

analyzed. It was found that buckwheat constituted a larger share of the grain eaten than did corn. This is another illustration of the adaptability of the crow, since buckwheat was, at the time, widely cultivated in central New York. The study showed that crows partake freely of food items that are abundant at any particular time. For example, May beetles constituted more than one-half of the food consumed in the month of May and wild fruit was a major item in July and August. In this connection it may be mentioned that under primeval conditions wild fruits probably formed over one-half of the annual food of the crow. Today the importance of this source is greatly reduced.

Whenever available, quantities of insects are eaten. Many of these are grasshoppers, beetles, cutworms and caterpillars. Other animal food includes reptiles, fish, crustaceans, eggs and young of other birds, amphibia, and small mammals. That the crow is a scavenger is well known, and carrion is not neglected. There have been numerous observations of crows resorting to the seashore to feed on dead fish cast up by the waves.

Carrion is eaten at all times of year, and may be an important food source during the colder months. It is difficult to judge accurately the amount of this type of food since crows kill and eat small mammals, young rabbits, mice, as well as nestling birds. The extent to which nestlings are eaten is hard to assess by stomach analysis, because the remains lose their identity rapidly once inside a crow's stomach. In this connection visual observation is of value.

In this day of high speed vehicular traffic, many small animals, both wild and domestic are killed on our highways. Crows find this a ready source of carrion, one more example of resourcefulness and adaptability. Some years ago an ornithologist travelling in the mid-south noted crows feeding on traffic-killed animals, including dogs, cats, chickens, rabbits and skunks. In northern New York crows return in numbers in March, at a time when food is scarce. At this season I have often seen them feeding on the remains of traffic killed animals.

92 Clinton Street, Gouverneur, N.Y. 13642

20th ANNUAL MEETING
NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION OF BIRD CLUBS, INC.
DEPOSIT, N. Y. JUNE 2-4, 1967

The 20th Annual Meeting of the Federation of N.Y.S. Bird Clubs, Inc. was held at Hanson's on Lake Oquaga, co-sponsored by the Naturalists' Club of Binghamton, Inc. and the Tioga Bird Club. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Federation President, Dr. Allen H. Benton, and a quorum was declared with 23 member clubs represented.

The minutes of the 19th Annual Meeting were approved as published in the July, 1966 *Kingbird*.

In the absence of Mr. Dort Cameron, the Treasurer's Report was read by Dr. Neil S. Moon:

Total receipts for 1966	\$5201.29
Total disbursements for 1966	3860.36
Balance on hand in checking account as of December 31, 1966	1340.93

Report of Savings Account:

Balance on hand 1/1/66	3815.00
Total receipts for 1966	4433.24
Total interest withdrawals for 1966	193.24
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1966	4240.00
(principal only)	

Dr. Moon also read the Auditing Committee report, in the absence of Mr. Kemnitzer, stating that as of Dec. 31, 1966 the Federation's financial position was found to be in order by Jerome Kerner and Edward McBride, Auditors for 1966.

Mrs. Harriet Marsi, Corresponding Secretary, reported that information concerning this year's Annual Meeting was sent to member clubs 30 days prior to the meeting, as required.

Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy, Editor of *The Kingbird*, reported as follows:

"644 copies of the May 1967 issue are being sent out. This includes the extra copies sent to each author in addition to the copies to members and member clubs which receive one copy per hundred members.

We are trying a new notice for delinquent dues this time. Members who have not paid their 1967 dues will find a pink slip in the May copy stating that this will be the last copy they will receive until dues are received.

Dort Cameron got the sales tax exemption for the Federation. As this automatically exempts from the 3% Tompkins County sales tax as well as the state 2% tax, it represents a real saving in *Kingbird* printing costs.

I am pleased to report that more articles are being submitted for the *Kingbird*. There is still no real backlog, but at least the articles are being received several months in advance instead of at copy deadline. If you have any material suitable for publication, I urge you to write it up and send it in. If you know someone who has material for an article, either ask them to submit an article or send the name to me and I will write requesting an article.

