

19TH ANNUAL MEETING
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

LIDO BEACH, N. Y.

MAY 20-22, 1966

The official meeting of delegates of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. was held on Saturday morning, May 21, 1966. The meeting was called to order by Federation President, Dr. Allen Benton, at 9 a.m. The roll call was taken and a quorum declared, with 26 member clubs represented.

The minutes of the 1965 meeting were not read, but were approved as published in the July 1965 *Kingbird*.

The Treasurer's Report, given by Kenneth Niven, showed a balance in the checking account of \$4,578.02 as of Dec. 31, 1965, and a balance in the savings account of \$3,815.00 (principal only), as of the same date.

The report of the Auditing Committee, given in absentia by Mr. Niven, showed all accounts to be in order.

Dr. Sally Spofford gave the *Kingbird* report as the Editor, Mrs. McIlroy could not be present. 692 copies of the May 1966 *Kingbird* were mailed as compared with 627 for May 1965. The new printer in Ithaca has made the Editor's job much easier; the second class mailing permit has saved money, helping to offset the increased printing costs, postage being about one-fourth the former cost. Appreciation was expressed to Regional Editors, the Associate Editors and the Editorial Board. Once more a plea was sent out for more articles for the *Kingbird*. The Editor would like very much to be able to build up a backlog of articles from which to draw when forthcoming material is short for any particular issue.

The report of the Corresponding Secretary was given by Mrs. Marsi. Each member club was notified that the proposed Amendment to Increase Dues was unanimously ratified and would apply in 1966.

Dr. E. M. Reilly's Report of the Publications & Research Committee stated that copies of the 10-year index of the *Kingbird* are still available and may be procured (\$1) by contacting him c/o the N.Y.S. Museum in Albany. Dr. Reilly circulated a questionnaire to each member club concerning their activities, sanctuaries, special studies, etc.

Robert Arbib gave the report of the State Book Committee: John Bull is now working full time as Editor, with his office in the Museum of Natural History in New York City. Thanks to Dean Amadon, funds have been secured to pay Mr. Bull's salary for three or maybe four years from the Dann Caulkins Fund. More funds will of course be needed. Members should send Mr. Bull as much pertinent information as possible, as this is a Federation Project, and will be a Federation Publication.

The Bulletin Exchange Committee Report was given by Elizabeth Manning: The exchange has gone well – any member clubs which wish to take part but have not done so should contact her. Copies of club publications should be sent to the *Kingbird* Editor, also to the Bibliography Committee.

Richard Sloss reported for the By-Laws Committee. A motion was made and approved that the constitution be gone over completely before the 1967 meeting, with special attention to the tax exemption status. Member clubs should contact the By-Laws Committee if they have any specific ideas on this. Each member club should have a copy of the Federation By-Laws. If they do not have a copy, they should contact the president.

OLD BUSINESS: (a) Mr. Niven read the list of delinquent members. A motion was made and approved to suspend these with a 90-day reinstatement period before termination of membership. This list will be read each year. (b) There was a discussion on extending the Annual Meeting to 3 days. A motion was made and approved that the 1967 meeting will start at noon on Friday, with all committee meetings in the afternoon and the open Conservation Meeting on Friday evening as usual, thus giving the president opportunity to attend all committee meetings, and also releasing other committee members to attend the Conservation Meeting. Delegates were asked to sound out member clubs on the possibility of starting on Thursday so that delegates might participate in the Saturday Field Trips. The possibility of holding the meeting at a different time of year was also discussed.

The slate of officers for 1967 as given by the Nominating Committee was accepted as follows:

President, Dr. Allen H. Benton
Vice President, Mr. Watson B. Hastings
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Harriet Marsi
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Betty Strath
Treasurer, Mr. Dort Cameron.

The Nominating Committee for 1967 is:

Dr. Neil Moon, Chairman
Robert S. Arbib
Dr. Edgar M. Reilly.

Robert Arbib gave the report of the Budget Committee. A new budget of \$3,270 was approved for the coming year.

The report of the Membership Committee was given by Mr. James Dougherty, Chairman pro tem. The Olean Bird Club was invited to membership. It was suggested that new members be voted upon early in the Annual Meeting from now on.

The new Auditing Committee for 1967 is: Mr. Allen Kemnitzer and John Foster.

Last on the agenda was Maxwell Wheat's Conservation Committee report. Each member club is asked to devote one early fall meeting to Conservation, with special attention this year to the coming Constitutional Convention. It was suggested that speakers might be invited – someone to discuss the Forest Preserve, and if possible, candidates for delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Pres. Benton asked that member clubs work toward choosing delegates with some knowledge of Constitutional Law; it was further suggested that if any candidate should take a definite stand in favor of the Forest Preserve, that member clubs should back this person strongly, and that local civic groups should be asked to help. It was further suggested that should election come and none of the candidates be acceptable in this respect, that a write-in campaign be carried out.

