

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 25TH ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
ITHACA, N.Y.

SEPTEMBER 22-24, 1972

The 25th. Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. was held at the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. with the Schuyler County Bird Club, the Bird Study Group of the Campus Club and the Cornell Conservation Club as hosts. The meeting was called to order at 2 P.M. on September 22, 1972 by the president, Mr. Kenneth D. Niven. A quorum was declared with delegates from 17 clubs answering the roll call.

The delegates unanimously approved a vote to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 1971 Council Meeting and accept them as published in the July 1971 issue of the Kingbird.

The treasurer, Mr. Stephen B. Dempsey, presented his report for the calendar year 1971 as follows:

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 12/31/71  
AND FOR THE THEN ENDED YEAR

Cash on hand 12/31/70

|                        |                   |  |
|------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Checking Account ..... | \$1,286.75        |  |
| Savings Account .....  | 7,527.48          |  |
| Net gain in 1971 ..... | 1,028.31          |  |
| Adjustment* .....      | 15.00             |  |
|                        | <u>\$9,857.54</u> |  |

Cash on hand 12/31/71

|                        |                   |  |
|------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Checking Account ..... | \$1,944.86        |  |
| Savings Account .....  | 7,912.68          |  |
|                        | <u>\$9,857.54</u> |  |

\* Represents checks drawn in 1971 but not cleared until 1972.

Income 1971

|                                             |            |               |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Dues, Individual                            |            |               |
| Annual .....                                | \$1,925.00 |               |
| Sustaining .....                            | 142.50     |               |
| Supporting .....                            | 260.00     |               |
| Life .....                                  | 75.00      |               |
| Student .....                               | 27.00      | \$2,429.50    |
| Dues, Clubs .....                           |            | 900.20        |
| Subscriptions .....                         |            | 165.00        |
| Hawk Fund .....                             |            | 148.33        |
| Miscellaneous .....                         |            | 30.35         |
| Interest on Savings Account (accrued) ..... |            | <u>385.20</u> |
|                                             |            | \$4,058.58    |

# Expenses, 1971

|                      |            |            |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| Kingbird .....       | \$2,525.17 |            |
| Conservation .....   | 32.64      |            |
| Annual Meeting ..... | 125.42     |            |
| Membership .....     | 190.84     |            |
| Hawk Program .....   | 75.00      |            |
| Dues .....           | 75.00      |            |
| Miscellaneous .....  | 1.94       |            |
| Bank Charges .....   | 4.26       | \$3,030.27 |
| Net Gain .....       |            | \$1,028.31 |

Mr. Dempsey commented that last year only 3 issues of the Kingbird were paid for and this year 5 issues will be paid for.

Mr. Dempsey then reported on the Hawk Nesting Fund as follows:

## HAWK NESTING FUND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1971

|                                                           |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Balance on Hand 1/1/71 .....                              | \$1,054.23 |
| Interest Earned - Year 1971 .....                         | 43.24      |
| Disbursements 1969 - 1971 .....                           | 148.33*    |
| Balance on Hand 12/31/71 .....                            | \$ 949.14  |
| * Treasurer's Report Ended 12/31/69 .....                 | \$ 20.00   |
| Treasurer's Report Ended 12/31/70 .....                   | 68.33      |
| Disbursements from Regular Account 1/1/71 - 5/10/71 ..... | 60.00      |
|                                                           | \$ 148.33  |

NOTE: The regular account is due an additional \$15.00 for further disbursements made in 1971.

The report was accepted as presented.

The report of the auditing Committee was given by Mr. Dempsey. It had been audited and signed by Mr. Ralph Cioffi and Mr. William Reeves. This was also accepted as presented.

Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy, chairman of the Finance Committee presented her report and the budget for 1973 as follows:

The budget for 1973 is a deficit budget based on both 1971 figures and actual income and expenditures for 1972 to date:

| Income                    |            | Expenditures           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Individual Dues           | \$2,290.00 | KINGBIRD               | \$3,800.00 |
| Club Dues                 | 1,060.00   | Conservation           | 40.00      |
| Subscriptions             | 210.00     | Membership maintenance | 200.00     |
| Interest on savings acct. | 400.00     | Annual meeting         | 200.00     |
| Miscellaneous             | 25.00      | Affiliation dues       | 50.00      |
|                           | \$3,985.00 | Miscellaneous          | 40.00      |
|                           |            | N.Y. State Birders     | 250.00     |
|                           |            |                        | \$4,580.00 |

DEFICIT \$595.00

NOTE: Spendable income listed only, life membership payments excluded.

