

**MINUTES OF THE 29TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
HEMPSTEAD, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.**

October 1st - 2nd, 1976

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. was held at the Holiday Inn, Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y. with the Linnaean Society of New York as host. The meeting was called to order by President Richard A. Sloss at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, October 1, 1976. The roll call was answered by delegates from 23 Member Clubs, constituting a quorum for the transaction of business. Delegates from 5 additional clubs arrived later. William Vaughan served as parliamentarian.

The delegates unanimously approved dispensing with the reading of the minutes of the 1975 Annual Meeting, as they had appeared in outline in *New York Birders*, January, 1976 issue. It was voted that the minutes of the 1976 Council of Delegates be published concisely in *The Kingbird* in order to have a more permanent record.

Myrna Hemmerick, Membership Chairperson, presented the report of the Membership Committee. Membership was at an all time high with the following breakdown:

Annual Membership	— 348	Student Membership	— 33
Family Membership	— 55	Life Membership	— 45
Supporting Membership	— 18	Partial Life Membership	— 5

Myra Hemmerick stated that inasmuch as Family Memberships actually represented at least 2 members the total individual members came to a minimum of 559. Special recognition was paid to Gordon Meade and Dick Sloss who contributed to the growth of membership—Gordon Meade being responsible for individual membership drives among some of the Member Clubs, and Dick Sloss for his efforts in producing a new membership brochure. It was announced that the Cattaraugus County Bird Club had applied for membership in the Federation. Upon motion made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, the Cattaraugus County Bird Club was elected to membership, bringing the total number of Member Clubs in the Federation to 41.

The Treasurer, Stephen Dempsey, presented his reports for the calendar year 1975 as follows:

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 12/31/75 AND FOR THE THEN ENDED YEAR**

Cash on Hand 12/31/74

Checking Account	\$ 1,489.59
Savings Accounts	8,937.45
Net Gain in 1975	342.01
Adjustment*	(54.11)
	<u>\$10,714.94</u>

Cash on Hand 12/31/75

Checking Account	\$ 1,665.16
Savings Accounts	<u>9,049.78</u>
	<u>\$10,714.94</u>

Income, 1975

Dues Payments	
Annual — 1974 — 1 Renewal	\$ 5.00

Annual – 1974 – 2 New	\$ 10.00	
1975 – 295 Renewal	2,360.00	
1975 – 40 New	311.00	
1976 – 1 Renewal	8.00	
1976 – 9 New	<u>72.00</u>	\$2,766.00
Family – 1975 – 31 Renewal	\$ 310.00	
1975 – 8 New	<u>80.00</u>	\$ 390.00
Supporting – 1975 – 14 Renewal		210.00
Student – 1975 – 7 Renewal	\$ 21.00	
1975 – 8 New	24.00	
1976 – 1 New	<u>3.00</u>	48.00
Life – 1975 – 1 Complete	\$ 150.00	
1975 – 5 Partial	<u>137.50</u>	\$ 287.50
Club – 1975 – 37 Renewal	\$ 1,245.95	
1975 – 1 New	<u>5.10</u>	\$1,251.05
Subscriptions – 1974 – 2	\$ 12.00	
1975 – 26	156.00	
1976 – 32	<u>288.00</u>	\$ 456.00
Back Issues of <i>The Kingbird</i>		318.25
Indexes of <i>The Kingbird</i>		8.00
Contribution		14.00
Reimbursement from Hawk Nesting Fund		30.00
Sale of Feeders		159.75
Pelagic Trip – 6/7/75	\$ 900.00	
10/4/75	<u>1,020.00</u>	1,920.00
Interest on Savings Account (Accrued)		<u>549.25</u>
		\$8,407.80
Expenses, 1975		
<i>The Kingbird</i>		\$4,355.47
Membership		240.11
Conservation		25.00
<i>New York Birders</i>		286.69
Dues		50.00
Annual Meeting – 1975		210.84
1976		250.00
Refund of Dues		46.65
Miscellaneous		314.36
Purchase of Feeders		78.84
Pelagic Trip – 6/7/75		861.00
10/4/75		971.83
1976 (3)		300.00
Lillian C. Stoner Student Expense Fund		<u>75.00</u>
		\$8,065.79
Net Gain		\$ 342.01

* Represents checks drawn in 1974 but not cleared until 1975.

