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New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.  
April 4, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes  
Nuthatch Hollow in Vestal

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at Nuthatch Hollow in Vestal on April 4, 2009. The meeting was called to order by President Bill Ostrander at 9:30 a.m.

Present were **Bob Adamo, Victor Lamoureux, Andy Mason, Bill Ostrander, Carena Pooth, Bill Reeves,** and **Kathy Schneider. Tim Baird,** Phyllis Jones, Annette Lehner, Berna Lincoln, **Bob Mauceli,** and Angus Wilson attended via teleconference.

**Summary of Action Items:**

- Approved February 2009 Board Meeting minutes. (Item 1)
- Approved provisional NYSOA membership for Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch (Item 4 Membership)
- Approved NYSOA conservation issue policy (Item 4 Conservation)
- Approved accelerated NYSARC review of first state records (Item 4 NYSARC)
- Authorized Andy Mason to finalize an agreement with Integrated Filing Systems of Fairport, NY for scanning *The Kingbird* (Item 6)

1. **Minutes:** Minutes of Feb. 7, 2009 board of directors meeting were reviewed and minor changes made. Motion by A. Mason, seconded by B. Reeves, to approve the amended minutes, passed unanimously.
2. **President's Report**—B. Ostrander reported on a contact he made to possibly fill the position of Archives Committee chair. No response was received. Current chair Phyllis Jones is leaving New York State in October, 2009.
3. **Treasurer's Report**—B. Reeves reported the past quarter was largely uneventful. The Life Member Fund increased by \$900 due to a new life member. The Young Birders Club Fund balance increased by \$370. The General Operating Fund showed a net increase of \$525. No *Kingbirds* were paid for in the past quarter, and one issue of *NY Birders* was paid for in the quarter. Total expenses for the quarter were \$2400. Report on Young Birders Club finances showed a balance of \$1002 with \$382 in expenses, and \$80 in income pending.

**4. Committee Reports**

**Membership Report**—B. Mauceli reported little feedback from the board on the Membership Committee's suggestions for promotions. The committee has lost one member, Jane Graves. The committee will prepare a mailing to member organizations. T. Baird will assist with this, and with preparing a "News from NYSOA" synopsis of *NY Birders* items to submit to member organization newsletter editors.

It was agreed there is a need to create a list of member organization newsletter editors/contacts; Carena has an email contact list for organizations and will check for specific newsletter editor contacts.

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A discussion was held regarding possible creation of a member organization relations position. Suggestions included adding this responsibility to the Corresponding Secretary position. Also suggested was a quarterly report to the member organizations, emphasizing NYSOA benefits.

A discussion was held regarding offering premiums to promote membership. This approach has been successful in the past.

B. Ostrander suggested a NYSOA “XBA”—Extraordinary Birding Areas—project to define and publicize areas good for birders, using the member organizations as a resource. He also suggested using eBird data to create an online mapping site of birding areas.

B. Lincoln reported current membership stands at 563 individual members—an increase of 11 since the last report, most generated from the website; 49 life members; 44 member organizations, unchanged. Renewal notices will be out within a week.

Berna has increased the surcharge for mailing *The Kingbird* to non-US addresses to \$10 annually for Canada and Mexico, and to \$20 for others. She is also gradually changing the NYSOA address from Durhamville to her PO Box in Somers, NY.

An application for NYSOA membership has been received from the Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch, with \$20 submitted. A. Mason moved to give this organization provisional membership, seconded by C. Pooth, passed unanimously. Full membership will be decided at the next Council of Delegates meeting.

***Young Birders Club***—A. Lehner reported a balance in the YBC Fund of \$1090.94—a different figure from that in the Treasurer’s report. The discrepancy is due to the time lag between receipt of checks and expense reports by NYSYBC and receipt and action by the Treasurer.

The YBC currently has 16 youth members, 15 supporting adults, and 16 partner organizations.

A March 21 field trip to the Bashakill was successful. C. Pooth expressed thanks to Lou Celenza for organizing YBC trips.

