

FINAL

New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.

July 9, 2011 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 9, 2011. The meeting was called to order by President Carena Pooth at 9:33 a.m.

Present were, **Bob Adamo**, Tim Baird, **Gail Kirch**, **Jeremy Kirchman**, **Victor Lamoureux**, **Andy Mason**, **Carena Pooth** and Angus Wilson. **Joan Collins**, Berna Lincoln, and Bob Spahn attended via teleconference.

Summary of Action Items:

- Approved April 2, 2011 Board meeting minutes. (Item 1)
- Approved authorization to open 3 certificates of deposit with MetLife Bank N.A. (Item 3)

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Jeremy Kirchman made a motion to accept the April 2, 2011 meeting minutes with changes. Victor Lamoureux seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Berna Lincoln requested that draft minutes be made available within 3 to 4 weeks after a board meeting.
2. **President's Report** – Carena Pooth gave the report. Bard Prentiss resigned from the board effective May 31st for personal reasons.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Andy Mason gave the Treasurer's Report. He included 6/30/10 figures for a comparison to 6/30/11. Berna Lincoln asked that an income line be added for repayment of the loan to the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club. Gail Kirch made a motion to authorize Andrew Mason, Treasurer, and Carena Pooth, President, to sign a standard bank resolution with MetLife Bank N.A. to open three certificates of deposit. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports

Archives – No report.

Awards – Gail Kirch gave the report. Gail will send a letter of appreciation to Bob Schumann (owner of Nuthatch Hollow) and Carena Pooth will send a letter to Dick Zeccola (Nuthatch Hollow care taker). Gail will send Certificates of Appreciation to: Fred & Eleanor Jordan for hosting a Lewis's Woodpecker. The Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Phyllis Jones. Andy Mason will have the plaque made up. Gail will discuss the John J. Elliott Award with Shai Mitra. There are 3 Lillian Stoner Award nominees: Greg Lawrence, nominated by the Young Birders' Club, Alexandra Hale, nominated by the Linnaean Society, and Sarah MacLean, nominated by the Cayuga Bird Club. The committee will offer awards to all 3 nominees. Each award winner will receive \$300. A discussion of guidelines followed. Berna Lincoln suggested that the Finance Committee examine the Stoner Fund to look at its finances for the future and make a recommendation on how much to award each year.

Bylaws – Bob Spahn gave the report. Carena Pooth mailed out the proposed new bylaws to member organizations. A summary of the proposed bylaws changes will be published in **New York Birders** with a note that they are also on the website.

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Conservation – Andy Mason gave the report. He wrote a letter to the EPA supporting new pending regulations for limiting mercury emissions. Andy will send an email message to club conservation chairs about the EPA draft regulations on mercury emissions.

Andy and Joan Collins will review the wind power resolution.

eBird – Bob Spahn gave the report. Bob's article on reporting records was posted on many list serves around the state. eBird is a significant help to regional managers in preparing quarterly reports.

Finance – Berna Lincoln had no new updates.

Membership – Berna Lincoln gave the report. There are 536 individual members (of those, 12 have not yet renewed). There are 51 life members and Berna reported one of the members sent a \$100 donation. Rockland Audubon and Northern New York Audubon renewed. There are 4 clubs that have not yet renewed.

Nominating Committee – Berna Lincoln reported for Valerie Freer. The following slate is nominated: President: Gail Kirch, Vice-President: Kathy Schneider, Treasurer: Andy Mason, Recording Secretary: Joan Collins, Corresponding Secretary: Mike DeSha, and Directors with terms ending in 2013: Tim Baird, Carena Pooth, and Angus Wilson.

Board selected Nominating & Auditing Committee for 2011-2012: Nominating: Bob Adamo, Joan Collins (Chair) and Valerie Freer. Auditing: Irving Cantor (Chair), John Cairns and Peter Capainolo.

NYSARC – Angus Wilson gave the report. NYSARC has had the fewest submissions so far this year – only 20, which includes 5 reports by Angus. There are normally between 120 to 160 submissions per year with half received by now. Jeanne Skelly reported to Angus that no submissions came from eBird. This issue will be discussed at the next NYSARC meeting. The criteria for eBird acceptance of rare records are uneven since it is done by individual screeners and not by committees. Many reports of rare birds to eBird are not documented and should be listed as “pending”. Reports listed in **The Kingbird** should be noted as pending if the species has not yet been accepted by NYSARC. Shai Mitra suggested that a symbol be used to denote a species not yet accepted by NYSARC, so people are not discouraged from reporting records because caveats like “pending review” are inserted beside their reports. Guidelines for reporting rare species in **The Kingbird** are needed and will be discussed at the next board meeting. Angus will present a workshop Friday night at the Annual Meeting on rare bird documentation.