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
LILLIAN C. STONER STUDENT EXPENSE FUND
TREASURER'S REPORT OF THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1975

Balance on Hand 1/1/75	\$1,009.84
Interest Earned - Year 1975	79.77
Balance on Hand 12/31/75	\$1,089.61

NOTE: The regular account is due \$75.00 in connection with the award made to Mary McKittrick in 1975.

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL FUND
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1975

Balance on Hand 1/1/75	\$1,227.64
Interest Earned - Year 1975	77.32
Less: Awards presented in 1975	250.00
Balance on Hand	\$1,054.96

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
HAWK NESTING FUND
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1975

Balance on Hand 1/1/75	\$1,091.85
Interest Earned - Year 1975	67.11
Less: Reimbursement to Regular Account for disbursements made in 1973 and 1974	30.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/75	\$1,128.96

Submitted by: Stephen B. Dempsey, Treasurer, 3/12/76

Books and accounts examined and found in good order

Irving Cantor, Auditor 6-7-76

Barbara J. Spencer, Auditor 7-6-76

It was suggested that in the future it would be helpful to have copies of the Treasurer's reports distributed to the delegates in advance of the Annual Meeting.

In the absence of Irving Cantor and Barbara Spencer, the President read the report of the Auditing Committee attesting to the Treasurer's figures as submitted.

President Sloss read a letter from Sally Hoyt Spofford, Chairman of the Bibliography Committee, stating that the compilation for the year 1974 had been sent to the Editors of *The Kingbird* for early publication. Chairman Spofford expressed her appreciation to all persons who sent her references to articles that she might otherwise have overlooked and especially to those persons on her Committee: John Belknap, Dr. Allen Benton and Dr. Kenneth Parkes. Mrs. Spofford also made a plea for any comparatively local publications, check lists, guides, or major articles in local club newsletters. Individuals are requested to send material to her First Class Mail at her Etna address, or at the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University.

Richard Sloss announced that Walton Sabin has accepted the Chairmanship of the Waterfowl Census Committee.

Robert Arbib, Chairman of the Publications & Research Committee, presented his report. He complimented the Co-Editors of *The Kingbird*, Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, and the Editor of *New York Birders*, Max Wheat, for the excellent quality of the publica-

tions under their editorship. He announced that John Bull's *Supplement to the Birds of New York State* was now available for \$2.50 per copy plus 50¢ handling and postage, and that the initial printing amounted to 1,000 copies; and that the Ten Year Index to *The Kingbird* was now being mailed to all members. He also called attention to the fact that Susan Drennan, who is assuming the responsibility, almost single-handedly, for the monumental task of publishing a "Where To Bird In New York State" book has completed the first phase of this undertaking in the form of a questionnaire which is to be sent to people throughout the state soliciting information on the various subject matter which will be contained in this publication. Attention was also called to the new attractive membership brochure which was printed during the year.

Dr. Frederick Dittrich, Circulation Manager, reported on the distribution of *The Kingbird* as follows: 492 copies to Individual Members; 41 copies to Member Clubs; 49 subscriptions; 15 exchanges; 17 complimentary; 4 extras to members; 54 extras to Member Clubs. This is a total distribution of 672 copies of *The Kingbird* at the present time. This represents an increase of 52 over the same time the previous year.

Mary Ann Sunderlin, Vice-President, reported that she had been able to secure a mailing permit for *New York Birders* which will significantly reduce the cost of distributing this publication which was formerly mailed First Class. The attention of the delegates was also called to the new Federation decal which was distributed free in the last issue of *The Kingbird*, and which is now on sale for 50¢ per decal. Ted Dittrich suggested that a decal be given free of charge to each new member.

