

MINUTES OF THE 35th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs held its 35th annual meeting at Riverhead, Long Island on 1-3 October 1982. The Council of Delegates met at 2:00 p.m. 1 October. A quorum was declared when 21 clubs answered the roll call.

The membership report for 1982 was distributed. Myrna Hemmerick reported 686 members for 1982 and 36 clubs paid. Robert Arbib volunteered to contact other large state clubs to solicit their membership. Delhi and Goudy Bird Clubs were dropped from membership. Saw Mill River Audubon Society was welcomed as a rejoining club.

Where To Find Birds in New York State is selling well according to Robert Arbib of the Publications Committee. It has received a good review in *Birding* and delegates were urged to include the Baedeker information in their local publication.

Manny Levine stated that *The Kingbird* has good material for articles, but could use more. Connie Wilkins does a good job with the circulation. Dick Sloss called for a vote of thanks for Manny Levine and John Farrand for their excellent work. Connie Wilkins presented the circulation report and it was discussed and filed.

Steve Dempsey submitted the report of the Pelagic Trip Committee, stating there would not be a chartered boat trip next year because it is now difficult to get a full complement to cover costs of a chartered boat.

The Waterfowl Census resulted in 173,301 birds counted in 1982, 1.4% over 1981, according to Walt Sabin. The dates for the 1983 census will be January 15-23, with the target day of 16 January.

Robert Miller from the DEC reported on the Eckert bill which provides a means for the taxpayer to contribute to the conservation fund with donations of five, ten, or even one dollar amounts to be included on the new state income tax forms. It is planned that the money be used for "non-traditional" species and habitat. With the loss of federal funding, it is necessary for the continued existence of the endangered species program. The major thrusts will be habitat protection, identifying toxins in fish and wildlife, and law enforcement in N.Y. City where there is little law enforcement for the extensive trade in exotic, protected species. Public education with bus posters, public service announcements, and radio ads, will be a major effort this year to help people understand where conservations fund money is useful. Robert Arbib, as a member of the resolutions committee, is to prepare a resolution on the Eckert bill guidelines.

Editorial help with *The New York State Birders* would be greatly appreciated according to Max Wheat, the editor.

John Forness presented the treasurer's report. Expenses for the year included 5 *Kingbird* issues. Steve Dempsey and Dick Sloss filed the auditors' report which found no material discrepancies in the treasurer's report. Both were circulated and approved.

Max Wheat distributed an article pointing out the possibility that the Bottle bill, signed by the Governor on 1 July, may be the target of repeal efforts when the new legislature convenes in January. After some discussion, it was decided that the federation should continue to support the bill for aesthetic and financial reasons as it relates to bird habitat. Martin Borko proposed the following resolution: "Be it resolved that the Federation of NYSBC fully supports the Bottle bill that will go into effect on 1 July 1983. We are firmly opposed to any postponement or repeal." This was approved.

The report of the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) was submitted by Robert Long. He also reported that Charles Smith has resigned as secretary of NYSARC, to be replaced by John Confer.

Atlas coverage for the third year increased greatly according to Gordon Meade, Atlas Chairman, with 240 species now confirmed including Blue Grosbeak on Staten Island and Boat-tailed Grackle in Queens Co. Computer range maps, as compiled by DEC workers, were praised along with the efforts of Janet Carroll, Robert Miller and Eugene McCaffery and the regional co-ordinators.

Financing the first year came from the Hawk Fund, transferred with permission to the Atlas Fund. The DEC has contributed, at a minimum \$15,000 yearly and probably more. Karen Alben-Confer designed the Atlas logo free of charge. A financial report was distributed and discussed. Proposals for the support of the Atlas project were submitted to seven power and light companies in New York. These resulted in contributions of \$1,000 from Long Island Gas and Light, and \$500 each from Consolidated Edison and Rochester Gas and Electric. Still needed are large corporation contributions. Blockbusters are needed for remote difficult areas. These are needed to supplement the 1,000 workers already involved.

The nominated slate, as presented by Mary Ann Sunderlin, was unanimously elected: President, Morgan Jones; Vice President, Charles Smith; Recording Secretary, Harriet Marsi; Corresponding Secretary, Constance Wilkins; Treasurer, John Forness.

Morgan Jones gave the annual report.

Old business included approving a resolution to support the "Coalition of Hither Woods" in their efforts to acquire and preserve Hither Woods. M. Jones was directed to send greetings from the Federation to an early president of the Federation and author of *Birds of the Niagara Frontier*, Harold Mitchell, on his 91st birthday.

New business included an announcement by Bernice Hilfiker that \$2,000 has been received for the Walter Benning Scholarship Fund. She distributed folders about the fund.

Future locations for the annual meetings were announced. Probable 1983 location will be Albany, with Cayuga Bird Club in Ithaca in 1984; North Country Bird Club in Watertown in 1985; and Fredonia volunteering for the annual meeting after that.

A resolution was presented to thank Moriches Bay Audubon Society for hosting the 35th annual meeting.

Elected committees were as follows: Nominating Committee: Martin Borko, Alice Jones and Mary Ann Sunderlin; and Auditing Committee: Richard Sloss and Steve Dempsey.

The meeting then was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne F. Clarridge