

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**  
**46TH ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Watertown, New York**  
**10-12 September 1993**

President Stan Lincoln called the 46th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. to order at the Holiday Inn, Watertown at 2:40 p.m. on Friday, 10 September 1993. The roll call of member clubs was answered by 22 clubs (with 5 more attending on Saturday morning). A motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the 45th Annual Meeting published in *The Kingbird* 43(2):103-108 was approved with the following corrections: the Auditing Committee was elected (not named); and at the banquet the Gordon Meade Award for Distinguished Service was awarded (*in absentia*) to Bob Miller.

The Treasurer's Report was distributed by Berna Lincoln so that it could be carefully read prior to the formal report on Saturday. Norman Stotz reported for the Auditing Committee, which also includes Irving Cantor and Richard Sloss. They examined the 31 December 1992 balance sheet and financial records and reported that they fairly present the financial condition of the Federation.

Stan reported that he had found that the names of elected officers were not included in the minutes of 1986 and 1988 as published in *The Kingbird*. He therefore made the following motion to amend those minutes:

Inasmuch as the published and approved minutes of 39th and 41st Annual Meetings of the Council of Delegates failed to list the names of the officers elected at those meetings;

and as the minutes are the only official record of those elections;

it is therefore moved that the minutes of this 46th Annual Meeting correct for this oversight by showing the results of those elections to have been as follows:

The slate of officers presented and unanimously elected at the 39th Annual Meeting on 31 October and 1 November 1986 at Saratoga Springs were: President, Harriet Marsi; Vice President, Berna B. Weissman; Treasurer, Stanley R. Lincoln; Corresponding Secretary, Constance Wilkins; and Recording Secretary, Marilyn Schindler.

The slate of officers presented and unanimously elected at the 41st Annual Meeting on 16 and 17 September 1988 at Rochester were: President, Berna B. Weissman; Vice President, Chad E. Covey; Treasurer, Stanley R. Lincoln; Corresponding Secretary, Mary Ann Sunderlin; Recording Secretary, Øivind E. Jensen.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Stan read his President's Report, reprinted here:

As all retiring Presidents say, this has been a great year for the Federation. Our member Clubs and Individual Members are loyal and supportive; our finances are stable and capable of sustaining our operations; our many dedicated and hard working committee chairpeople and members continue to do a super job; to our publication editors and regional and seasonal *Kingbird* editors, we owe a special vote of thanks for another year of documenting the ornithology of the state and our many Federation activities in a very professional manner.

The Executive Committee of some 20 of the hardest working of our volunteers met in four day long and one evening session since we last were together in Oneonta last September. They have dealt with countless matters and made many plans which you will be hearing about as the meeting progresses.

I am delighted to report that all but one of our Annual Meetings are already spoken for by host clubs from now through our gala 50th Anniversary which will culminate with our 1998 annual meeting right back in Rochester where it all started. If you want 1997, which will technically be the beginning of our 50th year, better get your Club to speak up quickly.

If I say anything more I will necessarily be cutting into the many Committee Reports that will be shared with you during this meeting.

But there is one other matter I want to comment on. I mentioned our Executive Committee meetings, and I want to correct what I believe is true for some if not many delegates, namely that the Executive Committee is not well understood. We all owe a special vote of thanks to this great body that really makes the daily operations of the Federation go. Our Executive Committee is a somewhat unusual, though logical, organizational approach. It recognizes that you, the Council of Delegates, appointed by your respective Member Clubs, are the governing body of the Federation. That effectively rules against

a traditional, elected Board of Directors; though technically, for legal reasons, I presume, the five officers are also designated as Directors of the organization by our By-Laws. Some 15 years ago your predecessors, perhaps some of you here, wisely decided that there needed to be a structure to support the five officers in running the affairs of the Federation between annual meetings. You empowered the President to appoint up to 15, since reduced to 10, members-at-large to serve along with the officers as an executive committee. Traditionally, at least for the last 10 years, that body has been supplemented with all committee chairpeople, who also serve, technically in an *ex officio* capacity, on the executive committee.

