

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
47TH ANNUAL MEETING**

**Rosendale, NY
23-25 September 1994**

The 47th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was called to order by William Lee, President, at the Williams Lake Hotel in Rosendale, N.Y. at 2:00 P. M. Friday, 23 September 1994. The roll call of member clubs was answered by 56 representatives of 26 member clubs (with a delegate from one additional club answering Saturday morning). A motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the 46th Annual Meeting, published in *The Kingbird* 44(2):99-105, was approved. The Treasurer's Report was distributed by Berna Lincoln so that it could be reviewed carefully by the delegates before its formal submittal on Saturday.

A Committee on Resolutions for this meeting was elected. The members of this committee are Barbara Butler and Donald Windsor.

Bill Lee delivered the President's Report that included the following items:

- A project to revise the New York State bird book has begun. A fund raising Committee has been appointed.
- A new award, known as the Elon Howard Eaton Memorial Award, has been established. This annual award will be administered and funded by the Eaton Birding Society. The first presentation of this award will be made at the banquet Saturday evening.
- The archives of the Federation have been delivered to the Koch Library of Cornell University where they will be permanently stored. Members of the Federation are encouraged to visit the Koch Library to refer to items contained in our historical records and to see other items in the collections housed there.
- The 1981-1990 Ten-year Index of *The Kingbird* was compiled and will be distributed soon.
- During the past year the Federation has enjoyed outstanding cooperation and assistance from two New York State agencies, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Our contacts with these agencies have been enhanced by Bob Miller and Joe Grimaldi, respectively. In addition, we received exceptional support from Norton Miller and David Steadman of the New York State Museum.

- Harriet Marsi has recently resigned as Chairperson of the Conservation Committee and member of the Executive Committee. Bill expressed the thanks of the Federation to Harriet for her many years of dedicated service.
- During the past year we experienced a 10 percent decrease in the number of individual memberships. Bill noted that individual membership dues make up about 90 percent of the income of the Federation. Many members of our clubs are unaware of the existence of the individual member category. He encouraged delegates to share with him any ideas and suggestions for attracting new members.
- Bill expressed his thanks to the officers and members of the Executive Committee for their support during the past year.

Bill Lee announced that our 48th Annual Meeting will be held 6-8 October 1995 at Fredonia, hosted by the Lake Erie Bird Club. The 49th Annual Meeting will be at Albany, 6-8 September 1996. The host club for that meeting is the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. The 51st Annual Meeting will be held in Rochester in 1998. The Genesee Ornithological Society and the Rochester Birding Association are joint hosts for that meeting.

Stanley Lincoln, Chairperson, presented the report of the Nominating Committee consisting of himself, Harriet Marsi and Chad Covey. Nominated to serve one year terms of office were the following:

President	William J. Lee
Vice President	Robert E. Budliger
Recording Secretary	William B. Reeves
Corresponding Secretary	Valerie M. Freer
Treasurer	Berna B. Lincoln

Voting on this slate of officers was deferred until later in the meeting when more delegates would be present.

Bill Lee reported that the New York State Avian Records Committee has functioned effectively for the past year.

Bill announced that no grant will be awarded to a member club this year. The Member Club Grant, available annually, provides up to \$100 to a club for an effective and innovative project. The date for annual notification requesting applications for this award from member clubs has been changed from late to early in the spring. This year's Lillian Stoner Award winner is Christopher Hynes of the Cayuga Bird Club. Two authors have been chosen as winners of the John J. Elliott Award for Best Papers in *The Kingbird*. They are Ken Feustel for "An Ephemeral Shorebird Habitat at Cedar Overlook Beach" and Polly Rothstein for "Cooper's Hawk Nesting in a Suburban Yard." The winner of the new Elon Howard Eaton Memorial Award is Timothy H. Baird. This award

will be presented by Stephen W. Eaton, son of Elon Eaton for whom the award was named.

