business meeting" as one part of a larger two or three day weekend meeting, essentially organized and hosted by one or more of our Member Clubs. The Federation has consistently referred to these entire weekend meetings as the "Annual Meeting."

**First Annual Meeting:** The 1948 meeting, hosted by Genesee Ornithological Society and Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, was held at the museum. Essential business matters included formal approval of the new by-laws under which the organization would operate, and election of its first officers. From this date, the Federation was "officially" underway.

This first Annual Meeting actually established a model, set a standard for not only the form and content, but also the caliber of future Annual Meetings, which, with but few and occasional changes, hold to this day. In addition to the required business meeting, the weekend includes displays, a paper session, field trips, workshops (starting in 1975), a formal banquet with speaker, and just great fellowship. The first banquet speaker was Dr. Arthur A. Allen, who spoke of the "Quest for the Bristle-thighed Curlew," and the discovery of the nest of that elusive bird.

The first field trips found such local November rarities as a Red Phalarope, an Eared Grebe, a flock of Purple Sandpipers, and a very tardy Great Egret.

The first paper session also set a very high standard by including:  
"Status of the Little Gull on the Niagara Frontier" by Harold D. Mitchell  
"Observations on the Birds of the Adirondacks" by Harold Axtell  
"How Birds Find Their Way" by Peter Paul Kellogg  
"The Snowy Owl Incursion in New York in 1945-46" by Gordon M. Meade  
"Northward Extension of the Range of Certain Species into the Hudson Valley" by Robert F. Deed  
"Changing Distribution and Abundance of Certain Passerine Birds in Western New York" by W. C. Vaughan  
"Observation of Common Tern Colonies on Oneida Lake" by Hazel R. Ellis  
"Birds Can Be Missionaries" by Walter Elwood  
"Bird Activities on the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge" by F. L. Gambrel

That's the way it all began. The first Annual Meeting clearly left all future hosts with a formidable goal to meet or surpass.

**Charter Member Clubs:** Initially, the Federation had 18 Member Clubs: Baldwin Bird Club, Brooklyn Bird Club, Buffalo Audubon Society, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Burroughs Audubon Nature Club, Cayuga Bird Club, Elon Eaton Bird Club (now Eaton Birding Society), Elmira Garden Club - Bird Section, Genesee Ornithological Society, Schenectady Bird Club (now Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club), Keuka Park Conservation Club, Linnaean Society of New York, North Country Bird Club, Queens County Bird Club, Rockland Audubon Society, Sassafras Bird Club (Amsterdam), Scarsdale Audubon Society, Watkins-Montour Bird Club (now Schuyler County Bird Club.)

See **TABLE 1** for a record of all current and former Member Clubs.

**Charter Individual Members:** Twenty people became individual members in 1948 or 1949, and may thus be considered our Charter members: Guy Bartlett of Schenectady, John B. Belknap of Gouverneur, Bernard P. Brennan of Brooklyn, Winston William Brockner of Buffalo, Mrs. Emma B. Brush of Brooklyn, Mrs. James A. Common of Watertown, Mrs. Charles J. Grace of Slingerlands, Louise Helfer of Watkins Glen, Mrs. Lester Loomis of Hammond, Louisiana, Samuel R. Madison of Delmar, Dr. Gordon M. Meade of Rochester, Harold D. Mitchell of Williamsville, Agnes M. Orbison of Elmira, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland of Cohoes, Mrs. Dayton Stoner of Albany, Beatrice Sullivan of Schenectady, Nelle G. Van Vorst of Schenectady, William C. Vaughan of Youngstown, Mrs. Clayton Wodell of Ellisburg, and Rev. John L. Wolff of Mohawk.

## INTERESTING FACTS OVER THE YEARS

**Host Clubs:** During our first 50 years, each of our Annual Meetings has been planned and hosted by one or more of our Member Clubs. Altogether, 37 different clubs have provided this service to the Federation, some of them many times. The individual record of six such experiences was first set in 1996 by Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. This year's Golden Anniversary meeting also marks the sixth time that our Rochester clubs have gotten together to be our hosts. Genesee Ornithological Society started this string with our first Annual Meeting in 1948, and has repeated every tenth year thereafter. Burroughs Audubon Nature Club has been a co-host since 1958, and the Rochester Birding Association joined the other two starting in 1978.

See **TABLE 2** for a record of all Annual Meetings and Host Clubs

**Banquet Speakers:** Over the years our host clubs have been able to secure for us a broad selection of ornithologists, authors, and others with significant and pertinent messages. Following Dr. Arthur A. Allen, at the first meeting, came Richard H. Pough at the second, and then, over the years, people such as Roger Tory Peterson, Chandler Robbins, Wesley Lanyon, Joseph Taylor, Pete Dunne (twice), Stephen Kress (twice), Frank Gill, Kenneth Able, and this year, Kenn Kaufman.

**Member Clubs:** From the group of 18 Charter Member Clubs in 1948 and 1949, we had grown to 27 by 1954. Growth thereafter was slow but steady, reaching 35 by 1971 and 41 by 1976. For the last 22 years, while there have been many changes in the roster, the number has consistently stayed between 39 and 42.

**Individual Membership:** Individual memberships were accepted from the beginning, but with the launching of *The Kingbird* in late 1950, the need for a larger support base became critical and active recruitment of individual members, who would receive the journal, began in earnest. By April 1951, the number of individual members had reached 149, still short of what was needed to ensure the journal's future. By the 10th Anniversary issue in December 1960, the number of individual members had reached 413 and six others had become Life Members. By 1968 there were 471 annual members and the number of Life Members had grown to 26. Membership ranged around 500 throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Then, with the stimulus of the Breeding Bird Atlas project and the involvement of its many volunteer atlasers, annual membership reached 668 in 1986. With periodic promotions, it has stayed in the 650 range since then. Life memberships reached a peak of 86 in the 1980s, down now to 79.

**Finances:** Any discussion about finances can easily become tedious and technically confusing. Here we will try to keep the focus both brief and non-



technical, simply providing an historical perspective on the general nature of our finances. Treasurer's reports, in recent years accompanied by complete financial statements, have been provided at the Annual Meeting of the Council of Delegates. These are summarized in the minutes of these meetings, which are published annually in *The Kingbird*. The fiscal year is the calendar year. All annual Treasurer's reports have had the benefit of review by the Audit Committee.

The first financial report published in *The Kingbird* showed a balance on May 22, 1953 of \$843.33 in the general fund and \$410.45 in the special fund. The 1954 proposed budget was \$759, of which \$470 (or 62%) was for *The Kingbird*. This earliest available information highlights two key aspects of our finances that are still true. First, our publications represent by far the greatest portion of our annual operating budget; 1996 numbers showed that we still spend 62% of our operating funds on *The Kingbird*. In the 1998 budget this has grown to 67%. It wasn't until 1963 that the annual budget reached \$2,000 for the first time. By comparison, the operating budget for 1998 is \$18,585.

Membership dues have always been set as low as possible to generate the general operating funds needed to supply member services. The history of our individual member annual dues shows how well we have achieved that goal:

1950	\$2.00	1966	\$5.00	1980	\$12.00
1954	\$2.50	1972	\$6.00	1985	\$15.00
1962	\$3.00	1974	\$8.00	1993	\$18.00

This increase from \$2 to \$18 over the period represents slightly less than an average annual 5% increase in our basic membership dues.

The other key aspect of our finances is that from the beginning we have had "special funds" in addition to the general operating fund. The number of these funds and their balances have grown as activities that attracted substantial financial support increased.

