

FINAL

New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.
February 5, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes
New York State Museum, Albany, NY

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at the New York State Museum in Albany, NY on February 5, 2011. The meeting was called to order by President Carena Pooth at 10 a.m.

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

Summary of Action Items:

- Approved October 23, 2010 Annual Meeting minutes. (Item 1)
- Approved November 20, 2010 Board meeting minutes with changes. (Item 1)
- Approved the reappointment of Angus Wilson and Dominic Sherony to the NYS Avian Records Committee. (Item 4)
- Approved paying the Vermont Center for Ecostudies \$1,000 to help match its NYS Wildlife Grant. (Item 4)

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Kathy Schneider made a motion to accept the October 23, 2010 Annual Meeting minutes. Bob Spahn seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Kathy Schneider made a motion to accept the November 20, 2010 meeting minutes with changes. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
2. **President's Report** – Carena Pooth discussed a letter sent to NYSOA from the New York State Division of Tourism regarding a request to collaborate on international tourism. NYSOA has a lot to do in New York State, and international visitors would probably not join NYSOA. It was decided that NYSOA's website address, with its links to other organizations, will be given to the NYS Division of Tourism.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Andy Mason gave the Treasurer's Report. NYSOA is doing well in comparison to the budget, due to raffle donations, and only paying for four *Kingbird* issues when five were budgeted. Andy provided paper copies of all the reports. He will move the Banc of America investment account money to CD accounts. Andy proposes \$75,000 be moved to three CD accounts (at \$25,000 each) with the remaining money kept liquid. He will take care of this in March. Andy reported that Irving Cantor is working on the audit.

4. Committee Reports

Nominating Committee – No report.

NYSARC – Angus Wilson gave the report. Angus and Dominic Sherony's terms were up at the end of 2010. Victor Lamoureux made a motion to reappoint Dominic Sherony and Angus Wilson to the NYS Avian Records Committee. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Berna Lincoln pointed out that there are no women serving on NYSARC.

Angus reported they are accelerating the review of new state species with three close to being named: Hermit Warbler, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, and Common Ground Dove. (He pointed out that about 1.5 new state species are added each year on average.) Newspaper and club articles will be written to announce new state species. Angus will write the announcements and Kathy Schneider will distribute them to a press release list.

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Angus reported there are issues with lack of submissions and receiving submissions in a timely manner. He will write an article to encourage timely submissions by birders that Carena Pooth will send out to clubs for their newsletters.

Publications – Tim Baird gave the report. The January issue of *New York Birders* should be out in a week. He has not heard from anyone interested in taking over as Editor of *New York Birders*. Tim is willing to continue as Editor for the time being.

Shai Mitra gave *The Kingbird* report. The December issue is late. It is in the mail. It takes about four weeks to turn an issue around from printer to member. Shai explained the bar code problem caused by the printer on the September issue. Sir Speedy included a letter from NYSOA in the December issue to ask whether members had received their September issue. They did not charge NYSOA for adding the letter. The March issue is laid out but there is one tardy regional report. The issue will go to the printer on Feb. 20th. Shai made inquiries about other printing size options. He laid out the March issues in two different sizes to explore the possibility of switching to a standard 5.5x8.5 size to reduce costs. Barbara Butler wondered if we should reconsider the glossy sleeve, which makes it difficult for USPS machines to read the bar codes, and may impede delivery.

Website – Carena Pooth gave the report. Carena added the 2008 *Kingbird* issues to the archive (we hold back 2 years from the website). She also updated the historical NYSARC database and species charts with 2008 data. Mike DeSha suggested adding links on the NYSOA website to member clubs' newsletters.

Publicity – Kathy Schneider gave the report. An issue came up with pelagic trip. Individual members were given a discount, but some decided to bring a non-member friend. It was felt the friend should have to pay the full amount. A discussion was held on whether field trips should be member-only or open to anyone. A decision was made to make them member-only. As with the young birders club, non-members can be offered a one-time chance to attend a field trip before joining NYSOA. Also, Field trips are a benefit of membership and we should not charge for them. If we had to rent a van, we would charge members just to cover the cost, but not make a profit.

Field Trips – Bard Prentiss gave the report. Scheduled trip: Sunday, February 13, 2011 See Life Paulagics trip for both NYS Young Birders Club youth members and NYSOA members has 36 people signed up. The block of hotel rooms in Merrick (at \$100 a night) have all been reserved. Angus Wilson will present a workshop the night before the trip. Bob Adamo will lead a land trip if the pelagic trip is canceled for weather. Sixteen young birders are coming. Other possible field trips: Fall shorebirds at Montezuma with Kevin McGowan, a spring trip at Massawepie Mire, and next year, gulls in Niagara with Willie De Anna. Kathy Schneider suggested that holding a workshop before a field trip should be the model.