Charlie Smith reported for the Research Committee on three projects supported or sponsored by the Federation during 1994. These were the County Checklist Project (coordinated by Berna Lincoln), the State Parks Checklists Project (coordinated by the Birdlife Advisory Committee of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation) and the Breeding Bird Survey of the National Biological Survey of the Department of the Interior (112 routes in New York State coordinated by Charles R. Smith). An additional project, a Summer Foray to St. Lawrence County to survey the Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area, had to be canceled due to lack of sufficient participants.

Phyllis Jones reported that the Bibliography Committee has been reactivated. She announced that the members of this committee are Allen Benton, Barbara Butler, Valerie Freer, Phyllis Jones (Chairperson), Walton Sabin, Charles Smith, and Donald Windsor. Reports of this committee's compilation of published reports on New York State birds will be published annually in *The Kingbird*.

Bill Lee presented the report of the Membership Committee prepared by Berna Lincoln. Our present roll consists of 575 annual individual memberships, 83 life memberships and 39 member clubs.

Bob Miller, reporting for the NYSDEC, discussed a national wildlife funding initiative sponsored by New York and several other states as an amendment to the Robertson-Pittman Act. This new method of supporting projects to benefit wildlife observation, such as viewing sites, habitat improvements, etc., would be funded by taxes on sales of outdoor equipment. The bill incorporating these changes is expected to be introduced in Congress during the spring of 1995. It is anticipated that New York could receive up to \$17.5 million from the federal government with a 25 percent matching contribution required from the state. The Return a Gift to Wildlife Program does not have sufficient funds to support this state contribution. It collects about \$1 million per year. Bob Budliger suggested that a committee be appointed to develop a position for the Federation on this issue.

Bob discussed the increasing population of Double-crested Cormorant throughout the Great Lakes area. He reported that one of the largest breeding colonies is at Little Galloo Island in Lake Ontario. The number of breeding pairs at this site was 5,000 in 1993 and 3,700 in 1994. This fall a public meeting was held at Watertown to discuss the consequences of this problem. The people who are most concerned are

people who fish for recreation and the businesses they patronize. A task force will be established by the NYSDEC to study the impact of the cormorants on Lake Ontario and Oneida Lake. Migrating flocks of up to 2,000 Double-crested Cormorants have been observed on Oneida Lake feeding on Walleyed Pike and Yellow Perch. Bob noted that a full environmental impact statement was completed and accepted on the problem of Laughing Gull breeding near John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. A restricted license for shooting Laughing Gull has been issued annually for the past several years. About 3,000 gulls were killed in 1994 to prevent collisions with jet aircraft during landings and takeoffs. DEC is working with the National Park Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to move this colony, the northernmost breeding site of Laughing Gull on the east coast.

The DEC has confirmed that 22 pairs of Peregrine Falcon bred in New York State during the past summer producing 35 offspring. A new Peregrine Falcon nesting site was found at Breakneck Ridge opposite Storm King Mountain. A total of 23 pairs of Bald Eagle nested in the state this year. They fledged 23 young eagles. A new nest on the Hudson River failed to produce any eaglets.

Manny Levine, Chairperson of the Publications Committee, stated that *The Kingbird Index* for 1981-1990 is now being printed and will be mailed during the next week. Manny thanked Jim Clinton and Don Windsor for their excellent work in compiling this index.

Manny reported on progress on the new New York State bird book entitled *Bull's Birds of New York State*. A joint copyright agreement between The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. and the American Museum of Natural History is being developed. The Federation is currently seeking donations from individuals and foundations to fund this project. This book will be produced by a number of authors and artists. Prospective authors are currently being furnished with sample species accounts. The book will include only those species which are currently on the New York State checklist and those which may be added before the publication cutoff date. The next issue of *New York Birders* will contain a feature article on the book. The scheduled publication date of *Bull's Birds of New York State* will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Federation in the fall of 1998. A prospective publisher of the book is Cornell University Press.