One of those funds is used to account for Life Member dues. Others are identified with awards or other purposes, where the contributions may represent specific wishes of the donors. Another is a general memorial fund where all unrestricted memorial gifts and bequests are accounted for. From time to time our special book projects have also required unique separation and accounting of grants and other contributions related to that limited use. Because balances in these funds are meaningless without the accompanying explanatory notes from the financial statements, readers are referred to current reports for those details.

## MANAGEMENT and OPERATION

**Management Structure:** From the Federation's creation in 1947 there have been five officers, each of whom also served as a director while in office. All officer/directors are elected to one year terms at the Annual Meeting. While the date of the Annual Meeting has varied significantly, until 1974 all officer/directors took office on the following January 1st, regardless of the date on which they were actually elected. Starting with the elections in 1975 all officer/directors have taken office when elected, and thus the "one year terms" actually became a variable, depending on when the next Annual Meeting was held. Other parts of the management structure have been the Council of Delegates, the many operational committees, and more recently the Executive Committee.

**Council of Delegates:** The Federation's voting members have always been the Member Clubs, and in particular the delegates that the clubs send to the Annual Meeting as their representatives. Collectively these delegates are called the Council of Delegates. Until 1972 the maximum number of delegates per club was three. A by-laws amendment then changed that to a range of one to six delegates, depending on the number of dues-paying members in the club.

**Executive Committee:** Until 1974 almost all of the Federation's official business was conducted by the Council of Delegates at the Annual Meeting, with only occasional interim meetings of the officer/directors to address unusual situations. But then, as the range of activities had slowly increased, the first Executive Committee was created, composed of the five officer/directors and a number of "Members at Large," appointed by the president. These have usually been people in charge of one of the Federation's committees. This new body started meeting, usually quarterly, and gradually took over many of the management duties formerly performed by the Council of Delegates. From the start of the Executive Committee, other committee chairs and key personnel have also attended the meetings in a reporting and advisory capacity.

In 1997, the Board of Directors was expanded from the original five elected officers to now include an additional six elected directors, each serving two year terms. The future role of the former Executive Committee is still evolving during this Golden Anniversary year.

**Officers:** A complete roster of all officers by year is in **TABLE 3**. A summary is included here to illustrate the vast number of members who have so served the Federation.

**President:** During our first 50 years, the 28 people who have been president have had a profound influence on our history. While elected to one year terms, by tradition all but six have served two successive terms. Our presidents have chaired

our formal meetings, recruited and appointed our committees, and have truly been our guiding lights. Perhaps the highest compliment to the vitality of the Federation over its long history is that, with only one exception, no former president has ever been called upon to serve a second time. The single exception was Dr. Gordon M. Meade of Rochester who had been instrumental in getting the Federation organized, served as president pro tem during the formative period and was then elected as our first president. Twenty-five years later, after his return from Washington, D. C. where his profession had taken him, he served again as president in 1975 and 1976.

**Vice President:** Perhaps not too surprising, 28 people have also served as vice president, again most frequently for two successive years. Twenty-two of them subsequently moved to the president's chair.

**Recording Secretary:** By coincidence, we have also had 28 people serve as recording secretary. This officer is charged with documenting the official and legal minutes of the Annual Meetings, as well as those of the usual four regular meetings each year of the Board of Directors and committee chairs.

See the **REFERENCE** section for the location of the minutes of the Annual Meetings.

**Corresponding Secretary:** We have had only 18 people serve as corresponding secretary, including five who served only one term; the average service of the others was nearly four years, providing a measure of consistency in the important area of communication with the membership and external agencies.

**Treasurer:** We have had only 16 different treasurers in our first 50 years, with all but four serving multiple successive terms. The average service of those 12 was four years. This practice has been beneficial in providing stability in our banking and investment relationships and a degree of standardization in accounting and reporting practices.

**Permanent Representatives:** One of the Federation's perennial challenges has been finding ways of ensuring adequate liaison with the clubs between annual meetings. Starting in about 1969, Richard Sloss, then chair of an Organization Committee as well as the By-laws Committee, started championing ways of dealing with this problem. Several approaches were tried. Regional Vice Presidents were considered. This evolved into a group of up to seven area representatives who were charged with providing the interface to clubs in their area. Perhaps related in part to the introduction in 1972 of the newsletter, *New York Birders*, this concept was short-lived. Also, as early as 1971, Sloss suggested and later, as President, implemented the idea of asking clubs to designate one of their members as a "Permanent Representative" to the Federation, to ease the problem of continuity of contact given the reality of frequently changing club officers. This

idea was quickly accepted by some clubs and then slowly spread to others. There were 20 such representatives by 1976, now increased to 30 among the 41 member clubs.

**Committees:** Supporting the management team over the years have been the many committees, where the ongoing work of the organization takes place. With the exception of the Auditing and Nominating Committees, whose members are elected annually, all committee chairs and members are appointed by the president. The Federation's current committees are: Archives, Audit, Awards, Bibliography, By-laws, Conservation, Field Trips, Finance, Membership Development, Nominating, Publications, Research, and Waterfowl Count. Other committees are created as needed for special projects, such as those described later as part of the information about the projects. A description of the regular committees and something of their history follows.

**Archives Committee:** Gordon Meade, as demonstrated by his 1960 and 1988 "Origins" publications, had kept a personal file of much of our early history. He has been our only designated Historian. When his collection of notes and files came to the Federation after his death in 1992, Phyllis Jones, our first official Archivist, used them as the core of our archives, now stored and maintained at Cornell University's Carl A. Krock Rare Book and Manuscript Library. We are indebted to Jones, a professional librarian, for bringing organization and discipline to this important activity.

**Audit Committee:** This is an elected committee of two or three members charged with performing an annual audit of the financial books of the Corporation and submitting a written report of its findings to the Annual Meeting. Over the years 25 people have served on the committee. Irving Cantor, a member of the Federation who is a CPA, was first elected to the committee in 1974 and has served this way for a total of 17 years. He has been joined on the committee the last 13 years by Richard Sloss, and for the last seven years by Norman Stotz as well.

**Awards Committee:** Under the direction of several different committees, the Federation has long given a variety of awards, some annually, some less frequently. They are described later under a separate heading. We should note here that since 1997 the concept of a single committee to bring oversight to the entire awards program has been under consideration by a new Awards Committee under its first chair, Mary Alice Koeneke.

**By-laws Committee:** The records suggest that we have seldom had a formally appointed By-laws Committee. Of the four recorded chairs, only Richard Sloss, who served for five years in the 1960s and another nine years from 1986 to 1995, is shown to have served for more than a single year. In the early years, our founders

created the necessary constitution and by-laws by which the unincorporated Federation operated until it decided to incorporate in 1956. At that time Samuel Madison, a charter member who was an attorney, chaired our first Constitution and By-laws Committee, appointed to accomplish the actual incorporation. The required, sworn subscribers to the Certificate of Incorporation were Guy Bartlett, Esly Hallenbeck, Byron T. Hipple Jr., James K. Merritt, and Lillian C. Stoner.

**Conservation Committee:** Being an advocate for conservation has always been a key Federation focus. While 12 people have chaired this committee over the years, three clearly stand out. Maxwell C. Wheat Jr. served as chair for 12 years, Harriet Marsi for eight, and Karen Slotnick for seven years. The work of the committee has found expression most often through our newsletter, *New York Birders*, and also frequently through widely distributed formal resolutions adopted by the Annual Meeting of the Council of Delegates.

Clearly, accolades must go to Wheat, who, in addition to his work on the Conservation Committee, produced an early publication, *Conservation Now*, and then edited *New York Birders* for nearly a quarter century. This rare combination must be viewed as fundamental to the success of our conservation focus.