The Finance Committee was asked to update the 1970 report of the committee on KINGBIRD costs. 1971 income figures are presented in the Treasurer's report. Note that the \$75.00 received as life membership payments should be considered an addition to savings, only the interest thereon available toward expenses. Non-KINGBIRD expenses totaled \$430.10. KINGBIRD expenses for 1971 were:

|                                                 |           |  |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Prompt Mailing Service (addressographing) ..... | \$ 48.81  |  |
| KINGBIRD mailing envelopes .....                | \$ 113.08 |  |

Cayuga Press bills:

|                               |                 |          |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Jan. issue (675 copies) ..... | \$ 661.94       |          |
| May issue (675 copies) .....  | 1,048.77        |          |
| July issue (650 copies) ..... | 985.60          |          |
| Oct. issue (625 copies) ..... | <u>1,014.42</u> | 3,710.73 |

Circulation manager's expenses:

|                                                   |            |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Post Office deposits .....                        | \$ 20.00   |                   |
| Other postage (returned KINGBIRDS, corresp.) .... | 15.61      |                   |
| Supplies (string, stationery, etc.) .....         | 4.19       |                   |
| Telephone (long distance) .....                   | <u>.89</u> | 40.69             |
|                                                   |            | <u>\$3,913.31</u> |

Dividing total KINGBIRD costs (\$3,913.31) by total number of copies ordered (2625), the cost per single copy equals \$1.49, about \$6.00/year.

Printing costs included \$170 for extra time on linotype because of poor copy, difficult to read. This could be eliminated by more care on the part of authors and Regional Editors in submitting copy that follows the Editor's format instructions exactly and is carefully typed. Perhaps a volunteer could be found to retype copy when necessary. The 1973 budget assumes no extra time charges by the printer. Some saving could be made by limiting the Regional Reports to a maximum of 4 1/2 printed pages per report except in most unusual circumstances and with advance approval from the Editor. Other journals will print copy beyond the specified maximum length if the author is willing to pay the cost of the extra pages. KINGBIRD could do this, or have it understood that copy beyond the 4 1/2 printed pages would not be set up in type, but discarded. The Editor should not be expected to prune or condense Regional reports; that is the job of the Regional Editor.

The report of the Finance Committee was then accepted unanimously.

Mrs. McIlroy left the budget open for discussion. Total expenses now amount to about \$6.00 each member and the \$5.00 dues does not cover this, nor does the interest from the life membership accounts.

There were numerous suggestions from the floor. Dr. Neil Moon thought it would be a good idea to limit the Regional Reports to 4 pages as the cost per page is \$11.00, and poor copy should either be sent back to the Regional Editors or charged to the region. Mr. Robert Arbib suggested paid advertising. It was pointed out that we had had advertising in the past, but it is difficult to get customers because of our small circulation. Mr. Arbib offered his file on potential customers to whomever would be advertising manager. Mr. Arbib felt an increase in dues would lose members, and that our only salvation was to increase memberships and subscriptions. He also suggested a decrease in dues and getting 2 to 3 times as many members as we now have because costs then go down. Mr. Niven pointed out that the consensus of opinion at the meeting last year was that we would lose members if we increased dues.

Mr. Joseph Taylor, Editor of the Kingbird commented on Kingbird costs and how the latest issue of the Kingbird cost very little because there were no articles in it! Mr. Taylor stated that there have been no articles coming into the Kingbird. The need for an assistant Editor to solicit articles was pointed out. Mr. Taylor also commented on the replies to the questionnaire sent out with the last issue of "New York Birders." 350 were sent out and 90 replies received. He was surprised that everyone liked the magazine the way it is. Among the results of the questionnaire was the need for more articles on places to go birding, agreement on a drive for new members, no objections to advertising, a desire for more general rather than technical articles and 74 said they did not object to a dues increase. Mr. Taylor asked the Council to approve an exchange list for bulletins. Approval was unanimous. It was then suggested that exchange bulletins might be a source of material for the Kingbird. The motion to accept the Editor's report was then passed unanimously.

There was no report from the chairman of the Waterfowl Count and it was pointed out that there has been no report since 1968.

Mr. Niven presented the report of Miss Elizabeth Feldhusen, the Corresponding Secretary in her absence. Correspondence has been mostly from people wanting to know about birding areas.