Max Wheat, Editor of *New York Birders*, expressed his thanks to the editors of club newsletters for sending him a great deal of interesting copy. He reported that the quality of writing in the newsletters is improving continuously. When he uses material from these sources, he

gives them credit in his article. He is running a series of articles written by Winston Brockner, a charter member of the Federation, on the early history of this organization.

Stan Lincoln, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee moved that the slate of nominees listed earlier in the meeting be elected. There were no nominations from the floor. After a motion to close nominations was approved, Stan moved that the Recording Secretary cast one ballot to elect the slate. The motion was approved unanimously by the Council of Delegates.

An Audit Committee consisting of Richard Sloss (Chairperson), Irving Cantor and Norman Stotz was elected unanimously.

A Nominating Committee, including the three most recent past presidents, with Stanley Lincoln as Chairperson and Chad Covey and Harriet Marsi as members, was nominated and elected.

Norman Stotz stated that the Galesville Airport in Ulster County, belonging to the US Military Academy, consists of 620 acres with 243 of these designated as wetlands. The local community wishes to obtain this surplus government property as a recreation area. The Academy prefers its conversion to a nature preserve. New York City Audubon Society has supported establishment of a nature preserve. The information on this topic was referred to the Resolutions Committee for drafting of an official resolution.

The meeting recessed at 4:30 P.M.

At 9:00 A.M. Saturday morning Valerie Freer, President of the host club, the Sullivan County Audubon Society, welcomed all those attending this annual meeting held jointly with the annual meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists. She introduced Greg Butcher, President of the AFO, who introduced the other officers and briefly discussed the history of that organization of 2,000 members. President Bill Lee also welcomed the delegates to both meetings and presented a brief history of the Federation. He thanked Valerie and the host club for the organization and operation of the joint meeting. Valerie then thanked members of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club and the John Burroughs Nature Club for their assistance with field trips during the weekend.

The Saturday session of the Council of Delegates was called to order by Bill Lee at 9:30 A.M.

Berna Lincoln, Treasurer, presented the financial report for the year ended 31 December 1993. The summary of this report showed total assets of \$69,893.47, liabilities of \$3,858.10 and net worth of \$66,035.37. These totals reflected no material change in the financial status of the

Federation during the past year. The mortgage on Bass Island was satisfied during 1993. Income exceeded expenses by \$891.81 during the year. A motion to accept this report was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Richard Sloss, Chairperson, presented the report of the Audit Committee stating that the financial statements examined by the committee fairly present the financial condition and the operating results of the Federation for the year ended 31 December 1994. The other members of this committee were Irving Cantor and Norman Stotz. A motion to accept this report was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Andy Mason moved that the New York State Bluebird Society be accepted as a member club of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Barbara Butler read the resolution prepared by the Resolutions Committee supporting designation of Galesville Airport as a nature preserve. A motion to approve the resolution and to send copies to the Superintendent of the US Military Academy and the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation was made, seconded and approved by the Council of Delegates.

Following reading of a resolution thanking the host club, the Sullivan County Audubon Society, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

The Friday evening program featured Donna Tracy who presented an informative live raptor demonstration followed by a round table discussion on Issues and Actions in Owl Conservation and Biology moderated by Elissa M. Landre. Panelists and the topics they discussed were:

- Gaps in the Literature and the Directions for Future Research - Dr. Richard J. Clark, Professor of Biology, York College, PA
- Wintering Ecology of Snowy Owl in Massachusetts, Including Pellet and Prey Analysis the Role of the non-professional Biologist - Norman Smith, Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Blue Hills Trailside Museum, Milton, MA
- Twenty-five Years of Barn Owls - Leonard J. Soucy, Jr., Founder and Director of the Raptor Trust, Millington, NJ
- Great Horned, Screech and Saw-whet Owls in Urban Settings - Dr. Dwight G. Smith, Professor of Biology, Southern Connecticut State University

The early field trip Saturday morning was a walk around the property of the Williams Lake Hotel led by Scott Graber.