Recently three sets of *Kingbird* have been assembled. Two complete sets are being bound, one to go with the editorship, the other to an associate editor. The third set is not complete, Vol. 14 #1 (January 1964) being missing. If anyone who has this issue does not want it for his file, we would appreciate receiving it." (Ed. Note: a copy has been donated.)

Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Chairman of the Publications & Research Committee reported that out of 40 questionnaires sent out last year to member clubs regarding projects and activities, he received 17 responses. Eight of these maintained a sanctuary. Dr. Reilly urged that delegates from member clubs which had not responded please urge them to do so.

Mr. Arbib, Chairman of the State Book Committee, reported that John Bull had put in his first year as full-time Editor, and that work is progressing. He stressed the importance of research on the part of individual clubs.

There was no report on the Waterfowl Count, as Mr. John Mitchell was unable to attend the meeting. This report will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Kingbird*.

Mr. James Dougherty reported next for the Membership Committee. The plea again goes out for more new members. Delegates again were asked to promote Federation Membership. Dr. Benton read the list of delinquent members. It was voted that these people be dropped from the membership roster with the understanding that they be reinstated upon payment of dues. A list of 38 new members was approved.

Since Mr. Richard Sloss, Chairman of the By Laws Committee, could not be present, the report was given by Mrs. Lillian Stoner who read the letter submitted to all member clubs on April 28, 1967 concerning the proposals for by-laws amendments:

Article II, Section 2, subsection (a)

Insert immediately before the words "payable on March 1st" the additional clause "except that the minimum dues shall be five dollars."

Article II, Section 2, subsection (b)

Under the definition for Student Member change the word "at" to "in" and add to the end of the definition "and has requested to be included in such class of membership."

The proposed amended form of subsection (b) shall read:

"A Student Member shall be defined as any member who is enrolled as a full-time student *in* an established institution of learning *and has requested to be included in such class of membership.*

Article II, Section 2, subsection (c)

"During the installment period, payment of regular membership dues shall be waived. Upon payment in full the member receives the designation 'Life Member', and shall not be subject to any further payment of dues during his life."

Article II, Section 2, subsection (d) would read:

"Upon application to the Treasurer and with the approval of the Membership Committee an Active Member, *if not otherwise in arrears of dues, may be granted*"

Article II, Section 5 would read in its entirety:

"Member clubs shall file with the Recording Secretary two copies of a list of name and addresses of their officers *within one month after the election of such officers*, and shall file biennially in even years with the Recording Secretary at least two copies of the names and addresses of all their members."

Proposed amendment:

"No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member, director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual, except in accordance with the corporation's purposes, and no member, director, officer of the corporation or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of the corporate assets on the dissolution of the corporation, and no member, officer, director or employee of the corporation shall receive or be lawfully entitled to receive from the corporation any remuneration except such reasonable salaries as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the corporation."

These were approved by the delegates. It was asked that member clubs vote on these and send their reports to the Recording Secretary by October 1967, as no action can be taken until amendments are ratified by member clubs.

Immediately following the coffee break, the list of nominees for Federation officers was read by Dr. Neil Moon, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and were duly elected as follows:

PRESIDENT:	Mr. Watson B. Hastings, Dobbs Ferry
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Dr. David B. Peakall, Syracuse
CORRESPONDING SEC'Y:	Mrs. Frederick V. Marsi, Binghamton
RECORDING SEC'Y:	Miss Hortense Barten, Old Chatham
TREASURER:	Mr. Dort Cameron, Rochester

The Nominating Committee for 1968 was elected as follows: Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Albany, Chairman; Robert S. Arbib, Mamaroneck; Alice Ulrich, Buffalo.

The Auditing Committee for 1968 was reelected as follows: Allen Kemnitzer and John Foster, both of Rochester.