Mr. Richard Sloss, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee asked the delegates if they were aware of a proposed amendment to the by-laws. The proposed amendment would raise the individual annual dues from \$5.00 to \$6.00 and create a family membership of \$7.50 in lieu of a sustaining membership, and student membership would be \$3.00. A hand count showed that most of the delegates were aware of the proposal and had been instructed how to vote. During the discussion which followed Dr. Dittrich noted that the membership was now receiving the new "New York Birders" free and thus might not mind an increase of dues. He also pointed out that if there were more than 4 issues a year it could be sent out cheaper. The question arose as to whether or not the changing of the Sustaining class of membership was a change in name only. Mr. Sloss explained that we would be creating a class where husband and wife could join at a cheaper rate but would receive only one Kingbird. He also felt we could not continue at \$5.00 an annual membership when the Kingbird costs \$6.00 yearly. Dr. Moon questioned how much yearly interest we're receiving on the account from the life memberships. Mr. Dempsey replied that it is roughly 5%, but that we could possibly get more. Mr. Niven felt the money could even be put into a five year account and receive at least 6% interest, and that we should try to accomplish this this year. Mr. Arbib again stated he felt it was self-defeating to raise the dues and that an effort should be made to have a membership campaign. Dr. James Tate felt that expenses and ways to raise money revolved around the Kingbird and the Editor and pointed up the need for the Editor to have a staff to work with him. The question of obtaining volunteers to help and developing a workable plan arose and it was decided to table the discussion until Saturday morning in the hope we would have more delegates present.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Walter Benning presented the proposed slate of officers for 1973. Mr. Harold Mitchell moved the nominations be closed and it was seconded by Mrs. Alice Jones. The Secretary was instructed to cast one vote for the entire slate:

President: Mr. Kenneth D. Niven

Vice-President: Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin

Corresponding Secretary: Miss Elizabeth Feldhusen

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Myrna Hemmerich

Treasurer: Mr. Stephen B. Dempsey

The following Nominating Committee for 1973 was elected: Mr. Robert Arbib, Chairman, Mrs. Alice Ulrich and Dr. Neil Moon.

The Auditing Committee was re-elected without opposition as follows: Mr. Ralph Cioffi and Mr. William Reeves.

Mr. Niven read the report of the Hawk Nesting Program as received from Mr. Herb Saltford. Mr. Saltford wondered how valuable the program is and whether we should forget it and donate the balance of the fund to the Peregrine Falcon program as only \$15.00 was paid out in the past year. Mrs. Sunderlin felt there had been no publicity given the program this year and that the problem was getting the individual clubs to publicize it. Mr. Mitchell felt notices should come out early while the birds are still nesting. Future use of the Kingbird and New York Birders for publicity was suggested. The report of the Hawk Nesting Program was then accepted unanimously.

There was no report from the Bulletin Exchange Committee.

A new club, The Long Island Field Naturalists' Society was nominated for membership, accepted and welcomed into the Federation.

The meeting was then adjourned until Saturday morning, Sept. 23, 1972.

At 9:00 A.M. Saturday morning the meeting was again called to order, with delegates from 22 clubs answering the roll call.

Mr. Niven read the report sent by Dr. Sally Spofford, Chairman of the Bibliography Committee. They will continue to publish an annual bibliography in the Kingbird and urge people to send in any omissions.

Mr. Robert Arbib, Chairman, gave the report of the Publications and Research Committee. The committee had discussed ways of getting more material for the Kingbird as there has been a dearth of good articles and short notes. They will try to find an assistant editor to recruit material for the Kingbird. They feel the magazine should emphasize general ornithology and where to find birds. The problem of low circulation means a stringent budget. Ways to boost circulation were discussed, perhaps by strengthening the membership committee or possibly having an advertising manager. Research will basically be two programs;

1. The annual waterfowl count
2. Hawk Nest Protection Program. They talked of strengthening the personnel involved.

Other research programs proposed if the interest and leadership could be found:

1. Great Blue Heronry Survey
2. Monitoring the spread and population of the Monk Parakeet.

Mr. Niven asked the delegates to return to their clubs and call to the attention of the local secretaries that according to the by-laws of the Federation they are to file with the Federation's recording secretary two copies of the names and addresses of their officers each year, and biennially in even years two copies of their membership list with addresses.

The following committee was appointed to draw up a resolution thanking the host clubs: Dr. Neil Moon, Chairman, Mrs. Alice Jones, Mr. Albert Fudge, and Dr. Allen Benton.

