

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22-24, 1978 — ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Host Clubs: Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club, Genesee Ornithological Society,
Rochester Birding Association

Headquarters: Sheraton Airport Hotel

Minutes of the meeting of Council of Delegates—September 22 & 23, 1978.

In the absence of President Stephen Dempsey because of illness, Vice-President Alice Jones called the meeting to order at 2:15 P.M. Delegates from 24 member clubs answered the roll call. Mrs. Jones welcomed the delegates.

Richard Sloss made a motion that only the most important part of the minutes of last year's annual meeting be read for approval. Motion carried. Minutes read and approved. The complete minutes will be published at a later date.

Myrna Hemmerick gave the Membership Committee report. There are 630 paid individual members and 42 member clubs (only one club is delinquent in paying dues). Moraine Audubon Society is no longer functioning as a club. The Yonkers Audubon Society with 133 members was proposed for membership. Motion to accept was made and carried. The membership is now the highest it has ever been. A motion was made and carried to accept the report and to commend Dr. Gordon Meade for his work in increasing the membership. The Membership Committee report was filed with the Secretary.

John Forness read the Treasurer's report. Copies will be sent to all the members. Richard Sloss suggested that the Treasurer's report be sent to the delegates before the annual meeting. He emphasized that the names of the delegates should be sent to the Recording Secretary in advance of the annual meeting. Jerry Smith moved that if the name of the delegate was not known, the material relating to the agenda of the meeting be sent to the permanent representative. Motion passed.

Vice-President Jones commended John Forness for his work as Treasurer. Auditors have found the books in order and have signed the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's report and the Auditor's report have been filed with the Recording Secretary.

The report of the Bibliography Committee from Sally Hoyt Spofford was read. She expressed appreciation to John Belknap, Allen Benton and Kenneth Parkes for their work on the Committee. She asked members to submit to the members of the Committee information on material relating to New York birds and birding, published in 1977.

Walton B. Sabin read the New York State Waterfowl Count Report. It will be published in the next issue of *The Kingbird*.

Ted Dittrich submitted *The Kingbird* circulation report. Approximately 800 copies are printed. The report was filed with the Recording Secretary.

Ed Reilly read the Breeding Bird Report. He suggested that from now on this report be called the Summer Bird Report and the time for conducting the breeding bird census be revised to cover the month of June. Many interesting questions can be answered by these reports. For instance, does the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker breed throughout the state?

Alice Jones read Stephen Dempsey's President's report.

Executive meetings were held on December 3, 1977, April 8 and July 8, 1978. New members of the Executive Committee are David Freeland, Harriet Marsi, and Mary Ann Sunderlin. Charles Smith is secretary of the Avian Records Committee. Karen Slotnik is the Conservation Chairman. Mrs. Jones expressed appreciation for the work of the Executive Committee.

Robert Arbib reported for the Publications and Research Committee. He urged that we try to increase subscriptions to *The Kingbird* because it is one of the best state journals in the United States or Canada.

Susan Drennan gave a report on the Birding Baedeker for New York State. She needs more write-ups from the Albany and Long Island areas. Robert Arbib is working with Houghton Mifflin of Boston on the possibility of their publishing the Baedeker. Proceeds would be shared by the Federation and Susan Drennan. Future projects may include an Atlas of Breeding Birds, similar to the one published in the British Isles.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned at 3:35 P.M.

The meeting was resumed on September 23rd at 9:15 A.M. Twenty-eight clubs answered the roll call. Gordon Meade gave the Spring Migration Survey report. Thirty clubs and four groups of individuals participated. In 1979 the survey will extend through the first week in June to accommodate the High Peaks Audubon Society because many species do not arrive in the Adirondacks until early in June. This year a total of 283 species and 2 hybrids was recorded. Rochester had the highest number of species (215) and the Ralph T. Waterman Club the most participants (157). Seven new species were found to bring the cumulative 5 year total to 310 species.

Paul DeBenedictis gave the Avian Records Committee report. Report forms will be available, but they are to be used as guidelines only. A model report may be seen in *American Birds*, September 1978. In 1979, *The Kingbird* will have a report from the NYSARC and will list the accepted and unaccepted records.

Gordon Meade urged that clubs send lists of newly-elected officers promptly to the Recording Secretary. Richard Sloss urged that all clubs elect permanent representatives to the Federation.

Mrs. Jones called on Dr. Allen Benton, chairman of the Nominating Committee, to present the list of new officers. He presented the following slate: President, Stephen B. Dempsey; Vice-President, Martin Borko; Corresponding Secretary, Harriet Marsi; Recording Secretary, Dee DeSimone; Treasurer, John W.

Forness. Motion was made and carried that one unanimous ballot be cast for these officers.

A motion was made and carried that Laurie Moon be chairman of the Nominating Committee. The other members would be Ed Reilly and John Gustafson; Allen Benton to be an advisor.

Richard Sloss moved that the Auditing Committee of Donald F. Clark and Irving Cantor be re-elected for next year. Motion carried.

Martin Borko, newly elected as Vice-President for 1979, conducted the rest of the meeting in the absence of Steve Dempsey.

Charles Smith gave a report on the Non-game Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. Robert Arbib moved that a 200 word summary of the report be sent to the Department of Environmental Conservation. Ed Reilly asked that the complete report be sent to Peter Berle, D.E.C. Commissioner and that member clubs be urged to write to support the program. The Conservation Committee is to work with Charles on a mailing list. A summary will be printed in *New York Birders*.

A motion also was passed to have the Conservation Committee send a statement to our national legislators. John Gustafson pointed out that 100% of the money spent on bird seed is used for the benefit of wildlife. He suggested that the Committee oppose a tax on bird seed.

The 1979 meeting will be arranged by The Naturalists Club of Broome County. The tentative dates are September 21 through 23, 1979.

Neil Moon spoke on the problem of non-profit organizations owning land. Lands now used for conservation purposes are not tax exempt. The law exempts only land used for education. The organizations owning the land have to be recognized as educational organizations, or they will have to pay taxes on the land.

A motion was made and passed that the Conservation Committee prepare a resolution on behalf of the Federation to be sent to the Tax Commissioner and members of the legislature urging that land owned by non-profit organizations and used for conservation purposes be kept tax exempt.

A motion was also made and passed that the Federation support the Buffalo clubs in their effort to save the Times Beach area. Dave Freeland and Robert Andrie are authorized to speak for the Federation.

Robert Arbib was authorized to prepare a resolution expressing appreciation and thanks of all the delegates and clubs attending the meeting to the Rochester host clubs and the individual members of the committee for an excellent annual meeting, to be read at the banquet and a copy filed with the Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Dee F. DeSimone
Recording Secretary