

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
53RD ANNUAL MEETING
WATERLOO, NY SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2000

Barbara A. Butler

At 9:20 a.m., Saturday, September 9, 2000, President Mary Alice Koenke called to order the meeting of the Council of Delegates. This meeting in Waterloo was the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. and was hosted by the Eaton Birding Society.

A roll call of member clubs showed that 43 delegates represented 26 of 46 member clubs. The minutes of the 52nd Annual Meeting were approved as printed in *The Kingbird* (motion, Ellie Long; second, Valerie Freer). Mary Alice appointed Barbara Butler and Bill Reeves to the Resolution Committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mary Alice Koenke presented the following President's Report:

The New York State Federation of Bird Clubs has had a very busy year statewide. The initiation of the Atlas 2000 project was begun and the Regional coordinators will soon collect the data for the first field year. State Coordinator Kim Hunsinger of the NYSDEC, Valerie Freer, Steering Committee Chair, Bob Miller, Laura Sommers, and John Ozard of the NYSDEC are all to be commended for their hard work insuring that we all had the necessary handbooks, field cards, maps to get us all into the field. David Miller's National Audubon office in Albany deserves thanks as well for their role in assisting in obtaining funding to assure the project received the proper hardware, software, and other items to get materials out to the volunteers. Every one of the volunteer coordinators and first year volunteers also should be commended for doing so much to get atlasing off to such a great start. Thank you all!

Some of the other activities and successes of the Federation this past year are:

- Three more member clubs have asked for membership bringing our total membership to 49 clubs! Family and Individual memberships have also increased
- NYSARC continues to bring the state ornithological records up to date under the fine organization of Angus Wilson, chair and the rest of the com-

mittee. Annual reports including some photographs are now on the FNYSSBC web site. Willie D'Anna was appointed to fill a position on the committee formerly held by Charlie Smith.

- The Federation web site is one of which to be proud. It continues to expand public awareness of the Federation and its activities: membership has increased through an electronically available membership form on the web site. Barbara Butler, Kevin McGowan and staff at Cornell continually update and fine-tune the pages.

- FNYSSBC sponsored a team at the Montezuma NWR Muckrace and supported the Lake Ontario Migratory Bird Festival in Mexico, NY.

- FNYSSBC Board of Directors has begun exploring ways in which to promote youth activities in support of NY State ornithology. Gift memberships were given to the nine young birders who participated in the Montezuma Muckrace. We have our first youth club member: The Raptor Club of Fulton, NY.

- The FNYSSBC was represented at conservation meetings/hearings throughout the year including the ongoing Double-crested Cormorant and Jamaica Bay Bike Path issues and the NY State BCA program.

- *The Kingbird* and *NY Birders*, our two wonderful publications are our most public face and continue to publish quality articles and information for NY State's birding community. Special thanks go to Manny Levine, Phyllis Jones, Willie D'Anna, and all of the Regional Editors for keeping us in the know.

FNYSSBC has accomplished a lot this past year and this next year will bring a second year of atlasing, activities, issues and other projects. If you wish to become more involved in the FNYSSBC speak to any of the Board members. If you know of individuals who might like to become members — spread the word. Take brochures to your club meeting and other birding activities. Thank you!

Elections of New Clubs Three clubs have requested membership in the Federation: Hudson River Audubon Society (formerly Yonkers Audubon Society), Jamestown Audubon Society, and The Raptor Club, Fulton, NY. With a motion by Dorothy Crumb, seconded by Barb Reuter, the clubs were accepted into membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sue Adair presented the Treasurer's Report, distributing a detailed 1999 Annual Financial Report.

Specific fund balances as of December 31, 1999 were:

Unrestricted Fund

General Operating	\$29,149.14
General Memorial	55,758.57
Member Clubs Awards	4,927.15

Temporarily Restricted Fund	
John J. Elliott Fund	1,213.30
Lillian C. Stoner	10,089.13
Atlas 2000	5,459.45
Bull's Birds of New York State	0
Life Member	18,339.50
Total Fund Balances	\$124,936.25

The General Operating Fund, income was \$23,587.04 and expenses were \$23,032.82. The excess of income over expenses was \$554.22. Sue noted that the Bull book fund has been closed out, with the remaining balance transferred to the General Operating Fund or the Atlas 2000 Fund or returned to the donors, according to the donors' directions.