I have realized only in recent weeks that somehow we have callously never published for all to see just who serves on our Executive Committee. We publish the Committee Chairpeople on each *Kingbird* but the Members-at-Large never get identified. I plead the point and urge our new team of officers to correct this glaring error. And I would like to start by calling on the members-at-large who have supported my presidency to stand and be recognized: Robert Connor, Chad Covey, Stephen Dempsey, Phyllis Jones, Harriet Marsi, Andy Mason, Richard Sloss, and Don Windsor.

I must end by stating as sincerely as I know how my personal thanks to all the officers, executive committee members and countless others that have made my two years as President both a delight and a source of great personal satisfaction.

*Stanley R. Lincoln*

Following the President's Report, Stan asked that he be given any resolutions under consideration, and he appointed a Resolutions Committee consisting of Barbara Butler and Bill Reeves.

Stan reported (for the Bylaws Committee) that Proposed Amendments to Article II, VI and VII of the Bylaws were sent to each member club president in April 1993. Following discussion, the amendments were approved unanimously by voice vote of the Council of Delegates. A form requesting ratification of the changes was distributed to each club.

Stan introduced Charles Rouse, of the Eaton Birding Society, who announced the creation of the Elon Howard Eaton Memorial Award.

The first award will be made at the 1994 Annual Meeting.

Myrna Hemmerick reported for the Membership Committee that there are now 39 member clubs and 606 individual members of the Federation. Regarding circulation, The Membership Promotion Committee report was given by Bill Lee. Membership in the Federation has declined since we did the Breeding Bird Atlas project. He discussed past (and possible future) promotions. He noted that the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club published Federation membership information in their newsletter, and he suggested that other clubs do the same.

Paul DeBenedictis reported that two *Kingbirds* are out, one is on the way, and the material for the last issue is in hand, but he needs lots of short notes. Paul asked for feedback on the type now being used in the regional reports. Berna reported that when the supply of *Kingbird* envelopes were used up, we started placing the mailing label directly on the magazine, and are now successfully mailing the journal without an envelope.

Max Wheat requested articles for publication in *New York Birder*, and Don Windsor reported that the *Kingbird* Index (1981-1990) should be completed this year.

In Manny Levine's absence, Stan reported on the revision of the state bird book. In July, the Executive Committee appointed Manny Levine as Editor, and asked him to work out details with an *ad hoc* committee consisting of Stan, Berna, Dick and himself. The copyright for the 1974 book is held by the American Museum of Natural History, and the *ad hoc* committee has been meeting with museum representatives to negotiate an arrangement for jointly producing an updated state book titled *Bull's Birds of New York State*. Our intent is to share the copyright ownership, as well as financial involvement, with the Museum. The Museum will provide Professional Review and publisher contacts; the Federation will provide the content. The target date is the 50th Anniversary of the Federation in 1998.

Stan introduced the following motion:

That the Executive Committee is hereby authorized to proceed with the proposed project to develop *Bull's Birds of New York State*, to enter into a working relationship agreement with the American Museum of Natural History, and with a selected Publisher, and to budget for and expend necessary and reasonable funds to accomplish same.

The statement was moved and seconded, and following discussion, it was unanimously approved.

Chad Covey, reporting for the Nominating Committee, proposed the following slate of officers: President – Bill Lee; Vice President – Bob Budliger; Corresponding Secretary – Valerie Freer; Recording Secretary – Bill Reeves; and Treasurer – Berna Lincoln. There were no nominations from the floor, and the slate was unanimously approved. At 4:30 PM the gavel was turned over to Bill Lee, who presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Bill reported for the award committees: John Confer sent notice that the Lillian C. Stoner Award is given to student Ed McGee from the Sullivan County Audubon Society. There is no Elliott award this year. Charlie Smith reported that a Member Club Grant of \$100 will go to the Genesee Ornithological Society in support of the Braddock Bay passerine banding project.

Walt Sabin announced that the dates for the 1994 waterfowl count are 15–23 January.