**Bibliography Committee:** First created in 1955, with Allen H. Benton as chair, this committee has regularly compiled, and published in *The Kingbird*, a bibliography of material published elsewhere that concerns birds and birding in New York State. Benton served in this role a total of 14 years, divided into two separate periods. Others who served with him included John Belknap, Kenneth Parkes, and later committee chairs Stephen W. Eaton, Sally Hoyt Spofford, and Phyllis Jones, the current chair. A forerunner to this committee's work was the earlier work of Eaton and Benton who published a mimeographed bibliography of New York State ornithology for the period 1910–1952. It and the later publications in *The Kingbird* represent a complete documentation of the state's ornithological writings from the time of Elon Howard Eaton's work to the present.

**Field Trip Committee:** Starting anew in 1996, the Federation reinstated an earlier activity of scheduling and leading field trips to some of the major birding sites in the state. Under the initial chairmanship of Valerie Freer, and now William Lee, this has again become a popular part of our program. Earlier, from 1976 to 1983, Federation-sponsored pelagic trips, usually three or four a year, with Steve Dempsey and Barbara Spencer, among others, serving as organizers, had been a popular activity. Mary Ann Sunderlin and John M. C. Peterson also started leading spring trips to the Adirondacks and adjacent areas in about 1976.

**Finance Committee:** This committee is responsible for providing general financial condition oversight, and making recommendations concerning non-routine expenditures. Its mission also includes budgeting. The treasurer has always been on

the committee, often as its chair. At other times, such as since 1997, with William Reeves as chair, someone other than the treasurer has led the Committee. Other recent chairs have included Kenneth Niven, William Vaughan, and Dorothy McLroy.

**Membership Development Committee:** This committee has had nine chairs over the years, with Myrna Hemmerick's service in that capacity from 1973 to 1996 representing nearly half of our history. For many years, applications for membership, either as a Member Club or as an individual member, had to be approved by the Council of Delegates. For individual membership, the approval was delegated to the Membership Committee starting in 1974, and while the committee was also given provisional approval authority for Member Club applications, final approval of them still resides with the Council of Delegates. In recent years, with computerized membership files relieving the Membership Committee from most of its former file maintenance duties, the focus of the committee has become primarily membership development and promotion.

**Nominating Committee:** At each Annual Meeting, a committee of three is elected to submit a slate of nominees for the following year's officer and, since 1997, director positions.

**Publications Committee:** During these first 50 years, much of our energy has been devoted to documenting the ornithology of New York State in print. This work has fallen into two quite different areas. The first is the Federation's two regular publications, *The Kingbird* and *New York Birders*. The second has been our several major book projects. This work, while involving literally hundreds of individuals, has always come under the purview and general direction of the Publications Committee (earlier called the Publications and Research Committee.) The original combined committee had six chairs prior to 1988 when the separation into separate Publications and Research committees took place. Of the six, the last, Robert S. Arbib Jr. who held that position for 18 years, had by far the greatest influence on our publications. None of the others served for more than six years. Since the two committees were separated in 1988, Emanuel Levine has held the position of Publications chair with great distinction and energy.

The specific publications and book projects and the countless volunteers who have contributed to their success are described later.

**Research Committee:** Established in 1988, when it was separated from Publications, this committee has been chaired for these 10 years by Dr. Charles R. Smith of Cornell University. While the committee has continued to be an active supporter of our major book publication projects, which have always been viewed as part of our overall research activities, Smith in his new role has been instrumental in organizing and providing direction for a number of new research-oriented

activities. A major function is now coordinating the annual Breeding Bird Survey of 112 routes in New York State. This program, started in 1966 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is now under the authority of the Inventory and Monitoring Section of the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. The committee also oversees the Federation's annual grants to Member Clubs for local projects, has conducted special "birding forays" into unique habitats where special censusing is needed, and has represented the Federation on such state committees as the State Parks Checklist and Birdlife Advisory Committee. Earlier, it had been actively involved in the three-year Project BirdWatch that ended in 1989, and at its peak in 1987 had some 400 participants.

From 1974 to 1980 the Federation sponsored a Spring Migration Survey, which by its nature was a research activity. It was organized and reported on in *The Kingbird* by Cheryl Boise and Gordon Meade. The report for 1979 indicated that 31 birding groups participated in the survey, involving over 600 people, who listed 269 species. The six year cumulative species count was 319. The following year their report showed that over 700 birders representing 32 clubs found 274 species. The high count was 284 species in 1976.

**Waterfowl Count:** In 1955, Gerald Rising organized and coordinated the compilation of the Federation's first winter census of the state's waterfowl. Under seven different coordinators, this practice has continued ever since, with our current chair, Walton Sabin, having coordinated and compiled the count for the last 23 years. These counts have been used by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to supplement its aerial surveys, and help establish the annual waterfowl hunting rules and limits.

**New York State Avian Records Committee:** NYSARC differs from the Federation's other committees in that its members are appointed by the president to serve five year terms. The first members had staggered terms so that thereafter one member's term expires annually. NYSARC was established by the Council of Delegates at the 1977 Annual Meeting. Its mission is to formalize the reporting and evaluation of documentation of birds occurring within New York State.

Paul DeBenedictis proposed the creation this committee to the Council of Delegates in 1975, where it was tabled for study by the Executive Committee. It then took another two years of committee work, chaired first by William Vaughan and subsequently by Edgar Reilly, to bring a formal proposal, along with detailed committee by-laws, for approval at the 1977 meeting. Other committee members during this period included DeBenedictis, Morgan Jones, Robert Andrie, Allen Benton, John Farrand Jr., and Robert Spahn.

New York was one of the first states to establish such a group. Today they are common. There have been only 12 people who have served on NYSARC, four of them as chair.

Present members are Kenneth P. Able, Robert F. Andrlé, Thomas W. Burke, Robert O. Paxton, and Charles R. Smith. Past members have been Paul DeBenedictis, Thomas H. Davis Jr., Fritz G. Scheider, Stephen C. Sibley, Barbara Spencer, Robert W. Smart, and William Vaughan. Chairs have included Andrlé (currently), DeBenedictis, Scheider, and Vaughan. Secretaries to NYSARC, who are not committee members, have been John Confer, Todd Culver, Richard Evans, James Lowe (currently), Stephen Sibley, and Charles R. Smith.

An annual report of NYSARC's evaluations and decisions is published in *The Kingbird*. See the **REFERENCE** section for the location of each NYSARC report.

**Circulation Manager:** While never considered to be a committee, someone has always had to maintain the official mailing list. This essential, though usually behind-the-scenes, person has usually been referred to as the Circulation Manager, but in earlier days was sometimes called the Business Manager. The work has always required close working relationships with both the Treasurer and the Membership Committee. The function of this key volunteer has been more than ensuring that mailings reach the member at the right address, and dealing with routine changes and followups. The Circulation Manager also orders and maintains an inventory of back issues of our publications, and responds to requests for either individual or bulk quantities of old issues from new members, researchers, libraries, and other agencies. Another key function has been ensuring that our records of the ever-changing rosters of the officers of our Member Clubs are current, so that the distributions of materials such as notices of annual meetings, reports of the Nominating and By-laws committees, and proxy procedures are distributed correctly.

There have been only seven people who have performed these vital functions over our 50 years: H. Everest Clements and Helen Foster through the early 1950s, Allan S. Klonick from 1956 to 1963, Walter L. Gillespie starting in 1965, Frederick C. Dittrich from 1971 to 1979, Constance Wilkins from 1980 until her death in 1988, and Berna B. Lincoln since then. To all, we owe a vote of appreciation for their dedicated and vital service.



## REGULAR PUBLICATIONS

***The Kingbird* (State Journal):** From our first formative meetings, one of the key objectives of the founding members was to start a state journal dedicated to documentation of the state's ornithology. Just two years later, in December 1950, the first issue of *The Kingbird* was published, and since then it has appeared quarterly without interruption. In that first year of publication the Federation could count but 18 Member Clubs and so, to make the cost of such a journal manageable, encouraged and sought individual members and subscribers to make the effort viable.

