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**MINUTES OF THE 32nd ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK
September 21-23, 1979**

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs Inc. was held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Binghamton, on September 21-23, 1979, with the Naturalists Club of Broome County, Inc. as host.

President Stephen Dempsey called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. and declared a quorum. Twenty-nine clubs were represented by fifty-eight delegates.

A motion was made and passed to approve the last (1978) annual meeting minutes as published in *The KINGBIRD*. Myrna Hemmerick, Membership Chairman, was absent due to a dog attack but reported a membership of 641. The Treasurer's report presented by John Forness was accepted and filed. The Auditing Committee of Irving Cantor and Don Clark found the Federation's accounts and books in good order. Their report was accepted and filed.

The consensus of the delegates was to send a letter of appreciation thanking Sally Hoyt Spofford for her work on the Bibliography Committee. Dr. Benton has volunteered to serve as Chairman of that committee.

Robert Arbib, Chairman of Publication and Research, reported on the status of Susan Drennan's *Birding Baedeker*. This guide will replace the two Cornell guides to birding in New York State. Work on the guide is about 70% complete. Holt, Rinehart is considering publication with an estimated sales at between 12-15,000. Bob also reported on the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. It will be modeled after the Breeding Bird Atlas of the British Isles where 21,000 observers were involved. A pilot project will start in 1980. Gene McCaffery of DEC is writing a proposal to secure funds. Vermont, Massachusetts and Maryland have similar projects underway.

Ted Dittrich's report as Circulation Manager was read, accepted and filed. Steve Dempsey's President's report was read, accepted and filed. The Nominating Committee Chairman, Ed Reilly, presented the following slate:

Martin Borko — President
Morgan Jones III — Vice-President
Harriet Marsi — Recording Secretary
John Forness — Treasurer
Kate Dunham — Corresponding Secretary

The slate was accepted and the officers declared elected.

The meeting was turned over to Martin Borko who adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m., and reconvened it at 9:15 a.m. on September 22, 1979.

Paul DeBenedictis of the New York State Avian Records Committee stated that the '78 report is published in the 1979 Summer issue of *The Kingbird*. Paul reported that the majority of the rejected reports contained insufficient detail.

Alice Jones presented a resolution to be sent to Commissioner Robert Flacke asking that he not approve the use of pesticide, Endrin, etc. in the Hudson Valley. It was brought out that the poison not only threatens endangered species, like the bog turtle and the Peregrine Falcon, but also makes the consumption of game, killed in the area, dangerous to hunters. Dr. Benton suggested that there is a question as to how effective this poison is in vole control. He stated that natural controls, such as keeping cover cut, are more effective.

The following resolution, as amended, was made by Alice Jones, and accepted by the delegates: (It is to be sent to the DEC Commissioner.)

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, representing more than forty clubs and Audubon Societies with thousands of members, resolve that it is opposed to the use of Endrin to control the pine vole in New York State, as it poses a threat to avian predatory species and more particularly to the attempted re-introduction of the endangered Peregrine Falcon.

Steve Dempsey read the report of the By-laws Committee Chairman, Richard Sloss. It proposed that the following sentence be added to Article VI, Section 2, Executive Committee. "Members-at-large shall be appointed annually by the President." In answer to a question the Chair explained that "annually" would be assumed to mean "at the annual meeting." The motion was approved by the delegate body and will be presented to the clubs by mail.

After a coffee break, election took place with the following results:

Nominating — Stephen Dempsey, Gordon Meade, William Lee

Auditing — Don Clark, Irving Cantor

President Martin Borko and Gordon Meade urged all clubs to appoint permanent representatives. Alan Klonik spoke about the importance of the Mohonk Trust court decision. The President thanked Gene McCaffery, Stu Free and the DEC in general for joining our annual meeting.

Alice Jones announced that the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club would host the 1980 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Hills Convention Center on September 26-28. The Onondaga Audubon Society of Syracuse will host the 1981 meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Dee DeSimone, Sec'y.

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION was presented by Roger Robb:

Whereas, the Naturalists' Club of Broome County has been host club for the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at Binghamton, New York, on September 21-23, 1979, and

Whereas, all members and guests 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 genuine appreciation to the local committees on workshops, field trips, paper sessions, arrangements and, most certainly, refreshments; and, to the officers and members of the Naturalists' Club of Broome County for their kind and warm hospitality on this occasion.

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The annual award for the best article in *The Kingbird* was given to Dan Nickerson for his article "Wilson's Warbler Nests in New York State," Vol. 28, No. 4.

The Lillian Stoner Award was presented to Alexander Brash, as recommended by the Linnaean Society of New York, and to Stephen Scannell, as recommended by the Alan DeVoe Bird Club.

Each Lillian Stoner award recipient thanked the Federation for being chosen.

At the Annual Banquet, the following actions were taken:

Dr. Allen H. Benton, representing the Federation, made the following remarks on the award of a Certificate to Dr. Gordon M. Meade thanking him for his long years of service:

"In the course of a long and misspent life, I have many times been forced by circumstance to do something which I would rather not do. Tonight I am in the fortunate position of having been asked to do something which will give me pure and unalloyed pleasure. The President of the Federation, Martin Borko, has asked me, before this great assemblage, to say exactly what I think of Gordon Meade.

"I have known Gordon longer than about half of you have been alive. Over the years I have found out many things about him which may not be general knowledge. For example, you know Gordon's reputation as a gung-ho birder, always on the alert. Indeed, this very afternoon, he told this group about going from 2:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. during the May count. I am sorry to have to report that this is a fraud. I have documentary evidence: a photograph of Dr. Meade on a hawk watch, leaning back in his viewing chair, eyes tightly closed and mouth wide open, and no doubt snoring, though you can't tell from the picture.

"Seriously, no one person can claim to have had more influence on the origin and growth of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs than Gordon Meade; perhaps no one can claim as much influence. Many of the Federation's most important accomplishments had their origin in Gordon's fertile mind, or were brought to fruition by his immense energy. It is thus a great pleasure for me to hand to Dr. Gordon Meade, on this occasion, a small token of the esteem, affection, and respect which we all feel for him."

Allen H. Benton