

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 23RD ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
WATERTOWN, N.Y.  
SEPTEMBER 11-13, 1970**

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the FNYSSBC was held at the Holiday Inn at Watertown, N.Y. with the North Country Bird Club as host. The Council Meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m., Sept. 12, by Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., president, and a quorum was declared with 21 clubs represented by delegates.

A motion made by Dr. Neil Moon and seconded by Harold Mitchell to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous council meeting as they had been published in the *Kingbird* was passed unanimously.

The treasurer's report, prepared by Edward H. Somers for the calendar year 1969, was presented by James P. Karp, present treasurer, as follows:

*Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.  
Treasurer's Report as of 12-31-69  
and for the then ended year*

|                                                                                   |            |  |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--|------------|
| Cash on Hand 12-31-68                                                             |            |  |            |
| Checking Account                                                                  | \$2,841.14 |  |            |
| Savings Account                                                                   | 4,990.00   |  |            |
| Accrued Interest                                                                  | 243.59     |  |            |
|                                                                                   |            |  | \$8,074.73 |
| Net Income for 1969                                                               |            |  | 1,040.04   |
| Cash on Hand 12-31-69                                                             |            |  |            |
| Checking Account                                                                  | 3,716.77   |  |            |
| Savings Account                                                                   | 4,990.00   |  |            |
| Accrued Interest                                                                  | 255.00     |  |            |
|                                                                                   |            |  | 8,961.77   |
| Income, 1969                                                                      |            |  |            |
| Dues, Individual                                                                  |            |  |            |
| Renewal                                                                           | 2,333.50   |  |            |
| New                                                                               | 297.00     |  |            |
| Arrears and Advance                                                               | 10.00      |  |            |
| Dues, Club                                                                        | 674.10     |  |            |
| Miscellaneous (Including check closing out<br>Rochester Account, from D. Cameron) | 2,964.63   |  |            |
| Interest on Savings Account (accrued)                                             | 255.00     |  |            |
|                                                                                   |            |  | 6,534.23   |
| Expenses, 1969                                                                    |            |  |            |
| Membership Maintenance                                                            | 33.33      |  |            |
| Kingbird                                                                          | 2,129.29   |  |            |
| Stationary & Postage                                                              | 102.73     |  |            |
| Conservation                                                                      | 198.29     |  |            |
| Annual Meeting                                                                    | 65.42      |  |            |
| Hawk Program                                                                      | 20.00      |  |            |
| Miscellaneous                                                                     | 30.00      |  |            |
| Affiliated Societies (Dues)                                                       | 50.00      |  |            |
|                                                                                   |            |  | 2,609.06   |

Mr. Karp reported that estimated sources of income and estimated expenses for 1971 are:

| Income                 |               | Expenses                 |              |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Individual member dues | \$2500        | Kingbird                 | \$2750       |
| Member club dues       | 800           | Conservation             | 300          |
| Interest on savings    | 250           | Annual meeting           | 150          |
|                        | <u>\$3550</u> | Membership maintenance   | 100          |
|                        |               | Organization affiliation | 50           |
|                        |               | Miscellaneous            | 200          |
|                        |               |                          | <u>\$550</u> |

At present the Savings Account balance is \$5,052.38, the checking account \$3,700.43 and the Hawk Fund \$970.86 for a total of \$9,731.67.

Dr. Frederick Dittrich questioned the status of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, stating he understood they had decided to sever connections with the FNYSSBC. Mr. Karp reported that only 20 clubs had paid their dues, possibly due to the lateness of the bills. Mr. Robert Wolk asked about the status of the Long Island Herpetological Society which is not on the mailing list. The status of these will be investigated.