Dr. Frederick C. Dittrich, circulation manager of the Kingbird compared 1972 memberships with the previous two years:

|                          | 1972 | 1971 | 1970 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|
| Indiv. Members . . . . . | 450  | 482  | 525  |
| Clubs . . . . .          | 37   | 36   | 40   |
| Subscriptions . . . . .  | 24   | 28   | 31   |
| Exchanges . . . . .      | 16   | 14   | 12   |
| Complimentary . . . . .  | 11   | 9    | 8    |

Dr. Dittrich asked for permission to classify an individual under subscription category, and official permission to cash the checks which arrive in his name. This was granted. He also suggested that the delegates take back issues of the Kingbird to their clubs to help get prospective members for the Federation. The report of the circulation manager was accepted unanimously.

Mr. Richard Sloss read a letter he had written to Mr. Niven which re-iterated problems and suggestions discussed at the Claryville meeting of officers and Committee Chairmen. One of these was the need for better liaison between the Clubs and the President of the Federation. The President could appoint area representatives (which would serve the need for a pool for future presidents) who would keep each club informed, visit each member club at least once a year, and solicit individual members. It was felt that having only 3 area representatives would be impractical, that 7 would be necessary to make the plan workable. An area representative would be a member of one of the clubs in the area he would serve.

Other points made in Mr. Sloss's letter were: the need for a discussion on the role of the Federation in conservation and the need to clarify the purposes of the Federation; that the question of dues is correlated with the question of membership; that we should keep the \$5.00 dues but ask members to jump to the next dues category and perhaps have a fund raising drive to see how many supporting members we can get.

Dr. Gordon Meade felt the organization has lost enthusiasm and personally supported the idea of area representatives while opposing a dues increase. He felt we must make improvements in the Kingbird to make it a great journal.

Dr. Reilly made a motion to divide the State into 7 sections and have the President with the help of the board appoint an area representative for each. The motion was seconded and there was some discussion on whether or not we shouldn't have 10 representatives using the ten reporting regions in the Kingbird. It was pointed out that the 10 reporting regions were done geographically and that the 7 regions were laid out according to workability of area and number of clubs in each area. The motion was then passed unanimously.

The following volunteered to serve:

Area 1 The name of Marie Wendling was suggested

Area 2 Dr. Gordon Meade

Area 3 Dr. Bruno DeSimone

Area 4 Dr. James Tate

Area 5 Dr. Ed Reilly

Area 6 Representative needed

At this point Mr. Arbib stated he felt that Area 7 (metropolitan New York, Westchester and Long Island) which includes 10 clubs was too much for one person to handle and that if the area could be divided into two he would serve as a representative. The motion was then made and passed to create eight areas with eight regional representatives.

Area 7 Mr. Robert Arbib will serve

Area 8 (Long Island & Staten Island) Representative needed

Mr. Niven announced plans for the 26th Annual Council Meeting. Sullivan County Audubon will be the host club and the meeting will be held May 18-20, 1973 at the Forstmann Conference Center, Frost Valley, Claryville, New York. The site was chosen because of the outstanding scenery and the low cost for the weekend.

Miss Elizabeth Feldhusen sent notice that a formal invitation has been received from Jamestown for the 27th Annual Meeting in 1974.

Mr. Niven presented the membership report in lieu of the chairman. There are 39 new members, 3 supporting, 3 sustaining, 1 life, 2 student, and 2 new clubs. Dr. Allen Benton moved and it was passed that we accept the new members and the clubs subject to names submitted. (The Long Island Field Naturalists' Society was accepted at the Friday meeting and it was subsequently announced that the second new club is the Moraine Audubon Society from Long Island.)

Mr. Arbib presented the Conservation resolution as follows:

Whereas the Monk, or Quaker Parakeet, *Myiopsittus monachus*, a South American parrot which has escaped from captivity in the eastern United States, and is now rapidly increasing in numbers and distribution, being considered an undesirable introduction into the North American avifauna and of potential detriment to orchard and fruit crops, be it resolved that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. in meeting assembled recommends that immediate steps be taken by the appropriate governmental agencies to eliminate or effectively control by humane means this species in the United States, and to ban permanently its further importation, and further that this resolution be transmitted to the appropriate authorities.

The resolution was passed without opposition.

Dr. Reilly made a motion which was passed unanimously that extra copies of the Kingbird be made available to the eight area representatives for use in promoting new memberships.

The vote was unanimous to table until 1973 any decision on the proposal to raise dues.

