

**MINUTES OF THE 35th ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
PAWLING, NEW YORK
September 26, 1980**

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., hosted by the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, convened Sept. 26, 1980 at 2:30 p.m. at the Holiday Hills Convention Center, Pawling, NY. Martin Borko, President, presided. Roll call was taken. Twenty-seven clubs were represented by forty-one delegates. A quorum was declared. The minutes of the 1979 Annual Meeting were approved as circulated among those present. The membership report presented by M. Borko in the absence of M. Hemmerick indicated 60 life, 5 part-life, 48 supporting, 95 family, 392 annual, and 31 student members as of Sept. 24. Report accepted. The bibliography report, presented by M. Borko in the absence of A. Benton, was accepted and filed. The committee now consists of John B. Belknap, Allen H. Benton, chairman; Stephen W. Eaton, Valerie Freer, and Kenneth C. Parkes. Each member club was asked to list its publications on a paper which was circulated. Conservation Committee report: In absence of K. Slotnick, the floor was open to reports from delegates. M. Borko reported that the Executive Committee has formulated a policy statement on "Forest Resources As Relating to Birds," available on request. The Executive Committee is also working on a policy statement on the introduction of exotic species.

Gene McCaffrey of the DEC reported on Federal non-game legislation, eagle hacking, and the Peregrine program. Federal non-game legislation has passed the House of Representatives and the Senate but in slightly different forms. It should soon be ready to submit to the President. This will authorize the protection of non-game species but the appropriation of funds to carry out the authority may be a while in coming. The Wildlife Management Institute has a non-game newsletter which can be supplied when requested. The DEC Bald Eagle hacking program at Montezuma produced two eagles, hacked in 1976, who mated, built a nest, laid eggs and raised young this year—a year earlier than had been anticipated. One of the eaglets was found dead at the foot of the nest, cause unknown. The other fledged successfully. NYS is the only state conducting an eagle hacking program. An osprey, also a rarity in the Montezuma area, nested near the eagles' nest and harassed the eagles. Attempts will be made to move the osprey nest. There are eight other potential eagle release sites in the State. The Peregrine Falcon program has also been successful. Four birds were hacked on a roof in N.Y.C. Their release drew considerable attention from the media. One has been found dead in a chimney. To date the other three are all right. Peregrine hacking programs are succeeding outside N.Y.S. also—N.J., Me., Md., Quebec.

A landfill expansion has been proposed near Montezuma. The Federation has written a statement expressing its deep concern that the marsh be protected as a wildlife refuge of great importance to migrating and breeding waterfowl and other birds and as the site of the eagle hacking program.

The Waterfowl census report was read, accepted and filed. A total of 242,976 loons, grebes, cormorants, swans, geese, ducks, coots and one gallinule were counted, over 17% above the 1979 total. Jan. 10 through Jan. 18 are dates for 1981—Jan. 11 the target date.

Pelagic trips report: Steve Dempsey distributed a financial report which indicated a net profit of \$735.06. The June trip ran into bad weather with many seasick, but August and September trips had mild seas. Three trips are planned for 1981. These trips not only pay for themselves but also bring in new members. Report accepted.

Kingbird circulation report, presented by Connie Wilkins, was accepted and filed. Eight hundred and eight *Kingbirds*, including six hundred thirty-one to individual members, were mailed out.

NYSARC report was read by C. Smith in the absence of P. DeBenedictis. The committee will henceforth send an acknowledgement postcard immediately after receipt of a report although actual work evaluating the report may not begin for several months. Report accepted and filed.

Ohio State University's Dr. J. Bart, and also of US Fish and Wildlife Service, asked for help with a Breeding Bird Survey Evaluation program he is conducting. He has tapes of a specific number of bird songs which he hopes to play to Breeding Bird Survey participants and other qualified birders, asking them to record the number of calls they hear. Comparing this with the known actual number of calls should give a good idea of the percent of accuracy of the field reports. A signup sheet was circulated. Delegates were asked to notify their clubs of the program.

G. Meade gave a brief report on the Breeding Bird Atlas Program, details to be filled in at the workshops later in the evening. He gave great credit to DEC and the Delmar Wildlife Resources Center (G. McCaffrey, R. Miller, J. Carroll) for the program's first year success. Over 700 workers are cooperating. DEC is computerizing the results. Funding is still needed. Anyone with suggestions notify G. Meade. A first newsletter has just gone out.