Mr. Joseph W. Taylor, editor of the *Kingbird*, reported that the *Kingbird* was late because the reports were late. He expressed his concern over the time necessary for editing the regional reports and that the publication is uninteresting as it is largely statistics. He suggested three alternatives: 1) continue the *Kingbird* as is, 2) reduce regional reports to 6 or 9 pages, publishing only the highlights and publishing the full regional reports annually, or 3) secure an additional editor to edit the regional reports. Mr. Taylor stated that he personally would like to see the regional reports cut down, but that the regional editors disagreed. Mrs. Sally Hoyt Spofford then stated she felt the material in the *Kingbird* to be of enormous value for present and future workers on any bird or region. She felt this was one of the best of the state journals scientifically and filled a need for a place of reference. She then made the motion that, with a full vote of support for the present editor, the *Kingbird* be continued in its present form, but that an additional editor be chosen for the regional reports. This was seconded by Mr. Mitchell, and after some discussion was carried. Dr. Reilly urged the delegates to discuss the problem with their member clubs and to solicit articles for the *Kingbird*. Mr. Stanley Quickmire of the Audubon Society suggested a questionnaire taking a survey as to the members' interest in the publication. He will submit a form for this.

The John Burroughs Natural History Society applied for readmission to the FNYSSBC and was accepted.

Dr. Reilly reported that Mr. Robert Arbib has been appointed chairman of the Publications and Research Committee.

Dr. Reilly read a report from Mr. John Bull on the State Bird Book stating that 2/3 of the work had been completed on the species write-ups and some introductions have been finished; the color plates have begun to come in; and he hoped that the manuscript would be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Mitchell announced that the paintings for the color plates would be on display at the A.O.U. meeting in Buffalo in Oct. Dr. Reilly urged that anyone having unanswered letters for Mr. Bull reply promptly in order to facilitate prompt publication.

Mrs. Alice Ulrich, chairman of the Bulletin Exchange Committee, reported on the survey she had made of member clubs in order to bring information up to date. She received 23 replies to her questionnaire which asked if clubs had a magazine, if they were willing to exchange this publication with other clubs, and to whom the exchange should be sent. 14 clubs made no reply. She will compile the results of the survey

for publication in the *Kingbird*. She stressed that it is up to individual clubs to make their own contacts for the exchange. Mr. Richard Sloss suggested that delegates get the names of clubs which have not answered and take the information back with them for possible action.

Mrs. Spofford, chairman of the Bibliography Committee, explained that the work of the committee was to make an annual listing in the *Kingbird* of any publication dealing with N.Y.S. ornithology, that the 1968 list has been sent to the editor of the *Kingbird* and 1969 was being compiled. She asked that copies of club bulletins be sent to her at the Laboratory of Ornithology.

Mr. Sloss, chairman of the By-laws Committee, had no report for that committee, but did for the Committee on the Organization of the Federation, of which he is also chairman. He reminded the council of the proposal made in 1969 that three regional vice-presidents be chosen to assist the president. He stated his feelings that these should not be called vice-presidents and should not be officers since this would necessitate a change in the By-laws. He, therefore, made the motion that the FNYSSBC authorize the President to appoint three regional liaison representatives to act as liaison between the Federation and member clubs of the particular region, and he further moved that the regional representatives be chosen by the member clubs of the region. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. After some discussion and an amending motion by Mr. Sloss to change the word from "region" to "area," the motion was carried. Mr. Sloss also suggested that there be one meeting a year for each area approximately in the middle of the year and that these meetings be attended by the officers. Dr. Moon moved and Mr. Mitchell seconded that the areas previously suggested by Dr. Peakall be used and that the president appoint the representatives for this year. The area boundaries were defined as: Western—the eastern edge of Wayne, Cayuga and Chemung Counties, Eastern—the southern edge of Delaware, Greene and Columbia Counties, and Southern—the remaining counties of the state. The motion was carried.

