

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING
Auburn, New York
15-17 September 1989

President Berna Weissman called the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. to order at the Auburn Holiday Inn at 2:15 P.M. on Friday, 15 September 1989. The roll call totaled 19 clubs, including the host club, Owasco Valley Audubon Society. The minutes of the 41st Annual Meeting were accepted as published in *The Kingbird*. The President announced that 1989 had been yet another productive year for the Federation, as would later be evidenced by the various committee reports presented. She thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their continued commitment and involvement. Moriches Bay has agreed to host the 1990 Annual Meeting, and the club delegates extended an invitation to all clubs to attend.

Dick Sloss and Barbara Butler accepted the appointments to the Committee on Resolutions before Stan Lincoln presented the Treasurer's Report. The Federation is enjoying good financial health, with a moderate increase in net worth since last year. The report was accepted by the delegates with thanks to Stan for his conscientious efforts. A report from the Auditing Committee, consisting of Dick Sloss and Irv Cantor, was also accepted with thanks. The report is filed with these minutes.

Myrna Hemmerick's Membership Committee report shows that membership stood at 790 at the end of 1988. To date, 688 individuals had paid the 1989 dues. New York City Audubon Society was unanimously voted in as a new member club.

An Administration Committee, consisting of Chad Covey, Myrna Hemmerick, Manny Levine and Stan Lincoln, had been established after last year's meeting to analyze the internal work routines of the Federation. A summary of their findings and recommendations will be published in *NY Birders*. Among major tasks already completed were the updating of the dues notice files and the computerization of mailing lists and membership files.

Manny Levine, Chairman of the Publications Committee, reported that the Checklist of New York Birds, largely a NYSARC effort, became available immediately prior to the meeting, and had been included in the registration package for this meeting. The list, which will be sold at

The Crow's Nest and through ABA Sales and other outlets, tallies 435 species, including 2 currently extinct. Current projects of the Committee include financial support to publish a new edition of *Adirondack Birds*, coauthored by Bruce Beehler and John M.C. Peterson, and plans for a new edition of the 1974 publication *Birds of New York* by John Bull.

Paul DeBenedictis, Editor of *The Kingbird*, reported that the fall issue was at the printers, and he extended his thanks to the Regional Editors. Max Wheat, Editor of *New York Birders*, solicited the help of an Assistant Editor.

Stan Lincoln presented the names of the Lillian C. Stoner Award winners: Andy Spar and James Vellatzzy from Saw Mill River Audubon Society, and Andy Wheelock from Lake Erie Bird Club. Paul DeBenedictis, with assistance from Manny Levine and Bob Andrle, had selected the winner of the John J. Elliott Award for the best *Kingbird* article in the past year, namely "The Status of Black Tern in New York State", authored by Janet Carroll.

Concerns were raised about current development policies on Long Island (Gateway and Jamaica Bay area), as reported in the August 21 and 28 issues of *The New Yorker* magazine. It was suggested that the Federation work through NYC Audubon Society on this issue. Harriet Marsi, assisted by Dick Sloss, will compile the appropriate factual information and inform the membership through *New York Birders*.

Harriet Marsi then presented the slate of officers for 1990: Chad Covey, President; Stan Lincoln, Vice President; Berna Weissman, Treasurer; Mary Ann Sunderlin, Corresponding Secretary; and Donald Windsor, Recording Secretary. The slate was accepted by unanimous vote. In his acceptance speech Chad thanked the outgoing officers for their dedication and service to the Federation. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

When the delegates reconvened at 9:45 A.M. on Saturday morning, an additional 11 clubs indicated their presence, bringing the total number of clubs represented to 30.

Dick Evans reported that the 1988 report from the New York State Avian Records Committee was in its final stages. Replacements for Steve Sibley and Fritz Scheider on the Committee was on the agenda for a planned November executive committee meeting.

Harriet Marsi gave an overview of the issues handled by the Conservation Committee in the past year. No response had been received to the letter sent to protest dredging of Irondequoit Bay in Rochester, which was discussed at last year's meeting. On behalf of the

Federation the Committee had voiced its support of the passage of a bill to ban the insecticide carbofuron, had help stop an amendment to the falconry bill, which would have legalized the sale of raptors bred in captivity, sent a mailgram to Governor Cuomo and Senate members to permit prescribed burning of Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) land, helped sponsor a Bald Eagle Conference, and had demanded a full environmental impact study before the proposed increased military activity in certain parts of the Adirondacks was implemented. Reporting for the Research Committee, Charlie Smith proclaimed Project Bird Watch to be in its third and final year. The Breeding Bird Survey had 85% coverage on the 116 New York State routes in 1988. Volunteers for the remaining 19 routes are sought.

Gary Parsons provided an overview of the Wildlife Program Management System of the DEC Bureau of Wildlife, which employs 60 individuals currently involved in needs assessment. When available, this report will be distributed to anyone interested. Gary extended an invitation and encouragement to get involved on an individual or group level. The projected time table for consolidation of comments and input is early 1990.

Bob Miller reported on current DEC projects of interest to the Federation: There were 15 pairs of Peregrines in New York State in 1989 producing 24 young; and 10 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles, 7 of which produced a total of 10 eaglets. As part of the "Return A Gift To Wildlife" program, a cable television camera will be used to monitor eagle nesting at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge next year. Continuing projects under this program are the Colonial Water Birds project, the survey of Black Terns, and the Long Island sea turtle projects. Thirty projects have been approved for 1990.

Ray Perry from the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation solicited support and involvement from individuals to provide bird banding demonstrations, help establish park checklists, provide educational programs for school children, etc. in any one of the 150 parks in the state. Allan Klonick, with strong support from the delegates, applauded the continued presence and support of state agencies in Federation activities.

By unanimous vote, Dick Sloss and Irv Cantor were reelected to the Auditing Committee, and Harriet Marsi and Manny Levine to the Nominating Committee.

Dick Guthrie from the Allan Devoe Bird Club motioned for a resolution to urge state park department involvement in protecting and

monitoring activities within the Caselton Island State Park near Albany. The Executive Committee was authorized to act on this resolution after consideration at its next meeting.

Before adjournment at 11:55 A.M., the clubs were urged to furnish the Federation with updated information about current officers. Information sheets will be sent out with the club dues notices, and a roster will subsequently be sent to each member club.

At the banquet later that evening, the 130 or so attendees congratulated the Stoner Awardees presented by Bill Reeves, and Janet Carroll (in absentia) for her John J. Elliott Award.

President Chad Covey presented Berna Weissman with a Kingbird statuette made by Mickey Levine for her 2 years of outstanding service as Federation President. Barbara Butler read the resolution of thanks to the host club, before Don and Lillian Stokes from Massachusetts delighted the audience with an entertaining and informative look at bird behavior in its many facets in a slide program entitled "Out on a Limb." With that, another successful Annual Meeting had finally come to a close.

Respectfully submitted,
Øivind E. Jensen
Recording Secretary