Bylaws change: As the bylaws now stand, any change in the dues structure takes two years to accomplish. The Executive Committee recommends a change. Delegates were asked to come to this meeting with instructions on the following changed wording which had been submitted to all clubs for consideration over 60 days ago:

Article II, Section 1b to read: "Individual members shall be persons who have an interest in the purposes of the organization. Individual membership shall include the following categories: Benefactors, Patrons, Life and such other categories as the Executive Committee may decide upon from time to time." Article II, Section 2, to read: "Dues. A. The dues of member clubs shall be based on a uniform charge per each of their dues-paying members. This charge shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee which shall also determine the minimum and maximum dues for member clubs. The dues shall be payable annually on a date to be established by the Executive Committee except that, in the year of election to membership, they shall be payable one month after notice of election has been sent to the club.

"B. The dues of Individual Members shall be as follows: 1. Any person desiring to further the aims of this organization may become a Benefactor upon payment of \$1,000, a Patron by payment of \$500. These payments may be made by gift or bequest. 2. Any person may become a Life Member upon payment of \$200 either in a lump sum, or in four equal yearly installments. During the period of installment payments all other dues shall be waived provided the installments are paid regularly. 3. Benefactor, Patron or Life Member shall not be assessed for any further dues. 4. In accord with Article II, Section 1b, the Executive Committee may establish other categories of Individual Membership as it may deem necessary or desirable. The Executive Committee shall set the dues rate for each category provided the dues shall be made payable annually. The Executive Committee may authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Membership Committee, to waive the dues of a dues-paying member for the year he or she may be either on military service or on a scientific expedition lasting a full year."

Discussion was called for. There being none, it was moved (F. File) and seconded (D. Kibbe) that the above recommendation be accepted as mailed to each club. Unanimously passed. Delegates were then informed that, according to Federation By-laws, their clubs must now reaffirm the change. Many delegates reported that their clubs had already fully considered and had given approval. It was agreed that, if a delegate came to this meeting under those conditions, he could sign the copy of the recommendation which his club had received (a copy of which he had been given at this meeting) explaining his authority to approve for his club.

The meeting adjourned temporarily at 4:05 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:40 a.m., Sept. 28, 1980, same place.

The Treasurer's report was submitted by John Forness, accepted and filed. The Treasurer pointed out the difference between income and expenses and stressed the need for raised dues. He also indicated that the present income from Memorial Funds is based on 5% interest. These funds are now reinvested at a higher interest which will show up in the next report. R. Sloss recommended that money market funds be investigated.

The auditor's report: report from D. Clark found the books of the Federation to be in good order. Accepted and filed.

The DEC, represented by G. McCaffrey, S. Free, R. Miller and R. Brewer, was welcomed. R. Brewer explained the DEC financial set-up. Non-game species get overlooked because most of the funding comes from sportsmen. The Division of Fish and Wildlife has direct control of 8 million dollars which it divides among environmental protection, environmental management, public uses, extension services and species management. This last category includes non-game species, the allocation for which is \$100,000. Inflation can be expected to reduce this further next year. To offset this DEC is initiating a series of public service announcements on TV and radio, promoting contributions. They are also pushing a direct mail campaign. Members discussed phases of the report. R. Arbib suggested a small incentive for contributions such as a sticker. M. Borko thanked Mr. Brewer for his report.

Report of Publication and Research Committee was given by R. Arbib. He praised G. Meade for his work as chairperson of the Breeding Bird Atlas program this year; also DEC for its great help with printed material and other measures.

The *NYS Birding Baedeker* is still being worked on by Susan Drennan, who has taken six months leave of absence from *American Birds* for this purpose. No contract has as yet been made with a publisher.

Beach Bird Survey Report was given by R. Arbib. Essentially this program calls for volunteers to watch a stretch of shoreline at the high tide mark, patrolling at least once a month, looking for carcasses, noting species, cause of death if possible, age and sex if possible. The purpose is to try to determine the causes and rates of deaths in marine birds, especially noting oil spills. Volunteers are needed to form a committee to promote the project. Anyone interested, report to M. Borko.

President's Report: Martin Borko, President, reported an active year for the Federation. The report was accepted and filed.

Nominating Committee (S. Dempsey, Ch., W. Lee, G. Meade) presented the following slate of officers for 1980-81:

Martin Borko—President
Morgan Jones III—Vice President
John W. Forness—Treasurer
Harriet Marsi—Recording Secretary
Constance Wilkins—Corresponding Secretary

The slate was accepted and the officers declared elected.

Nomination Committee: S. Dempsey, Ch., W. Lee and G. Meade were appointed to the 1981 Committee.