Mr. Sloss suggested that the area representatives find out from the clubs under their jurisdiction how the Federation can be more meaningful to member clubs. He also stated that there are some members who feel the Federation is not performing a good job in conservation, and that there are other members who feel conservation matters should be handled by other organizations set up to handle them. The Federation is not equipped for quick action. He suggested we redefine our purposes.

Mr. Niven asked the delegates to go back home and have their clubs check the by-laws and use the Kingbird.

Mr. Mitchell concurred with Mr. Sloss, stating Audubon is set up to act country-wide and that we are a N.Y. State organization and should continue to act on things that effect us in N.Y. State.

Dr. Peakall remarked that by continuing the annual waterfowl census and the Heronry Count we would have data available to function effectively as conservation problems arose.

Mr. Brockner suggested we step up the activity of the newsletter, "The New York Birders." He felt the greatest step forward was having a Friday afternoon meeting of the Council and urged that we continue this format.

Other opinions from the floor were: the need of an organization like the Federation with a primary interest in birds to be active in conservation matters pertaining to birds, that the Federation cannot ignore conservation matters but that we need a good Conservation Chairman with time and drive.

Dr. James Tate presented the following conservation resolution:

Whereas, the possession of birds as pets is a common practice in the United States of America and, whereas, the greatest portion of the pet trade deals in wild birds taken from native populations of other countries and, whereas, there exists a lack of control over this trade, and intolerable inhumane conditions exist during the importation of these birds, be it resolved that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. supports strong and meaningful legislation intended to restrict the trade in wild bird species taken from native populations in other lands, and to encourage the use of captive-reared birds as the major source of pet birds.

The resolution was adopted unanimously with the urging it be sent to the proper government authorities, local fish & wildlife services and the press.

## THE PAPER SESSION

Annual Meeting — September 23, 1972

1. Beaver Meadow Nature Center ..... Harold Mitchell
2. Plum Island, New York, A Little Known Sanctuary ..... Paul Spitzer
3. The Current Status of the N.Y. State Bird Book ..... John Bull
4. The Monk Parakeet Invades Staten Island ..... Howard H. Cleaves
5. Use of Birds in Literature — Emily Dickinson ..... Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.

The Resolution which was prepared by the Resolutions Committee and presented at the Annual Banquet was as follows:

*Whereas:* The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the Bird Study Group of the Cornell Campus Club and the Cornell Conservation Club and the Schuyler County Bird Club have so ably provided for the comfort and entertainment of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., and have served as hosts at this the 25th Annual Meeting of said Federation; and

*Whereas:* The preparations for and consummation of this meeting have been carried out with outstanding care, diligence and dispatch, befitting the Silver Anniversary meeting of the Federation, therefore

*Be It Resolved:* that we, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. here assembled, do express to said hosts our gratitude and appreciation for the aforementioned amenities and commend said hosts for their kindness and hospitality.

Resolutions Committee,

Neil S. Moon

Alice D. Jones

Albert Fudge

Allen Benton

Respectfully Submitted,  
Myrna Memmerich

## FIELD NOTES

**Raven sightings in the Adirondack Mountains.** While participating in a large raptor survey for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in northern New York, I have on several occasions observed Common Ravens, *Corvus corax*. The species was described as a "a common resident throughout the Adirondacks" by Merriam (*Nuttall Ornithological Club Bulletin*, 1880, 6:192) but by the 1900s New York records were very rare. (See ed. note *Kingbird* 18(4):199, October 1968). The single report of a recent nesting by Delafield (*Kingbird* 18(4): 198-199) and the implied paucity of specimens (Belknap, *Kingbird* 20(1): 14-15) led me to believe that the following sightings would be of interest.

I have grouped the sightings into distinct areas, which I feel may represent occupied nesting territories.

**Area 1.** This area is located in the high peak country of the eastern Adirondacks, Essex County. Greenleaf Chase first observed a pair of ravens here in March, 1960. Delafield (*op. cit.*) reported on the fledging of two young from a high cliff nest in 1968. On May 16, 1971, at 8:47 A.M. I observed a pair of ravens for 23 minutes at this same cliff, although no nest was visible. The birds were significantly larger than Common Crows, with exceptionally large beaks and head, scraggly throat region, and a long, wedge-shaped tail. They uttered harsh guttural croaks at intervals as they alternately landed on ledges and soared out from the cliff. On June 2, 1971, I saw one raven in flight near the same cliff, and what was probably the same bird searching along a road later the same day. Greenleaf Chase has seen single ravens about two miles from this cliff on two occasions in May and June of 1972. Area 1 contains a narrow pass with precipitous cliffs on either side leading out to two wide