

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
48TH ANNUAL MEETING
FREDONIA, NY 6-8 OCTOBER 1995

William B. Reeves
107 Elberta Drive, East Northport NY 11731-5712

At 2:00 P. M., Friday, 6 October 1995 William Lee, President, called to order the 48th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at the College Lodge of SUNY College at Fredonia.

Allen Benton, Chair of Lake Erie Bird Club's Arrangements Committee, announced several changes to the schedule of workshops and field trips for the meeting.

A quorum count by roll call showed that 83 delegates (24 in person and 59 by proxy), representing 31 of the 40 member clubs, were voting at the meeting. Nine additional delegates, including representatives of two additional clubs, arrived before the Saturday morning session began. In response to a question from Bob Budliger, the Recording Secretary reported that proxies represented more than half the votes and that a quorum was present.

The Council approved a motion to waive reading of the minutes of the 47th Annual Meeting, published in *The Kingbird* 45(2):92-99. The Recording Secretary reported the following amendments to the published minutes of the 47th Annual Meeting: (1) changing to the description of the Audit Committee's report reflect their review of 1993 instead of 1994 financial transactions and (2) adding presentation of the Gordon M. Meade Award for Distinguished Service to Harriet Marsi of the Naturalists Club of Broome County. Valerie Freer moved that the Council of Delegates approve the minutes as amended. Phyllis Jones seconded the motion and the Council adopted it unanimously.

The President appointed a Committee on Resolutions for this meeting consisting of Barbara Butler and Donald Windsor.

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

1. At quarterly meetings this year the Executive Committee has discussed several possible changes to the bylaws of the Federation. One such change involves adopting a new name for the organization. Another proposal would modify the provision that adoption of Federation positions on issues of public policy requires approval by the Council of Delegates.
2. Manny Levine, Editor, and Bob Budliger, Fund Raising Chair, for

Bull's Birds of New York State have accomplished a great deal to ensure publication of the book, scheduled for 1998. During 1995 the Federation received contributions of \$2,000 each from two member and one nonmember clubs and of \$500, \$100 and \$50 from three other member clubs toward costs of publishing the book.

3. To offset membership attrition of approximately 11 percent a year, a membership promotion campaign has begun. Scott Stoner and Berna Lincoln will be overseeing this campaign during the coming year. Bob Budliger has revised the Federation's membership application brochure.
4. The problem of public concern about the many Double-crested Cormorant on Lake Ontario and their possible impact on populations of game fish has received the attention of the Executive Committee during the past year.
5. Berna Lincoln represented us this year on the committee to identify and publicize sites in New York State for the Watchable Wildlife Observation Program.
6. Bill thanked the officers, members of the Executive Committee and chairs of committees for their work that made our programs successful during the past year.

In the absence of Myrna Hemmerick, Membership Chair, Berna Lincoln presented the following membership report for the year 1995 to date:

557 Annual Memberships (519 Renewals, 9 Reinstatements, 29 New)

85 Life Members

40 Member Clubs (Dues Paid)

Manny Levine, Publications Chair and editor of the new state bird book, reported on progress on *Bull's Birds of New York State*. An agreement between the Federation, the American Museum of Natural History and Cornell University Press has been drawn up and the museum is now reviewing it. We consider this a satisfactory agreement. Once the museum approves the agreement, representatives of the three organizations will sign it. The book will contain species accounts written by 60 volunteer authors. The state list now includes 445 species. The editor has 169 completed species accounts on hand. Authors have submitted an additional 105 species accounts, which the editor has reviewed at least once and returned to them for revision. The editor has not yet assigned 32 species to authors. Work on this project has been underway for two years. Manny hopes to receive all species accounts by the end of 1995. Next year about a half dozen authors will write introductory material and species accounts will be completed. The book may contain illustrations, depend-

