

ford, who have guided me on many field trips there and have written a short guide to the area, and to Fritz Scheider and Walter Spofford, who have shared their thoughts about its ecology.

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21st ANNUAL MEETING

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

APRIL 26 — 28, 1968

The 21st Annual Meeting of the FNYSBC was held at the Treadway Inn, the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, and the Sheraton Hotel, Rochester, N.Y., April 26-28, 1968, with the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and the Genesee Ornithological Society acting as hosts. The Council Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM, April 27 by Dr. David B. Peakall, acting president, and a quorum was declared with 28 clubs present.

The minutes of the 20th Annual Meeting were approved as published in the October 1967 *Kingbird*.

The treasurer, Mr. Dort Cameron, gave the following report, for 1967, which was accepted:

Cash on hand 12/31/66

Checking account	\$1,340.93	
Savings account	<u>4,240.00</u>	\$5,580.93

Net income, 1967*		<u>950.70</u>
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Cash on hand, 12/31/67

Checking account	\$1,725.70	
Accrued interest, savings account	<u>215.93</u>	
Total Operating Funds	1,941.63	
Savings account	<u>4,590.00</u>	6,531.63

Income, 1967

Dues, Individuals & Subscriptions	2,390.25	
Dues, New Members	233.00	
Dues in arrears, collected	247.70	
Dues, member clubs	618.20	
Life membership payments	350.00	
Interest on savings account	215.93	
Misc. income	<u>234.01</u>	4,289.09

Expenses, 1967

Kingbird	2,818.11	
Membership maintenance	84.58	
Postage & stationery	186.65	
Conservation	51.00	
Annual meeting	66.89	
Misu.	131.16	3,338.39
Increase in operating funds	600.70	
Increase in Life Membership funds	350.00	950.70*
		\$4,289.09

The Auditing Committee was absent, but had signed the report.

The corresponding secretary, Mrs. Harriet Marsi, reported that the notice of the Annual Meeting was mailed to all members and member clubs 30 days before the date, as required in the by-laws. The slate of officers to be presented by the Nominating Committee could not be included, as it usually is, due to the sudden death of our president, Watson Hastings. This was mailed out at a later date when adjustments had been made.

Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy, editor of the *Kingbird*, reported as follows: 633 copies of the January 1968 *Kingbird* were sent out, a decrease from January 1967. This included 25 free copies sent to authors, advertiser and usual copies sent to Library of Congress, Patuxent Research Refuge, Biological Abstracts, etc. Paid copies were 608. There has been no change in printing or mailing charges during the year.

Articles continue to come in somewhat ahead of time, but there is still *no backlog*. I ask you as delegates frequently during the year to remind and urge members of your clubs to submit articles for publication.

Back copies of all but two issues are still available.

I wish to thank the Regional Editors for their labors on the Regional Reports. This takes more time than one might expect, from seeing that local birdwatchers submit their records, through getting additional information or confirmation for unusual records and writing the introductory summary of the season in the Region, to sending off the typed copies. I also wish especially to express my thanks to my two associate editors, Sally Spofford and David Peakall, who cheerfully respond to requests for all sorts of advice and information. I could never do the job without them.

Mr. Edgar M. Reilly, chairman of Publications and Research Committee, reported that about one fourth of the questionnaires sent out to member clubs had been returned.

Mr. Edward M. Somers, chairman of the Publicity Committee, reported as follows:

At the request of past president Allen Benton a press release was prepared describing the Federation's Red-tailed Hawk nesting program. The release was presented in two forms: One designed to be issued by the Federation president for mailing to daily newspapers, radio and television stations, and certain conservation publications and organizations; the other designed to be issued by the presidents of the local clubs for mailing to local weekly newspapers for more complete coverage. Both release forms were approved by Dr. Benton and our late president Watson B. Hastings. The statewide form was mailed to 266 daily newspapers, radio and television stations, and some 40 additional conservation columnists, conservation publications, and organizations; i.e., National Audubon, New York-New Jersey Trail Association, the Conservation Foundation, Belle Baruch Foundation, etc. A copy of the local release was mailed to each member club, along with names and addresses of local weekly newspapers known to me, as an aid to the club.

