

FINAL

New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.
April 10, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes
New York State Museum in Albany

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at The New York State Museum in Albany on April 10, 2010. The meeting was called to order by President Carena Pooth at 9:30 a.m.

Present were **Bob Adamo**, Tim Baird, **Joan Collins**, **Jeremy Kirchman**, **Andy Mason**, John Ozard, **Carena Pooth**, and **Kathy Schneider**. **Bob Spahn** and Berna Lincoln attended via teleconference.

Summary of Action Items:

- Approved February 20, 2010 Board Meeting minutes with changes. (Item 1)
- Approved Club Award of \$75 for Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch. (Item 4)
- Approved provisional acceptance of Southern Adirondack Audubon Society as a new club member. (Item 4)
- Approved Publicity Committee's raffle. (Item 4)
- Approved motion to increase club membership dues. (Item 4)
- Approved signatories of Merrill Lynch account. (Item 4)

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Jeremy Kirchman made a motion to accept the February 20, 2010 meeting minutes with changes. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
2. **President's Report** – Carena Pooth is answering email.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Andy Mason gave the Treasurer's Report for the first quarter. About 750 *New York Birders* issues are sent out each quarter. The Hicksville Post Office now debits postage from our checking account (instead of keeping an account at the Post Office). There was a credit on *The Kingbird* postage. Checklist sales are doing very well – above what was budgeted for the year.
4. **Committee Reports**

Archives – There was no report on Archives.

Awards – Gail Kirch gave the report. The Stoner Award is for high school or college age students. Berna Lincoln clarified that the Stoner Award is not for achievement, but to help an interested student come to the Annual Meeting. Gail will work with nominators to make sure potential student nominees are interested in coming to the meeting. Any NYSOA member can nominate a student. All nominees get a one year membership to NYSOA. Carena Pooth will nominate one or more young birders. As many as three Stoner Awards have been granted in one year.

There is a Club Award request from Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch for \$75 to send out raptor books. Berna suggested that Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch be asked to include NYSOA's

FINAL

new postcard with the book if we approve the Club Award. Kathy Schneider made a motion to support the Club Award of \$75 for Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Bylaws – Carena Pooth sent a few changes to Bob Spahn.

Conservation – Andy Mason gave the report. Andy is still working on a cormorant article for newspapers. Andy wrote an article on lead ammunition for the April issue of *New York Birders*. Lead ammunition poses a danger for wildlife and many states are trying to make it illegal. Andy would like NYSOA to have a resolution to phase out lead ammunition in New York State at the Annual Meeting in October. A resolution could be published in the July issue of *New York Birders* or brought to the delegates meeting in October. Andy will write the resolution and send it to board members. John Ozard said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may ban lead at the national level, and states will then follow suit. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has a position statement on this issue. John said address comments to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the NYS Health Department. Andy reported the DEC issued a new law that trappers need to cover carrion put out for bait to avoid trapping birds. More needs to be done since some birds smell carrion (even when covered), and these birds lead others to carcasses by traps.

Nominating – Tim Baird had no update.

NYSARC – No report.

NYSYBC – Carena Pooth gave the update. Currently, the NYS Young Birders Club has 18 Youth Members, 17 Adult Members, 12 Partner Organizations, and 3 new Partner Organizations. Of the 35 individual memberships, 18 renewals and one new member came in via PayPal online. There were no gift memberships. NYSYBC recently elected new officers. Bill Cook, of the Alan Devoe Bird Club recently led a trip for NYSYBC.

Membership – Berna Lincoln gave the report. NYSOA has an application for membership from the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (SAAS). Kathy Schneider made a motion to provisionally accept SAAS as a new member club pending approval at the Annual Meeting. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. SAAS has 500 members.

The Membership Report is filed with the minutes. Berna reported that 430 members are up to date, and second notices will go out to 133 members that have not paid. Last year, 21% of the membership got second notices, and this year, 27% of the membership will be getting second notices.