The first page of the first issue of *The Kingbird* contained comments from its first Editor, Allan S. Klonick. After making reference to Elon Howard Eaton's *Birds of New York*, he stated, "The staff submits for you, the reader, our first edition of *The Kingbird*, our Federation publication, with the hope that it will serve as a guide and an inspiration to all the ornithologists of our State." The staff he referred to included himself, Joseph W. Taylor and Eugene Eisenmann, Associates, and H. Everest Clements, Business Manager.

Then Klonick continued, "With the first issue we are introducing a new bird artist from the Rochester area, who our staff feels shows great promise. Our thanks to Douglas Howland for our cover illustration." All readers will recognize that the cover design of *The Kingbird*, including the use of Howland's artwork has been used on every issue since, including this one.

Klonick recalls that as editor he was greatly indebted to his wife, Sandy, who was not only his proofreader and a "pluperfect editor's mate," but also the one who first suggested the name for the journal. As he recalls, they decided the Empire State needed a "regal" bird name. They felt that since *Tyrannus tyrannus* was well represented in almost every area of the state, its vigor and attitude would certainly add authority to our statewide journal.

Throughout, we have been served most admirably, and with great and tireless dedication, by a series of fine *Kingbird* Editors, starting with Klonick from 1950 to 1953. He was followed by Stephen W. Eaton until 1956, Gerald D. Rising until 1958, Minnie B. Scotland until 1961, Alice E. Ulrich until 1964, Dorothy W. McIlroy until 1969, and Joseph W. Taylor until 1975. Then the team of Emanuel Levine and John Farrand Jr. served as co-editors for 10 years until 1985, followed for the next 10 years by Paul A. DeBenedictis. This fabulous roster continues with our current editor, Donald A. Windsor, who took on the daunting task at the beginning of 1996.

By the time of this Golden Anniversary celebration, exactly 190 quarterly issues of *The Kingbird* will have been published. Each one has usually contained from six to eight timely articles and reports on current aspects of the state's ornithology, followed by the regularly appearing quarterly reports from each of the 10 Regional Editors, giving detailed information on the season's bird activity in their Region. These Regional Reports are then summarized by the Seasonal

Highlights Editor to provide an overview of the season statewide.

In the opinion of many members, the most underappreciated and under-recognized example of dedicated volunteerism in the Federation involves the 118 individuals who have routinely, season after season, year after year, collected, summarized and prepared the Regional Reports and the Seasonal Highlights.

While all of the Regional and Seasonal Highlights editors have made memorable contributions, we simply must mention those few whose level of volunteerism far outdistances the average. At the top of the list must be Leslie Bemont for Region 4 and Edward D. Treacy for Region 9 who, over a quarter century or more, compiled 108 and 100 reports respectively. They are closely followed by Sally Hoyt Spofford for Region 3 and Fritz Scheider for Region 5, each with 75 reports. Scheider also prepared 15 Seasonal Highlights, and Spofford, for years, also edited another *Kingbird* series called "Field Notes."

In a unique class is Robert Spahn who has not only prepared 23 Region 2 reports, but in addition, starting in 1980, has written 64 Seasonal Highlights reports, for a total of 87 and still counting. It should be noted that while 22 others have also prepared the Seasonal Highlights reports in earlier years, only David B. Peakall with 29, and James K. Merritt, Fritz Scheider, and Robert W. Smart, each with 15, prepared more than nine of them.

Then, of course, there are the many Regional Editors who, while not quite among the select group noted above, have certainly made a fantastic contribution, in some instances still do, and may in time pass those noted above. The others who have passed the arbitrary break-point of 10 years, at least 40 reports, are Kevin C. Griffith and John M. C. Peterson, each with 61 and counting, John J. Elliott with 60, Theodore D. Mack with 49, Howard S. Miller with 48, and Frank A. Clinch, Kenneth L. Crowell, and Lee B. Chamberlaine, each with 46. Margaret Rusk has done 40 reports, all in partnership with various co-editors.

To single out these top Regional and Seasonal editor volunteers, while appropriate, fails to do justice to the many others whose contributions to the Regional Reports are certainly also noteworthy and outstanding. Please do check the complete list in **TABLE 4** to see them all, and find the way to share with them how much their contribution is appreciated.

***New York Birders (Newsletter):*** In the early 1970s, Maxwell C. Wheat Jr., who had earlier chaired our Conservation Committee, started issuing a periodic bulletin called *Conservation Now*. Out of this grew our regular newsletter, *New York Birders*. It first appeared in 1972 with Wheat and Mary Ann Sunderlin as co-editors until 1978, when Wheat assumed sole editorship until the end of 1995, for a remarkable tenure of 23 years. While still writing his regular column, "With Birders and Birds," Wheat was succeeded as editor at the start of 1996 by Phyllis Jones, who has admirably and with skill continued the fine tradition. Among her immediate contributions was the introduction of a "desk-top publishing" capability so that camera-ready copy could be supplied to our printer.

Over the years, *New York Birders* has come to be the primary way that information and news about the Federation has been conveyed to the members. It is now, and usually has been, published quarterly, but for a short time was issued six times a year. It always contains a rich blend of articles, announcements and other news about the activities, members and Member Clubs of the Federation. It is also a primary means of disseminating pertinent conservation advocacy information and other general material about birds and birding in New York.

## OTHER PUBLICATION PROJECTS

During these 50 years, the Federation has had a major role in four projects that have culminated in the publication of a major book about the ornithology of New York State. While the nature of the Federation's involvement has varied, all were originated by and fully supported by the Federation and its members.

***Birds of New York State. John Bull. 1974:*** Another of the key objectives of the founding members in 1948 had been to prepare and publish a new treatise on the birds of New York State to update Dr. Elon Howard Eaton's monumental two volume work published in 1910 and 1914. However, in spite of the untiring efforts of our early leaders, this objective wasn't realized for 26 years.

As early as 1951 Gordon Meade, who had just completed his terms as our first president, was appointed chair of a committee to explore possibilities of revising Eaton's book. This committee was active continuously until the book was published. Meade was chair for six years in two different periods. He was succeeded in 1955 by Robert S. Arbib Jr. who, except for short periods when Harold Mitchell and Joseph Taylor were chair, served until actual publication, a total of 15 years. Many others, including Allen Benton, Kenneth Parkes, Harold Mitchell, William Webb, and Hazel Ellis, were also instrumental in the work of the committee. One of the committee's early tasks, one that involved a long series of meetings all over the state, was the establishment of criteria for such fundamental definitions as abundance and distribution.

Surviving documents also make clear that from the start many activities of the Federation, such as the Bibliography work, the Waterfowl Census, and later Migration and Breeding censuses that the clubs were asked to conduct, were all thought of as related directly, or in part, to the production of the book. By 1952 the committee had decided that several editors should handle different phases, and three sub-committees were named to undertake different studies. Each Member Club was also asked to name a representative to be a contact for the committees.

It wasn't until 1964 that the Federation was able to name John Bull as the author-editor of the new state bird book, and then it was another 10 years before publication. Financing had always been the limiting factor. Finally, with key support

from the American Museum of Natural History, with which Bull was associated, and a significant grant in 1966 from the Dan Caulkins Fund that allowed the author to devote full time to the book "for three or four years," the end was in sight. At the Annual Meeting in May 1973, Arbib was able to announce, for the Publications and Research Committee, that the manuscript was with the publisher and that the committee endorsed the book. Following publication by Doubleday/Natural History Press in 1974, *Birds of New York State* immediately became recognized as the "bible" on New York's birds.