ing on the success of fund raising efforts. (A 16-page color signature would add about \$10.00 to the estimated price of \$50.00 per copy.) We scheduled delivery of the manuscript to Cornell University Press for January 1, 1997. Our planned publication date is October 1998, when we will hold the 51st Annual Meeting of the Federation in Rochester. We expect a first printing of 2,500 copies. If the book sells well, we can arrange additional printings. Berna Lincoln said that the agreement under review is for a hardcover book. If demand warrants, a paperback version can be added. Manny and Berna reported that people who worked on the book will each receive a complimentary copy. In response to a question Manny said that the Federation and the American Museum of Natural History will share 7 percent of the price of the book as a royalty. The remainder goes to Cornell University Press. Berna explained that publishers usually make money on books and authors get only royalties. Our contract includes an advance of \$1500 against future royalties. Bob Budliger, Fund Raising Chair for *Bull's Birds of New York State*, discussed the funding status of the project. The President sent a letter with a prospectus, describing the costs involved in publication of the book, to all member clubs requesting donations to the book fund. The foreword of the book will contain a list of donors at three levels, reflecting gifts at or above \$500, \$1,000 and \$2,000. Bob will send a reminder to all clubs with a budget showing how we will allocate the \$80,000 cost of publishing the book. Bob pointed out that we must show that our own members and clubs are willing to contribute before we can convince outside organizations to donate. We have raised \$6,650 from clubs. He asked delegates to encourage their clubs to donate at any level to the book fund during the second round of contributions. Valerie Freer said that some clubs will be contributing to the fund during this meeting. She suggested that the President announce the names of clubs that have made donations at the banquet Saturday evening. Bob requested that delegates contact him if they know of business organizations or foundations from which we could solicit donations. We are using a list of "green companies" to identify possible donors. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has expressed willingness to contribute up to \$15,000 this year, but budgetary restrictions and changes in management of the agency have hindered receipt of these funds. DEC was an important source of funding and resources for the Breeding Bird Atlas project. We expect DEC to seek our support for the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. We will suggest reciprocal support during future discussions with DEC.

Manny reported the recent resignation of Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr. as Editor of *New York Birders*, our newsletter. Max has been newsletter edi-

tor since publication of the first issue. The President asked the Resolutions Committee to prepare a resolution thanking Max and expressing the appreciation of the Federation for his long and faithful service.

Bob Budliger said that the newly revised Federation membership brochures are available. He urged delegates to take a few to distribute to potential members. Bob also asked all those attending this meeting to recruit new members.

Bill Lee announced that we will hold our 49th Annual Meeting 6-8 September 1996 at the Holiday/Turf Inn on Wolf Road in Albany. The host club is the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. The banquet speaker will be Jack Connor. We will hold the 50th Annual Meeting at Lake Placid in October 1997. High Peaks Audubon Society will sponsor it. Hosts for our 51st Annual Meeting at Rochester in the fall of 1998 will be the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club, the Genesee Ornithological Society and the Rochester Birding Association

Stanley Lincoln, Chair, presented the report of the Nominating Committee consisting of himself, Harriet Marsi and Chad Covey. Nominated to serve one year terms of office beginning at the end of this Annual Meeting were the following:

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

Delegates made no nominations from the floor. A motion to close nominations and to ask the Recording Secretary to cast one ballot to elect the nominees was made, seconded and approved unanimously. President Lee declared the slate elected and congratulated the new officers.

Bill Lee reported for the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), consisting of Robert Andrle, Chair, Kenneth Able, Thomas Burke and Robert Paxton. He stated that a vacancy on this committee exists because a member moved out of the state last year. NYSARC has been effective in reviewing records of rarities reported during the past year. Bill said that revising the pelagic boundary of the state is a concern of Bob Andrle. Although the subject is under discussion by various people from New York and bordering states, they have achieved no consensus. The boundaries are important in determining which records to include in *Bull's Birds of New York State*.

Berna Lincoln distributed the Treasurer's Report so that the delegates could review it carefully before its formal submittal Saturday morning. Berna also distributed copies of the roster of member clubs.

Richard Sloss, Chair, presented the report of the Audit Committee. He said the financial statements examined by the committee fairly presented 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.

John Confer, Chair of the Lillian C. Stoner Award Committee, announced that the recipient this year was Michael Brust of the Huntington Audubon Society. John said that the Lake Erie Bird Club, our meeting hosts, waived the registration fee for the awardee.

Bill Lee reported for Paul DeBenedictis, Editor of *The Kingbird*, that the recipient of the John J. Elliott Award for the best article in 1994 was William W. Watson for his article "Establishment of the Great Blue Heron Colony on Motor Island" in Erie County. The article appeared in *The Kingbird* 44(4):268-276.