Two papers sessions were held on Saturday. The morning session, moderated by Paul Buckley, included the following papers:

- Changes in winter abundance of Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) in New England. Charles D. Duncan
- Status and conservation biology of Northern Saw-whet Owl breeding in the central and southern Appalachian Mountains. Matthew P. Rowe and Kevin M. Dodge
- Landscape composition and structure in the vicinity of Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) nest sites in Maryland. Jim Fregonara
- Habitat selection of Wood Thrush nesting in East Texas. N. Ross Carrie.
- Proximate factors related to dispersal in screech-owls: A new model based on hormones, body condition and behavior. James R. Belthoff and Alfred M. Dufty, Jr.
- Post-fledging behavior of screech-owls: Effects of behavioral dominance on timing of dispersal. Ethan A. Ellsworth and James R. Belthoff
- Effects of food availability on dispersal movements of young Burrowing Owl. R. Andrew King and James R. Belthoff

During lunch the delegates were addressed by Congressman Maurice Hinchey, who spoke on the status of pending conservation legislation and prospects for enactment of various bills during the current legislative session.

The afternoon papers session was moderated by Valerie M. Freer. The papers presented were:

- Owl migration ecology at Braddock Bay, New York, 1994. Patricia Lynne Stanko
- Habitat use and diurnal activity of the Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californicus*) in Brewster County, Texas. Janice M. Hughes
- Population trends of some winter birds in Sullivan County, N. Y., 1981-1994. Joan Visconti and Valerie M. Freer
- Effects of habitat disturbance on overwinter density, condition and site tenacity of a neotropical migrant of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. Daniel K. Niven
- A twenty-one year study of the Barn Owl in Northern New Jersey. Leonard J. Soucy, Jr.
- Behavioral interaction between Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers: Do Blue-wings dominate Golden-wings? Paul Scanlon and John Confer

- Why does Grasshopper Sparrow sing two different songs?—An experiment to test song function. W. Greg Schriver and Peter D. Vickery
- A probability-based approach for measuring spatial incidence of Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) reproduction in eastern old-growth forest. J. Christopher Haney and Charles P. Schaadt
- Microbes that live in the plumage of birds. Edward H. Burtt, Jr.
- Autumn migratory movements of Northern Saw-whet Owl in the middle Atlantic states. Kevin M. Dodge, David F. Brinker and Katherine Duffy
- The winter feeding ecology of the Northern Saw-whet Owl in southern Connecticut. Kenneth E. Petit and Dwight G. Smith
- Distribution and population status of Bicknell's Thrush in the northeast. Christopher Rimmer and Jonathan Atwood
- "Owl Song"—a poetry reading by Maxwell Croydon Wheat, Jr.

At 5:00 P.M. Saturday the delegates viewed a poster session which featured the following topics:

- Redpoll invasion into the northeast: A Project Feederwatch analysis of the 1993-1994 season. Diane L. Tessaglia and Kenneth V. Rosenberg
- Effectiveness of an audiolure in increasing mist net captures of migrant Northern Saw-whet Owls. David F. Brinker and Thomas C. Erdman

During the banquet, attended by approximately 125 people, the awards previously listed were presented. In addition, the Gordon M. Meade Award for Distinguished Service was presented to Mike Peterson of the High Peaks Audubon Society. The banquet speaker was Julio de la Torre, whose presentation, "Owls of North America" was described by Don Windsor in an article in *New York Birders* as "without a doubt, the most dynamic, most spectacular, most fascinating, most spellbinding, most exciting bird presentation I have ever witnessed!" Following his talk, Mr. de la Torre led several dozen intrepid birders on an impromptu owl prowl.

Respectfully submitted,

William B. Reeves
Recording Secretary
21 April 1995