Carena gave a YBC presentation to the Audubon Council of NY State Spring Assembly, emphasizing the benefits of NYSOA membership to the 28 Audubon NY chapters.

The next field trip will to Lake Taghkanic, sponsored by the Alan Devoe Bird Club.

Carena provided CDs of updated NYSOA/NYSYBC road show presentations—three versions aimed at different audiences. She also provided an updated calendar of road show presentations and a NY map showing location of YBC members and partner organizations.

A discussion was held regarding the road show presentations and their success in getting NYSOA member organizations to become YBC partner organizations.

Carena distributed YBC “business cards” to pass out to potential members.

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A discussion was held regarding allowing younger children to participate in the YBC. It was suggested that this could be allowed with the requirement that a parent must be present. Annette and Carena will discuss and make a recommendation.

***Publications***—

*NY Birders*—the April issue is in progress. The committee member list provided by Joan Collins will appear in the newsletter.

*The Kingbird*—Correspondence from Shai Mitra has been received and distributed. Bill Ostrander displayed a calendar with projected publication dates for future issues.

***Web site***—Carena said there were no significant items to report since the last meeting.

***eBird***—Carena reported Cornell has provided a new tool for updating eBird pages, making maintenance somewhat easier. Bill Ostrander has contacted Bob Spahn regarding the possibility of his attending a future board meeting with a Cornell eBird representative to discuss issues.

***Atlas 2000***—no report.

***Conservation***—A discussion was held on a second draft of a NYSOA conservation issue policy. Minor wording changes were made to the draft. B. Reeves made a motion to approve the policy, seconded by V. Lamoureux, passed unanimously.

***Awards***—A discussion was held regarding whether the Lillian Stoner Award should be given this year, considering the anticipated one day Annual Meeting. It was decided that the award will not be publicized this year—if a nominee comes forward, the board will reconsider the issue. Suggestions for certificates of appreciation included host of a Northern Hawk-Owl in Peru, NY, and a Bullock's Oriole.

***NYSARC***—A discussion was held regarding the committee's proposal to accelerate review of first state records. This would improve public perception of NYSARC/NYSOA, and allow more accurate reprinting of the state checklist. Motion by K. Schneider, seconded by B. Reeves to authorize such accelerated review by NYSARC, passed unanimously.

The results of any such accelerated review will be announced as a brief note in *The Kingbird*, followed by notification on the NYSOA web site.

***Archives***—P. Jones is presently indexing early correspondence from the 1940s and 1950s.

***Nominating Committee***—K. Schneider has submitted an article to *NY Birders* with a positive slant on participating on the board. She is in contact with other nominating committee members on procedures for the committee.

5. **DEC**—a report was received from John Ozard—no major changes from the last report. DEC hopes to pilot a marsh bird monitoring program and will likely seek assistance from NYSOA. Short-eared Owls were fitted with backpack transmitters and tracked this past winter. DEC's

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Peregrine cams are online. Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon reports were recently posted to the DEC website.

**6. Old Business**

*Annual Meeting*—scheduled for Sept. 26, 2009 at the Montezuma Audubon Center. A discussion was held regarding possibility for speakers and lunch. A consensus was reached on having a program on shorebird ID. A. Mason will contact S. Mitra, D. Sherony, and the Montezuma NWR manager regarding a program. B. Ostrander will contact the Montezuma Audubon Center regarding lunch catering. The room capacity is 80 persons—this will be emphasized in registration materials.

*The Kingbird Scanning*—a discussion was held regarding a proposed project agreement with Integrated Filing Systems of Fairport, NY. Motion was made by B. Mauceli, seconded by V. Lamoureux to authorize A. Mason to finalize agreement with requested changes for final payment of 20% of total expenditures to follow completion of the project, and requested presentation of work already completed upon the periodic billing outlined in the project agreement.

**7. New Business**—the board noted with regret the resignation of Jane Graves.

Information was relayed concerning an upcoming wildlife festival at the Montezuma Audubon Center—no action taken.

Moved by K. Schneider, seconded by C. Pooth to adjourn, passed unanimously at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Mason