Angus said that Jeanne Skelly has again stated her intention to resign, and he is still looking for a replacement. In the meantime, Jeanne continues to serve as NYSARC secretary.

Tom Burke is working on a candidate for NYSARC (& *New York Birders* editor).

NYSARC will be looking at 2 proposals to define NYS ocean boundaries: 1. Change pelagic guidelines from beyond 1,000 fathoms to 200 nautical miles (Jeremy Kirchman noted this also corresponds to US Fish & Wildlife guidelines for state collecting), and 2. Use the nearest point of land for sightings (for state designation). This is the strategy used by the ABA and other states. These proposals standardize reporting among states.

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Hooded Crow on Staten Island may be the first record accepted for North America. This bird will bring NYSARC and NYSOA national attention.

NYS Young Birders Club – Carena Pooth gave the report. She presented the cash flow statement for NYSYBC. They expect to give out between \$2,000 and \$3,000 dollars in scholarships this year. There are currently 32 youth members, 22 adult members, and 17 partner organizations. NYSYBC does not yet have a Facebook page, but they plan to add one. The young birders would like to have their own T-shirts.

Organization Handbook – Carena Pooth gave the report for Mike DeSha. Mike supplied a framework for the handbook. Jeremy Kirchman suggested not including the bylaws info in the handbook, but just referencing the fact that Officers/Directors/Committees are described in the bylaws. The history of the organization should be in the handbook. Carena asked that people supply Mike with information that cannot easily be found anywhere else, like the bylaws – to be completed by Aug. 31st.

Publications – Tim Baird gave the report. Tim is putting together the July issue of *New York Birders* now. He will include information about the Annual Meeting and articles about NYSYBC. Tim will include the form for county listing. A Roseate Tern article will be included. Berna Lincoln will produce a list of new members to be welcomed in the October issue of *New York Birders*. Book reviews are of interest and where to go to see certain species will be added. We are still looking for Tim's replacement as Editor of *New York Birders*.

Shai Mitra used a new printing company for the June issue of *The Kingbird*. He said this change will significantly speed up turn around to members.

Publicity & Marketing – Carena Pooth gave Kathy Schneider's report. Field trips with workshops are popular, and Kathy noted the spring Massawepie Mire field trip and warbler workshop presented by Joan Collins were well run. Carena sent member clubs information on: field trips, the Annual Meeting, county listing project, and the world series of birding results for the NYSYBC.

Research – Jeremy Kirchman gave the report. He heard from Matt Hayes (the Sandhill Crane researcher). Bob Spahn noted Matt banded a Sandhill Crane at Montezuma.

Website – Carena Pooth gave the report. She provided a list of website updates. Notable additions included: Annual Meeting information, adding the NY SOA member list for board members, and the online county list.

5. DEC Report – No report.

6. Old Business:

Inventory clearance of hard copies of *The Kingbird*: Andy Mason said if checks are not received soon, we can dispose of old *Kingbirds*. New scans of 5 *Kingbird* issues by Jim Moomaw for addition to the online archive will be done soon.

Annual Meeting 2011: Carena Pooth said field trips and workshops are planned. Registrations are just starting. Two young birders will be presenting at the papers' session.

7. New Business:

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October 15 Event at NYS Museum: Carena Pooth provided information on this event sponsored by Friends of the Washington County Grasslands/Fort Edwards IBA. They are asking NYSOA to host a booth. Jeremy Kirchman will pick up the booth from Carena for this event (while at the Annual Meeting).

NYS Checklist – Berna Lincoln only has 98 left. A new edition will be printed by the end of the year, and we will try to sell the remaining 98 at the Annual Meeting.

Filling Vacancies: Bob Spahn led a discussion on what we should do to get more people involved with NYSOA. The question of whether it should be a requirement that *Kingbird* Regional Editors be NYSOA members was also raised.

8. **Adjournment:** – Jeremy Kirchman made a motion to adjourn at 2:10 p.m. Victor Lamoureux seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins
Recording Secretary