

*FINAL*

New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.  
July 17, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes  
Nuthatch Hollow in Vestal, NY

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at Nuthatch Hollow in Vestal, NY on July 17, 2010. The meeting was called to order by President Carena Pooth at 9:35 a.m.

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

**Summary of Action Items:**

- Approved April 10, 2010 Board Meeting minutes. (Item 1)
- Approved adding NYSOA's name to the Preserve Plum Island Coalition petition. (Item 4)
- Selected nominees for the Auditing and Nominating Committees for election at the Annual Meeting. (Item 7)

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Kathy Schneider made a motion to accept the April 10, 2010 meeting minutes. Bob Spahn seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
2. **President's Report** – Carena Pooth gave an update on email correspondence.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Andy Mason gave the Treasurer's Report for the second quarter. Numbers, for the year so far, include three *Kingbird* issues (~ \$3,000 each). We are still catching up and will be paying for five *Kingbird* issues this year. *Kingbird* publishing and mailing continue to be NYSOA's biggest expense. Quite a bit of money was raised by the Young Birders Club from the World Series of Birding event. The Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club donated \$250 for the NYSYBC education/scholarship fund.
4. **Committee Reports**

**Publicity** – Kathy Schneider gave the report. The committee has focused on the NYSOA postcard and the raffle fund-raiser. The postcard, including a photo donated by Jeff Nadler, was designed by Carena Pooth and will be 4.25 x 6 inches. Two thousand five hundred postcard copies will be printed for \$199. Publishing business cards was discussed as a possible future project.

Raffle prizes include: spotting scope, possible pelagic trip gift certificate (will know by beginning of August), Cindy Page's Common Raven image (from the Atlas book), photograph from Bob Adamo, and several books. The draft raffle fund-raiser letter to members needs revision. The letter will include a stamped return envelope.

**Membership** – Berna Lincoln gave the report. NYSOA has 510 individual members and 46 clubs. Twenty-seven clubs have paid their dues so far, and 19 clubs have yet to pay. Berna listed the 61 names of individual members who have not renewed. She asked that board members/committee chairs make contact with people we know to encourage them to renew. Members receive a renewal notice and one second notice if needed. About 50% of second notices sent result in renewals. Berna will send renewal notices in January to people she removed from the member roll this year. Carena Pooth will send personal email notices to members who have lapsed.

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**Research** – Jeremy Kirchman gave the report. He provided a number of documents regarding the Northeast Nightjar Survey project (headquartered in New Hampshire). Jeremy invited Pamela Hunt, of New Hampshire Audubon and coordinator of the Northeast Nightjar Survey project, to put an article in *New York Birders* to help recruit volunteers.

**Website** – Carena Pooth gave the report. Carena supplied a list of updates she has made to the NYSOA website. She posted a “help wanted” notice for a new *New York Birders* Editor. Kathy Schneider suggested it look like a volunteer opportunity with a job description attached.

**Archives** – No report.

**Awards** – Carena Pooth gave the report for Gail Kirch. There are no Stoner Award nominations yet. Tim Baird will put a description of the NYSOA Awards in *New York Birders*. Carena said Gail will contact Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch about their Club Grant and Gail will ask them to include the NYSOA postcard in the mailings.

**Bylaws** – Bob Spahn gave the update. The board had a discussion about possible term limits for all Officers. The possibility of the Treasurer and Recording Secretary being non-voting board members was also discussed. The Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary would be able to serve for more years if they were non-voting members not subject to term limits. The board also discussed whether the Corresponding Secretary position is needed. If this Officer position was removed, adding another Director position would be a possibility. There should be a specific requirement that board members attend at least a defined minimum number of meetings per year, and possibly a special procedure (not requiring a delegates meeting or vote) to enable removal of a board member who does not meet this minimum. Carena Pooth asked the Committee to bring a proposed bylaw update to the November or February meeting for board approval. Bob said there is a bit of clean-up to do of the bylaws wording and spelling also.

**Conservation** – Andy Mason gave the report. Andy went over the Lead Ammunition resolution for the delegates’ vote at the October Annual Meeting. Discussion of lead ammunition substitutes was held. Jeremy Kirchman and Bard Prentiss pointed out that there are no substitutes to lead ammunition for some guns – in particular, the gun Jeremy uses for museum collecting of birds. As a result, Andy will re-word some sections and email it to the board again before presenting it in front of the Council of Delegates in October. Andy will try to get impact data from NYS on lead ammunition – it may take an intern to look at the state’s data. Wildlife Society wanted to see this data before supporting such a resolution.

Feral cats issue: Andy sent a letter and reported the response from NYS Parks. They basically said they do not have the time or resources to address the problem. There are still problems on Long Island with feral cats near endangered nesting birds.