A motion was made and approved in support of Federal legislation to regulate interstate sale of birds of prey.

A motion was made and approved to endorse the 4-H Bluebird Project.

A motion was made and approved to support resolutions concerning both State and Federal Conservation Projects as follows:

1) Support establishment of a Long Island National Wetlands Recreation Area on 16,000 acres of salt wetlands in the Towns of Hempstead and Oyster Bay, S. 3271, by Sen. Robert Kennedy (N. Y.) and H.R. 11236 by Rep. Herbert Tenzer (N. Y.) as the best means for the most permanent protection of this key area for migrating, wintering and breeding waterfowl.

A. This would give the Dept. of the Interior a stronger voice in the face of other Federal agencies wanting to utilize any portion of the wetlands, like the U. S. Army Engineers who have proposed a hurricane barrier-beach barrier plan that would destroy a considerable area of the wetlands.

B. The current "dedication" for conservation by the Town Board of Hempstead and its cooperative agreement with the Conservation Dept., State of New York, are weak and impermanent:

a. The Board has retained the right to practice sand mining for public works.

b. The agreement is encumbered by a mutual cancellation clause.

2) Opposition to the Suffolk County Mosquito Commission's choice of pesticides, namely its widespread reliance on the long-lived DDT, and to call attention to the depletion of the great Osprey colony in that county in which evidence incriminating pesticides (including DDT) as the primary cause is so strong as to lead to a demand for the most stringent concern and restraint in the use of these controversial materials.

3) Support legislation to establish a Great South Bay Conservation Commission, which will join federal, state and local authorities in an

intergovernmental partnership or compact empowered to study, plan and recommend the legal implementation of plans to save the Bay.

A. Great South Bay is one of Long Island's most valuable resources.

B. Many factors relating to Long Island growth are causing problems in the bay, such as pollution and unwise dredging of wetlands.

C. Solution of the problem of Great South Bay is hampered by the fact of many different overlapping jurisdictions.

D. All levels of government should cooperate if this valuable resource is to be saved.

4) Support H.R. 13185 by Rep. James Grover (N. Y.) for a Long Island Sound Advisory Commission and a study of the Long Island Sound ecology by the states of New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island – and we would urge the inclusion of a moratorium on any future projects (including a bridge) until such a study has been completed.

5) Support in the New York State Legislature Intro. S 2554 to amend the conservation law to include consultation between Long Island State Park Commission and local governing bodies and agencies and to provide public hearings regarding planning and proposals (a look at the shearing off of the pines adjoining Tobay Sanctuary where the egrets have nested will be an argument for this).

6) Support in the New York State Legislature of Intro. S 2555 to amend the highway law to include consultation between Superintendent of Public Works and local governing bodies and agencies and provide public hearings for planning and proposals.

(NOTE: Numbers 5 & 6 are being pushed by ACTION for Conservation and Preservation of the North Shore, Long Island, but have implication for conservation battles throughout the state. Both bills have been introduced by Sen. Bernard Smith.)

7) Support protection of the Hudson River while an Interstate Hudson Commission is formed to cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior on a program to develop, preserve and restore the resources of the Hudson River and its shores. According to H.R. 13508 by Rep. Richard Ottinger (N. Y.) steps would be taken against any adverse Federal projects or actions until the program is completed.

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION will be sent to the following: State Senator Watson Pomeroy, Rep. Herbert Tenzer, Rep. Richard L. Ottinger, Mr. Anthony S. Taormina, for their efforts in behalf of conservation projects.

The Conservation Chairman was authorized to take appropriate action on any pertinent issues and to make the Federation's stand known to the appropriate legislative or congressional committees, at hearings, etc.

The following Federation Members were commended: Mrs. Lillian Stoner as the Federation's first Patron, Mr. David Niven as out-going Treasurer; Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy as Editor of the *Kingbird*, and Robert S. Arbib for his work in behalf of the State Bird Book.

A Resolution was made as follows: 'Whereas: The Baldwin Bird Club, The Huntington Audubon Society, The Lyman Langdon Audubon Society and the Queens County Bird Club have given of their time and efforts to organize and host the 19th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, and whereas: The officers and delegates to the 19th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs wish to recognize the outstanding contribution of the host clubs, be it resolved that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, by these minutes, expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the Baldwin Bird Club, The Huntington Audubon Society, The Lyman Langdon Audubon Society and the Queens County Bird Club for their work and devotion toward making the 19th Annual Meeting such an outstanding success.'

Delegates were asked to push individual membership in the Federation, and to give complete reports to their clubs of the Annual Meeting.

The 20th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. will be held at Binghamton, co-hosted by the Naturalists' Club of Binghamton, Inc. and the Tioga Bird Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Betty Strath
Recording Secretary



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Recommended by Roger Tory Peterson