

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK BIRD CLUBS, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING
Oneonta, New York
25-27 September 1992

President Stan Lincoln called the 45th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. to order at the State University of New York at Oneonta at 2:10 PM on Friday, 25 September 1992. The roll call of member clubs was answered by representatives of 33 clubs. A motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the 44th Annual Meeting (as published in *The Kingbird* 42 (2): 76-83) was approved, and those minutes were accepted.

The Treasurer's Report was distributed by Berna Lincoln for perusal by representatives prior to formal action on Saturday. The Auditing Committee (Dick Sloss and Norman Stotz) reported that they had examined and approved the Treasurer's records.

Stan introduced the members of the Executive Committee to the club representatives. He announced the names of recent Benefactors (donors of \$1000 or more): Robert Arbib, H. Everest Clements, Gordon Meade, and Marie Ward, and expressed the gratitude of the Federation.

Stan announced that he received a resolution on the Adirondacks from the Conservation Committee and requested that any additional resolutions be provided to the Committee on Resolutions (Barbara Butler and Bill Reeves).

Myrna Hemmerick reported for the Membership Committee: we now have 44 clubs and 714 individual members. The Baldwin Bird Club was dropped for lack of payment and North Fork Audubon recently resigned.

Berna reported for the Membership Promotion Committee that a request to presidents of member clubs last year resulted in only 6 lists of 961 names. Promotional materials were sent to those people, and 39 (4%) subsequently joined the Federation. She explained that we must continue to recruit since we lose about 15% of our members each year. Stan repeated the request to clubs to obtain their mailing lists for our solicitation. He noted that permanent representatives receive all mailings from the Federation, but only about half of the clubs have designated someone for the position.

Manny Levine reported for the Publications Committee. He is soliciting articles as Associate Editor of *The Kingbird*. The planned

revision of Bull's *Birds of New York State* is on hold. The current plan for *New York Birders* is to produce four issues a year. Paul DeBenedictis reported that short notes (one typed page) for *The Kingbird* are needed; he suggested topics such as a first county nesting record, notes on unusual bird behavior or a sighting of a bird rare for a particular area of the State.

The current members of the New York State Avian Records Committee are (with terms ending as shown): Robert Andrie, Chair (1993), Buffalo; Thomas Burke (1993), Westchester; Barbara Spencer (1994), Long Island; Kenneth Able (1995), Albany; Robert Paxton (1996), New York. Todd Culver is Secretary (as appointed by the Committee); he acknowledges receipt of reports. Chad Covey suggested that someone on this committee write an article for *New York Birder* with the report form and suggestions for reporting unusual birds. NYSARC report forms were made available to the group.

The following awards were announced: Todd Parsons of SUNY Binghamton and member of Delaware Otsego Audubon Society, was the winner of the Lillian Stoner Award. The John J. Elliot Award for the best paper published in *The Kingbird* in 1991 was given to Melinda Knutson for her article "Characteristics of Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) Nesting Habitat at Lakeview Wildlife Management Area, New York". The Sullivan County Audubon Society was awarded a Member Club Grant for \$175 in support of their project to computerize Sullivan County bird records.

The Birding Foray at Finger Lakes National Forest concluded successfully according to a report sent by Charles Smith. The participants found 92 species on 26–28 June, and added a new species (Common Snipe) to the list of summer birds, bringing the total summer bird list to 126 species. Future forays are under consideration, and suggestions for locations are requested.

Harriet Marsi reported as Chair of the Conservation Committee (which consisted of Bob Connor, Chad Covey, Mike Peterson, Kathy Milliken and Gerry Smith.) The Committee was actively involved in representing the Federation in many state and national conservation issues. Representatives of the Committee appeared at public hearings on Open Space in January, supporting the NYSDEC. Letters were written to President Bush and Senators Moynihan and D'Amato protesting proposed changes in both the Wetlands Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Conservation Committee kept informed regarding the Hydro-Quebec situation. It expressed sympathy for the

DEC decision to grant a permit to the USDA allowing shooting of gulls at JFK airport; this "birdstrike reduction program" is deemed necessary to protect human life. Much of the Conservation Committee's efforts during the past year have been related to DEC Draft Management Plans for State Forests. Several were reviewed, local clubs were notified and representatives sent to hearings. The Lake Erie Bird Club contacted the Conservation Committee for assistance regarding a threat of clear-cutting 200 acres in Boutwell Hill State Forest (which will not have a management plan for 5 to 10 years). A letter was written to DEC Commissioner Jorling decrying clear-cutting and proposing selective cutting. After long debate and consideration, the Conservation Committee produced a Resolution regarding the Adirondack Park plan. Because there have been several different proposals and because the legislative process is in flux, the carefully worded statement supported *any* legislation that would stem the fragmentation of the Adirondack forests and safeguard the purity of Adirondack waters. Stan extended thanks to Harriet and the Conservation Committee for a job well done. He adjourned the meeting at 4:20 PM on September 25.

The following workshops were held on Friday evening: "Butterflies for Birders," by Ernest Williams; "How to Write a Book When You Don't Know How to Write a Book," by Dorothy Crumb; "Editing a Bird Club Newsletter," by Maxwell Wheat and Don Windsor; "Gull Identification," by Ned Brinkley; "Project Aves — Using Birds in Middle School Classrooms," by Todd Culver; and "Interacting with Elected Officials," by Bob Connor.