Auditing Committee Report In the absence of Dick Sloss, Manny Levine reported for the Auditing Committee. The committee members, Dick, Irving Cantor, and Norm Stotz have found Sue's marvelously detailed records to be in good shape.

Atlas Steering Committee Report Valerie Freer reported that the steering committee and the DEC folks have produced materials for the Atlas, including handbooks, maps, field cards, buttons, ID cards for volunteers and their cars, notable species forms, etc. Distribution has not been as efficient as hoped, so anyone missing any materials should contact their Regional coordinator. Atlas T-shirts were available for sale at the meeting. The internet-based system for distributing maps has been working well and other states have been contacting John Ozard about how to do it. At the Atlas workshop later in the meeting, Valerie reported that 2200 blocks of the total 5335 blocks have been assigned so far.

PUBLICATIONS

Manny Levine reported a smooth transition from *New York Birders* editor, Phyllis Jones to the new editor Sue Adair. Manny expressed his concern about the amount of money it takes to produce *The Kingbird* in relation to other Federation expenses. He is interested in feedback about *The Kingbird*. He has had suggestions to add color to the journal, but the costs are substantial. However, other state bird organizations that have moved to a color journal have seen large increases in membership.

Conservation Committee Chair Mary Alice Koenek reported the conservation issues addressed for the past year included:

- The banning of Avitrol, the pesticide used for controlling pigeons, sparrows, starlings, and other target species. Governor Pataki signed legislation banning its use in August. The efforts of our member club, NY City Audubon, on this issue are to be commended.

- The Double-crested Cormorant issue on Lake Ontario — FNYCBC participated in a consensus-building interview in the hopes that an area of consensus could be found among the various stakeholder groups. Comments were provided for the NYSDEC draft EIC on Double-crested Cormorant management and to the USFWS on their management plan for Double-crested Cormorants.

- The FNYCBC kept up with the progress of CARA — the Conservation and Reinvestment Act and an action alert has been added to the web site on this issue. In addition, Mary Alice requested each member club present at this meeting designate someone to sign the club onto a letter that will be sent to Senators Moynihan and Schumer on Monday as a push to have this legislation enacted before Congress recesses. The letter was circulated among the delegates for signatures.

- The Jamaica Bay bike path issue also received attention from the FNYCBC in the form of letters of support including support of a compromise proposed by the NY City Audubon chapter and again special recognition is due the member clubs and especially Al Ott and Nellie Larsen who have worked on this still ongoing issue.

Harriett Marsi proposed a resolution to urge New York State to fully participate in the Chesapeake Bay Program. She explained the historic productivity of the Chesapeake Bay and its importance to many of "our" birds which winter there. Wildlife abundance in the Bay has declined, due to the increase in nutrient load coming in from the watershed and to the loss of the oyster beds that had filtered the water. The Susquehanna River, largest tributary of the Bay, begins in New York State and, along with its west branch, flows 300-400 miles through the state. Therefore, New York has some responsibility for the fate of the Chesapeake Bay. After some wording changes, Andy Mason moved that the resolution be adopted. Marty Borko seconded and the motion was approved.

NYSDEC Report

Bob Miller gave the report on the Department of Environmental Conservation activities.

- **Atlas 2000** - In addition to Kim Hunsinger and John Ozard, DEC personnel from the habitat inventory unit and systems development have provided support for various aspects of Atlas 2000.

- **BCAs** - The DEC has hired 2 biologists to work on the now 10 Bird Conservation Areas on state-owned land. A third biologist will be hired soon.

One of the BCA biologists, Dave Adams gave a paper about the BCAs at the paper session.