Several clubs sent tear sheets of the release taken from their local papers, and it is generally considered that the release was well received and that our Red-tail program has been given good publicity.

The Committee is working on the design of a certificate which will have a photo of a Red-tail and a message of approval, which can be presented to the recipients of our rewards. It is hoped that local clubs will be able to obtain photographs of presentations of such awards and that these photographs along with a small release can be published in the local papers.

The Committee is also considering the possibility of preparing inexpensive, black and white postcards with a photograph of a hawk or other bird of prey and a brief message explaining their value to man. These cards would then be distributed free through the Federation to the various Conservation Camps run by the State of New York, 4-H, Girl and Boy Scouts, etc. throughout the state for the children's use in writing home.

The Committee is also hoping to send out a press release to papers and radio and television stations in the state at the start of the hunting season next fall, explaining the value of birds of prey and urging hunters to do their utmost to protect these fine and endangered birds.

Mr. Robert S. Arbib, Jr., chairman of the State Bird Book Committee, reported that John Bull has completed two of the four years of his fellowship as editor and that the progress would be given in detail by Mr. Bull at the afternoon paper session.

Mr. John L. Mitchell, chairman of the Waterfowl Count Committee, reported that there has been nothing new. There is some upward or downward trend in some species.

Mr. Richard Sloss, chairman of the By-laws Committee, reported that the amendments approved by the Council last year had been approved by two-thirds of the member clubs and incorporated into the by-laws. Copies of the by-laws were available at the meeting and were to be sent to member clubs that had no representation at the meeting. Suggestions for further changes would be welcomed. No amendments are pending. Mr. Sloss also reported that application has been made for tax-exempt status, and approval of such exemption was expected within a few weeks. Bequests to the organization would then become tax deductible.

A motion that the president name a committee of three to study the structure of the Federation and make recommendations for changes was passed. This was the outcome of a discussion of the suggestion that a second vice-president be added to the officers.

The proposed slate of officers for 1969 was presented by Dr. E. M. Reilly, chairman of the Nominating Committee:

President — Dr. David B. Peakall, Syracuse

Vice-president — Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., Old Chatham

Corresponding Secretary — Miss Frances Rew, Buffalo

Recording Secretary — Mrs. Frederic Knight, Spencertown

Treasurer — Mr. Dort Cameron, Pittsford

The slate was unanimously elected.

Mr. Cameron then resigned as of January 1969.

Mr. James J. Doherty, chairman of the Membership Committee, reported 593 active members and 37 new applicants. Applicants were accepted into membership. Clubs were urged to try to get new members. A list of delinquents who had not paid dues was distributed. These would be removed from the rolls if dues were not received within the time specified in the By-laws.

It was suggested that two Audubon societies on Long Island be approached for possible membership. It was also suggested that a membership list be published in the *Kingbird*.

Mr. Cameron presented the budget for 1969. After some discussion a motion to increase the allotment for the Conservation Committee from \$50 to \$100 was passed. It was suggested that individuals and clubs make contributions toward the work of the Conservation Committee. The budget adopted is as follows:

Income

Dues — individuals and subscriptions	\$2,450
Dues — new members	250
Dues — arrears	50
Dues — member clubs	700
Interest	230
Miscellaneous	100
	\$3,780

Expenses

Kingbird	\$3,000
Membership maintenance	250
Postage and stationery	150
Conservation	100
Annual meeting	100
Administrative expense	150
Miscellaneous	25
	\$3,775

It was moved by Mrs. Homer Germond and seconded by Mr. Maxwell Wheat that the Federation become affiliated with the New York State Conservation Council. After much discussion the vote was as follows: For — 24; Against — 9; Abstaining — 4

It was moved by Mrs. Homer Germond and seconded by Mr. Allan S. Klonick that the Federation become affiliated with the National Audubon Society. Again there was much discussion. The vote was: For — 23; Against — 5; Abstaining — 6

The following report was made by Mr. Nicholas Smith, delegate of the North Country Bird Club of Watertown:

THREAT TO IMPORTANT HABITAT

Upstate birders know that Eldorado is the place to see shore birds. Several bird clubs make annual trips there. Individual birders go there in August, September and October to see the many shore birds, to photograph them and to band them. Readers of *The Kingbird* are aware of the many kinds of shore birds that are seen at Eldorado. Thirty species of shore birds and from twenty to twenty-five species of waterfowl have been seen there. Included are golden plover, whimbrel, willet, all three phalaropes, purple sandpiper, western sandpiper, Baird's sandpiper and sadly enough, a dead gyrfalcon!