After several years of new information had accumulated, the Executive Committee agreed to publish a *Supplement to Birds of New York State*. Bull prepared the necessary material and it was published by the Federation in 1976.

***Where to Find Birds in New York State - The Top 500 Sites.* Susan Roney Drennan. 1981:** First championed by the Publications and Research Committee in 1952, preparation of a New York State birding baedeker was another project that required the passage of nearly three decades to be realized. Finally, in the mid-1970s the committee proposed, and the Federation's Executive Committee invited, Susan Roney Drennan to write such a book. By 1979, Publications and Research Chair Robert S. Arbib Jr., and Drennan, both professionally associated with National Audubon Society's journal *American Birds*, were able to report that work in preparing the book was 70% complete and arrangements for publication were underway. With a foreword by Roger Tory Peterson, and organized according to *The Kingbird's* 10 reporting regions, the book was published in 1981 by Syracuse University Press.

***The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State.* Robert Andrie and Janet Carroll, Editors. 1988:** The 1980s witnessed the Federation's most demanding project to date: preparation of a breeding bird atlas, based on extensive contemporaneous field work.

The project was under the general chairmanship of Gordon M. Meade. Publication in 1988, by Cornell University Press, followed six years of field work by more than 4,000 volunteers, working in 5,335 separate 5 km sq "Atlas Blocks" covering the entire state. The field work was organized by and under the supervision of 10 Regional Coordinators: Robert Andrie, Dorothy Crumb, Mark Fitzsimmons, Jay Lehman, Dorothy McIlroy, John M. C. Peterson, Gilbert Raynor, Robert Spahn, Robert and June Walker, and Berna B. Weissman.

This project was a superb example of cooperative effort by the Federation and its members; the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which, in addition to providing financial support, also provided the Project Coordinator, Janet Carroll, who handled all data compilation and distribution and map preparation work; and the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, which, in addition to hosting many project meetings, also provided the overall Business Manager, Charles R. Smith. The final publication was prepared under the

general direction of the co-editors, assisted by 19 authors of the species accounts, and four artists.

***Checklist of the Birds of New York State:*** First published in *The Kingbird*, and in handy pocket booklet form in 1989, with revisions in 1991, 1996 and 1998, the *Checklist* gives the status and currently accepted taxonomic order and nomenclature of all species accepted by the Federation's New York State Avian Records Committee as having been adequately documented in the state. Emanuel Levine, chair of the Publications Committee, has coordinated this effort throughout.

***Bull's Birds of New York State. Emanuel Levine, Editor. 1998:*** Now, a quarter century after the 1974 publication of *Birds of New York State* by John Bull, the story of the state's ornithology has once again been brought up to date. As described more fully in the 1998 book, in this century the number of species known to have occurred in the state has increased dramatically to the current list of 451 accepted species, an increase of 41 just since 1974.

This time, while honoring Bull for his great 1974 work, and with his endorsement and continuing contributions, Emanuel Levine, longstanding Chair of the Publications Committee, took on the most demanding and formidable task of securing, organizing, and editing the work of more than 60 authors of species accounts and of many other contributors to bring forth this latest updating of the state's ornithological history. From the formal launching of the project in 1993, a key objective, now realized, has been to have actual publication occur in time for the book to be introduced at our Golden Anniversary.

At the 1993 Annual Meeting the Council of Delegates authorized the Executive Committee to proceed with the project and enter into the necessary contracts with the American Museum of Natural History and with a publisher. This followed many earlier discussions, including several with John Bull, and with the Museum, which holds the copyright to his 1974 book.

The Executive Committee appointed Emanuel Levine as Editor and created an ad hoc committee of Levine, Berna Lincoln, Stanley Lincoln, and Richard Sloss to manage the project. Contracts with the Museum and Cornell University Press, the chosen publisher, were negotiated. The copyright to the book will be held jointly by the Museum and the Federation.

A fund raising committee, set up in 1994 with Robert Budliger as chair, was successful in securing significant contributions from Member Clubs as well as individual members. In 1996 the committee was able to report that a \$30,000 commitment had also been made by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation from Return a Gift to Wildlife contributions.

For their work in computerizing and copyediting the entire text from the many individual contributors, Berna Lincoln and Stanley Lincoln were named Associates to the Editor.

## AWARDS

**Lillian C. Stoner Award:** This award was established in 1974 by an initial \$1,000 gift from Lillian Stoner, a founding member, former officer, Patron, and one of our most stalwart supporters until her death in 1978. This gift, later augmented by others, was to permit the Federation to provide financial help for one or more high school seniors or college students to attend the Federation's Annual Meeting and encourage their continued interest in nature and birds. A Stoner Award Committee, chaired since 1987 by John Confer, selects the annual recipient(s) from nominations submitted by Member Clubs.

Starting with an award in 1975 to Mary McKittrick, who had been nominated by the Linnaean Society of New York, 34 students have received this award. Confer and Gordon Meade published a report in *The Kingbird*, Vol 42, No3 naming all the recipients through 1990. They also reported on the developing careers of a number of them, including at least three who at that time either had, or were working toward doctorates in ornithology, one who was the 1996 winner of the national duck stamp award, and several others who are pursuing careers that reflected their continued interest in nature.

**John J. Elliott Award:** This award was established in 1964 in memory of Elliott, a former president who, until his death in 1963, had also been *The Kingbird's* Region 10 Editor for 15 years, preparing 60 successive seasonal reports. The award given in his name is for the best article contributed to *The Kingbird* each year. The selection is made by a committee, usually chaired by the current editor. A list of the 27 award-winning articles and their authors is printed in *The Kingbird*, Vol 47, No 4.

**Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award:** This award is given to individuals for outstanding service to the Federation. Referred to simply as the certificate award until 1989 and then as the Distinguished Service Award, it was renamed in honor of Meade following his death in 1992. With apologies to any early recipients not recorded, it has been given only to the following individuals:

1976	Harold D. Mitchell	1990	Myrna Hemmerick
1976	Lillian C. Stoner	1990	Mary Ann Sunderlin
1977	Maxwell C. Wheat Jr.	1991	Richard Sloss
1979	Gordon M. Meade	1992	Robert Miller
1985	John Farrand Jr.	1993	Harriet Marsi
1985	Emanuel Levine	1994	John M. C. Peterson
1988	Constance Wilkins	1996	Paul A. DeBenedictis

**Member Club Grants:** In 1990 the Federation set aside funds whose earnings could be used "to help support our Member Clubs with unique or

innovative projects that advance birding in the state.” While applications have been few, grants were made in 1991 and 1997 to High Peaks Audubon Society, in 1991 and 1993 to Genesee Ornithological Society, in 1992 and 1995 to Sullivan County Audubon Society, in 1996 to Cattaraugus County Bird Club, and in 1997 to Chemung Valley Audubon Society.

**Elon Howard Eaton Memorial Award:** While not a Federation award as such, since 1993 the Federation has provided publicity and other support to one of its Charter Member Clubs, Eaton Birding Society, for its annual award given to “recognize significant contributions to ecology of birds in New York State.” The award has been presented at the same time as the Federation’s awards during the banquet at the Annual Meeting. Recipients have been Timothy H. Baird in 1994, Dr. John L. Confer and Karen Allaben-Confer in 1995, Kevin L. Berner in 1996, and Paul A. DeBenedictis in 1997.