Charlie Rouse of the Eaton Birding Society announced that this year's winners of the Elon Howard Eaton Memorial Award are Dr. John L. Confer and Karen Allaben-Confer.

Berna Lincoln reported that copies of the report of the County List Project were available for delegates to take to their clubs.

Don Windsor announced that the new 300 Species Patches are for sale at \$5.00 each. Those who have submitted lists showing that they have seen more than 300 species in New York State may purchase them.

The meeting recessed at 4:00 P.M.

The meeting of the Council of Delegates reconvened at 9:30 A.M. Saturday, October 6, 1995.

President Bill Lee introduced Laura Sommers of DEC, reporting for Bob Miller. Laura discussed her department's display on the status of rare, endangered and threatened species of birds, reptiles and amphibians in New York State. She also reported the following data on the status of several species of birds currently of concern to conservationists:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
Peregrine Falcon	Breeding Pairs	25	19
	Successful Pairs		
	(1 or more fledged)	19	18
	Young Produced	46	35
Bald Eagle	Breeding Pairs	23	18
	Successful Pairs		
	(1 or more fledged)	19	12
	Young Produced	30	21
Eagles	Midwinter Survey		
	Bald Eagle	144 (new high)	116
	Golden Eagle	1	1
Piping Plover	Breeding Pairs	243 (preliminary)	209
	Young Fledged per		
	Pair	0.96	1.34

Laura reported that DEC made intensive efforts in 1995 to help Piping Plover by using predator exclosures. They expect that additional funding for these efforts will become available because of settlement of the B. T. Nautilus New York Harbor oil spill litigation.

Long Island Colonial Water Bird Survey - The 1994 survey report has been published. It includes data on Piping Plover, all species of terns and Black Skimmer. In 1995 colonial nesting species surveyed included gulls, wading birds and cormorants. They are now compiling data for this year's survey.

Roseate Tern - The statewide nesting population continues to increase (1,647 pairs in 1994). A habitat restoration project on Gardiner's Point Island, a.k.a. Tyler's Island, led by Helen Hays of the American Museum of Natural History, has attracted the following numbers of breeding birds:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
Common Tern	Breeding Pairs	60	12
Roseate Tern	Breeding Pairs	100	2

Black Tern - Currently DEC lists this species as a Species of Special Concern in the state. Listing Black Tern as an Endangered Species has been proposed. In the last statewide survey in 1994, an estimated 244 pairs bred. This number was 14 percent below the 1991 estimate of 284

breeding pairs. Breeding studies continue at key sites in Jefferson County and at the Tonawanda/Iroquois/Oak Orchard Wetland Complex. These studies include nesting success rates, habitat characteristics, monitoring of movements of banded adults and chicks and evaluation of the use of nesting platforms.

Common Tern - This species is listed as Threatened. DEC expects that it will remain so because of concern about upstate nesting populations. The Great Lakes population is currently a Category 2 candidate for federal listing. State management projects continue at Oneida Lake, on the St. Lawrence River and the Niagara Frontier. The numbers of nesting pairs for the current year are as follows:

Oneida Lake	511
St. Lawrence River	620
Niagara Frontier	811

Double-crested Cormorant - The annual survey of nesting cormorants at Little Galloo Island in eastern Lake Ontario recorded 3,745 breeding pairs in 1994, a very low count. In 1995 the survey counted 7,500 nests, a new high count. A task group representing various community interests developed management objectives for this species on Lake Ontario during 1995. DEC is currently working on accomplishment of these objectives and coordinating its efforts with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Province of Ontario.

Laura also discussed the federal Watchable Wildlife Observation Program. This is a project of the Federal Highway Administration and the NYS Department of Transportation. A team is currently preparing a proposal for an Interstate Transportation Enhancement Act grant. The state can use such grants for enhancement of public lands. The Watchable Wildlife Observation Team is interested in public suggestions concerning its objectives. Jean Gawalt of DEC is the contact person. The team is now refining the list of sites. Gaps exist in the Adirondack, Catskill, Southern Tier and West Central regions. DEC anticipates publication of the site guide during the spring of 1996. The state needs \$16,000 in additional private donations to fund the guide.