Eldorado is in southeastern Jefferson County on the eastern end of Lake Ontario. The bed rock along the shore slopes gently into the water. Shore birds find food on the mud flats and in the material washed onto the shore. The shore line is about 3600 ft. long. The land back from the shore is of little use for farming. Much of it is low and wet, but the soil above the rock is so shallow that it is too dry in dry weather. It has been used for pasture and there are trees in some places.

This is a *unique area for birds*. We know of no other place like it. It cannot be reached by a main road. It is isolated enough that it is seldom disturbed by man. It is large enough so that when birds are driven from one part, they merely fly to another part of the shore.

The Eldorado property has long been owned by the Wood family, and the present owner is Willard Wood of Watertown. For years birders have been given permission to go on his property and he has even encouraged them to do so. This has been a satisfactory arrangement for the birders even though they knew it was too good to last.

It now seems certain that parts of the shore may soon be sold as lots on which cottages will be built. An option to buy the shore (3600 ft.) and about 250 acres

can be obtained. The land away from the shore is of little value, except that owning it is very necessary as a buffer zone. If this property is not obtained now as a bird sanctuary, parts will be sold and this area will attract more people and fewer birds. The North Country Bird Club of Watertown believes this area must be saved. The central New York Chapter of Nature Conservancy has been contacted but Federation support is essential.

At first, the cost of this property may seem high. However, compare the cost with many other desirable projects such as game management areas, parks and recreation areas. Many require additional money every year. The cost of buying Eldorado is about \$56,000. Little would have to be done to the property and the annual cost of maintaining it as a stopping place during migration would not be very much.

The Council was sympathetic to this report and suggestions were made.

The Conservation Committee report was presented by the chairman, Mr. Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., and approved in its entirety.

Activities and Recommendations for More Effective Operation

This year the Legislature passed the bill adding the Belted Kingfisher to the list of birds protected in New York State. Thanks should go in large part to Dr. Sally Spofford, Mr. Dennis Puleston and Mr. Arthur Cooley (the latter two of the Brookhaven Town Natural Resources Council) for helping to have bills introduced.

Conservation Committee members and Federation officers were asked their advice regarding the Kingfisher Bill. Several replied with helpful suggestions. This practice should be continued.

Gratitude and recognition should be paid to a project conducted independently of the Conservation Committee — the Hawk Reward Project developed by Dr. Allen Benton and publicized by Mr. Edward Somers, the Federation's publicity chairman.

Three issues of CONSERVATION NOW! were published — October, February and April. It should be issued at least once every two months (September through June). This might be possible if the work was divided:

1. One to write and (or) edit it
2. One to take charge of printing
2. One to handle distribution

This year copies were sent to both the Presidents and Conservation Chairmen of all clubs instead of just to one officer as in previous years. However, effectiveness would be broadened if CONSERVATION NOW! were distributed more widely:

1. To all officers in a club
2. To all Federation members

and a Federation membership application included in each issue.

Because I was in Florida and could not otherwise handle the emergency situation with regard to S-5588 allowing hunting of Mourning Doves on Long Island, I sent requests to several Conservation Committee members and others strategically located geographically and asked them to contact designated clubs to mount opposition to this bill. Although bred of necessity, I feel that this kind of structure has possibilities. I urge:

1. Appointment of area or regional Conservation Chairmen ready to go into action quickly when an emergency arises.
 - A. The resultant closer contact with clubs would also serve to strengthen the Federation.
 - B. When possible these chairmen could be encouraged to be available for speaking appearances before bird clubs and other groups.
2. That the Federation adopt a general statement of Conservation purposes and principles.

