

SUMMARY MINUTES OF 27th ANNUAL MEETING OF FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS FREDONIA, N. Y. — OCTOBER 18 & 19, 1974

Twenty-nine (of 39) member clubs were represented by delegates to the Council meeting which met to conduct business on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, October 18 and 19. Council was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Friday.

Minutes of 1973 meeting were accepted as published in the January 1974 *Kingbird*.

Membership Committee — The High Peaks Audubon Society of Essex County was accepted as a member club. Sixty-two new individual members were voted into membership (54 regular annual, 4 student, 1 sustaining and 3 reinstated). Current total of individual members is 414.

Treasurer's Report — The Treasurer, Stephen Dempsey, reported 1973 income of \$4,346.31 and expenses of \$3,701.15 for a net gain of \$645.16. He indicated balances of \$1,038.95 and \$1,150.14 in the Hawk Nesting and John J. Elliott Memorial Funds respectively. The auditors reported they had found the accounts all in order and the Treasurer's report was accepted.

Hawk Fund — It was agreed that the possibility of using this fund for another purpose than the original one should be explored with the donor.

Elliott Memorial Fund — It was agreed that the committee charged with making this award should be reactivated.

Savings Accounts — The Board of Directors was asked to recommend a course of action which will assure the highest possible interest return without jeopardizing freedom of use of the money.

Waterfowl Count Committee Report — The Chairman, David Peakall, sent a written report for reading into the record. (A detailed report of the 1974 count appeared in the October 1974 *Kingbird*.) Dr. Peakall recommended that the best state coverage could be obtained by combining the Federation ground count with aerial coverage off Long Island— aerial count for rest of state could be abandoned. Since Dr. Peakall is leaving New York a new chairman for the count has been appointed, Douglas Auer of Ithaca.

Bibliography Committee — Chairman Sally Spofford submitted a written report for the record. The Bibliography of New York State Ornithology for 1972 has been completed and submitted to the *Kingbird* for publication. Bibliography for 1973 is under way.

Area Representatives Reports — Representatives for Areas 1, 2, 3 & 5 gave personal reports on visits to clubs in their areas. No reports from the other four areas.

By-laws Committee — Chairman Sloss presented for action several proposed changes in the by-laws which had been circulated prior to the meeting to all club presidents and delegates.

All changes were approved as presented. They provide for:

1. Payment of dues in first year of membership one month after notice of acceptance as an individual member.
2. A new schedule of dues as follows:

Annual member	— \$	8.00
Family membership	—	10.00
Supporting member	—	15.00
Life member	—	150.00 (no further dues)
Patrons	—	500.00 (no further dues)
Founders	—	1000.00 (no further dues)
Student member	—	3.00

3. Giving the Membership Committee the power to approve applications for individual membership and to grant provisional membership to applicant clubs, pending approval of the Council of Delegates at the next annual meeting.
4. Termination of membership if dues in default have not been paid within 90 days after written notice.
5. Determination of the date and place of the annual meeting by the Executive Committee rather than the Council of Delegates.
6. Establishment of an Executive Committee of 15 members and elimination of the Program Committee.
7. Expansion of Article 9 in order to preserve and emphasize the Federation's tax-exempt status.

(Since the meeting the By-laws changes have been approved by more than the required two-thirds of the member clubs.)

Finance Committee – Chairman Dorothy McIlroy presented a 1975 budget showing prospective income of \$4,250 - \$4,750 and expenses of \$4,275 - \$4,475.

New York Birders – This Federation newsletter has a circulation of over 450 copies at a cost of about \$90 per issue. Delegate Marada Johnson expressed the consensus of all present that *New York Birders* is a commendable Federation activity and an important means of bringing the Federation into closer contact with its membership.

Kingbird – Dr. Dittrich reported a total circulation for the *Kingbird* of 568 copies distributed as follows: Individual members—453, member clubs—39, subscriptions—44, exchanges—14, complimentary—18. Editor Taylor reported that the delays in *Kingbird* publication are a combination of his own and the printers problems. He appealed for articles which do not need to be particularly scientific—interesting observations of birds are welcomed. Dr. Meade announced that Robert Smart of Millbrook, N.Y. is taking over "Highlights of the Season" from "Fritz" Scheider.

