

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING
Rochester, New York
16-18 September 1988

President Berna Weissman called the 41st Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. to order at the Rochester Marriott Airport Hotel at 2:25 P.M. on Friday, 16 September 1988. The roll call totaled 26 clubs, including the three hosts, Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club, Genesee Ornithological Society, and Rochester Birding Association. The minutes of the 40th Annual Meeting were accepted as published in *The Kingbird*. The President opened her report by announcing that a long time Executive Committee member, Connie Wilkins, had died the previous day following heart surgery. A moment of silence expressed the deep sadness of losing a dear friend.

Berna Weissman's report reflected a successful year for Federation, highlighted by the completion of the Breeding Bird Atlas under the able leadership of Chairman Gordon Meade and Editors Bob Andrie and Janet Carroll. Gordon's essay on the history of the Federation from 1947-1988 had been reprinted as a souvenir program for attendees at this meeting.

Stan Lincoln presented the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted and filed. The Federation continues to enjoy financial good health, as confirmed by his four-year analysis. The Auditing Committee, consisting of Dick Sloss (Chairman) and Irv Cantor, presented a signed document confirming that the financial statements for 1987 represented fairly the activities of the organization: The delegates joined Charlie Smith in commending Stan Lincoln for his efforts as Federation Treasurer.

Dick Sloss and Stan Lincoln accepted the appointments to the Committee on Resolutions, and to present their proposals at the Saturday banquet.

Myrna Hemmerick gave the Membership report. Her records showed 787 members in 1988, representing a net gain of 91. As of the date of the meeting, 35 of the 40 membership clubs had paid their club membership dues. Rockland Audubon Society, which had formerly been a member club and host of an Annual Meeting, was unanimously voted in as a member club. Myrna also reported that Schuyler County Bird Club had been dropped from membership in the past year by vote of the Executive Committee. The President requested that Myrna draft a flyer explaining club membership requirements and that a note of club

membership be included in future issues of *The Kingbird* and *New York Birders*.

Charlie Smith reported that 1989 will be the last year of the three-year Project Bird Watch. There were about 200 participants in the project in 1988, compared with about 400 in 1987.

Max Wheat reported on *New York Birders*. He noted that an anthology of writings from club newsletters was in progress, and reminded the delegates to ensure that their respective clubs include him on their mailing lists. He expressed his gratitude to the various editors who had included his own and others' poems in their newsletters, and encouraged members to write more poems about birds and birding.

Paul DeBenedictis thanked the Regional Editors for *The Kingbird*, and solicited articles on bird findings or new or unusual "hot spots" discovered during the Atlas project. He announced that Seymour Schiff and Al Wollin will be the new Editors for Region 10. Paul also distributed worksheets for each club for further duplication to furnish him with departure dates for birds, which are being published by *The Kingbird*.

Fritz Scheider was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent word that NYSARC was continuing their work on a state checklist, and the 1987 report was near completion.

Harriet Marsi, in her Conservation Committee Report, reported that the proposal from Commissioner Joerling to reclassify the appointment requirements for DEC section heads had been defeated in the State Senate. The Federation's position regarding the request by fishermen on Oneida Lake, based on prior research by Janet Carroll and current research by John Confer, that cormorants be removed from the Protected List has been mailed to Commissioner Joerling. Several other issues are being continually monitored by the Conservation Committee, including the proposal by DEC to divide the game and non-game divisions, Return-A-Gift-To-Wildlife appropriations, the legal battles of the Jay Coalition in Rye, New York, and the impact of water level changes in Montezuma NWR. Harriet expressed her concern that the Federation currently has no reliable information resource on conservational legislative issues coming up in Albany. Carolyn Cass read a statement prepared by Martha Reinhardt and Fred Miller from the Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists regarding the proposed dredging of Irondequoit Bay, and urged the delegates to write to the Commissioner to block the effort. After considerable discussion about the relationship between the Federation and the Audubon Society of New York State, it was voted that the President would contact Ron Dodson to restate the

Federation's request for information about his organization. Friday's meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

When the delegates reconvened Saturday morning, 17 September, the slate of Federation officers for 1989 was presented by Harriet Marsi, Nominating Committee Chairperson. The slate was unanimously approved.

The insight gained from the morning's field trip to Irondequoit Bay resulted in a resolution to send letters to Commissioner Joerling and to the regional DEC office in Avon to request an environmental impact study before the dredging permit renewal in November, 1988.

Dick Sloss and Irving Cantor were reappointed to the Auditing Committee, and Harriet Marsi, assisted by Manny Levine and Bob Spahn, will comprise the 1989 Nominating Committee.

The resignation of Allen H. Benton from the Bibliography Committee was accepted with the President expressing her gratitude to Allen for his many years of service to the Federation.

Berna Weissman then introduced Norman Stotz of the National Audubon Society, who spoke about the current activities of the organization. Although he foresaw no prospects of reconciliation with Ron Dodson of the Audubon Society of New York State at this time, it was voted unanimously to have the Federation send a letter to Audubon Society of New York State, Inc. and the National Audubon Society to encourage full cooperation between the two organizations. Copies of the letter will be sent to each member club.

Bob Miller and Peter Nye, reporting from the DEC, announced that Return-A-Gift-To-Wildlife had a budget of \$1,700,000 for the 1987 tax year, and that the selection of projects to be funded would take place in October. The DEC is currently embarking on a project to acquire up to 35,000 acres of Montezuma wetlands, in cooperation with several private organizations. Volunteers are sought to participate in the ongoing Endangered Species Project, surveying Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, and in the New York State Waterfowl Survey, which is to be initiated in April, 1989.

The President announced that Don Windsor and Jim Clinton had volunteered to prepare the ten-year index of *The Kingbird*, due in 1990.

Jon Robson, Chairperson for the 1989 Annual Meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn in Auburn 15-17 September 1989, solicited displays and workshop participants.

Saturday's Council of Delegates meetings was adjourned at 11.20 A.M. At the evening banquet, Dick Sloss read a resolution thanking the three host clubs for an outstanding successful Annual Meeting. Paul

DeBenedictis announced that the recipients of the John J. Elliott Award for 1987 were Michele H. Frech and John L. Confer for their article on the Golden-winged Warbler. Bill Reeves presented the recipient of the Lillian C. Stoner Award, Donald Smith of the Lyman Langdon Audubon Society.

The reading of a scroll by the President, to have been presented to Connie Wilkins, who died immediately prior to the meeting, concluded the business portion of the meeting. Dr. Stephen Kress of Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology concluded the highly successful Annual Meeting with a fascinating program on his work on the Galapagos Islands.

Respectfully submitted,
Øivind E. Jensen
Recording Secretary