Auditing Committee: It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed that Donald Clark and Irving Cantor be appointed to the Auditing Committee for the succeeding year.

Old Business: None.

New Business: 1. It was announced that patches and decals are now available. 2. It was announced that the 1981 meeting will be held Sept. 25, 26 and 27 at the Hotel Syracuse in Syracuse. Gerry Smith will be in charge of the Paper Session. Anyone wishing to give a report contact him. 3. Mary Ann Sunderlin asked anyone interested in signing up for a Birding Niagara River Trip to do so on a paper now circulating. Same for the Adirondack Trip. 4. E. Levine announced that Guy Coheleach had donated 12 prints and Arthur Singer one which would be on display on the stage at the front of the room. They are to be auc-

tioned at a silent auction, results of which will be announced at the Annual Dinner. S. M. Rusk made a motion that the Federation support a position taken by the Onondaga Audubon Society and the Owasco Valley Audubon Society concerning a plan to expand the Tantalio Landfill near Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. In essence this called for "a carefully engineered closure plan that will include a well-monitored containment system." M. Borko reminded the delegates that the Federation had already written the Hearing Officer, expressing its concern that any solution assures the protection from pollution of the Refuge, as reported earlier in these Minutes. M. Jones stated that DEC regulations are very tight. G. McCaffrey stressed that the present landfill does not pollute the marsh and that the hearings are still in progress. There were other questions about costs and whether this landfill will serve the city of Rochester. No answers to these questions. The motion died for lack of a second.

There being no further business, the meeting was officially adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Harriet Marsi, Recording Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1980

I'd like to state that the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs has had a very active year. Last evening many of you attended the briefing on the Breeding Bird Atlas project where Gordon Meade mentioned that we have over 700 cooperative surveyors. This will turn out to be a very conservative estimate. These individuals represent a wealth of talent that when fully organized and directed will contribute to one of the finest Atlas projects in the United States. The Federation is strong and is getting stronger because of its great diversity of talent—namely the human resource. People like Doug Kibbe cooperated early in the Atlas project whereas people like Mike Peterson and Roger Robb, who thrive on field work, came on strong as regional coordinators. A glance at the DEC early September Atlas map indicates the general productivity of the project. In initiating the Atlas project the Federation has joined with and has gained the respect of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation who heretofore probably was never sure of our existence. We share a common interest in many areas and I should like to thank Gene McCaffrey, Robert Miller and Janet Carroll for helping us develop this latent talent.

The Federation's interests are diverse and we have had the good fortune of having Steve Dempsey and Barbara Spencer coordinate pelagic trips for the last several years. This has increased the collection of data on pelagic species, increased the membership of the Federation and has, most important, offered our membership a fine birding opportunity. Thanks to host clubs in the Adirondacks and to Mary Ann Sunderlin, we have had Adirondack excursions and soon expect a Great Lakes exploration.

The Federation developed a NYSARC program for evaluating sightings and perhaps changing them into records. With the help of Charlie Smith, secretary and members like Paul DeBenedictis, NYSARC has been transformed into a sound evaluation program. In this regard I should state, for those of you who were not with us yesterday, that from last week on all sighting reports will be acknowledged upon receipt so that no one feels his or her report has been discarded. The process of evaluation is mechanically a long one and we ask you to be patient.

Susan Drennan has been working diligently on the *NYS Birding Baedeker*. Hopefully, this project of Susan's, in cooperation with the Federation, will soon be completed and available for market.

Walt Sabin has for years been coordinating our annual waterfowl count. Recent analysis of the data collected over the years by Morgan Jones begs our attention be placed on the horned grebe whose population appears to be declining.

Max Wheat has for all the years of my association with the Federation been involved

with conservation, poetry, and the *New York Birders*. Manny Levine and John Farrand, Co-editors of *The Kingbird*, have turned *The Kingbird* into a publication that merits more and more attention. *The Kingbird* and *New York Birders* are the Federation's main vehicles for contact with our membership. A good publication is a reflection of good organization and editing. The Federation is indebted to Wilkins/Printers and, in particular, to Connie Wilkins who has most recently agreed to serve as Corresponding Secretary for 1981—a glutton for punishment.

I cannot thank enough the members of the executive committee who drive and fly distances of over 400 miles for a 5-hour session in rain, sleet and snow so that our organization, the Federation, can appear to run smoothly.

I have left out many names, like Davis, Sloss, Benton, Bell and others. I can't possibly begin to tell you why the Federation works—but I can tell you this—it works because of you. Everyone of you makes my job as facilitator of this organization easy. With your continued active support, our projects will all be successfully backed and we can look forward to many fledgling projects where we will be able to say—yes, the Federation was a part of that.

