

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 22nd ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC. —
Cortland, N.Y.

MAY 23-25, 1969

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the FNYSSBC was held at the Holiday Inn and the State University Campus at Cortland, N.Y., with the Cortland County Bird Club as host. The Council Meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m., May 24, by Dr. David B. Peakall, president, and a quorum was declared with 30 clubs represented by delegates.

The treasurer's report, prepared by Dort Cameron for the calendar year 1967, was presented by Edward M. Somers, present treasurer, as follows:

Cash on hand 12/31/67		
Checking account	\$1,725.70	
Savings account	4,590.00	
Accrued interest	<u>215.93</u>	\$6,531.63
Net income 1968*		1,299.51
Cash on hand 12/31/68		
Checking account	2,841.14	
Savings account	<u>4,990.00</u>	7,831.14
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Income, 1968		
Dues, Individuals & Subscriptions	2,414.00	
Dues, New Members	123.00	
Dues in arrears, collected	25.00	
Dues, Member Clubs	920.90	
Life Membership Payments	400.00	
Interest on Savings account	243.39	
Transfer from Hawk Nesting fund	68.00	
Misc.	<u>197.50</u>	4,391.79
Expenses, 1968		
Kingbird	2,545.14	
Membership maintenance	225.44	
Conservation	41.27	
Annual meeting	158.98	
Hawk Program	68.00	
Misc.	<u>53.45</u>	3,092.28
Increase in operating funds	899.51	
Increase in Life Membership funds	<u>400.00</u>	1,299.51*
		\$4,391.79

Hawk Nesting Fund

Balance on hand 12/31/67	--0--	
Funded 1/10/68	\$1,000.00	
Interest received 12/1/68	<u>37.11</u>	\$1,037.11

Disbursements:		
10 Hawk nests during 1968	50.00	
Expenses, postage for news releases	18.00	68.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/68		\$ 969.11

The report was accepted as presented.

Kenneth D. Niven, chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the Federation is in good financial condition for the first time. With an anticipated income of \$4060, he presented the following proposed expenditures:

KINGBIRD	\$2750	
Membership maintenance	250	
Conservation	300	
Annual meeting	25	\$3325

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously that the allotment for Conservation be increased to \$500. The Hawk Nesting Fund is not included in this budget. The question was raised whether Life Membership funds should be invested instead of being left in a savings bank. After brief discussion on a motion that the officers of the Federation should consider whether a change can be made legally and report their findings and recommendation at the next Annual Meeting was made, seconded, and passed without opposition.

Mrs. Harriet Marsi moved that the Federation make a contribution to the Eldorado Shores project sponsored by the Nature Conservancy. This led to considerable discussion as to the advisability of setting a precedent of making contributions. Dr. Allen Benton pointed out that a contribution would not be setting a precedent for making contributions to many worthy projects inasmuch as Eldorado Shores is specifically an ornithological area and therefore probably unique. Dr. Benton then moved that the Federation donate \$100 to The Nature Conservancy for purchase of Eldorado Shores. Margaret Rusk offered an amendment that the amount of the contribution be increased to \$260. This was seconded, and on a vote being taken, was defeated. The original motion was then voted on and adopted. Maxwell Wheat suggested that the publicity value of the Federation's contribution to Eldorado Shores be exploited for the benefit of the project. Mr. Niven then called for a vote on the budget, which was accepted without further alterations.

Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy, editor of the KINGBIRD, reported as follows:

Total number of copies mailed is just about the same as a year ago—somewhat over 630. Printing and mailing costs have again stayed the same.

Articles are in short supply, my annual complaint. Please consider carefully whether you can contribute an article for publication and whether some friend of yours is "sitting on" material that should be published. Suggestions for subjects for articles, especially if accompanied by the name of a possible author, will be appreciated by the new editor, Joseph W. Taylor. Even more welcome would be a letter saying that you are willing to write an article, and stating subject and probable date when it would be submitted for publication.

I wish to thank the many people who have helped me during my editorship. It has been a most interesting experience, which I have enjoyed.

It was moved by Howard H. Cleaves and seconded by Mrs. Lillian Stoner that the Federation contribute \$25 to the Hudson Scenic Preservation Council, and the motion was ordered tabled to be considered by the Conservation Committee.