Stan reconvened the meeting at 9:00 AM on 26 September, and led the group in recognizing the years of service by Mary Ann Sunderlin, who most recently served as Corresponding Secretary, and who recently passed away. A moment of silence was held in her honor.

Walt Sabin gave a report on the 1992 Waterfowl Count: over 396,000 were counted, well above the usual number. The 1993 count period will be 16 to 24 January with a target date of 17 January .

Berna gave the Treasurer's report, including a 1991 Balance Sheet, statement of fund activity and balances, and general operating fund activity. In 1991 expenses exceeded income by about \$58; she projects that 1992 expenses will exceed income by about \$200 or \$300. After several questions were answered, the report was accepted.

Stan announced several new Federation initiatives. A "Kingbird Club" was created as a new class of membership for those who would

like to contribute \$100 for their annual dues. A committee headed by Don Windsor has been working on a design for a patch to be awarded to those who have seen 200 species of birds in New York State. In addition, the Federation is going to support "county listing" as organized by Berna Lincoln. Birders will be encouraged to report the numbers of species they have seen in any of the 62 counties of the state and in each of *The Kingbird's* Reporting Regions. This project for members or members of member clubs is intended to stimulate interest in birding and could promote the development of county checklists. Reporting forms, and participant names and totals will be published in *New York Birder*.

David Prosser announced that the 1993 annual meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Watertown on 10-12 September. Peter Dunne will be the banquet speaker.

The Nominating Committee (Harriet Marsi, Charlie Smith and Chad Covey, Chair) reported that they recommend that terms of all officers be renewed, and Carl Eastwood was nominated to fill the position of Corresponding Secretary. There were no further nominations from the floor, and a motion to cast one ballot was approved.

Stan named Richard Sloss, Norman Stotz and Irving Cantor to the Auditing Committee. A motion to renew the terms of the existing Nominating Committee was approved.

Eric Fried gave a report for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, beginning with the issuing of a permit to shoot Laughing Gulls at JFK airport in New York City. A colony of several thousand birds is close to a major runway, threatening the safety of airline passengers; over 10,000 gulls were shot this year. He reported that the National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Port Authority are all involved in this unusually complex situation. The "Fund for Animals" has filed suit against the DEC, charging that they did not follow SEQR procedures prior to issuing the permits. Much discussion followed his report. Eric also reported on cormorants on Little Galloo Island in Lake Ontario. Local fishermen believe that the Cormorants are having a deleterious effect on the fishing industry. The DEC believes that pollution abatement is gradually altering the lake's ecosystem, and that cormorants have little effect on the fish population. The Onondaga Audubon Society presented a resolution for the Federation's approval opposing any control of northeastern Lake Ontario Double-crested Cormorants without valid scientific data to

substantiate the actions. It also further resolved that all appropriate agencies are requested to pursue research, education and enforcement needs related to this matter, to the greatest extent possible. Following discussion, it was requested that the resolution be rewritten, with the order of sentences reversed to become more positive. The motion was approved (as revised). Eric also reported on the controversial DEC proposal to reintroduce the moose to New York State, including information on both sides of the issue. Public meetings have been held, and further public input is requested.

Stan next presented the report from the Resolutions Committee. The first resolution dealt with state land acquisition funding, calling for the establishment of a dedicated fund from sources such as bottle deposit residuals and/or an environmental trust fund. The resolution was read, moved, and approved. The next resolution expressed the thanks of the Federation to our hosts, the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, the Chenango Bird Club and the State University College at Oneonta. The resolution was read, moved and approved. A resolution from the Conservation Committee supporting Adirondacks legislation was also presented. The resolution stated that the Federation "does hereby enthusiastically add its support to any legislation emerging from this (governmental) process which stems the fragmentation of the Adirondack forests and corrects and reduces the pollution of its lakes and streams; and, when long-range environmental and short-range economic considerations come into conflict with the Park, the Federation supports striking a balance in favor of protecting the priceless environmental amenities of the Park." This resolution was also read, moved and approved. Finally, a resolution brought by Bob Connor dealt with Sterling Forest in Orange County. It supported federal and state initiatives and funding to purchase the tract. The resolution was read, moved and approved. Stan urged all those who have resolutions for consideration next year to try to get them to him well before the annual meeting so they can be distributed to member clubs.

The New York State Office of Parks and Recreation report was given by George Steel, who spoke briefly about the production of bird checklists for each state park. The session ended with a brief report from Norman Stotz on the Audubon Council of New York State.

The Saturday afternoon sessions included the following papers: "Nocturnal Flight Calls of Migrating Birds," by Bill Evans; "Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch at Oneonta," by Ronald Milliken; "Nesting

Success of the Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) with Special Consideration of Nest Parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*)," by John Confer; "A Study of the Significance of New York's Forested Lake Shore Habitats as Critical Concentration Areas for Neotropical Migrants," by K. J. Schneider; "Breeding Dispersal and Survival of Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)," by Michael T. Murphy; "Acceptance of Several Nest Box Styles by Cavity Nesting Birds," by Kevin L. Berner; and "Readings," by Maxwell Wheat.

A long line of people waited patiently to have their field guides autographed by Roger Tory and Virginia Peterson. The banquet was attended by a record 302 people, and 80 more came after dinner to hear Dr. Peterson's entertaining presentation, which elicited a standing ovation from the appreciative audience.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie M. Freer
Recording Secretary
19 February 1993