Phyllis Jones reported for the newly revived Bibliography Committee. They will produce a 1993 bibliography of New York State papers and books for publication in *The Kingbird*, and then will gradually work back on the years that were missed.

Phyllis also noted that as the Federation archivist she has made arrangements to deposit our valuable historical papers in the Cornell University Kroch Library, and is in the process of collecting and cataloging documents.

Don Windsor presented the “200 Club” patch design. This patch is available to those who have found 200 species of birds in New York State when a list of the birds is sent to Don (P.O. Box 604, Norwich, NY 13815). The charge is \$2 for Federation members and \$3 for non-members.

Paul DeBenedictis announced that there is a new secretary for the NYS Avian Records Committee: James Lowe, at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Berna reviewed the County Listing project. About 52 people participated (by sending their total numbers of species identified by county). Totals will be printed in an upcoming *New York Birders*.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM, and reconvened on Saturday at 9:15 AM. Charlie Smith spoke for the Research Committee about the development of checklists, the status of the 116 Breeding Bird Survey

routes in New York State, and the status of weekend birding forays in the Finger Lakes region.

Berna discussed the Treasurer's Report which showed that we broke even in 1992. Following discussion, it was moved that the report be accepted; the motion was approved.

In the absence of Harriet Marsi and Andy Mason, Bill reported for the Conservation Committee. He discussed DEC Forest Unit Management Plans, the Biological Survey, support for the NYS Museum, and the Environmental Assistance Fund.

Charlie Smith presented a Resolution honoring Orin Lehman, who for 18 years was Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and who was instrumental in forming the Birdlife Advisory Committee. The resolution expressed the gratitude of the Federation to Orin, and extended to him "lifetime honorary membership in the Federation in recognition of his leadership in behalf of the birds and birdwatchers of New York State." The Resolution was approved.

Bill announced the upcoming annual meetings of the Federation, to be hosted in 1994 by the Sullivan County Audubon Society, in 1995 by the Lake Erie Bird Club in Fredonia, in 1996 by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, and in 1998 by the three Rochester Clubs (who hosted the first annual meeting and every other year ending in 8).

It was moved that the three members of the Auditing Committee be reelected: Dick Sloss, Irving Cantor, Norman Stotz. The motion was approved. It was next moved that the Nominating Committee consist of the past three Presidents (as is traditional): Stan Lincoln, Chair, Chad Covey and Harriet Marsi. This motion was also approved.

Bob Miller, reporting for the DEC, noted that the Conservation Fund (from hunting and fishing licenses) and the "Return a Gift to Wildlife" fund (from tax returns) are both decreasing. He outlined the projects funded by Gift to Wildlife monies. Bob also reported on the shooting of Laughing Gulls at JFK Airport and the controversy over Double-crested Cormorants at Little Galloo Island. He also gave an update on the status of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon in New York state.

Following a resolution thanking the host club, the North Country Bird Club, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

The Friday night workshops were on "Passerine Banding at Braddock Bay" by Elizabeth Brooks; "Birds and Birding Spots of the

North Country" by Ken Crowell; and "Fall Shorebird Identification" by Paul DeBenedictis. The Saturday afternoon paper session emphasized conservation and management of birds in the North Country, and included the following talks:

Progress Report – Migratory Bird Study Along Lake Ontario—Kris Agard & Kathy Schneider

Long Term Trends and Reproductive Success of Common Terns Along the International Section of the St. Lawrence River—Lee Harper

Species of Special Interest Found in Northern NY Wildlife Management Areas—Paul Novak

Population Status and Diet of Double-Crested Cormorants in Eastern Lake Ontario—Kenneth Karwowski

Population Status, Distribution, and Ecology of Black Terns in Northern NY—Irene Mazzochi & Sandra Muller

Population Status of Migratory Songbirds in NY State w/Special Reference to the Adirondack Region—Charles Smith

On Saturday evening about 160 people attended the banquet, where they heard Pete Dunne (author of *Feather Quest*) tell the entertaining story of "An Unidentified Flycatcher Seen Yesterday. He Didn't Leave His Name."

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie M. Freer  
Recording Secretary  
19 February 1994