A DEC team has begun discussions concerning an Urban Wildlife Program. They are compiling a list of all wildlife education activities in the state and DEC involvement in these programs.

DEC has undertaken facility improvements at Ridge, Mongaup and

Tillman Road using 1995-1996 Public Recreation funds. The department has plans for facility work at Ausable, Braddock Bay, Deer Creek, Lakeview and Quogue.

Laura described the Fish and Wildlife Funding Initiative. This federal proposal is a plan to provide funds for conservation, recreation and education programs through a surcharge on outdoor equipment purchases. It is modeled after the successful Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration Acts which have low administrative expenses. Its objective is to benefit species with no regular funding mechanism (non-game, non-endangered species), most of our wildlife. Its goal is to raise \$350 million annually. New York State would be eligible to receive about \$17.5 million of this amount yearly. This initiative will probably be introduced and approved during the next session of Congress. More than 170 companies and organizations have endorsed it. A letter writing campaign to overcome opposition by some manufacturers and retailers of sports equipment has begun. These companies do not believe that consumers will be willing to pay the cost of the proposed surcharges. Supporters of the initiative encourage sending letters to L. L. Bean and other merchandisers of sports equipment. DEC expects to become more involved in explaining the initiative to the public and has developed, but not yet distributed, a slide program and a pamphlet for this purpose.

An Audit Committee consisting of Richard Sloss (Chair), Irving Cantor and Norman Stotz was elected unanimously. Bob Budliger responded to a question from the floor concerning the propriety of members of an organization auditing its financial records. He explained that not-for-profit organizations report their financial status to the NYS Department of State. The law does not require an outside audit unless income and net worth of the organization exceed certain values. The Federation's income and net worth are well below these thresholds. Only one of the three elected Audit Committee members is a member of the Executive Committee.

A Nominating Committee composed of William Lee, Chair, Stanley Lincoln and Chad Covey was proposed. Gerry Rising moved that the committee be elected. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the Council of Delegates.

Berna Lincoln, Treasurer, presented the Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 1994 and the associated explanation of the Federation's Balance Sheet. This report showed total assets of \$73,383.11, liabilities of \$3,845.20 and net worth of \$69,537.91. These totals reflected no material change in the financial status of the Federation during the past year. She reported that operating expenses for the year were

\$1,206.07 greater than income because of the cost of publication of the ten-year index of *The Kingbird*. A motion to accept this report was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Berna gave a brief synopsis of 1995 expenses to date. She explained that the *Bull's Birds of New York State* Fund had paid back a \$1,197.25 temporary advance from the General Memorial Fund. Berna stated that the Ann and Harry Reicher Foundation made a second \$5,000 donation, not restricted to funding the book, but intended for that purpose. Contributions of \$10,000 from the Reicher Foundation and \$6,650 from member clubs less approximately \$2,000 in expenses incurred to date leave a current balance of about \$14,500 in the *Bull's Birds of New York State* Fund.

Berna said that modifying the individual membership dues amount will be necessary in 1996. She expects the change will be elimination of the \$3.00 discount for timely payment. We raised individual membership dues from \$15.00 to \$18.00 per year in 1991. Prior to that, dues were last raised in 1982. Valerie Freer stated that the Federation did not raise annual dues for other individual membership categories (family, contributing and supporting members) in 1991. The cost of providing our services to each member is approximately \$20.00 per year.

Richard Sloss, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, read the proposed amendments to Article IV, Section 3 - Quorum of Council of Delegates Meeting and Article V, Section 3 - Terms of Office. The Executive Committee recommended adoption of these amendments and distributed copies to club presidents and permanent representatives as an enclosure to a letter dated July 9, 1995. The first proposed amendment modifies the requirement for a quorum at Annual Meetings of the Council of Delegates by reducing the required number of delegates from the present number to a lesser number allowed by New York State law. Proposed wording of Article IV, Section 3 is as follows: "Duly authorized delegates, present in person or by proxy pursuant to these bylaws, who collectively are entitled to cast one hundred votes or one-tenth of the total number of votes authorized to be cast in accordance with Section 1 of this article, whichever is lesser, shall constitute a quorum. A quorum shall be determined by the number present at the opening of the Council of Delegates meeting. A quorum shall not be destroyed by the departure of delegates after the opening roll call." The second proposed amendment specifies the beginning of the terms of office of newly elected officers. The proposed wording of Article V, Section 3 is as follows: "Officer-Directors shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the Council of Delegates for terms that shall start immediately at the conclusion of said meeting at