Mr. Sloss presented a request by the Buffalo Audubon Society that a maximum limit for dues paid by a member club be set at \$100. Mr. Mitchell commented on the request stating that Buffalo Audubon is planning on setting up a Beaver Meadow Nature Center for which it needs funds, that the club has a very large membership which makes it difficult to determine the exact membership at any given time, and that it would help the club in setting up a budget if there were a set fee. After discussion it was moved by Mr. Kenneth Niven and seconded by Mr. Steven Dempsey that the By-laws be changed to set a maximum figure of \$100 for a member club's fee. The motion was carried. The president reminded the delegates that changing the By-laws is a lengthy process requiring member clubs to be polled on the change with the vote being taken at the next annual meeting. Member clubs will be notified thirty days prior to the annual meeting. He urged delegates to take this change back to their clubs with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Sloss also brought up the question of weighted voting. At the present time there is a maximum of three delegates which means that large and small clubs have the same voting powers. He felt the FNYSSBC should consider the advisability of changing the By-laws to give greater weight to larger clubs. He then moved that the Federation amend the By-laws to provide for representation from member clubs on the basis of one vote per 100 members or major portion thereof up to a maximum of 6 delegates. The motion, which was seconded by Mr. Wolk, was defeated by a show of hands, 20 against, and 13 for. Mr. Sloss then moved with Mr. Wolk seconding that the Federation amend the By-laws to increase the representation of member clubs having a membership of 500 by one additional vote, member clubs having a membership of 700 by 2 additional votes, and clubs having a membership of 900 by 3 additional votes, with a maximum of 6 votes. This motion was carried. Mr. Sloss then moved to amend the By-laws to state that dues paying members mean

regular dues paying members and not special memberships. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion which was carried. Dr. Moon asked if the Federation had considered having family memberships. He was instructed to look into changing the membership categories and to report next year.

Mr. Karp reminded the Council that bills have been received from National Audubon and the New York State Conservation Council, affiliation with which was voted last year for one year. Mr. Dempsey then moved with Dr. Moon seconding that the Federation approve paying these bills. The motion carried. Mr. Walton Sabin moved and it was seconded that the Federation approve these affiliations on a continuing basis. The motion carried.

Dr. Reilly reported that Herb Saltford who is in charge of the Hawk Nesting program has had only two claims. Mr. Saltford sent a letter on June 10 to member clubs reminding them of the program. Mr. Mitchell stated he felt that was too late in the year. The question of expanding the program to include other raptors was brought up. While no decision was reached, it was decided to study the possible expansion.

Dr. Reilly read the report from the Nature Conservancy on the El Dorado Beach project. \$41,136.00 has been taken in and \$22,642.44 disbursed, leaving \$18,494.37 on hand, and a total of \$19,530.63 to be raised to pay off the note to the owner which carried 6% interest. Dr. Reilly suggested the need for an additional drive to raise funds. Mr. Quickmire offered the use of Audubon mailing labels if Nature Conservancy would pay for pamphlets and the Federation pay for postage. Mrs. Janet Greenfield moved and Mrs. Ruth Rubenstein seconded that the Federation accept Mr. Quickmire's offer subject to the recommendations of a committee to be appointed, but not using Federation funds for the postage. Dr. Reilly suggested the Federation could ask members to make donations. Dr. Reilly appointed the following committee to consider Mr. Quickmire's offer and to decide on ways to fund it: Mrs. Ivy Benedykt, Mrs. Helen Tullar of North Country Bird Club, Mrs. Laura W. Moon, Mr. Harold Mitchell and Mrs. Sally Spofford. The motion carried.

Dr. Dittrich, Circulation Manager of the *Kingbird*, reported some difficulties in estimating numbers to be printed. At the present time a new member receives the back issues for the year in which he joins which means that the January copies run out. He recommended that a person joining get the current issues, with his subscription stopping with the anniversary issue if he should drop his membership. Mrs. Spofford pointed out there are many problems in his suggestion, but suggested that 100 additional copies be ordered for the January issue. The matter will be discussed by the officers.

The proposed slate of officers was presented by Mrs. Ruth Williams, chairman of the Nominating Committee. There being no nominations from the floor, Mr. Sabin moved that the nominations be closed and the following officers were unanimously elected:

President—Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.

Vice-president—Mrs. Alice Ulrich

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin

Corresponding Secretary—Miss Elizabeth Feldhusen

Treasurer—Mr. James P. Karp

Mrs. Williams, chairman also of the Membership Committee, reported that 52 new members have applied for membership. They were accepted.