- **Cormorant management** - The DEC oiled eggs on Little Galloo Island again this year in 94% of the 5400 nests there. They have begun a 2-year telemetry study to determine if the Little Galloo cormorants move to other islands and to determine where they winter.

- **Piping Plover** - The US Fish & Wildlife Service is working on identifying critical habitat for Piping Plovers in the Great Lakes region. They have proposed a 17-mile stretch of Lake Ontario shoreline in Jefferson and Oswego counties as a critical habitat.

- **Endangered Species** - The winter Bald Eagle survey found 350 eagles, up from 244 last year and 41 in 1979. There was a record number of nests (43) and young (71) this year. Peregrine Falcon nests outside of the Adirondacks produced 51 young. The 234 young Ospreys produced by 277 pair on Long Island is down for unknown reasons.

- **Colonial Waterbird Management** - A study of Black Terns will attempt to locate pre-migratory staging areas. These would be good places to monitor Black Tern populations in the future.

- **Spruce Grouse** - This year John Ozard began the first study of Spruce Grouse populations since 1985 by visiting historic nesting sites. The study will continue next year.

- **Waterfowl Count** - Bryan Swift reports that he will need new coordinators for Region 6 and 10. He recommends the Federation recognize Walt Sabin for his past service as Waterfowl Count Chairman 1976-2000.

- **Loon contaminant work** - A number of loons and a few mergansers were captured and marked to allow future study.

WEB SITE REPORT

Barbara Butler reported that additions to the web site include *The Kingbird* tables of contents and some sample articles, conservation articles from *NY Birders* - collected by topic, e-mail contacts for many member clubs, and some new links.

NYSARC REPORT

Reviews of NYSARC reports are moving along, according to Kevin McGowan. The secretary position has still not been filled, so chair Angus Wilson is distributing the reports. The 1998 report will be published in the first *Kingbird* issue of 2001.

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The awards will be presented at the banquet.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Valerie Freer announced the following slate of officers and board members for 2000-2001:

President: Mary Alice Koenek
Vice President: Tim Baird
Recording Secretary: Dick Miga
Corresponding Secretary: Phyllis Jones
Treasurer: Bill Reeves

Board Members - terms expiring in 2001:

Sara Kinch, Emanuel Levine, and Sharon Skelly

Board Members - terms expiring in 2002:

Barbara Butler, Kevin McGowan, and William Watson

There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion to cast one vote to adopt the slate as presented was made by Anne Vogt and seconded by Marty Borko. It passed with one abstention by Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

Bill Lee described the field trips conducted by the Federation since the last annual meeting.

- January - Galeville Airport, Shawangunk Grassland Unit, Wallkill River NWR. Spectacular display of 7 Short-eared Owls in flight all at once in bright afternoon sunshine.
- February - Ft Edward Grasslands (Washington County) more Short-eared Owls, Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs. Thanks to Beth and Brad Bidwell, Southern Adirondack Audubon, for leading the trip.
- March - Montauk Point and eastern Long Island - Black Guillemot (a pair), King Eider, and a glimpse of Black-legged Kittiwake. Thanks to John Fritz for local field leadership.
- April - Derby Hill. Not a good hawk flight day, but some early spring migrants along the lakeshore. Thanks to Sue Adair of Onondaga Audubon and Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.
- June 3-4 - Adirondack Weekend - Spring Pond Bog and Whiteface Mountain. The most well attended trip and most, though not all, saw Spruce Grouse and Bicknell's Thrush. Some participants saw Boreal Chickadee, Olive-sided & Yellow-bellied flycatchers, Evening Grosbeak, and Black-backed Woodpecker. Thanks to John Ozard of NYS DEC and Rich MacDonald of Adirondack Nature Conservancy and High Peaks Audubon for local arrangements and leadership.