The Preserve Plum Island Coalition (east end of Long Island) is an organization that is working to preserve land that would be valuable for development. The Coalition wants the Federal government to preserve the habitat for wildlife instead of selling it. Stella Miller, of Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, wants more names on the petition. Kathy Schneider moved to add NYSOA’s name to the Coalition petition. Joan Collins seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

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**eBird** – Bob Spahn gave the report. NYSOA regions have eBird screeners. There is no screener for Region 7. Joan Collins will bring this up a Northern New York Audubon board meeting. eBird and NYSARC issues: Bob talked with Chris Wood (Cornell Lab of Ornithology). If an email to NYSARC was triggered automatically for every exceptional eBird sighting report, NYSARC would be flooded with emails, so NYSOA's eBird screeners have been asked to contact NYSARC with eBird rare bird sighting reports when appropriate. Regions have supplied filters for eBird that will flag any unusual bird species. The person who input the rare record is contacted. Screeners make decisions on unusual bird records. Screeners can keep a record from appearing in the public database, but they do not modify personal databases. Regional **Kingbird** Editors can download eBird data to an Excel spreadsheet. NYSOA regions are not perfectly mapped across county borders and eBird does not map partial areas of counties. Cornell would need \$3000 to add the mapping capability for NYSOA Regions. The other option is to make NYSOA Regions match up along county boundaries. Berna Lincoln mentioned that the original demarcation of region boundaries had to do with the area that member clubs felt was their territory. Bob Spahn will explore with the **Kingbird** regional editors the idea of changing all regional boundaries to coincide with county lines.

**Field Trips** – Bard Prentiss gave the report. Bard sent a letter to member clubs to ask that they work with NYSOA to plan occasional field trips, with possible workshops. Bard will work with Matt Young to plan these events. He believes it will make the member clubs feel more a part of NYSOA. The committee may start with a winter eagle trip and then a pelagic trip in February. Carena Pooth appointed Bard Prentiss as chair of a new Field Trip Committee.

**Finance** – Berna Lincoln gave the report. There are no new updates at present.

**Nominating Committee** – Tim Baird gave the report. Michael DeSha is nominated for Corresponding Secretary, (all other Officers remain the same). Victor Lamoureux, Shai Mitra, and Bob Spahn are nominated as Directors with terms ending in 2012.

**NYSARC** – No report.

**Young Birders Club** – Carena Pooth gave the report. The club includes 19 youth members, 19 adult members, and 17 partner organizations (3 did not renew). A team of 4 young birders participated in the World Series of Birding and they collected money. The Scholarship Program did not receive any applications. Applications were requested in May when kids are usually already scheduled for camps. Another round of scholarship applications will be initiated later this year, and young birders attending the NYSOA Annual Meeting will be provided with a stipend to help defray expenses.

**Publications** – Tim Baird gave the report. The July issue of **New York Birders** is ready to go to the printers. Tim may add the Lead Ammunition resolution. Kathy Schneider provided information about the raffle. The Annual Meeting registration form is included.

The June issue of **The Kingbird** arrived in June. Future issues should now be on schedule.

If a Monograph review comes up, it should go to the Research Committee.

The new NYS birds checklist booklet should include the AOU supplement update (which will be out in July). Berna Lincoln only has 40 booklets left. The checklist needs to be redone before the Annual Meeting.

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Tim is still searching for a replacement Editor for *New York Birders*. Discussion was held on having NYSOA volunteers who are not individual members. The group feels the Editor of *New York Birders* should be a NYSOA member.

Discussion of the need for a Region 7 *Kingbird* Editor followed. Joan Collins will discuss with the Northern New York Audubon board at their July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

5. **DEC Report** – Carena Pooth included an email message update from John Ozard, but there was no formal report.

6. **Old Business:**

**Article on collecting dead birds:** Jeremy Kirchman gave an update. Shai Mitra will publish Jeremy's article on the legalities of collecting dead birds in the September or December issue of *The Kingbird*.

**Inventory clearance of hard copies of *The Kingbird*:** Andy Mason updated his draft letter to current *Kingbird* organization subscribers (about 30) to see if they would like back copies. He will send the letter out soon.

**Annual Meeting 2010:** Carena Pooth reports that Gerry Smith has everything under control for Onondaga Audubon's hosting of the Annual Meeting on October 22-24. Kathy Schneider is working on the Papers Session. Tim Baird will add info about the call for papers in the July issue of *New York Birders*.

**Annual Meeting 2011** – Bob Adamo made a presentation to the ELIAS (Eastern Long Island Audubon Society) board about hosting an Annual Meeting for NYSOA. All ELIAS board members that attended leaned favorably for hosting the 2011 meeting. Bob does not have a final decision from ELIAS yet. If ELIAS accepts, Shai Mitra has volunteered to be the Papers Session Chair. ELIAS has 300-400 members (20-25 active members).

7. **New Business:**

**Selection of Nominating & Auditing Committee for Election at the Annual Meeting:**

Auditing Committee nominees include: Irving Cantor, John Cairns, and Peter Capainolo.

Nominating Committee nominees include: Valerie Freer, Jerry Lazarczyk, and Berna Lincoln.

8. **Adjournment:** – Kathy Schneider made a motion to adjourn at 1:40 p.m. Bard Prentiss seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins  
Recording Secretary