Mr. Maxwell C. Wheat, Freeport, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, reported next. First on his agenda was a request for a Conservation Council with a separate delegate from each member club for a special Conservation Meeting at next year's session. His reason was that since what was formerly the Conservation Meeting has now become a Conservation Forum, no time is allotted for the Conservation Committee to meet as such to discuss issues at hand. This Council would give its report at the delegates' meeting. The request was approved. It was also asked that the Conservation Committee be called to a special meeting immediately prior to any important legislation during the year.

The following issues were voted upon and approved:

THE FOREST PRESERVE AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

1. We support proposals for a Conservation Bill of Rights to extend 'forever wild' protection to other natural resources and to provide for proper hearings, notices and reviews before natural resources can be condemned for unrelated uses.

2. We support proposals that would have the Constitution state the State's responsibility to keep forever natural our land, water and air environment.

THE 1967 STATE ELECTION

1. We oppose the Blue Ridge Ski Amendment that would authorize construction and maintenance on Forest Preserve land of not more than 30 miles of ski trails, 30 to 80 feet wide, together with appurtenances thereto, on the north and east slopes of Hoffman, Blue Ridge, and Peaked Hill Mountains in Essex County.

2. With reluctance we look with disfavor on the \$2.5 billion mass transportation bond issue because of its financial support for Long Island Sound bridge building and other threats to conservation and urge its defeat.

IN THE NATION

1. We urge the creation of a National Redwoods Park that will properly protect the great redwoods in their natural environment.

2. We support legislation that will properly protect our coast lines and wild life from oil pollution — particularly like that of the Torrey Canyon disaster.

3. We support H.R. 7796 by Mr. Dingell to establish a Council on Environmental Quality to establish a Federal policy.

4. We support legislation that will properly maintain our land, water and air environment in their natural state to insure the life, health, and happiness of our citizens.

5. With regard to S 1025 by Senator Gaylord Nelson to prohibit the sale or shipment for use in the United States of DDT, it was voted that a letter be sent to Senator Gaylord Nelson by Mr. Wheat supporting his viewpoint but suggesting that rather than banning DDT specifically, he work toward licensing in connection with all non-degradable chlorinated hydrocarbons. (Copies of this letter should be sent to member clubs.) A further suggestion was that subsidies be granted to large users of insecticides to help defray the higher cost of 'safer' poisons.

6. We support and initiate legislation that will properly preserve natural habitat of wildlife and other measures to properly maintain wildlife.

7. Support of Everglades National Park. Send letter to Governor Kirk to let water in.

FEDERATION ORGANIZATION

To properly consider and implement policy on conservation it is recommended that a separate Conservation Council be established to meet concurrently with the governing Council and to have its proposals ratified by the governing Council near the conclusion of its meeting. Delegates would be elected to the Conservation Council.

The Conservation Committee be empowered to take action regarding support of particular measures within the general objectives of the Federation and to submit statements to hearings and urge action by member clubs.

A CONSERVATION BILL OF RIGHTS

A Conservation Bill of Rights was submitted to the Constitutional Convention by Delegates Levitt and Fay in Albany on May 15. It reads as follows:

"New Article – CONSERVATION BILL OF RIGHTS

1. The conservation of its natural resources, the protection and preservation of the natural beauty of its lands and waters, and the protection of the purity of the air above such lands and waters, are hereby declared to be policies of the state and rights of the people of the state.

2. The legislature shall designate and fix by law, and from time to time add to by law, those lands and waters of the state outside of the forest preserve, now owned or hereafter acquired by the state, which because of their natural beauty or their wilderness character, or geological or ecological significance, shall constitute and forever be kept and protected as the state nature preserve. Such lands and waters constituting the nature preserve shall not be altered except pursuant to constitutional amendment specifically describing the lands or waters and the alteration.