**Other Awards:** From time to time other people have been recognized with special awards. At the 1986 Annual Meeting banquet all living past presidents were presented with an engraved kingbird statuette. This practice has continued for subsequent presidents at the completion of their terms. At the 1987 Annual Meeting four Regional Editors who had prepared more than 50 reports for *The Kingbird* were given special recognition along with gift copies of the about-to-be-published *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

**The Kingbird Index Committee:** Every ten years an Index of the contents of *The Kingbird* has been prepared and published. The indexer for Volumes 1–10 was Guy Bartlett. Volumes 11–20 were indexed by the team of Dorothy W. McIlroy and Mildred Comar; McIlroy also prepared the Index for Volumes 21–30. The most recent Index, for Volumes 31–40, was prepared by the team of James Clinton and Donald A. Windsor.

**County Listing:** This activity, initiated by Berna Lincoln in 1992, is intended not only to stimulate more interest in birding, but especially to encourage birders to better appreciate New York’s diverse birding habitats. It also has the potential of promoting the development of county checklists. It has so far attracted more than 100 participants to report the number of different species they have seen in each of the state’s 62 counties and 10 *Kingbird* reporting regions. The reports are printed annually in *New York Birders*.

**Patches:** Led by Donald Windsor’s drive and energies, the Federation now makes available two attractively designed patches for those birders who have

identified more than 200 and more than 300 species in New York State. Windsor recently reported that there are 150 holders of the 200 patch; so far only 29 have secured the newer 300 patch.

**Federation Web Page:** Thanks to Barbara Butler and Kevin McGowan, the Federation is inaugurating its own web site on the Internet. The access address is <http://birds.cornell.edu/fnysbc/>

**Atlas 2000:** At the conclusion of the 1988 Annual Meeting, the three Rochester host clubs contributed their excess proceeds from that meeting to carry on the breeding bird atlas tradition. Augmented by a bequest from Gordon Meade's estate and other gifts in his memory, the fund has been accumulating for 10 years. It is designated to support an update of the Breeding Bird Atlas early in the next century. Preliminary planning is already underway.

**Speakers' Bureau:** Attempted once in earlier years, and reestablished in 1997, this program has already enrolled a number of our members. The listing, published periodically in a brochure and sent to all Member Clubs, should prove helpful as the clubs plan their annual programs. The 1998 brochure includes 33 speakers, up from 16 in the first printing.

**Library Sponsorship:** In late 1997 an appeal was made to Member Clubs and individuals, suggesting they might adopt a library and provide it a gift subscription to *The Kingbird*. The Federation is making a discounted, multiple year subscription available for this purpose. Early results are encouraging, and it is hoped that many additional subscriptions will result. *The Kingbird's* record of the state's birdlife is a basic and important reference that should be more widely available. As Valerie Freer, our president, enumerated in the original announcement, the state has a large number of college and university libraries, as well as local libraries, museums and nature centers that might be considered for adoption.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The inspiration and basis for this work come directly from the earlier published works of Dr. Gordon M. Meade and Winston William Brockner. I also recognize and thank all who have contributed to and edited our two regular publications, *The Kingbird* and *New York Birders*. Only a review of their contents made this history possible. Thanks are also due to former presidents Winston Brockner, Allan Klonick, Allen Benton, and Richard Sloss for their reviews of a draft of this manuscript, looking for factual mistakes. Hopefully, all they found have been corrected. And I thank my wife, Berna Lincoln, whose copyediting assistance has made this readable. All remaining mistakes and omissions are solely my responsibility. SRL

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**TABLE 1**  
**MEMBER CLUBS as of GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**  
**September 1998**

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>YEAR JOINED</b>
Alan Devoe Bird Club	1957
Allegany County Bird Club	1967
Audubon Society of the Capital Region	1996
Buffalo Audubon Society	1948*
Buffalo Ornithological Society	1948*
Burroughs Audubon Nature Club	1949
Cattaraugus County Bird Club	1976
Cayuga Bird Club	1948*
Chemung Valley Audubon Society	1950
Chenango Bird Club	1983
Cortland County Bird Club	1962
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society	1969
Eaton Birding Society (originally Elon Eaton Bird Club)	1948*
Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club	1961
Genesee Ornithological Society	1948*
Great South Bay Audubon Society	1968
High Peaks Audubon Society	1974
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club (originally Schenectady Bird Club)	1948*
Huntington Audubon Society	1963
John Burroughs Natural History Society	1953
Kirkland Bird Club	1966
Lake Erie Bird Club	1963
Linnaean Society of New York	1948*
Lyman Langdon Audubon Society	1953
Moriches Bay Audubon Society	1968
Naturalists' Club of Broome County	1952
New York City Audubon Society	1989
New York State Bluebird Society	1994
North Country Bird Club	1948*
Onondaga Audubon Society	1952
Queens County Bird Club	1948*
Rainbow Country Birders (originally ISNOS**)	1985
Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club (originally Dutchess Co. Bird Club)	1959
Rochester Birding Association	1975
Rockland Audubon Society	1948*

### TABLE 1 Continued

Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences—Sect. on Nat. Hist.	1952
Saw Mill River Audubon Society	1953
South Shore Audubon Society	1973
St. Lawrence/Adirondack Audubon Society	1991
Sullivan County Audubon Society	1952
Tioga Bird Club (originally Tioga Bird Watchers Club)	1960

### FORMER MEMBER CLUBS

CLUB	YEAR JOINED
Adirondack Bird Club	1961
Auburn Bird Club of Cayuga County	1965
Baldwin Bird Club	1948*
Bedford Audubon Society	1952
Blue Heron Audubon Society	1951
Brooklyn Bird Club	1948*
Cornell Field Ornithology Club	1953
Elmira Bird Club (originally Elmira Garden Club – Bird Section)	1948*
Delhi Bird Club	1975
Greene County Bird Club	1960
Goudy Wildlife of Newburgh	1973
Jamestown Audubon Society	1958
Keuka Park Conservation Club	1948*
Long Island Field Naturalists' Society	1972
Moraine Audubon Society	1972
North Fork Audubon Society	1973
Northport Veterans Bird Club	1951
Olean Bird Club	1966
Oneida Bird Club ( became Nature Club of Central NY in 1993)	1965
Owasco Valley Audubon Society	1986
Roger Tory Peterson Ornithological Club	1990
Sassafras Bird Club	1948*
Scarsdale Audubon Society	1948*
Schuyler County Bird Club (originally Watkins-Montour Bird Club)	1948*
Suffolk County Bird Club	1965

\* Charter Member Club

\*\* Institute for the Study of Nature - Ornithological Society

**TABLE 2**

**ANNUAL MEETINGS and HOST CLUBS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>HOSTS</b>
1948	11/13	Rochester	Genesee Ornithological Society Rochester Museum of Arts and Sci.
1949	05/28	New York	Linnaean Society of New York
1950	04/29	Watkins Glen	Schuyler County Bird Club
1951	04/07	Buffalo	Buffalo Ornithological Society Buffalo Audubon Society Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences
1952	05/24	Schenectady	Schenectady Bird Club
1953	05/23	Bear Mt. State Park	Rockland Audubon Society
1954	08/28	Ithaca	Cayuga Bird Club Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
1955	05/28	Elmira	Chemung Valley Audubon Society
1956	11/	Pleasantville	Bedford Audubon Society Saw Mill River Audubon Society Scarsdale Audubon Society
1957	05/25	Schenectady	Schenectady Bird Club
1958	05/04	Rochester	Burroughs Audubon Nature Club Genesee Ornithological Society
1959	06/05	Watertown	North Country Bird Club
1960	05/20	Buffalo	Buffalo Audubon Society Buffalo Ornithological Society Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences
1961	09/29	New York	Linnaean Society of New York
1962	05/11	Albany	Alan Devoe Bird Club Greene County Bird Club Schenectady Bird Club
1963	04/27	Jamestown	Jamestown Audubon Society
1964	05/23	Poughkeepsie	Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club
1965	06/12	Syracuse	Onondaga Audubon Society
1966	05/20	Lido Beach	Baldwin Bird Club Huntington Audubon Society Lyman Langdon Audubon Society Queens County Bird Club
1967	06/02	Deposit	Naturalists' Club of Broome County Tioga Bird Club
1968	04/26	Rochester	Burroughs Audubon Nature Club Genesee Ornithological Society