Publications and Research Committee – Chairman Arbib offered a series of suggestions, derived from Board of Director's meeting discussions, of Federation activities which would increase the Federation's value to its clubs and members. They were: 1) brochure on "How to Start a Bird Club;" 2) brochure on projects and programs for bird clubs; 3) Conservation Manual; 4) speakers list; 5) brochure on "Where to Bird in New York State;" 6) a list of birding consultants and hosts; 7) pelagic, spring migration and other types of statewide counts.

Nominating Committee – Chairman Borko presented the 1974 officers for re-election for 1975. The Nominating Committee for 1975 was elected—Martin Borko, Chairman; Edgar Reilly, William Vaughan and Robert Arbib.

1975 *Auditing Committee* consisting of Barbara Spencer and Irving Cantor was elected.

Publicity Committee – Maxwell Wheat reported on releases regarding the annual meeting which were used by a number of newspapers and club newsletters.

Conservation Committee – The resignation of Maxwell Wheat was accepted with regrets and an expression of appreciation.

Conservation Policies – President Meade presented a statement of guidelines for the Federation's conservation activities. This is intended to provide a basis for discussion and development. No action was taken but the general opinion was expressed that the suggested guidelines are valid and worthy of study.

Resolutions – Dr. Edgar Reilly presented the following two resolutions which were voted upon separately and overwhelmingly approved.

No. 1 RESOLVED – The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs is opposed to the legalizing of the practice of falconry as exemplified in the taking of wild raptors (*Falconiformes* and *Strigiformes*) for training to pursue and capture wild birds and mammals,

and for engaging in the sport of falconry in any form. For that reason we urge the repeal of the present enabling falconry laws in New York State.

No. 2 RESOLVED – That the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs is not opposed to, and urges the retention of the present law(s) which provide for the taking of wild raptors for purposes of research and reproduction programs.

Mr. John M. C. Peterson of High Peaks Audubon Society presented the following resolution which was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED – The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs stands opposed to the open season for hunting of the Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) within the boundaries of the Adirondack Park where the Common Raven is re-establishing itself as a limited breeding species. The strong possibility for confusion in the field identification of these species could adversely affect the precarious status of the Raven, a rare bird in New York State.

1975 Annual Meeting – Dr. Meade announced that the Delaware-Otsego Bird Club will be the host for the 1975 annual meeting in Oneonta on Sept. 26-28. No invitation had yet been received for the 1976 meeting.

The Council was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Saturday until Friday afternoon, September 26, 1975.

Friday evening panel discussion of falconry – The pros and cons of falconry were discussed in a spirited give and take by Dr. Tom Cade, Professor of Ornithology and Director of Falcon Breeding Program at Cornell; Eric Single of the Society for the Preservation of the Birds of Prey; Robert Arbib, Editor of *American Birds*, National Audubon Society; Dr. Edgar Reilly, New York State Zoologist with Mr. Joseph W. Taylor as moderator.

Saturday, October 19

In the afternoon nine scientific papers were presented by various members of the Federation. Following this session an innovation for Federation meetings was introduced in the form of identification workshops. One on gulls was presented by Paul DeBenedictis of Syracuse and one on shorebirds by Robert Sundell of Jamestown. These were very well attended and received.

In the evening an enjoyable dinner was held in Cranston Hall with about 100 persons attending. Highlight of the dinner was the announcement of the presentation to the Federation of a check for \$1,000 by one of the Federation's founders and charter members, Mrs. Dayton (Lillian) Stoner for a fund to enable one college student each year to attend the Federation's annual meeting.

Dr. Reilly presented a resolution of thanks and appreciation to the co-host clubs, Lake Erie Bird Club and Jamestown Audubon Society for their hospitality and hard work in organizing the meeting.

Following dinner Captain John Perkins of Conneaut, Ohio, presented his fascinating, informative and thoroughly enjoyable film of his experiences with some of the 253 species of birds that came aboard his ore freighters plying the Great Lakes.

Field trips – On Saturday and Sunday field trips were conducted to area birding spots and despite rather unfavorable conditions (snow) at least 55 species were recorded.

Alice D. Jones
Recording Secretary

N.B. The above minutes are a considerably shortened version of the full minutes but they present the essential facts. This was done so as to not use too much space in the *Kingbird*. If anyone desires a copy of the full minutes it can be obtained on request from the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin, 505 Bay Road, Webster, N.Y. 14580.