Mr. Kenneth Niven, chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the budget as proposed for 1971 had been reported by the treasurer with a projected income of \$3550. Dr. Moon moved and Mr. Sabin seconded that we accept the proposed budget. The motion carried.

Dr. Gerhard Leubner, chairman of the Conservation Committee, presented the following resolutions prepared by that committee:

1. Resolved that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., urges establishment of a Gateway National Recreation Area in the New York-New Jersey region which would include Jamaica Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, a vital wintering and breeding area for birds (particularly waterfowl) on the Atlantic Flyway and an important area for their enjoyment by thousands of people every year. Resolved that this be communicated to Mayor John Lindsay, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel and Jamaica Bay for the People.

2. Resolved: The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., expresses its concern for the partial efforts to ban DDT and other long-lived chlorinated hydrocarbons; the New York State Law going into effect Oct. 1 giving the State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and or/the Department of Environmental Conservation authority to refuse a permit for any of certain pesticides "if there is a reasonably less dangerous alternative available," and the practice of the United States Department of Agriculture issuing cancellation orders instead of suspensions thus allowing appeals by manufacturers resulting in dragging out implementation of a ban:

Therefore, the Federation urges the Department of Environmental Conservation to institute a ban of DDT with the only exception being "for control of vectors in epidemics in human health:"

That the long-lived or accumulative pesticides be similarly banned:

That severe restrictions be established for all high toxicity pesticides:

That these regulations be made law by passage of a stronger pesticide bill in the 1971 legislature:

That the Congress pass legislation banning the manufacture, sale, and the use of the long-lived, persistent pesticides except for threat of an epidemic affecting the health of humans.

Resolved that this be communicated to the Honorable Henry Diamond, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, Senators Charles Goodell and Jacob Javits, Senatorial candidates Richard Ottinger and James Buckley.

3. Resolved: The FNYBC signals an Environment Alert following certain recommendations of the Public Land Law Review Commission, June 23, 1970, headed by Representative Wayne N. Aspinall (D-Colo.) as chairman:

And the Federation calls on its member organizations and individuals to carefully watch for the surfacing of these proposals in Congress so that the opposition of our New York State Senators and Representatives can be urged especially against such concepts as:

- a. "There should be a statutory requirement that those public lands that are highly productive for timber be classified for commercial timber production as the dominant use."
- b. "Public land forage policies should be flexible, designed to attain maximum economic efficiency in the production and use of forage from the public land and to support regional economic growth."
- c. "An immediate effort should be undertaken to identify and protect these unique areas of national significance that exist on public lands," which in itself is good, but which is elusive because ordinary acreages of forests and other natural environment are important for recreation and a chance for persons to renew themselves:

The Federation urges, of course, further study to remove any measures potentially and unnecessarily threatening or damaging to the environment and also to retrieve any recommendations that can be useful and even forward looking in light of our growing dependence on the natural environment as it exists for a quality existence.

Resolved that this be communicated to Clubs, United States Senators and Representatives.

4. Resolved: The FNYSSBC, Inc., expresses its concern about the formation of a political organization like the Conservation Party (the litigation future of which at this point is uncertain) or any other party exclusively seeking the votes of conservation- or environment-minded persons because:

- a. This tends to relegate conservation or environment into a singular issue at a time when it might well be involved in other problems on which conservationists or environmentalists might wish to exert their voting power:
- b. It could discriminate against a candidate deserving of conservationists's or environmentalists' consideration, but who, for perhaps some technical reason like not obtaining a sufficient number of signatures, could fail to receive such party designation:
- c. There is a danger that a candidate not meriting support by conservationists or environmentalists because of his or her record in this regard might obtain such designation anyway:
- d. In summary, the Federation believes each candidate should be evaluated individually for his achievements in preserving and protecting our environment and natural resources:

However, passage of this resolution should not be construed as reflecting either positively or negatively on any candidate who might have received, sought, been refused or otherwise failed to receive designation by the current Conservation Party.

Resolved that this be communicated to the chief officer or representative of the Conservation Party.

