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New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.  
February 20, 2010 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 February 20, 2010. The meeting was called to order by President Carena Pooth at 9:40 a.m.

Present were Tim Baird, **Joan Collins, Gail Kirch, Jeremy Kirchman**, Berna Lincoln, Shai Mitra, **Carena Pooth, Bard Prentiss, and Kathy Schneider. Bob Adamo, Victor Lamoureux, Andy Mason, Jeanine Smith, Bob Spahn**, and Angus Wilson attended via teleconference.

**Summary of Action Items:**

- Approved November 2009 Board Meeting minutes. (Item 1)
- Approved Corporate Resolution for Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated. (Item 3)
- Approved Astoria Savings account resolution. (Item 3)
- Approved Tom Johnson's appointment to NYSARC. (Item 5)
- Approved motion to discontinue offering new Life Memberships. (Item 4)
- Approved motion to accept the 2010 proposed operating fund budget. (Item 5)

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Kathy Schneider made a motion to accept the November 21, 2009 meeting minutes. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
2. **President's Report** – Carena Pooth announced that Brenda Best is the new Chair of the Archives Committee and expressed appreciation for Phyllis Jones' many years of exemplary service in that position. Brenda will work with Phyllis to transition committee duties. Carena sent thank you letters to the Annual Meeting field trip leaders.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Andy Mason gave the Treasurer's Report. He pointed out the fact that five *Kingbirds* were published last year. Andy will add identification of PayPal income and expenses on the NYSOA books to allow for separate assessment of this service. Kathy made a motion to approve the following corporate resolution:

First: Resolved that the New York State Ornithological Assoc., Inc. ("Corporation") is authorized and empowered to open a Securities Account with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("you") as described in the Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated Customer Agreement.

Second: Resolved that the Securities Account shall be a Cash Account or a Margin Account for the purpose of purchasing, selling (including short sales), transferring, exchanging, pledging, and generally dealing in any and all forms of securities and financial instruments of every kind or nature whatsoever. All orders and instructions, written or oral, relating to the Securities Account shall be given to you by one of the individuals designated under the heading "Authorized Individuals," and each of them individually is hereby authorized and directed to purchase and/or sell and/or deal in any and all securities and financial instruments for the Corporation, including the power to deliver, accept delivery of, pledge, endorse, and direct the transfer of record title of any assets beneficially owned by the Corporation without obligation on your part to inquire into the reasons for said orders or instructions.

*FINAL*

Third: Resolved that you may deal with any of the Authorized Individuals as though you were dealing with the Corporation directly.

Fourth: Resolved that each of the Authorized Individuals is authorized and directed to execute and deliver to you on behalf of Corporation any and all agreements, documents, contracts, and other writings that you may require.

Fifth: Resolved that the Secretary (or other duly designated officer) of the Corporation is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to certify, under the Seal of the Corporation, or otherwise to you:

(a) a true copy of these Resolutions;

(b) specimen signatures of each and every individual empowered by these Resolutions:

(c) a certificate (which, if you require, shall be supported by an opinion of the general counsel of the Corporation, or other counsel satisfactory to you) that the Corporation is duly organized and existing, that its charter empowers to transact the business contemplated in these Resolutions, and that no limitation has been imposed upon such powers by constitution, statute, regulations, charter, by-law, or otherwise.

Sixth: Resolved that you may rely upon any certification given in accordance with these Resolutions as confirming fully effective unless and until you shall receive due written notice of an amendment, modification or rescission of such Resolution or certification. Further resolved that you shall not be liable for any action taken or not taken upon instruction of any Authorized Individual prior to your actual receipt of written notice of the termination or impairment of such person's authority. The failure to supply any specimen signature or other documentation shall not invalidate any transaction which is in accordance with authority actually granted.

Seventh: Resolved that in the event of any change in the office or powers of persons hereby empowered, the Secretary (or other duly designated officer) shall certify such changes to you, in writing, which certification, along with other documentation that you may request, shall terminate the powers of the persons previously authorized and empower the persons thereby substituted.

Gail seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Kathy moved to approve a resolution stating: "The Board of Directors of the NY State Ornithological Assoc., Inc. hereby authorizes Andrew Mason, Treasurer, and Carena Pooth, President, as their agents for Astoria Federal Savings certificate of deposit account number 9000189283." Gail seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**4. Corresponding Secretary** – Jeanine Smith was welcomed by Carena. She is planning to attend to the April meeting.

**5. Committee Reports**

*Archives* – Brenda Best will be taking over from Phyllis Jones. Members discussed the possibility of having all past award recipients in a database.

