

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING
Riverhead, New York
26-28 October 1990

President Chad Covey called the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. to order at the Holiday Inn in Riverhead at 3:02 PM on Friday, 26 Oct 1990. The roll call totaled 14 member clubs, including the host club, the Moriches Bay Audubon Society. The minutes of the 42nd Annual Meeting were accepted as published in *The Kingbird*. Dick Sloss and Barbara Butler were appointed to the Committee on Resolutions.

The President read his report, in which he stressed the interest in membership promotion and the Federation's active role in conservation issues. He then read a letter from Cornell University thanking the Federation for cosponsoring the Symposium on the Conservation of Biological Resources held in September. Treasurer Berna Weissman released copies of her report so that it could be examined before her formal presentation on the next day.

Membership Chairperson Myrna Hemmerick reported that there were 639 individual members, a net loss of 52 since last year, and 40 member clubs. She then proposed a new club for membership, the Roger Tory Peterson Ornithological Club in Jamestown, which has about 30 members. This proposal was approved unanimously.

By-Laws Committee Chairperson Dick Sloss, read a letter proposing a new dues structure. This letter, coauthored by him and Stan Lincoln, was sent to all member clubs on 15 August. The motion to amend the by-laws regarding dues structure was voted on and approved.

Publications Committee Chairperson Manny Levine reported that the proposed revision to *Birds of New York State* by John Bull was tabled. A proposal for cosponsoring *The Birds of the Adirondacks*, by J. M. C. Peterson and B. Beehler, was up for reinstatement.

President Covey announced that a volunteer club is needed to host the 1991 Annual Meeting. All member clubs were invited to consider this opportunity.

National Audubon Regional Vice President David J. Miller explained the role of his Albany office, which covers Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Stoner Award Committee member Bill Reeves announced that the

Lillian C. Stoner Award, for encouraging young birders, went to Adam M. Byrne of the Cayuga Bird Club. Mr. Byrne was not able to be present to receive it. Elliott Award Committee member Manny Levine announced that the John J. Elliott Award, for the best paper published in *The Kingbird* during 1990, went to Gerald A. Smith for his article on Point Peninsula. Mr. Smith was not able to be present to receive it.

Nominations Committee member Manny Levine presented the slate of officers for 1991: Chad Covey for President, Stan Lincoln for Vice President, Berna Weissman for Treasurer, Mary Ann Sunderlin for Corresponding Secretary, and Donald Windsor for Recording Secretary. The slate was accepted and all the candidates were elected.

President Chad Covey announced a new grant program. Grants are to be awarded by the Federation to member clubs for unique innovative projects that would advance the cause of birding in New York State. This grant program was originated by Stan Lincoln. The money to be awarded will come from the interest on a \$5000 fund.

With the announcement of a Federation sponsored birding foray into the Finger Lakes National Forest planned for next Spring, the President adjourned the meeting at 4:52 PM.

When the delegates reconvened at 9:55 AM on Saturday, 27 Oct, an additional 8 clubs indicated their presence, bringing the total represented to 22.

A report from the New York State Avian Records Committee Chairperson Bob Andrie was read by President Covey. He then discussed NYSARC's functions and read the names of its members.

Treasurer Berna Weissman gave her report. Briefly, the Federation began the year with a general operating fund of \$16,774.79 and finished with \$23,272.32, for an increase of \$6,497.53. Berna explained the dues increase for individual members from \$15.00 to \$18.00, but emphasized that if dues are paid by 1 Jan, then members receive a \$3.00 discount. The discount serves as an incentive for members to pay on time so as to avoid the additional costs engendered by mailing reminder notices and back publications, which must go first class. In other words, people who require special services by their tardiness will now have to pay for them.

Auditing Committee member Dick Sloss read the report written by him and Irv Cantor on 31 December 1989. The books of the Federation did pass their audit.

Andy Mason reported on several issues for the Conservation

Committee. First, binoculars were needed by naturalists in tropical rain forests. Anyone wishing to donate should send them directly to the Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, MA 02345. Next he proposed a resolution supporting the Return a Gift to Wildlife funds. Sentiment expressed in discussion favored having the Federation go on record as supporting the RAGTW program, but recommending that more funds go towards non-game species. The resolution was approved. Next, he proposed a resolution regarding the damming for hydropower at James Bay, Ontario. A vigorous and informative discussion ensued. The need for the clean energy of hydropower was contrasted with the damage of damming. Andy stated that the proposed resolution merely advocated a through examination of the situation, such as in an environmental impact statement. The resolution, minus an endangered species mention, was approved. Andy voiced his support for the upcoming Environmental Bond Act. Discussion followed and support for the Bond Act was widespread.

Department of Environmental Conservation Non-game Unit representative Bob Miller reported that the Return a Gift to Wildlife program had its most successful year ever, bringing in over 1.8 million dollars. Thirty-eight projects are supported. DEC is still evaluating public comment on its wildlife program. Bob detailed the status of the Black Tern and the Common Tern. Research Scientist Barbara Loucks reported on the latest nesting data for the Osprey, the Bald Eagle, and the Peregrine Falcon.

A new Audit Committee, composed of Dick Sloss and Irv Cantor, was elected for 1991. A new Nominating Committee, composed of Manny Levine, Harriet Marsi, and Charles Smith, was elected.

A resolution that the Executive Committee distribute all resolutions to member clubs at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting, whenever possible, was proposed by Stan Lincoln. This was approved.

After a discussion on communications between the Executive Committee and the members/member clubs and between the member clubs and their members, President Covey adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

At the banquet later that evening, the 99 attendees congratulated Myrna Hemmerick and Mary Ann Sunderlin upon their reception of Distinguished Service Awards for their many years of dedication to the Federation. Barbara Butler read the resolution thanking the host club,

the Moriches Bay Audubon Society, for their splendid hospitality. Shelley Vakay was recognized for her leadership in organizing this meeting, which attracted 115 registrants. The audience was then treated to a presentation on "Marine mammals of New York and the Arctic" by Sam Sadove, the Research Director of the Okeanos Ocean Research Foundation. With that, another successful Annual Meeting had come to a close.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald A. Windsor
Recording Secretary