It was announced that the deadline for contributions to the State Bird Book is July 31, 1969.

Dr. Benton reported on the Hawk Reward project. Since there was payment on only ten nests in 1968 for a total expenditure of \$68, the reward has been increased to \$10 to the landowner and \$5 to the club processing the application. The anonymous donor who set up the fund of \$1000 would add the same amount should there be need. The new chairman for this project is Mr. Herb Saltford, 6 West Winding, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601.

Richard A. Sloss reported for the By-laws Committee. Tax exempt status has been granted the Federation, provided the by-laws are amended to include provision for the distribution of funds in the event of the dissolution of the corporation. On motion the amendment was approved.

Mr. Sloss also reported for the Committee on the Organization of the Federation, a committee appointed last year as the result of the suggestion made by Mrs. Lillian Stoner that a 2nd vice-president be added to the officers to assure succession in the event any vacancy occurs. The suggestion presented by Mr. Sloss for the committee was that three regional vice-presidents be chosen without provision of succession to the presidency. It was stated that perhaps this suggestion could be adopted without a change in the by-laws. The advantages resulting might be improved communication, regional meetings, and a pool of presidential timber. Dr. Benton moved that the same Committee be instructed to draw up a proposal in line with the suggestion, including the possible necessity of a change in the by-laws, to be sent to all member clubs in time for delegates to be instructed on how to vote at the next annual meeting. This motion was seconded and passed.

The proposed slate of officers was presented by Dr. Benton for the Nominating Committee. There were no other nominations, and the secretary was instructed to cast one vote for the entire slate. The new officers are as follows:

President—Dr. Edgar M. Reilly

Vice-president—Mrs. Alice Ulrich

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin

Corresponding Secretary—Miss Ada Carter

Treasurer—Edward M. Somers

A vote of thanks was given to the retiring officers.

The Nominating Committee for 1970 was elected as follows, without opposition: Ruth Williams, Chairman; Kenneth Niven; John Bull.

The Auditing Committee was also elected without opposition. Its two members are Samuel Madison and Guy Bartlett.

Mrs. Ruth Williams, chairman of the Membership Committee, reported that there are 24 new members, 2 new Life members, 1 reinstated member, 55 unpaid members, 11 unpaid clubs, and 1 new club.

The new club, the Delaware—Otsego Audubon Society, was duly admitted to membership. It was also voted to extend official invitations to join the Federation to the Great South Bay Audubon Society, Moriches Bay Audubon Society and Long Island Herpetological and Ornithological Society.

Dr. Peakall brought up for discussion the Federation's affiliation with the National Audubon Society which had been approved last year. He considered that the Federation has profited by information made available to it through affiliation. Some opposition to affiliation was expressed on the grounds that it usurps the autonomy of individual organizations. The general view was that the Federation is not committed to any action of National Audubon. There was no motion for withdrawal.

Dr. Peakall next brought up for discussion the Federation's affiliation with the State Conservation Council which was also approved last year. No action has been taken because of an apparent lack of communications on the Council's part regarding the amount of the dues. It appears, however, that the minimum annual fee is \$10.00 and that the average payment is \$25.00. There followed a discussion during which it was pointed out on the one hand that the Council is opposed to gun laws and in favor of making the Mourning Dove a game bird, and on the other that

conservation has many political overtones and that the Council has much influence with the legislature on conservation matters and that we can only influence Council thinking from the inside, not by remaining outside. Following the discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Federation affiliate with the Conservation Council with the payment of a fee of \$25.00. The Federation's representative on the Council will be appointed by the president.