Perhaps a committee of three could prepare such a statement. Under this statement, the Conservation Chairman, with the approval of two-thirds of the Committee, would be free to act quickly — which is so often the need. This would not prevent specific action on issues being taken at Annual Meetings.

For example, one principle could relate conservation to such problems as poverty. Mr. Harold Mitchell this year was involved in an effort to maintain a flow of poverty funds for employment of the poor in a Federal Refuge in the Buffalo area. Relating conservation to other needs further justifies conservation itself.

The problem of how to meet with the Conservation Committee has not been solved. The Council last year authorized setting up a concurrent meeting at the same time as the Council meeting. The latter would have a chance to ratify the findings of the former before adjournment. This possibility has not evolved because of lack of momentum. Another possibility would be a Friday afternoon session, but a query in CONSERVATION NOW! did not produce any response.

The time may come when the Federation could hold a Saturday mid-winter meeting in Albany with delegates from all clubs. Key legislative persons and experts could speak at opening sessions with workshops on particular problems following. Their reports could be ratified as Federation policy at a joint concluding session.

The Federation should budget some money for contributions to fights which are its fights. These could be made on a majority vote by the Conservation Committee. For example, a request was made to the Conservation Chairman for a donation to the effort against the Transportation Bond Issue last year. It was embarrassing to reply that we did not have the money. Currently there is the Emergency Environmental Defense Fund which is taking the pesticides battle into court — an expensive effort.

The Federation should be represented at important conservation meetings, workshops, conferences, etc. The Chairman attended one such session that had meetings on the Forest Preserve, Long Island wetlands and a proposed hurricane dune project, etc. This was enlightening to the Chairman, enhancing his background in order to better represent the Federation.

There is increasing talk and movement toward a closer unity and federation among conservation groups. For example, a meeting of the Constitutional Council for the Forest Preserve to form itself into a permanent organization will be held at 9:30 AM May 4, in the Thruway Motor Inn, Albany. This group is made up of representatives of many organizations as well as individual members. The Federation should be represented at this meeting and in the permanent organization, for their fight is our fight. Movements toward federation of conservation groups are developing in Westchester and Suffolk Counties and in New Jersey. There are the beginnings of state-wide federation. Individual groups belonging to them retain autonomy. Two reasons seem to be motivating these movements.

1. Need to exert greater power on lawmakers through united action.
2. To obtain more expertise in the many areas increasingly involving conservationists: transportation, refuse disposal, zoning, community planning, etc.

Funds allowing, the Federation should join the National Audubon Society whose fight today is our fight.

The recent introduction of a bill to allow hunting of the Mourning Dove demonstrates the need to be a member of the New York State Conservation Council, a sportsmen's group.

The Conservation Forum of the Annual Meeting is a responsibility of the Conservation Committee. The program arranged for the 1968 Forum presented Assemblyman Constance Cook of Ithaca, who introduced the Kingfisher Bill, and Dr. David Peakall, president of the Federation, speaking on new findings in pesticides.

Proposed Conservation Action by the Council

1. In Congress, S-2951 by Senators Alan Bible, Howard Cannon, Frank Church and a rash of similar bills would give primary authority to states over fish and

wildlife on Federal lands. A very dangerous bill that could affect protection of the Bald Eagle, allow hunting in National Parks, etc. OPPOSITION is recommended.