3. No lands or waters shall be taken by the exercise of the power of Eminent Domain unless the taking authority shall first determine after giving notice and an opportunity to be heard to all persons affected thereby, including the Commissioner of Conservation, that the proposed taking is in the public interest, considering the need for such taking and the effect thereof upon the forest, wild life, light, air and other natural surroundings of the lands or waters to be taken and all other lands and waters within the state."

While this Bill strengthens Article XIV of the present Constitution it omits the two essentials – Right of Judicial Recourse and protection of irreplaceable natural resources with a stated time of review by an appointed committee.

a. Provision that a commission appointed by the legislature of which a majority of the members shall be local representatives shall meet at least once in every five years to review natural resources, maintaining the present forest preserve and adding such other lands and waters as may be necessary for conservation and preservation.

b. The right of judicial recourse to the courts if a public agency exercises the power of eminent domain affecting natural resources without consulting duly appointed commissions and providing reasonable notice and public hearings.

In connection with this, Mr. Wheat suggested a revision of the first article to read as follows: "Each individual in this state has the right to an environment of water, air, and land that is forever natural to assure his or her life, health and pursuit of peace, quiet, and happiness." This proposal was voted upon and defeated by a vote of 17-16.

It was suggested and approved that a proposal be sent to proper authorities suggesting that a State Conservation Committee be established, of similar legal status to the Education Department's Board of Regents, thus removing the Con-

servation Department from direct political control. It was asked that Mr. Wheat submit copies of letters to member clubs,

Under New Business:

1. The Allegany County Bird Club's request for membership was approved.
2. Delegates were asked to see that member clubs bring dues up to date if they have not already done so.
3. It was asked that By Laws Amendments be voted upon by member clubs and reported to the Recording Secretary before October 30, 1967.
(This information was mailed to member clubs in April of this year).
4. Next year's Annual Meeting will be held at Rochester ,co-sponsored by the Genesee Ornithological Society and the Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club.
5. A Publicity Committee was established with Ed Somers of Albany as Chairman.
6. The Conservation Chairman and Corresponding Secretary, should send several copies of material to member clubs.

A proposed Budget of \$3620.00 for 1968 was read by Dr. Allen H. Benton and approved.

The following resolutions were read by Dr. Edgar M. Reilly:

1. Whereas: Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy has so nobly performed the duties of Editor of *The Kingbird* that we can well be proud of the finest and best edited bird journal in the states; Whereas the said Dorothy McIlroy has given time and tender concern far beyond the usual during her tenure, we hereby offer our deepest thanks and heartfelt congratulations for these accomplishments.
2. Whereas: We have been so nobly and pleasurably hosted and entertained at Hanson's on Lake Oquaga by the members of the Tioga Bird Club and the Naturalists' Club of Binghamton that we express our thanks and pleasure for this and for the many kindnesses shown throughout the meeting, and especially for the opportunity to see such a lovely countryside with the hopes of many happy returns.
3. Whereas: The devoted Federation members, Dr. Foster Gambrell of the Eaton Bird Club and Joseph Blake of the North Country Bird Club have passed away, we wish to express our sympathy to friends and relatives, and our own sorrow by this resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Betty Strath
Recording Secretary

JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE — 1966 and 1967

"The Elliott Memorial Prize shall be given each year at the annual banquet to that author of a paper published during the preceding year, in *The Kingbird*, deemed the most worthy by a panel of judges." (President's Page, *Kingbird* for May 1964)

Due to an unfortunate oversight, names of the joint recipients of the 1966 Elliott Memorial Prize were not published in the *Kingbird*. The prize was given to Dr. Walter R. Spofford and Dr. David B. Peakall for their article "Pesticides and Wildlife" published in the January 1965 *Kingbird*.

President Allen Benton announced at the banquet June 3 that the 1967 Elliott Memorial Prize had been awarded to Robert P. Yunick for his article "Data Gathered from the Redpoll Flight of 1966" published in the October 1966 *Kingbird*.