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Cash on Hand 12-31-78			
Checking Account	\$	681.85	
Trans. to Life Account		561.68	
Trans. from Pelagic Account		1,400.00	
Savings Account		9,826.78	
Net Loss		<u>(297.15)</u>	
			\$12,173.16
 Cash on Hand 12-31-79			
Checking Account	\$	61.32	
Savings Account		<u>12,111.84</u>	
			\$12,173.16
 INCOME			
Dues			
Club	\$	1,451.05	
Annual 1978		16.00	
Annual 1979 ½ year		28.00	
Annual 1979		3,401.00	
Annual 1980		33.00	
Family 1979 ½ year		5.00	
Family 1979		1,010.00	
Supporting 1979		315.00	
Student 1979		114.00	
Life		262.50	
Supplements		39.00	
Contributions		35.00	
Subscriptions		414.00	
Back Issues		2.25	
Interest on Life Members		383.81	
Feeder Sales		102.00	
Auction		32.00	
Funds Transferred		1,400.00	
Interest on Savings Account		<u>323.38</u>	
TOTAL			\$ 9,366.99

EXPENSES

Kingbird	\$ 5,486.91
Dues Notice	224.34
New York Birder	906.07
Miscellaneous	248.45
Supplement to New York Birder	5.25
Membership	190.86
Transferred to Life Account	1,500.00
Birding Baedeker	77.00
Annual Meeting	75.45
Dues	50.00
Lillian Stoner Award	150.00
John J. Elliott	75.00
Decals	180.00
Conservation	25.00
NYSARC	226.84
Breeding Bird Atlas	43.70
Treasurer's Expenses	40.00
Returned Checks	18.52
Executive Meetings	<u>140.75</u>

\$ 9,664.14
(297.15)
 \$ 9,366.99

Net Loss

Submitted by John W. Forness, Treasurer, February 21, 1980

Books and accounts examined and found in good order.

Donald F. Clark, Auditor, 9-1-80; Irving Cantor, Auditor, 9-13-80

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL FUND

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Balance on Hand 1/1/79	\$ 1,078.91	
Interest Earned—Year 1979	<u>59.66</u>	
Balance on Hand 12/31/79		\$ 1,138.57

Submitted by John W. Forness, Treasurer, February 21, 1980

Books and accounts examined and found in good order.

Donald F. Clark, Auditor, 9-1-80; Irving Cantor, Auditor, 9-13-80

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

LILLIAN STONER ACCOUNT

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Balance on Hand 1/1/79	\$ 1,028.60	
Interest Earned—Year 1979	50.76	
Deposits	<u>785.00</u>	
Total		\$ 1,864.36
Loaned to Account No. 12-401449-0		<u>461.68</u>
Balance on Hand 12/31/79		\$ 1,402.68

Submitted by John W. Forness, Treasurer, February 21, 1980

Books and accounts examined and found in good order.

Donald F. Clark, Auditor, 9-1-80; Irving Cantor, Auditor, 9-13-80

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
HAWK NESTING FUND
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Balance on Hand 1/1/79	\$ 1,409.03	
Interest Earned—Year 1979	<u>79.60</u>	
Balance on Hand 12/31/79		\$ 1,488.63

Submitted by John W. Forness, Treasurer, February 21, 1980
Books and accounts examined and found in good order.
Donald F. Clark, Auditor, 9-1-80; Irving Cantor, Auditor, 9-13-80

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 1980

EXPENDITURES

Kingbird	\$ 3,832.98	
New York Birders	599.25	
Dues Notice	285.73	
Miscellaneous	194.53	
Supplements	.78	
Membership	52.45	
Conservation	50.00	
National Audubon	50.00	
Treasurer's Expense	48.49	
Hawk Fund	1,183.35	
Spring Count	<u>27.05</u>	
		\$ 6,324.61

INCOME

Clubs	\$ 1,349.45	
Annual 1980 (½)	14.00	
Annual 1980	2,992.00	
Annual 1981	8.00	
Family 1980 (½)	5.00	
Family 1980	950.00	
Supporting 1980	720.00	
Students	96.00	
Life	675.00	
Supplements	54.00	
Contributions	906.55	
Subscriptions	441.00	
Back Issues	24.75	
Interest Life Memberships	289.19	
Decals	3.00	
Refund of Postage	19.90	
Replacement Checks	<u>26.00</u>	
		\$ 8,573.84

Submitted by John W. Forness, Treasurer, 9-15-80