**TABLE 2 Continued**

1969	05/23	Cortland	Cortland County Bird Club
1970	09/11	Watertown	North Country Bird Club
1971	06/04	New Paltz	John Burroughs Nat. Hist. Society
1972	09/22	Ithaca	Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Schuyler County Bird Club
1973	05/18	Frost Valley	Sullivan County Audubon Society
1974	10/18	Fredonia	Jamestown Audubon Society Lake Erie Bird Club
1975	09/26	Oneonta	Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
1976	10/01	Hempstead	Linnaean Society of New York
1977	09/30	Albany	Alan Devoe Bird Club Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club
1978	09/22	Rochester	Burroughs Audubon Nature Club Genesee Ornithological Society Rochester Birding Association
1979	09/12	Binghamton	Naturalists' Club of Broome County
1980	09/26	Pawling	Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club
1981	09/25	Syracuse	Onondaga Audubon Society
1982	10/01	Riverhead	Moriches Bay Audubon Society
1983	10/07	Fredonia	Lake Erie Bird Club
1984	09/07	Ithaca	Cayuga Bird Club
1985	10/11	Buffalo	Buffalo Ornithological Society
1986	10/31	Saratoga State Park	Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club
1987	09/18	New York	Linnaean Society of New York
1988	09/16	Rochester	Burroughs Audubon Nature Club Genesee Ornithological Society Rochester Birding Association
1989	09/15	Auburn	Owasco Valley Audubon Society
1990	10/26	Riverhead	Moriches Bay Audubon Society
1991	09/20	Syracuse	Onondaga Audubon Society
1992	09/25	Oneonta	Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Chenango Bird Club
1993	09/10	Watertown	North Country Bird Club
1994	09/23	Rosendale	Sullivan County Audubon Society
1995	10/06	Fredonia	Lake Erie Bird Club
1996	09/06	Albany	Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club
1997	09/12	Lake Placid	High Peaks Audubon Society
1998	09/25	Rochester	Burroughs Audubon Nature Club Genesee Ornithological Society Rochester Birding Association

### TABLE 3

#### OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

**Note:** Officers elected before 1975 took office on the following January 1st, regardless of the actual date of the Annual Meeting when they were elected; those elected thereafter took office immediately upon being elected. For consistency, all years shown in the table indicate the year(s) in which the election was held. (Initial pro tem officers were elected on October 25, 1947 and served until the first regular officers took office.)

#### PRESIDENT

pro tem	Gordon M. Meade	1971-1972	Kenneth D. Niven
1948	Gordon M. Meade	1973-1974	Gordon M. Meade
1949-1950	Winston W. Brockner	1975-1976	Richard A. Sloss
1951-1952	Eugene Eisenmann	1977-1978	Stephen B. Dempsey
1953-1954	Harold D. Mitchell	1979-1980	Martin Borko
1955	Peter P. Kellogg	1981-1982	Morgan Jones III
1956	Albert W. Fudge	1983-1984	Charles R. Smith
1957-1958	Allan S. Klonick	1985-1986	Harriet T. Marsi
1959-1960	Frances Irving	1987-1988	Berna B. Weissman
1961-1962	John J. Elliott	1989-1990	Chad E. Covey
1963-1964	Robert S. Arbib Jr.	1991-1992	Stanley R. Lincoln
1965-1966	Allen H. Benton	1993-1994	William J. Lee
1967	Watson B. Hastings	1995-1996	Robert E. Budliger
1968	David B. Peakall	1997	Valerie M. Freer
1969-1970	Edgar M. Reilly Jr.		

### TABLE 3 Continued

#### VICE PRESIDENT

pro tem	Winston W. Brockner	1971–1972	Mary Ann Sunderlin
1948	Winston W. Brockner	1973–1974	Richard A. Sloss
1949–1950	Eugene Eisenmann	1975–1976	Mary Ann Sunderlin
1951–1952	Harold D. Mitchell	1977	Alice D. Jones
1953–1954	Guy Bartlett	1978	Martin Borko
1955	Albert W. Fudge	1979–1980	Morgan Jones III
1956	Robert S. Arbib Jr.	1981–1982	Charles R. Smith
1957–1958	Frances Irving	1983–1984	Harriet T. Marsi
1959–1960	John J. Elliott	1985–1986	Berna B. Weissman
1961–1962	Robert S. Arbib Jr.	1987–1988	Chad E. Covey
1963–1964	Allen H. Benton	1989–1990	Stanley R. Lincoln
1965–1966	Watson B. Hastings	1991–1992	William J. Lee
1967	David B. Peakall	1993–1994	Robert E. Budliger
1968	Edgar M. Reilly Jr.	1995–1996	Valerie M. Freer
1969–1970	Alice E. Ulrich	1997	Mary Alice Koeneke

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

pro tem	Fred T. Hall	1971–1972	Myrna Hemmerick
1948	Fred T. Hall	1973–1974	Alice D. Jones
1949	John L. Wolff	1975–1976	Lona T. Coates
1950–1951	Albert W. Fudge	1977–1978	Dee F. DeSimone
1952–1953	Frances Irving	1979–1980	Harriet T. Marsi
1954–1955	Elizabeth A. Feldhusen	1981	Anne F. Claridge
1956–1957	Alice E. Ulrich	1982	Harriet T. Marsi
1958	Alice B. English	1983–1984	Berna B. Weissman
1959–1960	Eleanor L. Radke	1985–1986	Marilyn Schindler
1961–1962	Watson B. Hastings	1987–1988	Øivind E. Jensen
1963–1964	Margaret S. Rusk	1989–1990	Donald A. Windsor
1965–1966	Betty Strath	1991–1992	Valerie M. Freer
1967	Hortense Barten	1993–1994	William B. Reeves
1968	Hortense B. Knight	1995–1996	Scott J. Stoner
1969–1970	Mary Ann Sunderlin	1997	Linda Parr

## TABLE 3 Continued

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

pro tem	Peter P. Kellogg	1970-1972	Elizabeth A. Feldhusen
1948	Peter P. Kellogg	1973-1974	Mary Ann Sunderlin
1949-1950	Reginald W. Hartwell	1975-1977	Martin Borko
1951-1952	Louise Helfer	1978	Harriet T. Marsi
1953-1955	Elizabeth S. Manning	1979	Katherine Dunham
1956-1957	Elizabeth A. Feldhusen	1980-1986	Constance Wilkins
1958-1961	Sally F. Hoyt	1987-1991	Mary Ann Sunderlin
1962-1963	Lillian C. Stoner	1992	Carl J. Eastwood
1964-1967	Harriet T. Marsi	1993-1994	Valerie M. Freer
1968	Frances Rew	1995-1997	William B. Reeves
1969	Ada Carter		

### TREASURER

pro tem	Guy Bartlett	1966-1968	Dort Cameron
1948-1949	Guy Bartlett	1969	Edward M. Somers
1950	Frances Irving	1970	James P. Karp
1951-1952	Alice B. English	1971-1976	Stephen B. Dempsey
1953-1954	H. Everest Clements	1977-1982	John W. Forness
1955-1956	Allan S. Klonick	1983-1984	William C. Vaughan
1957	Gerald R. Rising	1985-1988	Stanley R. Lincoln
1958-1961	Lillian C. Stoner	1989-1990	Berna B. Weissman
1962-1965	Kenneth D. Niven	1991-1997	Berna B. Lincoln

### DIRECTORS

#### Terms ending 1998

Barbara Butler	Emanuel Levine	Gerald Rising
David Junkin	Kevin McGowan	



## TABLE 4

### REGIONAL and SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS EDITORS

From the very first issue of *The Kingbird* in December 1950, the state has been divided into geographic reporting Regions for purposes of collecting and reporting on seasonal bird activity. Responsibility for each Region has then been assigned to a Regional Editor, or in some instances to a partnership of editors. Starting with Vol 2, No 2 in July 1952, the Regional Reports have been preceded by a summary of the statewide season's highlights. While initially prepared by *The Kingbird's* General Editor, this soon demanded a separate Seasonal Highlights Editor.