Publicity – Kathy Schneider gave the report. The committee feels that reviving the NYSOA field trips program is important. Bard Prentiss has had 4 member clubs come forward to offer field trips for NYSOA. The initial target audience for new memberships is members of member clubs. Committee members sent Kathy 5 reasons to be a member of NYSOA. Postcard will have a bird photo and photo of birders of all ages with “for the birds and birders

FINAL

of NY”. The Committee decided on a Blackburnian Warbler photograph for the front of the postcard. Kathy will send the Committee’s text bullets recommendation for the back of the postcard to the whole board for feedback. Postcards should be handed out on field trips around the state. Postcards should be at birding festivals – in packets or on a table. Kathy checked to see if member club websites have a link to NYSOA. Some had no link, while others had a link on their home web page. Carena Pooth will send an image file to clubs that indicates they are a member. Raffle ideas: have a door prize at the Annual Meeting for people who are not individual members – prize is a year’s membership. The raffle is both for fund raising and to increase visibility – with the drawing held at the Annual Meeting. Raffle prize ideas: pelagic trip for 2; artwork; books; and photographs. Kathy Schneider made a motion to authorize the Publicity Committee to hold a raffle. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Finance – Berna Lincoln presented the committee’s recommendation to increase tiered member club dues from \$20, \$30, & \$50, to \$25, \$35, & \$60. Kathy Schneider made a motion to increase member club dues from \$20 to \$25, from \$30 to \$35, and from \$50 to \$60. Andy Mason seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Kathy Schneider made a motion that revoking all prior authorizations, the signatories of the Merrill Lynch etc. account will be Carena Pooth and Andy Mason. Gail seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Publications – Tim Baird has the April *New York Birders* issue ready. The July issue of *New York Birders* will have registration information for the Annual Meeting from Gerry Smith. The April issue will have information on pricing and location of the Annual Meeting. Tim would like to take a break from editing *New York Birders* by the end of the year. He was thanked for the 7 years he has been doing a great job as Editor. There was no update on *The Kingbird*. Sir Speedy took 6 weeks to get the March issue of *The Kingbird* out. Berna Lincoln suggests that NYSOA look into another printer. Carena Pooth asked Shai to speak with Sir Speedy to see if they can speed up the process. There was no update on monographs.

Website & Information Services – Carena Pooth gave the report. The online NYSARC data base and species records now include the data from the 2007 annual report. Carena has allowed the fnysbc.com domain to expire. Angus Wilson is concerned that rare birds are being submitted to eBird without this information being sent to NYSARC. Angus feels there needs to be education about NYSARC, and its role with member clubs also. Carena suggested to Angus that he write an article for the eBird web site about NYSARC.

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

FINAL

reports. There are several NYS screeners that could convey information to NYSARC – but this is not currently happening.

Research – Jeremy Kirchman reports there are no current research projects.

5. **DEC Report** – John Ozard gave the report. John detailed major cutbacks in the DEC.
6. **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 wrote an article on the legalities of collecting dead birds. He will send it to Shai Mitra for review. It will run two pages in *The Kingbird*. John Ozard mentioned that people can check the DEC web site for info on getting salvage permits.

Inventory clearance of hard copies of *The Kingbird*: Andy Mason wrote a letter to current *Kingbird* subscribers (about 30) to see if they would like back copies. Carena Pooth made some suggestions and Andy is ready to send the letter. Berna Lincoln pointed out that this clearance is limited to issues through Volume 57 and we had decided to drop the price, for this clearance only, from \$5 to \$3 per copy, just to cover the mailing cost. Copies sent should only be through volume 57. Andy will make another draft copy of the letter with these updates.

Recognition for *Kingbird* Editors – Tim Baird put two profiles in the April *New York Birders* issue - on Mike Peterson (Region 7) and Mike Bochnik (Region 9).

Annual Meeting 2010 – Carena Pooth had no new updates.

Annual Meeting 2011 – Carena Pooth will ask Shai Mitra for his thoughts about the meeting being held in the NYC Metro area. Bob Adamo thinks it is 50-50 that his club will sign up to host an Annual Meeting. It would be helpful to have a liaison from NYSOA to work with clubs who sign up to host a meeting.

7. **New Business:** None
8. **Adjournment:** – Andy Mason made a motion to adjourn at 12:54 p.m. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The NYSOA Board Meeting was followed by a wonderful tour and lecture from Jeremy Kirchman on the “*Birds of New York and the Paintings of Louis Agassiz Fuertes*” exhibit at the New York State Museum.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins
Recording Secretary