5. Resolved: The FNYSSBC, Inc., urges passage by Congress of HR 12435 by Rep. Henry S. Reuss (Wisc.) amending the Federal Water Pollution Act to protect navigable waters of the United States from certain pollution by requiring that synthetic petroleum based detergents manufactured in the United States or imported into the United States lack phosphorous:

Also, the Federation urges the introduction and passage by the New York State Legislature of a similar measure because of the damage ecologically being done by phosphates. (much of which are found in laundry detergents) to our Great Lakes and marine waters around Long Island, to name a few.

Resolved that this be communicated to Mr. Reuss, N.Y. State Senators and Representatives.

6. Resolved: The FNYSSBC, Inc., urges passage of S. 3234 by Sen. Gaylord Nelson (Wisc.) prohibiting the shooting of any bird, animal, fish, etc., from an aircraft while over land owned or reserved to the United States.

7. Resolved: The FNYSSBC, Inc., looks with enthusiastic favor on the concept involved in HR 15737 by Representative Morris K. Udall (Ariz.) which declares that it is the policy of Congress to recognize that the wolf, coyote, mountain lion, lynx, bobcat, bear and other predators "are among the wildlife resources of interest and value to the people of the United States:"

But the Federation urges that this be construed to include predator birds, reptiles like the alligator, etc.:

The Federation further subscribes to the provision of the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to engage in the conservation of predatory animals, but prohibiting the Secretary or any other agent or agency of the Federal government from participating in or assisting in the killing or control of predatory animals:

We further urge that such legislation be passed by the New York State Legislature which would, we would hope, have the effect of eliminating any further bounties such as those in some counties on the lynx.

8. Resolved: The FNYSSBC, Inc., recommends that legislation be proposed to eliminate the sections of the New York State Fish and Game Law which allow the killing of the State-protected hawks and owls without a permit and also to eliminate the use of pole traps in cases where permits may be granted.

Mr. Steven Dempsey moved acceptance of the resolutions which was done unanimously.

The Nominating Committee for 1971 was elected as follows, without opposition: Maxwell Wheat, Chairman, Harold Mitchell and Mrs. Janet Greenfield.

The Auditing Committee, consisting of Lillian Stoner and Dorothy McIlroy, was elected without opposition.

Mr. Mitchell announced the A.O.U. meeting in Buffalo Oct. 5-9 and urged members to attend.

The resolution thanking the host club for its hospitality was read by Mrs. Tullar. Dr. Reilly announced that the Federation has been invited by the John Burroughs Natural History Society to have the 1971 Annual Meeting at Lake Mohonk. No date has been set.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. on the motion of Walton Sabin.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Sunderlin

Any club which was not represented at the Council Meeting may obtain a copy of the 1971 roster of officers, committee members and member clubs, by writing the secretary, Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin, 505 Bay Rd., Webster, N.Y. 14580.

## THE PAPER SESSION

### Annual Meeting — September 12, 1970

The following technical papers were presented on Saturday afternoon:

1. Pollution ..... Dr. John A. Gustafson, SUNY, Cortland, N.Y.
2. Blue Herons on Ironsides Island .....  
Dr. George R. Maxwell II, Director: Rice Creek Biostation, SUNY, Oswego, N.Y.  
James McAllister, Oswego, N.Y. — James Parker, Redwood, N.Y.
3. Bird Populations of Bermuda .....  
..... Dr. Kenneth Crowell, St. Lawrence University, Canton, N.Y.
4. Behavior of Rock Ptarmigan .....  
..... Dr. S. D. MacDonald, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Canada
5. Changing Bird Populations in Upstate New York .....  
..... John Belknap, Gouverneur, N.Y.

## JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE — 1970

At the Council Meeting on September 12, Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr. announced that the John J. Elliott Memorial Prize for 1970 had been awarded to William Post and Frank Enders for their article "Reappearance of the Black Rail on Long Island" published in the October, 1969 *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."

## 1971 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1971 annual meeting of the Federation of N.Y. State Bird Clubs will be held June 4-6, 1971, at the Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz, New York, with the John Burroughs Natural History Society, Inc., acting as hosts.