For the first three years, the state was divided into nine reporting Regions. They are referred to below as the Old Regions. Then, effective with Vol 4, No 1 in May 1954, a major redefinition of Regions and their boundaries was implemented to coincide with recommendations of the State Book Committee as described in *The Kingbird* Vol 3, No 3, October 1953. With only minor refinements of boundaries since 1954, those ten Regions remain in use today. They are referred to below as the New Regions.

**Note:** Editors for each Region are shown in general order of service, followed by the total number of reports each prepared. In those instances where there were multiple editors for a single report, each person is listed separately and the number indicates the total number of reports prepared, either in partnership or alone. Information is inclusive through Vol 48, No 1, March 1988.

#### REGIONAL EDITORS 1950–1953: OLD REGIONS

##### Region 1 Western NY

Edward L. Seeber 3  
Winston W. Brockner 2  
Clark S. Beardslee 6  
(also 14 in New Reg 1)

##### Region 2 Southern Tier

Charles J. Spiker 12  
Kenneth C. Parkes 4  
Mrs. Southgate Y. Hoyt 6  
(also 69 in New Reg 3)

##### Region 3 Lake Ontario

Richard T. O'Hara 7  
(also 15 in New Reg 2)  
James H. Barlow 4

##### Region 4 St. Lawrence

John B. Belknap 12  
(also 4 in New Reg 6)

##### Region 5 Adirondack

Gordon M. Meade 9  
(also 5 in New Reg 7)

## TABLE 4 Continued

### Region 6 Mohawk Valley

Mrs. Issac A. Rosa 7  
Fraser R. Turrentine 8

Robert F. Deed 8  
(also 10 in New Reg 9)

### Region 7 Lower Hudson Valley

Homer S. Kelsey 1  
George Komorowski 4  
Eugene Brown 1

### Region 8 Long Island

John J. Elliott 12  
(also 48 in New Reg 10)

### Region 9 Central NY

Foster L. Gambrell 10

## REGIONAL EDITORS 1954-1998: NEW REGIONS

### Region 1 Niagara Frontier

Clark S. Beardslee 14  
(also 6 in Old Reg 1)  
Harold D. Mitchell 1  
Robert F. Andrie 11  
Richard C. Rosche 22  
Alice E. Ulrich 2  
Edward C. Ulrich 2  
Robert A. Sundell 18  
Vivian Mills Pitzrick 39  
Joseph F. Thill 3  
Stephen W. Eaton 29  
Gerald R. Rising 8  
Willie D'Anna 17

Robert Spahn 23  
Kevin C. Griffith 61

### Region 3 Finger Lakes

Sally F. Hoyt 69  
(aka Sally Hoyt Spofford)  
(aka Mrs. Southgate Hoyt)  
(also 6 in Old Reg 2)  
Dorothy W. McIlroy 19  
W. E. Benning 39  
David B. Peakall 1  
(also 13 in New Reg 5)  
Dick Clements 9  
C. K. Melin 20  
Charles R. Smith 13  
Steve Kelling 16

### Region 2 Genesee

Harry Van Beurden 6  
Leo J. Tanghe 4  
Howard S. Miller 48  
Allen E. Kemnitzer 1  
James J. Doherty 1  
Walter C. Listman 1  
Richard T. O'Hara 15  
(also 7 in Old Reg 3)  
Thomas E. Tetlow 7

### Region 4 Susquehanna

Leslie E. Bemont 108  
Elizabeth Washburn 2  
Wm. C. Breidinger 1  
Harriet T. Marsi 15  
Jay G. Lehman 13  
Mary Dobinsky 31

## TABLE 4 Continued

### Region 5 Oneida Lake Basin

Fritz Scheider 75  
David B. Peakall 13  
(also 1 in New Reg 3)  
Margaret S. Rusk 40  
J. W. Propst 1  
G. G. Spies 10  
Paul A. DeBenedictis 33  
Gene Huggins 27  
Dorothy W. Crumb 11  
Jim Throckmorton 11  
Mary Alice Koeneke 7  
Bill Purcell 7

### Region 6 St. Lawrence

Frank A. Clinch 56  
David C. Gordon 12  
John B. Belknap 4  
(also 12 in Old Reg 4)  
Lee B. Chamberlaine 46  
Kenneth L. Crowell 46  
Gerald A. Smith 22  
Robert E. Long 6

### Region 7 Adirondack-Champlain

Gordon M. Meade 5  
(also 9 in Old Reg 5)  
Thomas A. Lesperance 29  
Agnes Amstutz 2  
Harriet L. Delafield 27  
Theodore D. Mack 49  
John M. C. Peterson 60

### Region 8 Hudson-Mohawk

Allen H. Benton 4  
James K. Merritt 19  
Br. E. Austin, F.S.C. 1  
Walton B. Sabin 11  
Peter P. Wickham 21  
Hazel F. Bundy 10

Marion J. Ford 2  
Richard E. Pillion 12  
Gladys Snell 11  
Richard P. Guthrie 16  
William E. Cook 12  
Edgar M. Reilly Jr. 3  
Peter Feinberg 2  
Linda Armstrong 7  
Kenneth P. Able 10  
Alan A. Mapes 7  
Jane Denker Graves 17

### Region 9 Hudson-Delaware

Robert F. Deed 10  
(also 8 in Old Reg 7)  
Fred N. Hough 23  
Edward D. Treacy 100  
Helen C. Manson 17  
John P. Askildsen 13  
Michael L. Usai 6  
Michael Bochnik 4

### Region 10 Marine

John J. Elliott 48  
(also 12 in Old Reg 8)  
Peter W. Post 8  
Guy A. Tudor 8  
Thomas H. Davis 31  
Fred Heath 10  
William Post 2  
Lee Morgan 19  
Hugh D. McGuinness 7  
Peter M. Polshek 1  
Anthony J. Lauro 17  
Barbara J. Spencer 28  
Joseph A. DiCostanzo 16  
Tony Leukering 3  
John Walsh 3  
Seymour Schiff 38  
Alvin Wollin 38

## TABLE 4 Continued

### SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS EDITORS

Allan S. Klonick	2	Vivian Mills Pitzrick	1
Stephen W. Eaton	8	Kenneth P. Able	1
Gerald R. Rising	9	Thomas H. Davis	2
James K. Merritt	15	Robert S. Arbib Jr.	1
Allen H. Benton	1	Robert F. Andrie	1
David B. Peakall	29	Susan Roney Drennan	1
Allen E. Kemnitzer	2	Emanuel Levine	3
Joseph W. Taylor	2	John Farrand Jr.	1
Edgar M. Reilly Jr.	1	John M. C. Peterson	1
Fritz Scheider	15	Willie D'Anna	2
Gordon M. Meade	2	Robert Spahn	64
Robert W. Smart	15		

### SUMMARY

In the first 48 years of publication of *The Kingbird*, there have been 111 Regional Editors. Seasonal Highlights, which started two years later, in 1952, has had 23 editors, including 16 who have also served as Regional Editors, and 6 who also served as Editor of *The Kingbird*.

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Note: KB = *The Kingbird*

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