*Awards* – Gail Kirch gave the report. She informed the group that Queens County Bird Club requested \$500 for a digital projector. Berna explained that grants to clubs are offered based on the projected interest on \$10,000. This year, \$100 will be available. A digital projector is standard

## *FINAL*

equipment for a club, and does not fit within the realm of a typical club project for funding. Another request came from a graduate student studying African starlings in Kenya. This request was also denied because NYSOA does not have a grant's program for researchers. Gail will respond in email. A letter typically goes to each club to announce the Lillian Stoner award. This can now be done by email.

**Bylaws** – Bob Spahn reported there is no activity at present. In order to have a vote of the delegates, changes should be made by April. Please send Bob any suggested changes to the bylaws.

**Conservation** – Andy Mason gave the report. Andy is working on a cormorant article for newspapers. Andy mentioned that folks applying for State wildlife Initiative Grants often ask NYSOA for support. Joan Collins' article on high elevation habitat change appeared in the January issue of *New York Birders* in the Conservation Column. Andy told the board that lead ammunition was abolished in waterfowl hunting, but is still allowed in rifle hunting of deer. It is a major problem for avian species that feed on deer carcasses like Bald Eagles. Joan brought up the issue of NYS closing the Adirondack Park Agency's Visitor Interpretive Centers (VICs) at Newcomb and Paul Smiths. This represents the closure of many miles of trails and educational centers/programs. The feral cat colony on Long Island is still a major problem.

**Nominating** – Tim Baird gave the report. Tim is actively working on nominations. Kathy Schneider is ineligible to run again. Bob Spahn's term is up this year. All officers serve yearly terms.

**NYSARC** – Carena Pooth gave the report. In January, Tom Johnson was provisionally appointed by the Executive Committee to a NYSARC term ending December 31, 2012. Kathy Schneider moved to approve Tom Johnson as a member of the NYSARC Committee. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Jeanne Skelly is still working as the Secretary for NYSARC while her replacement is being sought.

**NYSYBC** – Carena Pooth gave the update. She presented the financial report. The club held an Annual Meeting in January attended by 10 young birders. A scholarship program is being initiated to assist young birders with funding for camps and other educational opportunities. Peter Capainolo and Scott Haber of the American Museum of Natural History spent ½ day giving the young birders a behind the scenes tour of the museum's ornithology department on February 14. The field trip schedule for 2010 is nearly complete. There are currently 17 young birder members, 11 clubs, and 16 supporting adult members.

**Membership** – Berna Lincoln gave the report. NYSOA has 556 Individual Members (475 due to renew), 50 Life Memberships, and 27 new members since November. Publicity for the online *Kingbird* issues helped membership. Kathy Schneider also believes that using PayPal helped. Renewal notices are out. Of the 54 members that did not renew last year, Berna picked 35 to send a renewal notice (eliminated deaths, moves, etc.). There are 43 clubs and 3 did not renew last year (The Nature Club of Central NY, Allegany County Bird Club, Queens County Bird Club). Tim Baird will follow up with Allegany County. A discussion was held on Life Memberships. Kathy Schneider moved that we discontinue offering new Life Memberships. Gail Kirch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Shai Mitra will remove Life Membership information from *The Kingbird*.

## FINAL

**Publicity** – Kathy Schneider gave the report. The committee (Kathy Schneider, Bard Prentiss, Matt Young, Gail Kirch, Herb Thompson, and Joan Collins) had a conference call to discuss publicity to gain new members. One of the goals set was to have 100 to 150 new individual members and 10 new member clubs this year. A NYSOA brochure and postcards were discussed, including whether to use color or black and white. The postcards should be put out where birders would be found: Cornell Lab, Roger Tory Peterson Institute, bird food stores, etc. There was also a discussion about business size cards with our web site info. There has been lots of press on the searchable online *Kingbird*. This information should be put out on list serves around the state. NYSOA should revive field trips and publicize to member clubs. A discussion about holding a raffle at the Annual Meeting was held (including raffling a couple new memberships). Joan Collins believes a raffle generates the biggest financial return for the least amount of volunteer effort. NYSOA should be involved with birding festivals around the state. NYSOA postcards could be sent to festivals. Someone suggested the Linnaean Society could hold the Annual Meeting in 2011. Shai feels surrounding areas might be better than Manhattan – Suffolk, Nassau, or Westchester County. (Great South Bay Audubon for instance.) Bob Adamo will speak to Eastern Long Island Audubon Society about hosting. Kathy told the group it would be helpful to hold an Annual Meeting on Long Island or NYC. Andy Mason suggested sending out Carena Pooth's update on young birders to our member clubs. Kathy wants to contact member clubs to put NYSOA's logo/link on their sites. Jeremy Kirchman feels biologists teaching ornithology classes should be members – we should send them postcards.