Mr. Wheat distributed the report of the Conservation Committee and announced his wish to resign as chairman of the committee by the end of 1969. The Conservation Platform published in the March issue of "Conservation Now" was discussed. Objection was expressed to the paragraph on atomic power plants on the shores of the Finger Lakes. It was suggested that this be amended to indicate that the Federation is opposed to any atomic or thermal pollution that would alter the environment. Mr. Wheat then moved that the Platform be accepted with an amendment on nuclear pollution to be worded by a special committee. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Wheat moved that the resolutions in the Conservation Committee report be accepted as follows:

1. That Governor Rockefeller sign into law S-2708 and A-4944 prohibiting the building of any dams on the Hudson River from Luzerne to its source. (This is the so-called Gooley Dam Bill, construction of which would flood much of the Adirondacks to provide water for New York City. Failure of the Governor to sign by June 1 means that the bill fails and construction could be authorized. This is consistent with Federation policy supporting the "forever wild" concept of the Forest Preserve). It has been urged that individuals write the Governor at the State Capitol Building in Albany.

2. That Governor Rockefeller sign into law S-5694 providing that no nuclear facility be built without a permit issued by the state health commissioner. This bill was introduced by State Senator Thomas F. McGowan, chairman of the Committee on Public Utilities. Here again individuals are urged to write to Senator McGowan so that the Governor will be swamped.

3. That the voters of New York State approve the constitutional amendment, the so-called Conservation Bill of Rights.

4. That 60 acres on the south end of Mitchel Field in Nassau County be preserved as a unique glacial brook-prairie complex providing breeding ground for the Upland Plover and Grasshopper Sparrow as well as other species and serving as a migratory feeding area for many other species.

5. That the Department of Defense be restrained from dumping nerve gas 250 miles at sea until open and exhaustive studies and hearings be held to assure that there can be no damaging environmental affects.

6. That NASA take every possible precaution and restriction (not diminish them) to insure the complete quarantine of returning astronauts who have landed on the moon so that any possibility of an irreversible contamination of the earth be removed. All were accepted unanimously.

Michael Thomas presented the following resolution to make the Conservation Platform operational:

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs urges that the State of New York pass legislation to:

1. Ban the use of persistent pesticides as additives to fertilizers, lawn dressing, etc.
2. Ban the use of persistent pesticides in generalized community spraying. Further, the Federation supports the position of the American Medical Association that this type of spraying should only be carried out to deal with a specific health hazard.

3. Ban the use of DDT for the spraying of elms in the attempt to control Dutchelm disease. Spraying of any kind should only be undertaken as a part of a program which is based largely on sanitation, and in this case, the material of choice should be methoxychlor.

4. Ban completely the use of dieldrin, aldrin, heptachlor except for specific agricultural uses where it can be shown that no other material is effective. Such licensing of exceptions would be on an annual basis with the idea that a reduction would be aimed at. This recommendation follows that put forward by the Cook Committee, which was adopted by the British government.

5. No general restrictions are suggested for the other chlorinated hydrocarbons at this time, but the use of these materials in agriculture should be reviewed at intervals of not more than two years. The aim of this review panel shall be the implementation of *recommendation five* of the President's Science Advisory Committee.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be communicated to the President, to the Governor, and to the appropriate state senators and representatives.

This resolution was also passed unanimously.

The North Country Bird Club extended an invitation to Watertown for the 1970 annual meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted, Hortense B. Knight

THE PAPER SESSION

Annual Meeting—May 24, 1969

The following papers were given on Saturday afternoon:

1. Predation by Gulls, Jaegers, Sandhill Cranes and Arctic Foxes on the Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) Michael Harvey, Cornell University
2. Breeding Range Extension of Goshawk and Evening Grosbeak in New York State John Bull, Am. Museum of Natural History
3. Some of our Common Birds Seen in Distant Lands Lillian C. Stoner
4. Natural Areas of Long Island and Long-range Planning Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., New York State Museum
5. The Last Remnant of Hempstead Plains, Long Island Pictures by A. J. Dignan
..... (due to illness of Mr. Dignan this was presented by Robert Wolk)
6. The Problem in America Martin Borko, Orange Co., Community College
7. Early American Writers and Birds Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.

JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE — 1969

At the annual banquet May 24, Dr. Edgar M. Reilly presented the Elliott Prize to Dr. Allen H. Benton and Herbert Tucker of the State University College at Fredonia for their article "Weather and Purple Martin Mortality in Western New York" published in the May, 1968 *Kingbird*. This prize is awarded annually to "that author of a paper published during the preceding year, in the *Kingbird*, deemed the most worthy by a panel of judges."