which they are elected and shall continue until the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting of the Council of Delegates or until their replacements, if any, have taken office. No Officer-Director shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive years, except the Corresponding Secretary and the Treasurer. Nothing herein shall prevent the election to an office previously held if one year has elapsed between the holding of such office and the new term." A motion to approve these amendments was made by Stan Lincoln, seconded and adopted unanimously. Stan explained that the proposed amendments cannot take effect unless two-thirds of the 40 member clubs ratify them. Delegates at this Annual Meeting can certify approval if their clubs have authorized them to do so. Otherwise, their clubs will be informed by mail that the Council of Delegates has approved the amendments. We will request that these clubs notify the Federation's Recording Secretary of their positions concerning ratification.

Stan Lincoln stated that the Executive Committee and the Bylaws Committee are currently considering the definition of standing committees. The definition in our bylaws does not conform to New York State law concerning not-for-profit corporation governance.

Gerry Rising made and Stan Lincoln seconded a motion that the Executive Committee review and approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting prior to their publication in *The Kingbird*. Bob Budliger explained some problematic issues of governance of the Federation that the Executive Committee has discussed at some of its recent meetings. These relate to the privileges of individual members and member clubs, since clubs have votes at meetings of the Council of Delegates and individual members do not. Don Windsor said that organizations often find it difficult to identify people who are seriously interested in their activities and functions. He suggested that election of a committee to review the minutes of Annual Meetings might help the Federation to identify future officers and Executive Committee members. A majority voted against this motion.

A motion that the Council of Delegates empower the Executive Committee to review minutes of Annual Meetings prior to their publication in *The Kingbird*, with the Council retaining responsibility for their adoption at the next Annual Meeting, was then made by Laura Stenzler and seconded by Fran Rew. This motion was approved.

Bill Lee reported that Assemblyman Steven Engelbright has introduced a bill to make illegal the use of lead fishing sinkers in New York State. Bill said that a sponsor has introduced a similar bill in the State Senate. He asked whether the Council favored the intention of the Engelbright bill.

Gerry Rising moved that the Council endorse the Engelbright bill and its companion in the Senate. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously.

Gerry Rising made and Laura Stenzler seconded a motion to endorse the Wildlife Funding Initiative. Don Windsor expressed his personal opposition to a new tax such as this. Bob Budliger explained that about 20 years ago a similar tax on purchases of photographic equipment was proposed. It provided no value to the purchaser and Congress rejected it. The Wildlife Funding Initiative benefits the purchaser by providing funds to support the objects of his or her interest, non-game wildlife species. Sportsmen have for many years paid license and duck stamp fees so that they may legally engage in their sport. Bird seed suppliers are among those opposing this initiative. The initiative proposes an added tax. The sportsmen do not want to share with us their present control of state and federal conservation bureaucracies and policies. All the beneficiary groups will want to share the benefits of this power. Bob said that this is a long-term project. It will probably be many years before Congress enacts a fee structure. He recommended that we continue to evaluate this proposal and authorize the Executive Committee to monitor its progress and make sure that it meets the objectives we seek as legislators modify it and introduce it in Congress. Gerry and Laura agreed to modify their motion to include the following:

- (1) The Council of Delegates authorizes the Executive Committee to study and monitor the progress of the Wildlife Funding Initiative to decide whether it meets the needs of the Federation,
- (2) we authorize the President to endorse the philosophy of this initiative, providing he is assured that it does not replace existing sources of funding for protection of non-game wildlife, and
- (3) we delegate to the President the power to appoint representatives of the Federation to advisory groups formed to deal with this initiative.

The Council of Delegates approved the amended motion unanimously.