**Finance** – Berna Lincoln presented the proposed general operating fund budget for 2010. The *Kingbird* item is for 5 issues (\$3800 per issue) and *New York Birders* is for 4 issues (\$1000 per issue). Berna will remove the eBird expense from the budget. Kathy made a motion that we approve the revised 2010 budget showing income of \$21,870 and expenses of \$29,955. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Publications** – Tim Baird gave the report. He reported there was a problem in printing county lists and they will be reprinted in the next issue of *New York Birders*. Shai Mitra reported that the March issue of *The Kingbird* is finished and will be produced next week. It will arrive in March. Dominic Sherony, currently in Arizona, is writing a monograph with Shai on a revision of sub-species in NYS. Monographs would be published as a special project and reviewed by the Research Committee and approved by the board. The board will decide whether to publish on a case by case basis.

**Website & Information Services** – Carena Pooth gave the report. Carena updated the website with gift and online memberships/renewals in December. The online *Kingbird* archive was launched with an announcement on the home page on January 5th. The Whip-poor-will monitoring project has been removed from the website since it is no longer associated with NYSOA. Carena has implemented Google Analytics to obtain – detailed statistics for the NYSOA and NYSYBC websites.

**eBird** – Bob Spahn gave the report. Regional *Kingbird* editors can get their records in Excel if they request them. However, eBird does not map data from counties to *Kingbird* regions. Many regions have split counties, so this is a problem for regional editors. This mapping has been requested since NYSOA's involvement with eBird began in 2005. NYSARC (Angus Wilson) has been communicating with Chris Wood on the problem of people submitting records to eBird of a NYS reviewable species without sending in NYSARC reports. There are several NYS screeners that could convey information to NYSARC – but this is not currently happening.

**Research** – Jeremy Kirchman had nothing to report.

*FINAL*

6. **DEC Report** – John Ozard supplied a report. Concern was expressed that monitoring projects are being covered in a spotty manner by volunteers.
7. **Old Business:** Andy Mason recognized Carena Pooth as a NYSOA “treasure” for all her work on the scanning project.

**Article on collecting dead birds:** Jeremy Kirchman asked the state if he could have a list of permit holders given for salvaging dead birds. Permits are given for lots of wildlife (lizards, etc.) Went to Federal group (Fish & Wildlife) and they said there are confidentiality issues with giving out the info. So Jeremy will write up this info and say that these groups are no help. If you have a specimen in your freezer it is illegal even if you want to bring it to the NYS Museum in Albany.

**Hard Copies of *The Kingbird*** for NY State Museum in Albany: Andy Mason. Kathy Schneider got a list of libraries from Jane Graves – about 500. Andy will write a letter to current *Kingbird* subscribers (about 30) to see if they would like back copies.

**Recognition for *Kingbird* Editors** – Tim Baird will create a set of questions for editors’ bios and offer a phone interview to those who prefer it. The target is to feature two bios per *New York Birders* issue.

**Annual Meeting 2010** – Kathy Schneider said Onondaga Audubon is moving along.

8. **New Business:** Carena Pooth has a box of info from Lynn Huntington on how to hold an Annual Meeting. Lynn graciously sent it to help out other clubs that are sponsoring an Annual Meeting.

**April 10 meeting venue:** Jeremy Kirchman offered that we could meet at the NYS Museum and has invited us to see the new exhibit “**The Birds of New York: Paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes**” after the meeting.

**Update to *The Birds of New York State*** – Bob Spahn initiated this topic because he feels that we have only a short window before the next Atlas begins to publish a new state birds book. Angus Wilson feels that it will be a multi-year effort but that it can happen in parallel with the next Breeding Bird Atlas because it is an independent project. There are many issues with *Bull’s Birds of NYS*. Many species need to be researched again from scratch. Shai Mitra has begun working on a book about the birds of NYS. Angus provided a sample account for a proposed rare birds of NYS book, which he sees as a separate project covering 140-170 species. Jeremy Kirchman would prefer a single book containing all the data, but others thought such a book would become too large. A discussion on authorship options raised the point that bird books written by one or a few individuals (rather than by a large number of contributors) have a higher level of scholarship as well as more of a personality. Shai may have support from his university to write the book – he would find it helpful to have NYSOA’s endorsement even if NYSOA is not otherwise directly involved.

9. **Adjournment:** – Kathy Schneider made a motion to adjourn at 3:06 p.m. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins  
Recording Secretary