

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

36th ANNUAL MEETING

The 36th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was held Friday, 7 October, and Saturday, 8 October, in Fredonia. The Lake Erie Bird Club acted as host club.

The Chairman, Morgan Jones, convened the meeting at 2:40 p.m. Friday, 7 October 1983. Roll call was taken. Nineteen member clubs were represented. The minutes of the 35th Annual Meeting were accepted as published in *The Kingbird* Vol. XXXIII, No. 3, Summer, 1983.

Membership: A membership report, sent in by Membership Chairperson Myrna Hemmerick, was distributed. At this date 651 members are paid up, with several months still to go before our years end. Report accepted and filed.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed that the Chenango Bird Club be accepted into the Federation.

Treasurer's Report was distributed by John Forness, Treasurer. A comparison sheet with 1982 was also circulated. Special attention was called to a \$500 donation from Mrs. Harold Mitchell in honor of her husband who passed away this year. The Executive Committee is still working on just how to use it. Report accepted and filed.

The Kingbird. Morgan Jones announced that Co-editor E. Levine reported a healthy backlog of good articles. Despite rising costs the Executive Committee has agreed that the quality of the material presented by *The Kingbird* is of first importance and the editors have been authorized to continue using space as needed. Report accepted.

Breeding Bird Atlas. Gordon Meade reported sending out proposals to 25 corporations, most of which were rejected. However, Rochester Gas and Electric had donated \$500, Consolidated Edison \$500, Niagara Mohawk \$1,000 with promise of equal donation next year, Lewis Kibler of Jamestown \$250, and Joe Taylor \$3,000 this year and next year to be used as the FNYSSBC's share of Janet Carroll's salary. Hudson River Foundation has recently asked for 15 copies of the proposal, a hopeful sign. The value of the contribution of the DEC was stressed. It accounts for such major items as data storage, computer range maps for species, most of Janet Carroll's salary and payment of 5 "blockbusters." Also \$7,000 has been freed from "Return a Gift to Wildlife" funds to be used over a six month period. Gordon was thanked for the excellence of the service he is performing as chairman of this project.

Lillian C. Stoner Award. There are two recipients this year: Lois Chapman of Allegany Co. Bird Club and David Gagney of Jamestown.

John J. Elliott Award goes to Norma and Bill Siebenheller for their article on the first nesting of Blue Grosbeak in N.Y.S., *The Kingbird* Vol. XXXII No. 4, Fall 1982.

Nominating Committee, consisting of M. Borko, Chairman, A. Jones and M. A. Sunderlin, presented the following slate of officers for the coming year: President, Charles R. Smith; Vice President, Harriet T. Marsi; Treasurer, William

Vaughan; Corresponding Secretary, Constance Wilkins; Recording Secretary, Berna Weismann. It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed that the Secretary cast one ballot for the acceptance of this slate.

1984 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Cayuga Bird Club and The Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, in Ithaca. **1985 Annual Meeting:** The North Country Bird Club in Watertown is expressing interest.

New Business: R. Sloss asked the group to consider adjusting our fiscal year to correspond with the fall annual meeting. Harold Smith spoke of the Walter Benning Scholarship Fund being promoted by The Eaton Birding Society. Awards are to be made to graduate students working in ornithology. The fund will be administered by the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. Before any awards can be made, \$5,000 must be raised. At present \$4,177 has been raised. Individual donations are welcome.

The meeting temporarily adjourned to reconvene, Saturday, 8 October, at 10:30 a.m. in Jewett Hall, SUNY Fredonia, M. Jones presiding.

The Auditing Committee consisting of R. Sloss and S. Dempsey reported books of the Federation in order. Report accepted.

Bibliography Report as presented by A. Benton accepted.

Waterfowl Report accepted as delivered to incoming President Charles Smith.