Valerie Freer moved and Stan Lincoln seconded the motion that the Federation donate generously from its funds to the *Bull's Birds of New York State* Fund to set an example that will encourage contributions by member clubs and outside sources. Berna Lincoln said that we don't have adequate information to make a specific commitment of funds at this time. Manny Levine said that the Federation has agreed to underwrite the costs of the project and guarantee its completion to the limit of the value of its General Memorial Fund. Stan recommended that the Federation contribute a specific amount to be decided by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Treasurer. Valerie approved rewording of her motion to

incorporate Stan's recommendation. The Council approved the amended motion. Gerry Rising urged the Executive Committee to address the possibility of changing the name of the Federation. He pointed out that we are a federation of member clubs that provide only a small part of our operating budget and that individual members may or may not belong to a member club.

Bob Budliger, President-elect, encouraged the delegates to return to their member clubs and discuss with club officers and members the challenging questions concerning the objectives, governance and name of the Federation, i.e., who we are and what we want to be. Bob noted that 600 individual dues paying members currently have no direct voice in the decision making processes of the organization they support financially. He intends to write a letter to member clubs that will initiate discussion of these issues. He said we need to preserve the things we do very effectively and pledged to address the above issues this year.

Bill Lee announced that the Executive Committee will hold its next meeting at Sullivan County Community College at 9:30 A.M. Saturday, November 11.

Phyllis Jones made and Stan Lincoln seconded a motion to adjourn. A voice vote approved it. President Bill Lee adjourned the meeting of the Council of Delegates at 11:55 A.M.

The host club sponsored the following workshop presentations
Friday evening:

Sketching from Nature by Mark Baldwin of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute

Counting Migrants by Jim Stasz, Coordinator, North American Migration Count

Photographing Dragonflies by Ted Taft, Sr. of the Lake Erie Bird Club

Bluebird Conservation by Jeff Wells of the New York State Bluebird Society

During the papers session Saturday afternoon, moderated by Richard Miga of the Lake Erie Bird Club, the following papers were presented:

"Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) - Winter Territories and Suet Feeders, Do Downies Commute or Relocate?" by Amy L.

Gordon and John L. Confer

"Wood Thrush Nesting" by Gian Dodici

"Yes! We See Eagles, Osprey and Now and Then a Peregrine, The Story of an Evolving Hawk Watch, The Ripley Picket Line" by John Luensmann

"California Gnatcatcher and the Changes in the Coastal Race of the Cactus Wren" by Michael Fugagli

"Retired - A Paper Session Ends" by Allen Benton

At the banquet Saturday evening Joanne Goetz, President of the Lake Erie Bird Club, welcomed the delegates to the Annual Meeting and the banquet.

Bill Lee thanked the nine clubs that with donations prior to and during this meeting have contributed approximately \$9,000 to the *Bull's Birds of New York State* Fund. Three clubs, Capital District Audubon Society (not a member club), Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and Huntington Audubon Society have contributed \$2,000 each. Six clubs have donated lesser amounts, ranging from \$50 to \$500. They are Cayuga Bird Club, Genessee Ornithological Society, North Country Bird Club, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Rockland Audubon Society and Sullivan County Audubon Society.

The previously listed awards were presented and Phyllis Jones, President of the Sullivan County Audubon Society, accepted the Member Club Award for support of a project to computerize Sullivan County bird records.

Barbara Butler of the Resolutions Committee read the resolution thanking the Lake Erie Bird Club for its hospitality and management of this year's Annual Meeting. She also presented a resolution expressing the thanks and appreciation of the Federation to Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr. for his many years of dedicated service as Editor of *New York Birders*.

Bill Lee announced the appointment of Phyllis Jones as Editor of *New York Birders*.

The banquet speaker was Dr. Michael Reed, Assistant Director of Research, Biosciences Research Center, University of Nevada in Reno, who spoke on "Patterns of Extinction." Through his research Dr. Reed has developed methods of evaluating the status of species, hopefully in time to avert extinction. He explained that species are more vulnerable if they occupy small ranges or specialized habitats. Overgrazing is a particular threat to species dependent on riparian habitats. He also stated that migration poses a special threat because it involves several habitats: summer, winter and migratory. Human technology has resulted in other threats, e.g., modern transportation has made competition from introduced species more likely. Dr. Reed recommended use of surveys to identify those species that are likely to face difficulty in surviving. We can then take action before these life forms reach the brink of extinction.

Respectfully submitted,

William B. Reeves, Recording Secretary