Young Birders Club– Carena Pooth gave the report. They held a kick off meeting in January with 11 young birders. Benjamin Van Doren ran the NYSYBC's Annual Meeting. One of the young birders is going to set up a Facebook page. Twenty-five young birder members renewed for this year. The members do recruitment – they carry cards to hand out. So far in 2011, there are 25 youth members, 14 supporting adults and 8 partner organizations. (The year-end 2010 numbers were: 23 youth, 20 supporting adults, and 17 partner organizations.) Several adults are helping Carena. The club plans to create a directory of the members with photos. NYSYBC has roughly \$6,000 (report provided).

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Bob Adamo has a copy of a signed Roger Tory Peterson book to give to a young birder during the pelagic trip.

Membership – Berna Lincoln gave the report (including a paper copy). There was a 69% response to the renewal notice. There were 484 renewals notices sent out, with 332 renewals so far (75 via email). The response was much better to the paper renewal notices than the email renewals. Berna will send out the second email renewal sooner, and state the date of the first email that was sent (with a statement that we did not receive a renewal). She will include the fact that they would have received a message from NYSOA if they had already paid. Berna is sending out second notices soon. She will send a paper notice to those members that did not respond to the two email renewal messages. Member club renewal notices will go out in March. Most new members did so online. Angus Wilson suggested asking new members how they heard about NYSOA. This question can be added to the online membership form.

Finance – Berna Lincoln gave the report. The Operating Budget should have been prepared for approval at this meeting, but it is not yet ready. It will be presented at the April board meeting. Berna does not see any substantial changes for this year's budget. We will be paying for 4 *Kingbird* issues this year.

The Finance Committee recommends that \$1,000 be donated to the Vermont Center for Ecostudies Mountain Birdwatch Project. Jeremy Kirchman made a motion to pay the Vermont Center for Ecostudies \$1000 to help match its NYS wildlife grant. Shai Mitra seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Research – Jeremy Kirchman had no new updates.

Archives – No report.

Awards – Gail Kirch gave the report. The committee decided there should be no more than 2 Stoner Awards with a maximum of \$300 each. The objective is to encourage an interested young person to attend the Annual Meeting, and not necessarily a student with a long list of accomplishments/achievements. Nominees should write a short essay on why they are interested in attending the Annual Meeting. A letter needs to come from the club making the nomination. Barbara Butler suggests changing the name of the Stoner Award to Stoner scholarship or incentive. Jeremy Kirchman suggests a letter to clubs be written and electronically reviewed before the next board meeting. Guidelines need to be decided for the clubs. All Youth Members attending the annual meeting get a \$75 stipend from NYSYBC. All Stoner nominees receive a one-year individual membership in NYSOA regardless of whether they receive the award. Berna Lincoln mentioned that the Pennsylvania Ornithology Society prints a form in their newsletter for a similar award. She suggests we do the same. Gail will come up with guidelines and a new letter to clubs.

Bylaws – Bob Spahn gave the update. Bob will have a new draft of the bylaws by April's board meeting for discussion. The following changes will be made: make Treasurer and Recording Secretary non-voting officers, have 9 directors (so 11 voting board members). The 9 directors would be staggered in groups of 4 and 5 for two year terms. Additional changes will be proposed by the Bylaws Committee at the April meeting. New bylaws need to be sent to the clubs four months before the Annual Meeting (by May 24). A synopsis of major changes can go in *New York Birders*.

Conservation – Andy Mason gave the report. Joan Collins wrote an article on climate change for *New York Birders*. Andy sent a letter to the DEC regarding staff cutbacks.

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eBird – Bob Spahn gave the report. Bob went over the letter he wrote for list serves around NY about reporting their data. A few board members offered suggestions and will send them to Bob. He reported that some **Kingbird** regional editors use eBird more than others. Bob is working on a records article for **New York Birders**.

DEC Report – No report. Gail Kirch reported that Brian Swift would like someone from NYSOA to volunteer to take over the statewide Waterfowl Count.

5. Old Business:

Inventory clearance of hard copies of *The Kingbird*: Back copies were offered through **New York Birders**. Andy Mason would like to offer them to the general public on list serves next. After that, we can discard them. Andy Mason sent his offer letter to organizations and did not receive much of a response (at \$3 per issue). He donated issues to the NYS Library that they were missing. Andy originally scanned the 5 **Kingbird** issues that were missing during the scanning project. These scans were not of optimal quality because he did the scanning at the library, where multiple issues of **The Kingbird** were bound together. Andy will have new scans of these issues done by Jim Moomaw for the online archive at a cost of \$150.

Annual Meeting 2011: Scheduled for September 24, 2011 and hosted by the Ralph T. Waterman Club. The meeting will be at a rustic camp called Circle Lodge on Sylvan Lake in Dutchess County. Scott Weidensaul is the banquet speaker.

6. New Business:

Organization Handbook: Berna Lincoln recommends finding a person to head it up, and everyone can send that person their task descriptions. The handbook should include policies and operational procedures. Mike Desha volunteered to collect the information for the handbook.

7. Adjournment: – Gail Kirch made a motion to adjourn at 2:49 p.m. Shai Mitra seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins
Recording Secretary