Breeding Bird Atlas. Janet Carroll reported that the processing procedure was progressing steadily. Over 1,100 "green sheets" have been worked through to date representing only four regions. Janet Carroll and C. Smith attended the International Conference on Bird Censusing held in England this fall. Many European countries were represented. Sessions on use of the data after the Atlas is compiled were especially useful to her.

Words from DEC: Eugene McCaffrey. **Breeding Bird Atlas:** a recent contract with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, DEC and The Federation has brought Janet Carroll's salary up to a professional level. **Eagle Return Program:** This ran into a severe snag. Twenty-two birds had been brought to the Adirondacks to be hacked in two towers. In one cage, fowl pox developed and several birds were taken back to Cornell. Eventually 16 birds were released. One of these was recovered later, dead of anemia. Testing for the source of this anemia is being conducted. Six birds are still at Delmar. **Hemlock Lake Nest:** two young placed in nest, banded; **Perk's Lake nest:** two young of the nesting pair were banded and radioed. One bird, taking to the air, flew 85 miles to the St. Lawrence in one hour. Many seem to zero in on some of the swamps prepared for wildlife by DEC. A "soft release" method is used opening the cage at night and permitting the birds to emerge on their own. **Peregrine Falcon:** the NYC nestings will be reported on in detail at the Paper Session. **Bob Miller: Return a Gift to Wildlife** raised close to \$1,800,000. Five percent contributed. Average contribution was less than \$5.00. Estimates had been for less so DEC has only \$800,000 to use before April 1. Allocation has been decided as follows: Endangered Species, \$147,000; Public Information Booklets, \$120,000; Biological Survey of Streams and Lakes, \$75,000; Analysis of contaminants, \$60,000; Public Use Facilities, \$50,000; Master Habitat Data Bank, \$20,000; Marine Mammals Training, \$5,000;

Breeding Bird Atlas, \$7,000; Workshop for Wildlife Rehabilitation, \$5,000; Agricultural Crop Damage Publications, \$24,000; Land Acquisition (habitat of Indiana Bat), \$55,000; Improved Habitat Management of State Wildlife Management Areas, \$20,000; Additional Wildlife Staff NYC, \$110,000. Remainder to promote Return a Gift to Wildlife for next year when they expect \$2,500,000. Money must be spent by 4 April. Certificate not yet received so no funds as yet.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Harriet Marsi, Sec'y.

At 5 p.m. at the conclusion of the Paper Session Ron Dodson addressed the group. He stressed the importance of writing our Governor urging him to sign the Budget Certificate immediately. Ron also urged the group to start lobbying now for next year's share of these funds.

At the Annual Dinner the Nominating Committee for 1984 was selected, consisting of Morgan Jones, Chairman, Steve Dempsey and Bill Lee. An Auditing Committee consisting of Allan Klonick and Harold Smith was selected and approved. The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

WHEREAS the location of the 36th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was in doubt less than ten months prior to the date of the meeting; and WHEREAS, the little Lake Erie Bird Club enthusiastically volunteered to host the meeting; and WHEREAS, the meeting and associated activities have proceeded in an efficient, effective and enjoyable manner,

It is resolved by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs to extend their sincere and profound thanks to the Lake Erie Bird Club for their outstanding efforts in the Federation's behalf.

WHEREAS economically sound management of New York State's natural resources requires basic knowledge of where those resources are found, and WHEREAS the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs entered into an agreement with DEC in 1981 to conduct a faunal survey of the breeding birds of New York State, and WHEREAS more than 1,200 volunteers have already contributed tens of thousands of hours of labor toward completion of a breeding bird atlas for New York State, and WHEREAS the 1984 field season is deemed critical to completion of the New York State breeding bird atlas project,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, assembled at its annual meeting at Fredonia, NY, on 8 October, 1983, *strongly urges* DEC Commissioner Henry Williams to increase current funding levels by at least \$25,000 during fiscal year 1984/85 to assure adequate completion of the 1984 field session and be it further resolved that the Commissioner take the necessary steps to assure proper funding levels for the breeding bird atlas project until the field work is completed and the results are published in final form.