2. In Congress, S-2984 by Sen. Ralph Yarborough of Texas would prevent importation of endangered species into the U.S., and would prevent interstate shipment of reptiles, amphibians, etc., taken contrary to state law. Would be helpful in saving the alligator. This and similar legislation should be APPROVED.
3. In the State Senate, S-5588 would permit hunting of Mourning Doves on Long Island. OPPOSITION recommended.
4. In the Legislature, S-4255 by Sen. Bernard Smith would provide for issuance of license to be known as falconry license with fee to be \$10, with no game birds to be taken or killed in open season and to fix qualifications therefore. After some discussions, it was suggested that the bill be changed to permit use of Sparrow Hawks, Goshawks and Red-Tailed Hawks only.
5. Support the efforts of the Citizens Committee for the Hempstead Plains on Long Island to preserve a remnant of prairie where Upland Plover and Grass-hopper Sparrows are now found nesting. APPROVAL recommended.
6. Support the effort of the North Country Bird Club to preserve Eldorado Shores, shoreline property on Lake Ontario in southern Jefferson County, it being the only major shorebird area left in the region. APPROVAL recommended.
7. Commend Presiding Supervisor Ralph Case and the Town Board of the Town of Hempstead for their action in requiring a referendum for disposition of Town-owned wetlands for purposes not consistent with conservation. APPROVAL recommended.
8. If still needed, urge continuation of funds for the Office of Economic Opportunity in Buffalo for a Job Corps Center supplying labor for development of the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, 35 miles northeast of Buffalo. APPROVAL recommended.
9. Endorse and do what we can to support efforts of the Environmental Defense Fund which has taken the pesticide fight into the courts. Its chairman is Federation member Dennis Puleston of Brookhaven. APPROVAL recommended.
10. Endorse the Bill of Rights Legislation by Assemblyman Stockmeister. APPROVAL recommended.

The Nominating Committee for 1969 was elected as follows: Mrs. Harriet Marsi, Dr. Allen H. Benton, Mrs. Watson B. Hastings.

The present Auditing Committee, consisting of Mr. Allen E. Kemnitzer and Mr. John Foster, was reelected.

The following resolutions were read by Mr. Richard Sloss and passed:

We, the officers, delegates and members of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs record with the deepest sorrow the sudden death of our President, fellow-member and friend Watson B. Hastings. His efforts and devotion to the interests of the Federation were an example for us all and his death not only deprives us of his wise, sympathetic advice and invaluable services, but has made us keenly aware of our great loss of his personality and friendship.

As an expression of our appreciation of his efforts and to record our deep personal loss, be it resolved that the foregoing be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a copy thereof be forwarded to his beloved wife.

Rochester, New York, April 27, 1968

Whereas, the officers and members of the Genesee Ornithological Society and the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club have generously given of their time and effort to plan, organize and provide facilities for the twenty-first annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, and

Whereas, it is the desire of the Federation to record its appreciation and gratitude by these minutes, be it

Resolved: that the Federation express its recognition and thanks to the Genesee Ornithological Society and the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club for their outstanding work and hospitality that was responsible for the success of the 1968 annual meeting of the Federation.

Rochester, New York, April 27, 1968

It was announced by Dr. Peakall that the 1969 meeting will be at Cortland, with the Cortland County Bird Club as host.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hortense B. Knight
Recording Secretary

JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE — 1968

"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."

At the annual banquet April 27, Dr. Edgar M. Reilly presented the Elliott Prize to Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr. for his series of articles "Conservation News", with special mention of "Conservation and State Secrets" and "Natural Beauty" Is a 20th Century Phrase."

THE PAPER SESSION

Annual Meeting — April 27, 1968

The following papers were given at the Saturday afternoon paper session:

1. Remarks on the Ecology of Bird Fleas Dr. Allen H. Benton
2. Wetland Valuation and Appraisal Allan S. Klonick
2. Present Status of the New York State Bird Book John Bull
4. Use of Birds in Poetry Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.
5. Maintenance Behavior of the Black-crowned Night Heron
Dr. George R. Maxwell II
6. The Nassau County Museum of Natural History Robert G. Wolk
7. Vocalizations and Life Histories of the Common Crow and the Northern Raven
Dwight R. Chamberlain

ANNUAL MEETING FIELD TRIPS REPORT — APRIL 27 AND 28

Field trips to various habitats were conducted: one early Saturday morning for delegates; several during the Council meeting for non-delegates; several Sunday morning all of which ended with box lunch at the Hawk Lookout, Braddock's Bay.

A total of 131 species were observed, including 12 which are rare to uncommon in the Rochester area. The two nesting Bald Eagles at Hemlock Lake were undoubtedly the outstanding birds of the weekend. Saturday being quite cold with northerly winds produced no small bird migration and no hawks. Although Sunday winds were westerly and rather cool, a hawk flight developed about 9 a.m. and lasted until 2 p.m. No exact count was kept, but approximately 1,000 hawks passed