A motion was unanimously passed by the delegates requesting that the President write official letters of appreciation to Frederick Dittrich for his fine work as Circulation Manager, to Betty Perrigo for her similar efforts in connection with *New York Birders*, and to Al Bell who has donated his time and service for *New York Birders*.

Gordon Meade reported that his correspondence with Richard Cambridge, Secretary of the Madawaska Club, had resulted in the Club's agreeing that birders may enter the property from May 1st to September 30th, providing they do not block the entrance, that they obtain a permit from Mr. Cambridge at least two weeks in advance, and pay \$5.00 per season per person. Dr. Meade is to distribute copies of this agreement to all Federation members.

The Friday afternoon session was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

The Saturday morning session of the Council of Delegates opened at 8:30 A.M. with the President's report on the year's activities and a summation of the work of the Executive Committee. Dick Sloss explained that the Executive Committee had been established three years ago to assist the Officers in the management of the affairs of the Federation and to draw upon the expertise of a broader-based group. The Committee is composed of the Officers plus ten members chosen at large. In 1976 there was one appointment made to the Committee: Robert Arbib, Chairman of the Publications & Research Committee. The President noted that the Executive Committee met four times during the year and that the Federation owed a great deal to the members of this hard-working group. Dick Sloss expressed his pleasure at the response from the Member Clubs to his request that they each appoint a permanent representative to the Federation in order to improve communications between Federation and the Member Clubs. 20 clubs made such appointments with the expectation of more to come. The President advised the delegates that the amendment to the bylaws, which had been passed by the delegates at the last Annual Meeting held in Oneonta, had been ratified by the Member Clubs and that, as a result, limits to the number of years that either the Corresponding Secretary or the Treasurer may serve had been removed.

The President congratulated the Co-Editors of *The Kingbird*, Manny Levine and John Farrand, and the Editor of *New York Birders*, Max Wheat, for the fine work that they had

done over the past year. He expressed hopes for an increased participation in the Breeding Bird Census for 1977, pointing out that the Committee headed by Elaine Kibbe and Dr. Ed Reilly felt that more than 9 participating clubs would be required before statistically significant data could be generated. Congratulations were also extended to Mary Ann Sunderlin, Chairman of the Adirondack Spring Birding Trip, and to Mike Peterson and Patricia Taber of High Peaks Audubon who were responsible for the first Federation extended spring field trip. It was to be hoped that this could be repeated in 1977. Thanks to Paul DuBowy for his production of a successful "birding consultant" list. This roster of Federation members, willing to act in various aspects of field guiding to visitors in their area, appeared in a recent issue of *New York Birders*.

Gordon Meade reported at length on his activities in connection with a membership drive. The pilot project involved 3 clubs: Buffalo Audubon, Allegany, and Ralph T. Waterman. 410 persons who were not Federation members received letters containing a membership brochure and excerpts from letters from members who expressed pleasure and gratification for Federation activities at Annual Meetings and pelagic trips. He reported that as a result of this effort a response in new memberships were: 7 from the June pelagic trip; 4 from the Adirondack Spring field trip; 1 from the Allegany Bird Club; 4 from the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club and 12 from the Buffalo Audubon Society.

Dr. Reilly reported on the progress of establishing a Speakers Bureau, the purpose of which is to have a file listing good speakers who are willing to travel. 25 clubs have sent in such a list and it will be analyzed, broken down and filed into groups according to subject. When it is complete it will be available to Member Clubs.