- June 10-11 - Fort Drum Grasslands, Perch River Wildlife Management Area. Success in locating Clay-colored, Henslow, and Vesper sparrows at Fort Drum, and Black Tern, Least Bittern and Trumpeter Swan at Perch River. Thanks to Mary Alice Koeneke and Mickey Scilingo of Onondaga Audubon Society for local arrangements and field trip leadership.
- August - Jamaica Bay NWR. Thanks to Michael Bochnik, of Hudson River Audubon for conducting this trip.
- A trip is planned for the Niagara River in December for gulls.

Good numbers have been attending the trips. Bill has suggestions for Doodletown and Whiskey Hollow for trips next year.

COUNTY AND STATE LISTING

Berna Lincoln reported that 90-100 people have submitted lists for 1999 and there is an increase in the counties reported by them. The lists include a number of folks who do not otherwise participate in Federation activities.

ARCHIVES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEES

Phyllis Jones, chair of both committees, received material from Marty Borko dated the time Dick Sloss was president of the Federation, which she will add to the archive. The bibliography citations will be published in the December issue of *The Kingbird*.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Sue Adair and Mary Alice Koeneke are now handling the Speakers Bureau. Thanks to Valerie Freer and Phyllis Jones for getting the speakers' bureau going.

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

The 2001 meeting will be hosted by Onondaga Audubon, September 14-16 in Syracuse. The Naturalist Club of Broome County will host the 2002 meeting in the Binghamton area.

ELECTION OF NOMINATING AND AUDITING COMMITTEES

Mary Alice named Valerie Freer, Sara Kinch, and Joe DiCostanzo to the nominating committee. With a motion by Kevin McGowan and second by Dick Miga, which was passed, the committee was accepted. Valerie Freer made a motion, seconded by Kevin McGowan, to appoint Irving Cantor, Norm Stotz, and Manny Levine to the auditing committee. The motion was passed.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

Dick Miga explained a survey which he distributed. The survey asks about

member clubs' activities for young people. The board will review the returned surveys and look for ways to facilitate and support member clubs' youth activities. Dorothy Crumb noted that the membership of the new Raptor Club is entirely young people and one of them is working on an Atlas block. The president of the host club, Eaton Birding Society, is a high school senior.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion from the floor, the meeting of the Council of Delegates was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE BANQUET

Mary Alice Koeneke presented the club newsletter awards to the John Burroughs Natural History Society for *The Chirp*, Lake Erie Bird Club for *Wrens' Ramblings*, Great South Bay Audubon Society for *Sanderling*, Moriches Bay Audubon Society for *The Osprey*, New York City Audubon for *The Urban Audubon*, The Raptor Club for *The Raptor Report*, and the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club received the special award for the best article appearing in the past year in a club newsletter, "A Century of Change" by Stan DeOrsey.

The John J. Elliott Memorial Award for the *Kingbird* article judged to be the year's best went to J.M.C. Peterson and G. Howard for the article entitled "A Common Yellowthroat Exhibiting Male and Female Plumage (Bilateral Gynandromorph) in Essex County, NY" which appeared in Vol. 49 No.4. Mary Alice awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Walt Sabin who chaired the Waterfowl Count for 25 years. Certificates of Appreciation were also awarded to Melanie Uhlir and Greg DeLisle of Cornell for their support of the Federation web site, and to Jeff Walsh and The Nevele Hotel for hosting the American White Pelican. There were 2 recipients of Lillian Stoner awards: Erin Hewett, a high school senior nominated by the Naturalists Club of Broome County and Matt Williams, a Cornell graduate student nominated by Cayuga Bird Club. Charles Rouse presented the Elon Howard Eaton Award to Dr. Eaton's son, Stephen W. Eaton in recognition of his contribution and involvement in New York State Ornithology. The Gordon Meade Award was presented to Robert Spahn, whose three decades of contributions to the Federation include service to *The Kingbird* as the Region 2 Editor, Editor of the seasonal highlights, and Regional Reports Editor, and Regional coordinator for both Breeding Bird Atlases. Mary Alice presented The President's Award to Phyllis Jones for her contributions as editor of New York Birders for 4 years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara A. Butler, Recording Secretary

9/12/2000