The President requested the delegates to consider the advisability of establishing a New York State Avian Records Committee, calling to their attention the program on this subject which was conducted the previous evening. He asked for a discussion as to whether plans to establish a NYSARC should continue, be tabled, or terminated. He called attention to the fact that the Committee appointed at the end of the 28th Annual Meeting of the Council of Delegates in Oneonta, consisting of William Vaughan, Chairman, Paul DeBenedictis and Morgan Jones, had done a great deal of preliminary work over the past year, but was unable to draw up a proposed plan in time to submit to the delegates prior to the 29th Annual Meeting in Hempstead. During the year Morgan Jones was transferred to Texas and Paul DeBenedictis may not be able to continue on this Committee. After thorough discussion among the delegates a motion was made by Gordon Meade, seconded by Harold Mitchell, and carried by a majority of the delegates, to the effect that the President be empowered to appoint a Committee of 5 to 7 people to work out all details pertinent to the establishment of a NYSARC and present their proposal to the Member Clubs of the Federation by the spring of 1977, enabling individual clubs to consider the proposal and instruct their delegates for further action at the 30th Annual Meeting next year.

The report of the Nominating Committee (Gordon Meade, Chairman, Neil Moon and John M. C. Peterson) was presented by the Chairman as follows: For President Richard A. Sloss, for Vice-President Mary Ann Sunderlin, for Corresponding Secretary Martin Borko, for Recording Secretary Lona T. Coates, and for Treasurer Stephen B. Dempsey. The Chairman reported that all the proposed Officers agreed to serve for an additional year and recommended that one vote be cast to elect the slate presented by the Nominating Committee. This motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

President Dick Sloss thanked the delegates on behalf of all the Officers for the confidence that was expressed by the vote for reelection. He suggested that the present Nominating Committee be appointed to serve another year and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Nominating Committee of Gordon Meade, Chairman, Neil Moon and Mike Peterson was reelected.

The President expressed appreciation on behalf of the Federation for the work of the Auditing Committee: Irving Cantor and Barbara Spencer. He suggested that the delegates elect an Auditing Committee to serve for the year 1976 to 1977 and after due discussion, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, Irving Cantor and Herbert Roth were elected as an Auditing Committee.

The delegates unanimously approved the drawing of a resolution of appreciation to the Linnaean Society of New York to be presented at the Annual Dinner and Bill Vaughan accepted the assignment to draw the resolution.

Marge Rusk and Gerald Smith of the Onondaga Audubon Society made a strong plea for enlargement of the regional reports appearing in *The Kingbird*. A full discussion concluded with the recommendation that proponents for longer regional reports continue a dialogue with the Co-Editors of *The Kingbird* in order to reach a mutually satisfactory conclusion.

The President announced to the delegates that the 1977 Annual Meeting would be hosted by the Alan DeVoe Bird Club and the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. The locale of the meeting would undoubtedly be in the Albany region. He also advised the delegates that the Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club, Rochester Birding Association and the Genesee Ornithological Society would be host to the 1978 Annual Meeting. It was noted that the clubs of the Rochester region had entertained the membership in 1958 and again in 1968. It was felt fitting that the Annual Meeting return to the Rochester area for the commemoration of the end of the third decade of the Federation.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Lona T. Coates
Recording Secretary

At the annual banquet the following noteworthy actions were taken: A resolution of appreciation to the Linnaean Society of New York, hosts for the 29th Annual Meeting in Hempstead was presented by Bill Vaughan:

WHEREAS, the Linnaean Society of New York has been host club for the 29th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at Hempstead, N.Y. on October 1st to 3rd, 1976, and

WHEREAS, all members of the Federation at this meeting wish to express their thanks for this superb meeting as it draws to a close at the banquet tonight,

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that the Federation hereby expresses its deep and sincere appreciation to each member of the local committee on arrangements and to the Officers and members of the Linnaean Society of New York for their kind hospitality on this occasion.

Past President Gordon Meade presented the John J. Elliott Award to Morgan Jones for his article in the July, 1975 issue of *The Kingbird* entitled "Brown-headed Cowbird Brood Parasitism On The Eastern Phoebe." Honorable mention went to Barry Devine for his article "An Observation of the Territorial and Reproductive Behavior of the Red-winged Blackbird."

The Lillian Stoner Award was presented to Jeffrey Walters from Clifton Springs, N.Y.

Two illuminated certificates were presented to Harold D. Mitchell and Lillian C. Stoner in appreciation of their long and dedicated service to the Federation.